



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2024



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 7TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING

Tuesday, 6 August 2024

Parliament met at 2.01 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. I request you to join me in congratulating our own, Mr Joshua Cheptegei, for winning a gold medal in the 10,000-metre race at the ongoing Olympics in France. *(Applause)*

Honourable Minister of Education and Sports, we congratulate you for the job well done and all the Ugandans of goodwill who prayed for our champion. Mr Joshua Cheptegei broke his own record to set a new one in the 10,000-metre race; we congratulate him upon this milestone. This is his third Olympic gold medal but we also wish luck to other Ugandans still in the competition; we hope for more Gold.

Honourable colleagues, the appropriation and support you have been giving to the sector is paying off. I hope we can give more to it. *(Applause)*

I had sent a message to our parliamentary groups that I was involved in a very unfortunate incident together with four honourable

colleagues, my press secretary, and Aide-De-Camp (ADC), but by God's grace, God gave us a second chance to live. *(Applause)*

I received all your good wishes and prayers. I know that some people are very hungry for details but some of us are going through a lot so I request that we stop at that.

Let us have matters of national importance. Hon. Ssewungu then Hon. Ssemujju, Hon. Annet Mugisha and Hon. Otimgiw. Let us do a quick round.

2.05

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Mr Speaker, I am raising my matter of national importance –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you can wait. Let us first get a point of privilege and then a procedural matter.

MR SSEMUJJU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. You told us to stop it at that, but we thank God - like you said - that He gave you a second chance.

The point of privilege I am raising is that yesterday, I and Dr Nicholas Kamara, the Member of Parliament for Kabale Municipality, were brutally arrested together with 12 other Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) leaders. We were taking a protest note to the Kenya High Commission because of our colleagues who were kidnapped and tortured from Kenya, only to be met by angry policemen.

We were dumped in a vehicle that looked like one that carries dead dogs and the person driving that vehicle behaves like one on drugs; we also thank God that we survived him. *(Laughter)*

I, Dr Kamara, and the 12 were charged with public nuisance; two Members of Parliament of our calibre were charged with public nuisance for going to deliver a protest note to the Kenyan Embassy. It is not a kiosk in Uganda; we even go there to receive visas or permission and other things.

The point of privilege I am raising is that we had colleagues kidnapped, tortured, and beaten in Kenya. When I raised this matter last week, the Attorney-General said that they could not explain it. Then when we went to the Kenya High Commission to seek an explanation, they arrested and beat us. Do they want this answer to be got from heaven? You cannot give the answers and then when we want to ask Kenya, you say "You cannot go." I need an explanation from the Government. They should advise us.

People were kidnapped and beaten in Kenya. This Government of freedom fighters that were in Luweero fighting for freedom - maybe I need to remind this Parliament - if you read Gen. Pecos Kutesa's book, you will notice that he said that the reason he went to Luweero was because President Museveni was arrested and made to sit at a roadblock in Kireka. If you do not have copies, I can supply them.

Now, the same Museveni is making Members of Parliament get brutally arrested, seating them in the mud and charging them with public nuisance. Maybe, that Museveni disappeared and we have another. Can we be told why we are being mistreated in our country to this level?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Attorney-General, respond on behalf of the Government.

2.08

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What Hon. Ssemujju said is quite interesting; that he

was charged with public nuisance and yet he is a Member of Parliament.

My last reading of the law is that, yes, even an honourable Member can be a nuisance but I do not know whether he was being a nuisance. We are going to find out what Hon. Ssemujju was doing and come back to advise – [*Hon. Ssemujju: "Order"*]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable, you do not access the microphone without - *(Laughter)*. That is it.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Mr Speaker, I am going to find the details and I will be in touch with Hon. Ssemujju. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Some of these things, by the way, are handled - we are colleagues when an honourable colleague is indeed treated that way - it is very important -

MR SSEMUJJU: Thank you. I am sorry, but this matter is not personal. You need to look at the pictures of how Dr Kamara was arrested. I know because you and I are Express Football Club fans, this is not a football matter - you need to tell the country why you are holding people like this because if you get in touch with me, it is as if the matter is personal, but two Members of Parliament were arrested. The country needs reassurance.

My appeal is for him to come and explain to the country why they are treating people like this; not to me - we can discuss Express Football Club matters later.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I feel what Hon. Ssemujju is saying and I will come back and explain. I do not think it helps us to talk about being Express Football Club fans here and the charge is "public nuisance." This is because when they connect the two, they may think we are saying that because we are Express Football fans, we can jointly be a public nuisance. No, we cannot. *(Laughter)* Express is not like that.

Mr Speaker, is the Member in order to allege that because we are discussing an issue of public nuisance, Express Football Club should be made a subject of discussion?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you know how Express fans behave. It is not for me to judge; we shall go and check the records. *(Laughter)* If it was an SC Villa fan, I would have been concerned that much. However, for you, Express fans – *(Laughter)*

I had allowed Hon. Annet - Hon. Ssewungu has a matter of national importance which I am going to allow. The Government Chief Whip could consult the Minister of Health. We are going to her statement next.

2.12

MS ANNET KATUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have a matter of national importance –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh no, I wanted to pick the Member raising a procedural point. Sorry.

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Ever since I joined this Parliament, it has been the norm that 15 minutes before the sitting, we usually get a reminder in the form of an alarm. Today, we actually -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: A bell?

MR OTIMGIW: A bell. Actually, today we were about 10 Members in the Members Lounge, waiting. We thought that the House was going to be adjourned, again, like last time, only to see NBS TV already showing that you were in the House and we came rushing. I hope that it will be sorted out.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, the bell rang.

MR OTIMGIW: It did not ring upstairs. Maybe that one will need to be checked - *(Interjection)* - We were on the third floor. My

honourable colleagues, whom I was with, are all here. Yes, I am right. On the third floor – probably, the Clerk will have to check what happened on the third floor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have taken note. However, honourable colleagues, even when the bell does not ring, you know, technically, that if it is 2.00 p.m., you should be here. Okay? However, we are going to work on that.

Hon. Atkins?

MR KATUSABE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join colleagues in thanking God for your life.

Mr Speaker, when you are seated in that chair, your word is final. The reason why God has put you in that chair is to provide a service or play a role that nobody else can in this House. That role, Mr Speaker, is to choose and use that constitutional seat: one, to rule; two, to direct and; three, to guide.

This is a country, Mr Speaker, Sir, that has a constitution. The Constitution is very clear, under Article 29, about expression. I was saddened to see our two colleagues – and, I do not know what kind of message we are sending to the people in and outside Uganda.

My point, Mr Speaker, is that we have layers of a criminal justice system – there are four layers. Number one –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member, we cannot go so much into that. Just raise your procedural question.

MR KATUSABE: My procedural question is that we need a commitment, Mr Speaker. We cannot leave it to the Attorney-General to decide. This is a matter that affects not only the leaders but the rest of the citizens. We see quite a lot of shootings, even on our lakes.

My procedural issue is: wouldn't it be procedurally right for you to use your constitutional duty, responsibility, and

obligation to rule, guide or direct the Attorney-General on what, specifically, the Attorney-General or the Government has to do in terms of the immediate term, intermediate-term and the long run?

Mr Speaker, I appreciate you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Atkins. The Attorney-General said - (*Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Muhwezi rose*) - minister for security, would you want to comment before I rule?

2.16

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (SECURITY) (Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Jim Muhwezi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to assure the House that, as the honourable Attorney-General said, let us investigate this matter raised by Hon. Ssemujju and report back.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, how much time would you need?

MAJ. GEN. (RTD) MUHWEZI: Even a week.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Honourable minister, I have given you two weeks.

MAJ. GEN. (RTD) MUHWEZI: Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I know what I usually go through. You said one week, but we have said two weeks. Let us give him time and he does a thorough job.

Hon. Ssewungu? Oh! Hon. Oguzu Lee, was it a procedural matter? Okay, it is sorted. Thank you.

2.17

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank God for your survival. My matter of national importance – I have raised this several times, but let me bring it back.

Teacher training colleges were closed, Mr Speaker. I raised this matter on the Floor of Parliament. They closed these colleges, stating that they wanted primary school teachers with a bachelor's degree in education. I asked the honourable minister at that time – who is before us here – to bring a policy and the course units – not even course units, but the policy – that is going to establish courses for primary school teachers in universities.

Last Sunday, the Mother Superior of Daughters of Mary, in my constituency, had to ask me questions because she took Sisters to Makerere University to seek courses for their nurse Sisters to become primary school teachers with bachelor's degrees. All universities have rejected students and the Sisters – Hon. Musingu, you should look at me, sincerely.

They are saying there is no course unit because the National Council for Higher Education has never sanctioned course units for primary school teachers. To make matters worse, Mr Speaker, yesterday, the Government newspaper, *New Vision*, ran a lead story that teachers are running out of teaching and are seeking early retirement.

Here we are: colleges were closed and teachers are running out of teaching – from COVID-19 time, a number of teachers have gone out. Validation reports are showing us that many districts do not have teachers, but nothing is going on.

Could we know what, exactly, is happening? Are you killing education for real? Where are you going to get teachers from? When teachers run out of schools, they ride *boda bodas* because of the prevailing situation around them: poor pay –(*Interjection*)- I can take the information now.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Honourable minister?

MR SSEWUNGU: They have refused; let me conclude. So, Mr Speaker, Sir -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: (*Mr Nangoli rose*) Let us allow Hon. Nangoli – but you know, matters of national importance usually have two minutes. Now, you speak for three minutes and then call for information!

MR NANGOLI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my colleague for giving way. The information I would like to give you, my colleague, is that it is even happening with science teachers.

Mr Speaker, there are science teachers who were once classroom teachers, but they were promoted to head schools in various districts. However, once they become head teachers, they go back to a lower pay scale, yet they are science teachers. This anomaly has not been sorted out by the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Public Service up to now.

Actually, this is one of the reasons why many teachers are asking for early retirement. They are disgruntled. They are not earning the salary equivalent to that of science teachers, yet they are science teachers. By virtue of being head teachers, they go back to a lower pay scale. So, this anomaly should be sorted out urgently. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, the issue being raised by Hon. Nangoli - every day, I receive messages about it. Every day! it is really - I do not know why you do not sort it out. The President directed that you sort it out.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, as I conclude, when they were closing these teacher training colleges, we asked them how they were going to close these institutions. Tutors remain in the colleges; they are not placed anywhere. They are there getting salaries, but not working.

The assets of these institutions are there, but nothing is happening. These are open issues. So, we want to know: where is the weakness? I want a response – knowing that I am the shadow minister. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

2.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr John C. Muyingo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues to thank God for giving you another chance.

Regarding what my brother, Hon. Ssewungu is saying, it is true that teacher training colleges were closed and we have had discussions with the stakeholders to convert them into what the stakeholders want.

This afternoon, I am presenting the National Teachers' Bill to Parliament. When you read through this Bill, many of the issues being raised now will be addressed. I pray that my brother, Hon. Ssewungu – (*Interjections*) - It covers the management of the entire profession and that management also entails teachers. I am asking you to be patient. By the end of this exercise –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, let us wait. The minister says the issues you are raising will be handled in this Bill, which we have here. The Bill is coming to your committee so I request that we are patient and I do not want it to be an exchange between a Member and a minister.

MR SSEWUNGU: I thank the minister for bringing the Bill even when it is late. It is almost four years since you closed these colleges- it is a challenge for you.

Honourable minister, you need to respond to teachers seeking early retirement. Otherwise, you do not have teachers to replace them yet they are retiring. At the end of the day, the effect is on our children.

Mr Speaker, the minister is dodging it yet they have all the mechanisms to stop this early retirement since they have the control. They have the rules and laws governing it but they are accepting it. Honourable minister, I

want you to address that. Bring your Bill, we shall process it as fast as possible because it is a serious issue. Otherwise, teachers seeking early retirement is a challenge for our schools.

Mr Speaker, as we talk, some schools have a ratio of one teacher to 100 children. Honourable minister, kindly give attention to that. On a serious note, as the minister goes back, he should tell the senior man that Hon. Ssewungu is not joking here; he is talking sense – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, have you taken note of that? Honourable minister, how do you handle the issue of science head teachers who are not being paid as scientists?

DR MUYINGO: First of all, I have taken note of the concerns raised by Hon. Ssewungu and the others. Secondly, the issue of science teachers getting more pay than the arts - of course, you are aware that we took a policy to enhance –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wait! It is different. The issue is science head teachers who are still being paid as humanities. You find a science teacher earning more than a head teacher who is a scientist. It is very simple and the President gave directives on how it should be handled. The Executive already agreed so why don't you sort it, honourable minister?

DR MUYINGO: Mr Speaker, we got the directive and we are working with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to make sure that this is corrected. I think the best person to answer this is the finance minister not the Minister of Education and Sports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I think you need to go back. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I think you need to call a meeting. If a head teacher says, "If I fell back as a science blackboard teacher, I would earn better than at my position of being a head teacher". The head teacher may say he would rather go back to the chalkboard. Rt Hon.

Prime Minister, why don't you call a meeting with the Ministry of Public Service, Finance ministry, and Education ministry and agree on how to sort this.

2.25

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (Ms Rukia Nakadama): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank God that you are here together with all the colleagues you travelled with. You are still alive. The Government is going to handle; we shall come back here and give you the details - *(Interjections)* - The Government is going to correct that mistake.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Prime Minister, can you give us feedback on Tuesday next week? Do you think it is workable?

MS NAKADAMA: Mr Speaker, let it be Thursday.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Thursday?

MS NAKADAMA: No, next Thursday. Mr Speaker, you are aware that the Cabinet sits on Mondays. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Cabinet is on Monday so let me give you Wednesday next week. Leader of the Opposition (LOP), do you want to add?

2.26

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join honourable colleagues in thanking God for keeping you safe. I want to ask the Government that as they bring that communication, it would be good for the House and the country at large to get to have an assessment of this policy.

This policy was started to say, "Let us pay science teachers a lot more than the arts teachers with whom they sit in the same staff room, with whom they teach the same man hours, and so forth." It would be good to have an assessment. Sometime down the road, is there value for this, which the Government was insisting on to say that the science teachers are

way better than the arts teachers? Otherwise, it demoralised the arts teachers; they are being seen as non-entities yet they also contribute to this country.

Many people in this institution are artists; lawyers and so forth. They are important to this country too. It would be important that the Government helps us understand. If you are to put this policy on a weighing scale, how much have we gained out of it? Rectifying just the element of paying the head teachers – *(Interjections)* - Let me just finish, honourable minister.

Saying that let us rectify and pay the head teachers who were science teachers originally much better - This is why the arts teachers are saying, “but this one was teaching sciences.” Now as a head teacher, you are not even teaching. They are asking, “Why should you be paid as a science teacher?” They are saying, “Well, you said all science teachers should be paid better” - We need to know, is there a value for this policy? Otherwise, many of us actually from the word go saw it as a problematic policy. All teachers should be paid well.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I have an Order Paper to handle today. I can see that these are issues that the committee should be looking into, especially the point raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition. You cannot process it on the Floor.

Honourable colleagues, it is a free sitting so feel free, apart from the frontbench. Honourable member, clarification works when we have someone on the Floor. It is not granted by the Speaker. I am sorry you do not have the Floor. *(Laughter)* No clarification because there is no one on the Floor.

In the VIP gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation of members and staff of the parliamentary legal committee from the Parliament of Zimbabwe. They include:

1. Hon. Itayi Ndudzo - Member of Parliament who is the Chairperson;

2. Hon. Eddison Zvobgo - Member of Parliament –Please forgive my pronunciation;
3. Hon. Energy Mutodi - Member of Parliament;
4. Hon. Agency Gumbo - Member of Parliament;
5. Hon. Kucaca Phulu - Member of Parliament;
6. Hon. Tinoziva Chipupuri -Principal Officer; and
7. Ms Elizabeth Hove - Assistant Counsel to Parliament.

They have come to observe proceedings of this House. Please join me once again in welcoming them. Thank you. Hon. Luttamaguzi –

2.30

MR PAULSON LUTTAMUGUZI (DP, Nakaseke South County, Nakaseke): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to those who have thanked God for having saved your life during that turbulent time. I have a matter of national importance regarding the wide outcry of police officers across the country with regard to their salary enhancement.

Many police officers across the country were promised 25 per cent increment but it is only the top bosses whose salaries were enhanced. Police officers of lower ranks’ pay was only increased by two per cent. That is why they are very hostile, not only to the Hon. Ssemujjus but the whole population.

Therefore, this is a very important matter –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, when you are making statements - this is the House of Records. There are statements, which are unfair. You cannot say police officers are hostile to the whole public.

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: Let me put it this way; “that they are annoyed” – *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is better.

MR LUTTAMAGUZI: It is because of the way they are treated. Mr Speaker, the earlier

we treat this matter, the better this country will be with our gallant officers. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Luttaguzi is fending for himself from annoyed officers. *(Laughter)* Minister of Public Service, what were the criteria for giving the bosses more than the juniors?

2.32

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Grace Mugasa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank God for your life. He is good.

Honourable members and my brother, Hon. Luttaguzi, the salary enhancement for our uniformed men and women was 25 per cent of the allocated amount of money and not the amount they are receiving now – *(Interjections)* - for example, if the enhancement was supposed to be Shs 200 million for the entire force, we allocate 25 per cent of that amount, not the salary they are receiving right now.

At first – *(Interjections)* – I am the one telling you because –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, this is an issue in the public domain. Don't you think it would be better if I gave you time to come back tomorrow with a written statement?

MS MUGASA: Most obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is tomorrow okay?

MS MUGASA: Tomorrow is okay, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Hon. Cherukut Rose?

2.34

MS EMMA CHERUKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kween): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance. The issue I have before us today is

to do with the urgent appeal to address illegal land grabbing and sale in the lower belt of the Kween District.

Mr Speaker, kindly allow me to draw your attention to Soi land at the lower belt; that is in both Kapchorwa and Kween in the Sebei Subregion, which have become a toxic dispute, escalating each passing day. Due to the occasional instability that emanated before the NRM government took over power, the Karamojong cattle raiders and Pokots made the Sabiny flee their ancestral land in the lower belt.

Unfortunately, as the Sabiny fled their land for peace and security to the upper belt, a group of 13 unscrupulous people grabbed their land amounting to 10,000 acres and sold it to a rice company and received a whopping Shs 17 billion.

Mr Speaker, as I stand before you and the whole House, the people of Soi are bleeding because this land belonged to them. Over 20,000 people have been displaced because of these 13 people, the rich, who took advantage of their land –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are your prayers, honourable member?

MS CHERUKUT: My prayers are – *(Interjections)* - please Members – protection, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your prayers, honourable member.

MS CHERUKUT: I can say from the bottom of my heart that the people of Soi are not at ease. We have the Parish Development Model (PDM) and *Emyooga* programmes but they are being affected by the cattle rustling we face. Not only that, but we also have these pockets of the 13 who have stolen their land – *(Interjections)* – please Members, allow me –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, can I guide you?

MS CHERUKUT: The prayers that I have –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, just go to the prayers. These are matters of national importance so we have time limitation.

MS CHERUKUT: My prayer is that I implore you to take immediate action;

- i. To investigate and prosecute the 13 land grabbers – *(Interjections)* - Please, Members –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us listen to our colleague in silence.

MS CHERUKUT: ii) There is a need to protect the rights of the legitimate landowners who are my poor local people; and

- iii. There is also a need to establish a task force to monitor and prevent further land grabbing.

Of course, this land that has been grabbed is over 10,000 acres. It is a big piece of land. For Shs 17 billion to be received by – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable colleague. Minister for lands, I can see Hon. Obiga Kania here – did you want to lay it on the Table? Just read the title of the document.

MS CHERUKUT: I have the petition from the Sabyin Youth Land Claimants to the Inspector General of Government (IGG), which was received. I also have the – *(Interjections)* – Members!

I also have the sales agreement, which was made between the 13 people and the China rice scheme company. I would like to lay this on the Table.

I have another agreement that was entered between the 25 land grabbers against one Caroline Chemisto Twalla, still on the same land. Allow me to lay it.

Last but not least, I have the petition that was written by the youth land claimants to His Excellency the President of Uganda of intention to sue. I would love to lay this. *(Applause)*

I also have the response from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development over the disputed land in Kween, Soi County.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleague, this is what we call submission by research; evidence-based. Honourable minister, all the evidence is before you and the House.

2.41

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (URBAN DEVELOPMENT) (Mr Obiga Kania): Mr Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to wish you a long life after that incident. We were with you in West Nile for just a few hours, and then the incident occurred. We are very sorry that it did, but we are grateful you are here with us.

Regarding the matter raised by the honourable member, since all the documentation is available, we will receive our part. I have noticed many investigative agencies are involved. We shall see what we can do individually as the Lands Ministry and also collaboratively with the others to give information to Parliament. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I heard the word “petition” and petitions are provided for under Rule 30 of our Rules of Procedure on how they come to the Floor. Nonetheless, have it as a document received for information purposes. I propose you meet Members of Parliament from the area; you do not need to come back here. You need to meet the MPs from the area, visit the area, and ensure the population is satisfied.

MR OBIGA: Most grateful for the guidance.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you – *(Hon. Tinkasiimire rose)* - I hope it is not on the same issue I have ruled, Hon. Tinkasiimire.

MR TINKASIIMIRE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Whereas I agree with your ruling, Mr Speaker, in the past you ordered the responsible ministers to visit the locus and the origins of these conflicts. Many of them have never stepped there. I remember I raised the issue of Ndaiga land evictions, and you ordered - just two weeks - the matter went to the committee, but up to date, the minister has never stepped in Ndaiga. You are asking the same minister to go to Kween. I am afraid that he may never step there. Where will you leave the other honest representative of the people?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Number one, for the record, I never order ministers to go anywhere. I do not order someone; I do not appoint or supervise. I always want that to be very clear. I believe in more of a comradeship and friendly language. It helps someone to deliver rather than issuing orders.

Therefore, honourable colleagues, especially the ministers, the issues Members raise here have to do with the population and how they are looking at us as a country and as a Government. When we say, “go on the ground”, we want you to go and respond to the people. It is not about the Member; it is about the population. You might dodge a Member by refusing to go on the ground and see, but issues will not be solved that way. It is very important to go on the ground.

Honourable minister, Hon. Tinkasiimire - you are old colleagues of a long time ago. Why don't you go there and sort out the issue and commit to us that you are going to Kween?

MR OBIGA: Mr Speaker, as a ministry, we are extremely responsive to the issues raised here that require our attention and we will go to Kween. However, how this last one of my friend skipped our mind - we will get in touch with him and make sure that we resolve the matter amicably. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Mbwaterkamwa?

2.46

MR GAFFA MBWATEKAMWA (NRM, Igara County West, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The matter I am raising is to do with the new curriculum which was rolled out in secondary school in 2020.

We are aware that the new curriculum was rolled out and as we speak, our children are going to sit exams based on the new curriculum called competence-based.

However, it is unfortunate that there is no plan. Once they complete their senior four/O'level, there is no new curriculum for them to base on if they are to proceed to A'level, and yet, we do not have time; these are our children.

Mr Speaker, my biggest concern is what is going to happen to our children and our schools, especially my senior friend, Hon. Musingo, who owns many schools that are doing well? He is also seated here - A minister has not planned for this country.

I think we have a challenge with the entire Ministry of Education and Sports. It is terrible. However, we are trying to hide our heads in the dust -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Hon. Mbwaterkamwa, you have asked a question to the minister. I think it would be prudent for you to give the minister a chance to get his plan.

MR MBWATEKAMWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My prayer is that the Ministry of Education and Sports, under the leadership of the First Lady, comes up with a comprehensive plan. How I wish the First Lady came here herself because we miss her as she presents this matter. Otherwise, we are not happy as Ugandans. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

2.48

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr John Muyingo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that our candidates this year are going to be assessed according to the new curriculum. It is not true that the ministry has no plan for them. We have a plan and very soon, I will be coming to present that plan to Parliament. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. We are waiting. Hon. Oguzu lee, Hon. Lumu? (*Hon.Oguzu lee rose*) just wait honourable. Hon. Tebandeke?

MR TEBANDEKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural matter I am raising is in response to the Minister of Education and Sports. Exams are kicking off in October and we are undergoing the same curriculum. If the minister comes with a statement/work plan for the new curriculum, whose exams are kicking off in October, are we proceeding well to this nation?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Here we do not “proceed to the nation” as you say. We have our rules which we follow and the business we conduct here. I have not understood you properly so let us continue. Honourable minister, Hon. Tebandeke is saying, when can you update us? Do we have any timelines?

DR MUYINGO: Mr Speaker, first of all, I want to assure the public that our pioneer candidates for the new curriculum have been well prepared and they are ready for the exams. Everything is being done according to plan. What the Parliament needs to know is the plan that will accommodate them when they go to senior five in February. That is why I am saying that at an appropriate time, given an opportunity, I will come back and share the plan with you. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let the Committee on Education and Sports follow up on this matter with the minister. I had allowed Hon. Oguzu Lee.

2.51

MR DENIS OGUZU LEE (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): Mr Speaker, I rise on the plight of Ugandans who cannot afford medical care. We have two classes of people in this country. One class can afford to be funded by the Government to go for health care out of the country while the other perishes if they cannot mobilise resources.

As I talk now, I have been added to so many groups, all trying to fundraise resources for medical care. On 23 July 2024, when the young people attempted to march to Parliament, I read a placard from a girl who said her mother died because she could not afford access to the intensive care unit nor could she afford to be flown out.

Why did she demonstrate? She said that she was demonstrating because instead of Parliament catering to the health care of Ugandans, it is busy budgeting for clothing for our presiding officers. That is what her placard read.

That was an indictment and it also amounted to blackmail. For us to be clear, I would like to move under Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure. Can the commission or the commissioners tell us if we have ever budgeted for the clothing of our presiding officers?

Secondly, I would like the Minister of Health to tell us the criteria Ugandans should follow to access health care. If I want to go to India or America, like any one of us, what is the criteria so that we can pass on this information to the rest of the country such that there will be equity and this House will be seen to cater for the needs of the country? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I can volunteer to answer the first question on behalf of the Parliamentary Commission.

Number one, it is true in the line budget of the Parliamentary Commission, we have a line for clothing and beddings in the Office of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. When I saw it in the media – someone sent it to me - I took time to ask because apart from this wig

and gown, Parliament has never bought me anything.

I followed it up and asked my executive secretary, “Where does this money go?” *(Applause)* I was informed that we have protocol officers who are supposed to be smart in the image of the Government. We have people in security who are in close protection, especially and are putting on plain clothing.

We have these security officers who are always roaming with us even at night. We also have tents – sometimes, I go to a place where there is no hotel and I sleep in a small mobile tent. All that money is spent through procurement. The procurement process is run and they get extra uniforms for these officers who are always moving around – some were having problems with their chests, goggles and all that. That is where the money goes.

I would rather come and borrow that beautiful suit of yours than Parliament buying me a suit. I am well paid by Parliament and I do not need to get anything from it in terms of clothing. *(Applause)*

Unfortunately for the wig, you do not have any, so, I cannot borrow from you. *(Laughter)* I wish that hat was being allowed. On that issue I really wanted to - Thank you, honourable, for raising it. The next question is for the minister.

2.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Kawooya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to use this time to thank God who made you and your colleagues to survive. God is great and we shall always thank Him.

I appreciate my colleague’s concern, but I would like to make it clear that it is not a matter of “I would like to fly abroad and access medical treatment”. There is a procedure. One is that there must be a patient who has a physician or any referring doctor who has been attending to him or her.

Number two, if the patient is referred from the previous treatment with consultations and recommendations, the patient has to apply through the Uganda Medical Board, which is composed of a team of different surgeons depending – *[Hon. Najjuma: “Information, Mr Speaker.”]*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Information is allowed by the colleague holding the Floor, not the Speaker.

MS NAJJUMA: I am requesting her to give me a chance on the Floor. Mr Speaker, Hon. Onzu -*(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is Oguzu Lee –

MS NAJJUMA: He raised a very important issue. There is a syndicate in Government hospitals; Mulago National Referral Hospital, Kiruddu Referral Hospital and Kawempe National Referral Hospital. There are doctors inside the hospital - when you go to the consultation room and are referred for an X-ray, on bringing back the report, that same doctor tells you that the doctor who is supposed to treat you will be available next week. However, if you want to be treated as early as possible, they can give you the contact of another doctor.

I have evidence and screenshots from some patient and this happened in Kiruddu Referral Hospital. When this person called the doctor thinking that he was outside and yet he was inside the hospital. He said, “You have to give me Shs 500,000 to treat you.” The patient said, “No, I have Shs 100,000”.

The doctor then said, “No, I cannot treat you with your Shs 100,000.” It was until they agreed on Shs 250,000. The following day, the patient was treated. There is a lot of extortion in those hospitals.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, are you ready to give very clear information, details and contacts of that patient, because these are very strong issues and statements?

MS NAJJUMA: Yes, I am ready. Mr Speaker, to add on that, I went to Kiruddu Referral Hospital and when I was entering the gate, the security officer told me, “Give me some money before you enter.” I said, “I do not have money”. He then said, “If you do not have money, you are going to park outside the gate.” I said, “I will pay when I am getting out.” I did not introduce myself.

When I was getting out, he told me, “Where is the money?” I said, “I do not have money.” He said, “When you come back here, you will not be allowed inside if you have not paid any money.” There is a lot of extortion.

The Ministry of Health should wake up and start monitoring these hospitals. People are in hospitals, but they are not being attended to because they have no money. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, as you respond, this is a very serious issue. However, for clarity on the procedure you are talking about, are private citizens also entitled to this service? I just wanted that to be clear.

MS KAWOOYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for that very vital information. As a ministry, we are concerned about ethical standards and that is why we have to give patient care.

I would like to call upon her and every Member here that whoever has such vital information, which can improve service delivery in our hospitals, should come, sit together, give us evidence, and go and investigate. We have interdicted many cases.

Mr Speaker, it is not a matter for the rich. Everyone can go as long as that process has been followed – that there is somebody who refers you-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who pays? Are private citizens entitled to this service?

MS KAWOOYA: By the time you are referred - for example, if any Member of this Parliament is to be – (*Interjections*)- No, I am just – let me give an example of any private person. Any sick person must have had a doctor managing that patient from different – (*Interjections*)- let me just finish because I am giving a practical -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, I request you not to respond to people who are not on record. Our *Hansard* will not look clean.

MS KAWOOYA: Much obliged, Mr Speaker. Any sick private person must have a doctor attending to them. When the matter needs a reference to any hospital abroad, that person attending to the patient will write to the medical board with all the supporting documents requesting a referral for further medical management abroad -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us first listen to the minister, honourable colleagues. Yes, honourable minister, continue.

MS KAWOOYA: Once these documents get to the medical board, which is composed of a team, they confirm that this patient requires that particular service abroad and we do not have it in this country.

There are two things when it comes to payment. There is where they have also disclosed who is going to meet the expenses abroad and the patient’s referral hospital. The board approves any private individual from a different institution who has been referred by saying, “This is the money” and that is what goes on. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, there are issues that I know are very critical but considering the time we have now and how you approach them, we shall not do justice to them.

Chairperson of the Committee on Health, I assign you to engage the minister; invite the ministry, Members and even the public who have issues around that to make submissions and then you bring here a report.

3.03

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (Dr Joseph Ruyonga): Much obliged, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The committee will handle the issues of the list in detail.

3.04

MR RICHARD LUMU (DP, Mityana County South, Mityana): Thank you. You had allowed me to submit, Mr Speaker. I am happy that Hon. Nankabirwa is here today because the matter I am raising -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: She has always been here; we do not know if you have been here.

MR LUMU: Maybe, I have not been seeing her, but today I have seen her from the right angle. Mine is about the amount of money which was granted to this country; \$630 million intended to move power to all the villages in this country.

In Mityana District - I will talk about my constituency specifically - If there is power, it is there for one or two days, especially in the areas of Ssekanyonyi and Mpirigwa. However, in other areas, there is no power at all.

The ministry came, surveyed, and left. They left documents and told us that they were coming back in a very short time so that they could sort out the problem but they have never appeared.

As I am speaking now, the power in Ssekanyonyi has been off for a week. This is the power that people use to do business because they have coffee haulers, other machines, including saloons -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are your prayers, honourable?

MR LUMU: This means that right now, they are not working. My prayer is that the minister should be in a position to give us a report on how far she has gone to use that money to distribute power in the villages.

I have another small thing, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Here we do not deal with small things. *(Laughter)*

MR LUMU: I have one important thing for Hon. Nankabirwa. The head of the *Mbogo* clan is from my constituency. The place is called Muguru and she is also from the *Mbogo* clan -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is she called “*Owekitibwa?*” *(Laughter)*

MR LUMU: No, I am talking about the head of the *Mbogo* clan. The title “*Owekitibwa?*” is given by the king. There even no power where that important person stays.

I think that by now, one of the granddaughters of that person would be very happy and enjoying power because her daughter is in power. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, when did this start? You scare me sometimes, honourable colleagues. I feel I am out of order and I am about to run out. With the way the question is framed, it seems the Members would generally like an update.

Today I had Hon. Josephat from Bugangaizi also raising issues that no single village in Kakumiro, his village or constituency has been considered - that all his have been removed. It is an issue that we can comprehensively handle with the committee, where the minister would submit a detailed report to the committee and then they report.

Honourable minister, do you think that would help more or you think you can give us a comprehensive answer now?

3.09

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT (Ms Ruth Nankabirwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I add my voice to those who thanked God for saving you. We were together in West Nile and it would have been a very sad story.

I thank my colleague who has raised a very pertinent issue regarding connecting Ugandans to electricity. I would love to come and give comprehensive progress of the implementation of the Electricity Access Scale Up Project funded by the World Bank facility of \$638 million. It is not meant to connect all the villages in Uganda because that money is not enough to connect all the villages that do not have power. However, I will give you a progress report since we commissioned this programme in Mitooma on the 2nd of January this year.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: When do you think you can do that? Honourable, I know that it is going to come up so much

MS NANKABIRWA: However, specifically, because he has raised an issue concerning his constituency.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable minister, I know Members are going - it is going to come up very much. Let us manage it that way.

MS NANKABIRWA: About the Mbogo Clan, Mr Speaker, I serve all the clans in this country. So, to accuse me of not having connected the headquarters of the Mbogo Clan is irrelevant when we are dealing with national service. We serve all the clans. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I also remember that there was a project – when you come, you can give us updates on two projects. There is that one but there is also a project for TBEA, where we borrowed around \$250 million – I cannot remember the exact figure – and it was for connecting all subcounties in the country. It was from EXIM Bank of China. The one I know – really, whatever they said they were going to do in my area, they disappeared.

So, can we get an update on that project, showing the progress of the project and how much has been paid? Let the two come together. Honourable minister, can we do this on Wednesday next week?

MS NANKABIRWA: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, take note of Wednesday next week. Hon. Annet Mugisha?

3.12

MS ANNET KATUSHIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Bushenyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also join my colleagues in thanking God for saving you and our beloved Members who were with you.

Mr Speaker, the matter of national importance I am raising is to appeal for the Government's intervention in reconstructing the Kabagarama Pork Market in Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality that was burnt on 1 August 2024.

In the Greater Bushenyi District and beyond, one of the enterprises being promoted, under the various programmes, is piggery, which employs several farmers for a livelihood. As a result of these enterprises, the local community, in partnership with the municipal local government of Bushenyi-Ishaka, established a regional pork market at Kabagarama, Ruharo Ward, Central Division in Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality, to support and provide market for the thriving piggery enterprise within Greater Bushenyi and beyond.

This market has become so popular that it attracts people from different parts of the country in terms of pork sales. A total of 600 pigs are slaughtered per month, translating -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have seen one Hajji walking out. *(Laughter)* Please, this is not – *(Laughter)* - Hajji Katoto can come back. *(Laughter)* Honourable member, conclude. You better read the prayer before – *(Laughter)*

MS KATUSHIME: Mr Speaker, the prayers are as follows;

1. We ask the Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister, to provide funds for fencing this market, to regulate access to the market at night by unauthorised persons;

2. We ask that the Government provides funds to install solar lights within and outside the market;
3. The police should establish a police post at this market to provide security to the over 1,000 people who gather at this market every weekend during weekdays; and
4. The police should install CCTV security cameras around the market for timely surveillance.

Mr Speaker, a detailed report has already been submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister by the municipality leadership. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I will save Hajjati Rukia Nakadama from answering this. *(Laughter)* However, on a very serious note, before she can answer, I want to shed some light on this. Someone might hear that it is a pork joint or pork market and take it lightly, but that market goes beyond pork. It is a lifeline for many widows and the women around Bushenyi. I am a confessed and renowned client of that market. *(Laughter)* Yes, I know it is not offensive. Okay?

The revenues from that market – they used to, I think once or twice a year, do a mobile market in Naguru here. What would be in Naguru was unbelievable. People come from all over.

So, it is something that has really hit the economy of Bushenyi Municipality and the surrounding areas very seriously. They sell goats, chicken and every kind of - it is a huge market, every Saturday. I also received calls from very many local leaders on the ground and they said they had reached out to the area MP, Hon. Derrick Kabuura, and the Woman MP, Hon. Annet Mugisha.

So, Rt Hon. Prime Minister, we really need help in that area. Hon. Magyezi can answer. *(Laughter)* That one, you cannot deny; I know for sure.

3.17

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Raphael Magyezi):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank Hon. Annet Mugisha for raising this matter. It is certainly very critical and, yes, I am one of the very good clients in that market. I have also invited my brother-in-law, Hon. Ssewungu. On his next visit, I will take him there and he will see what is going on. It is certainly a big market and we are sorry as the Government that this is the second time that, this market has been burnt down.

I have taken note of the requests – and this is a partnership between the private sector and the Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipal Council.

We are going to send a team to look at what can be done, physically, to be sure that we can protect it. Also, I invite colleagues to come, once it is rehabilitated, because we are talking about a bigger matter. It is not just rehabilitating the pork joint, but looking at modernising the entire market at Kabagarama.

We will do that and get back to you, Mr Speaker, on the measures. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Evelyn Chemutai?

3.18

MS EVERLYN CHEMUTAI (Independent, Woman Representative, Bukwo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise on a very urgent and important issue that is happening in Bukwo or Sebei subregion. We have a conflict between the community and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) rangers.

In the last year, over 50 people have been killed in the Sebei subregion. The latest case was three weeks ago when a young boy of 16 years was gunned down by the UWA rangers because of reasons that are not known. We have had very many – actually, over 50 are also hospitalised with gun wounds. Many cows and other animals have been killed. They shoot them when they are walking along the road because we share

the boundary with UWA. Many widows and orphans have been left suffering.

Our prayers, Mr Speaker, are that:

1. We want the Government to give us a buffer zone between the communities and UWA – a common grazing joint;
2. We want compensation for the lives lost and the livestock lost; and
3. We are also requesting for the Prime Minister to come and facilitate a dialogue between the community and UWA. As we speak now, there is bitter blood, where UWA cannot cross over to where the community is. *(Interjection)* I can give way for information, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for tourism?

3.20

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM, WILDLIFE, AND ANTIQUITIES (Mr Martin Mugarra): Thank you, Mr Speaker. What Hon. Chemutai is raising is indeed true. There was an incident a couple of days ago. The matter has come to our attention, where a young boy was killed next to the UWA premises. We have told the Police to pick an interest in the matter and investigate it. Once any of our officers is found culpable, definitely the law will take its course.

Therefore, I request for some time to have this matter resolved. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bataringaya - Minister, please, take up this issue. These are issues where you should meet MPs from the region and analyse them deeply other than here on the Floor.

3.21

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We thank God that you survived and we pray for more years.

I rise on a matter of national importance: Salary enhancement for local government political

leaders. In their letter dated 4 July 2022, the local leaders of Greater Ankole petitioned your office on issues of;

1. Increased procurement threshold for sub-counties/town councils;
2. Salary enhancement for local leaders from LCI to LC V. They contend that they do insurmountable work for this country.

You advised me to raise it on the Floor of Parliament as a matter of national importance, which I did and you referred the matter to the Committee on Local Government, which, together with the Ministry of Local Government considered –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, prayers, please. Rule 76 does not allow you to read speeches.

MR BATARINGAYA: My prayers, are:

1. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Local Government explain why this important matter was withdrawn from the Budget for the Financial Year 2024/2025; and
2. The Ministry of Local Government together with the Ministry of Public Service re-tables this salary enhancement proposal and it is duly considered and integrated into the Budget of the Financial Year 2024/2025.

I beg to submit. I also beg to lay on the Table the petition by the Ankole LCIII Chairpersons.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Bataringaya, this is a very critical issue. I remember that I guided you. However, the way you have presented it makes it difficult. It is difficult to address a petition because they are under rule 30. They have a procedure that they follow.

Minister, it is a critical issue. I do not know if you want to comment now and then use the petition document as an information document.

3.23

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Raphael Magyezi):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank Hon. Basil Bataringaya for raising a matter of highly critical importance. The emoluments of our local leaders are a matter of concern to all of us. I would like to commit that we are going to receive his entire proposal.

On Tuesday, we shall meet the honourable member. We shall strategise together with the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development on how to make sure that we take it up in the next year's budget cycle. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: - Next time? Honourable colleagues, I know there are those who still have matters. They were very many. I will start with them tomorrow. I think there are around four more matters. Time is not on our side, therefore, let us move to the next item.

BILLS
FIRST READING

THE NATIONAL TEACHERS BILL, 2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Education and Sports-

3.24

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr Chrysostom Muyingo):

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. This afternoon, I have the honour to present the National Teachers Bill, 2024.

Under Rule 115(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, "*a Bill shall bear at the head, a short title and a long title describing the leading provisions of the Bill.*"

Mr Speaker, the short title of this Bill is "The National Teachers Bill, 2024". The long title of this Bill is –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, is the Bill accompanied by a Certificate of Financial Implications?

DR MUYINGO: Yes, it is.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, lay it on the Table and you are done. A Bill for the first reading is not seconded.

DR MUYINGO: Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Certificate of Financial Implications for The National Teachers Bill, 2024. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Bill referred to the Committee on Education and Sports to be processed as per Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure. Please, ensure that you give it enough attention; consult widely so that we can resolve these issues.

Honourable Government Chief Whip, would you like to make a comment on the next Bills?

3.26

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Raphael Magyezi):

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We are still consulting with the Government on the remaining Bills from (ii) to (xvi). Therefore, I would like to request that you permit us as the Government to defer these to the next two weeks. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Granted. Next item?

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON:

I) REPORTS THAT CONTRARY TO THE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC NORMS, A CASINO AND GAMBLING FACILITY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE UGANDAN CONSULATE IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs -

3.27

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Mr Raphael Magyezi):

Mr Speaker, I am in touch with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Jeje Odongo. He is not available today but he has committed that he will be here

tomorrow to present the statement. I beg that you allow us to bring it tomorrow.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Clerk, put it on the Order Paper for tomorrow. Next?

II) FAILURE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO DEPLOY MEDICAL INTERNS TO HEALTH FACILITIES

3.27

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Kawooya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to appreciate you for the opportunity to update this august House about the status of the deployment of medical interns and support to the Senior House Officers (SHOs) known as post-graduates for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

I wish to also appreciate all the eligible interns and the public for their understanding as we strive to improve the health service in this country. This issue concerns all of us, especially the public and our interns. Allow me to give a brief overview to appreciate where we are and how far we have moved as a ministry and Government.

Medical internship is a crucial apprenticeship training for health professionals lasting one year upon completion of undergraduate training for doctors, dental surgeons, pharmacists, nurses, and midwives. This period is designed to equip interns with practical experience, skills, and confidence, supplementing their theoretical training. It is also a prerequisite for professional registration with their respective councils.

While SHOs are qualified medical doctors pursuing postgraduate training in various clinical specialties, medical intern doctors and pharmacists are trained under the supervision of specialists with a minimum of five years of work experience while medical intern nurses and midwives are trained under the supervision of Graduate Nurses and Midwives with at least three years of experience.

For this cohort, there are 73 accredited training sites, up from 58 in the year 2023, with varying capacities that was made possible for the recent recruitment of specialists.

Mr Speaker, according to the ministry's internship training guidelines, one specialist supervises four medical interns to ensure effective knowledge transfer and skills development. The Ministry of Health will maintain this standard until more specialists are recruited and more centres are accredited.

Due to the enormous pressure to deploy all the interns last year, we deployed an excessive number of interns (1,901). Mr Speaker, I thank you, and the colleagues in this House, when at that time, we also received support, which enabled us to recruit the 1,901 interns. That is an appreciation from the ministry.

The recruitment of 1,901 interns overwhelmed the system. It created a lot of challenges, with some trainers having to supervise five to six medical interns, sub-optimal learning, overcrowding, and difficulties with access to medical supplies, equipment and devices.

Mr Speaker, we need to appreciate the fact that effective medical internship skills transfer depends largely on hands-on experience to build the confidence of the newly graduated interns, so that they are able to work alone, unsupervised, after being signed off. Allow me to move to the deployment of interns, which is an issue. Mr Speaker, a total of 2,706 interns are eligible for deployment, while there are 743 SHOs - these are postgraduate medical doctors.

Following the completion of the deployment exercise, medical interns have randomly been placed across the 73 internship training centres for a period of one year, starting from 5 August 2024 to 31 July 2025. This placement covers graduates who completed their courses as early as the year 2023 and before.

Furthermore, as clarified in the Minister of Health's press briefing, which was held on 2 August 2024, consideration has been made for dental surgeons and pharmacists (only

Government-sponsored) of cohort 2024, because these cadres are in short supply in the market. The deployment has been guided by available funds, specialists/supervisors, where the standard of four interns per specialist or per supervisor was applied.

Graduates of 2024 will be placed in the future, including those that had been erroneously deployed in our first release, that is the ones from Uganda Christian University and Makerere University Medical School. These are accordingly withdrawn from the list for the reasons that I have just said in the statement.

Mr Speaker, let me move to the support of current interns and Senior House Officers. In this Financial Year 2024/2025, the Ministry of Health was allocated Shs 35,661,600,000 to cater for both medical interns and SHOs.

The cost of deployment of one intern for one year, inclusive of allowance and Pay-As-You-Earn tax, totals Shs 15,600,000. The breakdown is as follows per intern:

- i. Allowance is Shs 1 million per month; and
- ii. Pay-As-You-Earn tax is Shs 300,000 per month.

The total (gross) will therefore be Shs 1.3 million inclusive of taxes per month. This is to allow for an intern to receive a net amount of Shs 1 million per month. Therefore, each intern requires Shs 15,600,000 per year.

Similarly, Mr Speaker, the cost of support to one SHOs undertaking clinical work in national referral hospitals and teaching hospitals is as follows:

This is the same breakdown. Shs 1 million per month, and Pay-As-You-Earn Shs 300,000 per month. The gross total is Shs 1.3 million, inclusive of taxes per month.

The total amount needed to support 743 SHOs is 743 multiplied by 1.3 million, with the taxes for 12 months, which comes to Shs 11,590,800,000.

Mr Speaker, the funding released last year was Shs 46 billion – and I thank you and the whole House - which included arrears and supplementary for the shortfall. On the other hand, this year only Shs 35,661,600,000 has been allocated, registering a reduction of Shs 10,338,400,000.

Furthermore, this year, we have received communication from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to fit within the available resources and with no anticipated supplementary.

With the available budget allocated this year of Shs 35,661,600,000 less Shs 11,590,800,000 for the SHOs and less Shs 670,800,000 for the 86 continuing interns who joined late, only Shs 23,400,000,000 is available for deployment of the current interns.

Mr Speaker, I have given you the computation of each intern and the Senior House Officers.

Considering the expenditure of Shs 15,600,000 per intern per annum, this money can only deploy 1,500 interns. Against this background, the ministry can only deploy the cohort of 2023 and the previous years, totalling 1,435 medical interns to fit within the budget that has been allocated.

For the remaining 65 positions available, priority will be given to dental surgeons who are 22, and the remaining 43 will go to Government-sponsored pharmacists who are in short supply in the market, from the cohort of 2024.

Mr Speaker, below is the table, which shows medical interns eligible for deployment:

The qualifications, MBChB. Before 2023, we had 13, in 2023 there are 639, in 2024 731. The number comes to a total of 1,383.

For the qualifications of BSM and BSN, before 2023, they are 33. In 2023, there are 509. In 2024, there are 346. The total number is 888.

For the qualification of BPHARM, 27 before 2023. In 2023 there are 163. In the year 2024, there are 172. The total is currently 362.

For the qualification of BDS, before 2023 is nil. In 2023, there are 51. In 2024, there are 22. The total is 73. When we total it according to the years, before 2023, we have 73. In 2023, 1,362. In 2024, 1,271 and the total currently is 2,706.

Mr Speaker, despite the significance of the medical internship, all the eligible interns could not be wholly absorbed in this intake as it requires an additional Shs 18,813,600,000. This excludes the cost of recruiting additional specialists to supervise the interns. Once this money is available, we will have the issue resolved.

1. Mr Speaker, there are constraints, which are well known, but for sharing and to appreciate where we are, these constraints of deployment of internship and postgraduate training major on an inadequate budget, as I have shown you the figures and the releases.
2. Inadequate internship training sites. The interns are many and yet the sites we have are very few.
3. Limited specialists to supervise each intern. I have shown you the interns and the specialists they should be handling.
4. The increasing number of interns. You have seen how the numbers have kept on increasing.
5. Universities do not plan collaboratively with the Ministry of Health, leading to a recurring mismatch of resource allocation against the number of graduates trained. The universities recruit, train, and afterward they send to us, whereas our budgets cannot meet that.

Mr Speaker, all this said, there is a way forward. Having given the constraints that are facing the deployment of the interns, the way forward;

1. We think, as a ministry, there is an urgent need to prioritise internship training and allocate adequate funding based on numbers enrolled in the universities and communicated to the councils following the completion of training.
2. There is urgent need to recruit more specialists and supervisors in hospitals and open up more internship training centres to accommodate the growing number of interns.
3. The ministry urges all universities to communicate the number of students, and potential interns, at the beginning of the last year of training in line with the Government budgeting cycle.
4. There is urgent need for the Ministry of Education and Sports to expedite the process of completing the education for health training policy so that we have a policy that guides the universities.

As I conclude, once again, Mr Speaker, I wish to appreciate all the eligible interns and the public for their understanding, and honourable members, for your usual understanding, cooperation, and support in this issue.

Mr Speaker, I am saying that as of now, we can only accommodate - and that is what we have accommodated - 1,500 interns. Attached at the back of this statement is a deployment list, which I can lay on the Table.

I thank you for giving us this opportunity once again and for sharing the constraints we have when it comes to the deployment of the interns. We look forward to continue sharing and for your support. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you honourable.

MS KAWOOYA: I want to lay on the Table.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to open up the statement for debate for around 30 minutes. I will start with Hon. Ababiku. I

will add Bungokho, Hon. Kyooma, Buhweju, Kumi. I am coming to this side, do not mind. Our champion Erute, Hajjat, and Chairperson Health and also former Chairperson Health. Let us use two minutes each, honourable colleagues.

3.45

MR JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity.

Mr Speaker and colleagues, my major concern is the poor planning between the universities and our main ministry. I recommend or propose that the Prime Minister must ensure that the universities plan together so that we get to know the expected number of interns because without having that number, we can't have a possible figure that we can apply at implementation.

Mr Speaker, the honourable minister talked about the future deployment of the remaining students who have not been deployed. I feel we should look at the implications of non-deployment of these students. Without deploying them, they will not be able to complete their courses as expected and, therefore, this is a wasteful attempt by the learners, and their parents to ensure that they go to school.

I am, therefore, proposing that as a Government, we need to sit down to look at the fate of these learners and provide an opportunity for them to finish their courses.

My last recommendation would be to understand how the figure of one million has been arrived at. In scenarios where we do not have adequate money, we would rather look at this money and restructure it, than not deploy some of the people. Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

3.47

MR JOHN MAGOLO (NRM, Bungokho County North, Mbale): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Poor coordination between the universities and the Ministry of Health

aside, the recommendation that the minister gave was to open up new centres for interns. Whereas that can be, it is a process.

The solution right now could be, can the ministry to collaborate and produce probably a supplementary budget because we cannot afford to see these interns roaming the streets. We cannot be here and lament without a solution. They are looking for a solution and, Mr Speaker, that could be the way out for now. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, we do have some interns from foreign countries, and some of these foreign countries, especially within the East African Community, work together under the East African Medical Council. We have an arrangement and some of these people are occupying spaces here.

If we could make it very easy, I think they would even find it much easier to do an internship from their home, like how it is done under law, where we do it for those in common law countries, where they go and do it from their home, and then create space. I have information on that; some of these interns have told me about that.

Whatever we are doing, whatever explanation we are giving, there is no single fault on the side of the intern. The intern cannot do anything about our excuses, about our rotating, about our poor planning. The intern is only saying, please, I need to complete my education, facilitate me to meet your requirements. I am available and it is you who requires it. If you do not, you can even wave it off and leave me to practice as a doctor. It is you who is setting conditions, but denying me opportunities to fulfil your conditions. So, what are those conditions for?

3.49

MS CHRISTINE AKELLO (NRM, Erute County North, Lira): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable minister, this issue is reoccurring and this shows that you are not organised, because how can you admit students yet you do not have the structures - you cannot

accommodate them? And you are saying, “One supervisor against five”, why don’t you make it 10?

If that is the case, why don’t you limit the number depending on the availability of resources? You do not bite- You cannot accommodate what you cannot manage.

Mr Speaker, remember last year, the President said; “We want sciences; we are promoting sciences.” And the ministry is frustrating the science students. We sell land to educate students. As we speak, in every sector, after training, people go for internships. It is automatic and it is mandatory. However, why is it that your ministry is not doing that?

Mr Speaker, this issue is frustrating. As we speak, some of the students have ended up on drugs. Some of them are committing suicide because they have lost land and they thought after finishing, they would compensate for the loss of the land. Therefore, honourable minister, please, think twice before you act. We cannot sit and watch our students on the streets. I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Kyooma?

3.51

MR XAVIER KYOOMA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the minister for the statement. About the lack of coordination between the universities and the ministries, the honourable minister, I want to be convinced because you seem to suggest that the universities are giving more interns as outputs than required.

However, when you look at the audit reports, there are very many staffing gaps in all regional referral hospitals. Leave alone regional referral hospitals, even when you go to our health centre IVs and IIIs, there are no medical personnel.

So, is it true that there is misco-ordination between the universities and the ministry or do we still need more of these medical personnel?

Do not forget about the Government’s effort to emphasise sciences.

Honourable minister, we are behind you. We have supported you in terms of the budget because we need these people, as Dr Faith has already suggested, that if it means a supplementary, then we do it because we need these people; they are very essential. We cannot do away with them. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yumbe, Hajjati Avako Melsa?

3.35

MS MELSA AVAKO (NRM, Woman Representative, Yumbe): Thank you so much, Mr speaker – (*Members rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I had done a round of the people I had picked, so, you will first forgive me.

MS AVAKO: Also, allow me to join my colleagues to thank the Almighty God for saving your life and the colleagues you were with. Allow me to thank the minister for this important statement.

Honourable colleagues, the interns we are talking about are our children, and we are saying that these children should attain the level that we send them to attain. Our policy is very clear: we are focusing on training, recruitment and retention

Honourable Minister, it is very important that between the schedule of enrolment to the internship period, the Government should have planned for these children. I suggest that we should not take long to address their plight. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Onzima - Colleagues, I have already picked. I picked, and I did a round.

3.54

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa County North, Yumbe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to join my colleagues in thanking God for saving your life.

Mr Speaker, when I listen to - First of all, I want to thank the minister for the statement. When we talk about internship, it is not just an internship per se, it is an examination just like the teachers have school practice. Therefore, when you deny internship to medical students, you are delaying them from finishing their course and stopping them from finishing one particular examination for a year.

The statement implies that the ministry seems not to be aware of the population of these students. Each time when we license more institutions to offer medicine, we should expect more students to graduate from these universities, and this should also give us the impression that the number of students will increase.

Mr Speaker, just like other courses where a private scheme is accepted, and also for private students, particularly from foreign countries, they seem to do it privately. I want to know from the minister: if the Government cannot raise enough money for all these students, which is the reason for the delay of their deployment, can't the ministry open it also for those who can sponsor themselves, such that those who can afford can go ahead? Those who want to wait for the ministry or the Government could wait. Why is it restricted to everyone? That is what I want to get from the minister. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Koyekyenga?

3.56

MS OLIVER KATWESIGYE (NRM, Woman Representative, Buhweju): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to remind the honourable minister that there are interns who finished three years ago and have never got placements, and they are only loitering around. This is so painful to the parent who pays tuition for five years for the child, and after five years, the child cannot get a placement.

I think in this House we have always talked about priorities. This is a priority. I have seen these students crying. And, yesterday, I saw

the police beating them up because they were demonstrating, and I wondered, why are we doing these things?

Today, we wake up and tell the public that we want people to study sciences and at the end of it all, we do not know how to help the scientists. I think it is something bad. Doing things without planning in this country, is disturbing everybody.

The minister said, in her report, that they have only 73 centres. Why don't you – *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Ayume? Then Kumi, Hon. Christine.

3.58

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to put this into context. We are all parents here, and think through this that you have struggled, you are that parent from Kakumiro, Amuru, Amolatar, and Koboko, who has sold their produce, and goats, and your child has graduated. There is a reason to celebrate and you have to wait another two years to be deployed and to be paid. That is the context in which we should look at it.

Mr Speaker, I think the mischief is in the planning, and I think we are crucifying the Ministry of Health wrongly. It is a financial issue and it is an education issue, a planning issue.

There are 17 universities that train health workers. Kampala International University produces half of these. As somebody who trained, I am not so sure how you can have 500 students in a class, both for dentistry, medicine, nursing, and midwifery. We need to interrogate how they are doing it. Do they have the requisite number of lecturers or are we getting half-baked personnel? *(Applause)*

Secondly, Mr Speaker, my prayer is; that we find this money, pay the interns, and reset the clock to zero.

As I conclude, it is not only about paying the interns, but it is where we are going to accommodate them.

Mbale Regional Referral Hospital needed Shs 590 million, the price of a V8 Land Cruiser, which the front bench buys every financial year for their ministers, but we could not provide this in the budget.

Masaka Regional Referral Hospital needed Shs 600 million to complete its Intensive Care Unit (ICU). It was an unfunded priority.

Therefore, it goes beyond only payment for interns, there is equipment, the consultants who are going to train these people, and so many other things. So, we need to look at it from that context. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Christine-

4.00

MS CHRISTINE APOLOT (NRM, Woman Representative, Kumi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thanks to the Almighty for saving you. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for the prayers you gave at the time I was seriously struggling with ill health. I thank the Almighty God.

I appreciate the statement presented by the honourable minister. She said that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Planning made a statement with no hope for a supplementary.

According to the presentations here, we have to support a supplementary for this course. May I find out from the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development whether it is ready to support the position of Parliament since this is critical?

Like other colleagues have said, during planning - this is the time I call upon the budget committee to listen to some of the priorities that chairpersons of committees present during the budgeting process.

I believe that the committees discussed the importance of internship and generated figures, which needed to be honoured. Where is the problem? I am happy that Members are supplementing, but I have to be on record.

Finally, as other Members have already stated, one of the most expensive courses in this country is the medical courses and many people have given testimonies to that effect.

May I find out what can be taken as a step forward to have supervisors increased? As the minister placed the challenges, she said that one of the challenges was the shortage of supervisors.

Whose problem is that? Is it that we are not allocating money to have these people recruited so that they can do the supervision? Basically, the problem has been inadequate funding, which must find a solution to.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, we have a dilemma. I have been paying for some of these students. The students have come and I am ready to pay their allowances, like I have been paying their school fees.

They have completed their course, they do not even want your allowances but rather the qualification so that they can go and take up other opportunities. What can we do?

I would like the Attorney-General to guide me because if I have done my part, the rest is in your court as the Government. I can meet their allowances because I have been paying their fees, which are higher than the allowances you give them. Can you allow them to volunteer if they do not want allowances?

4.04

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryoowa Kiwanuka): I thank you, Mr Speaker. When the honourable member raised that issue, it really excited me and I am happy that we are having this conversation. We need to start thinking outside the box.

For example, if people are willing -I am sure the Government should be able to make those facilities available if the costs can be met. And for the cost of the other interns - the number is not so great. It is Shs 18 billion or something like that. I think we can sit down and rationalise some of our own -

It is very easy to say “supplementary budget” but the money to fund the supplementary budget must be found somewhere *-(Interjections)* - even a fuel refund is an option. We just need to sit down and think about these things as players in this space - even the State House; all of them are open.

Mr Speaker, the issue has been raised and everyone has appreciated it. We need to sit down soberly - if the committee could actually sit down and look at these issues *-(Interjections)*

Part of the answer is that those who are ready, that is an easy win. So, as the Executive, we need to go back and make a policy, which allows those who are ready to meet their own costs to do it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, they have given a very good example in the statement, they said, “Pharmacy and Dental on Government”. The ones which the Government has been paying for have been placed for internship.

What about those whom the Government has not been paying for? If they can meet their costs, why not allow them?

This is discriminatory. They have only placed the other ones but the excuse they are giving is; “I do not have money to deploy you.” If you do not have money, in my four or five years of study, have you been paying for me?

That is the question and the reality should sink in. Hon. Attorney-General and the Minister for Health, let us listen to one another.

I am giving a discriminatory example in the minister’s statement. Where you said that those of Pharmacy and Dental who were on

Government sponsorship and are in short supply have been deployed.

The ones who were in private have not been given a chance because they do not have money. Me, who has been paying for myself for all these years of study - if you want – Oboth, that is why some of these people - I am sorry that is not Parliamentary language, Hon. Oboth-

Honourable colleagues, there is already inequality whereby, those on Government sponsorship have been given a chance to complete. Those on private, if they can meet their costs, can’t they be allowed to complete?

4.08

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Attorney-General, you have given us a good answer with all the options. But the Speaker was asking you to give a legal opinion. What statutory instrument do you need to allow these people to pay money for their students on private?

There is another challenge about the health facilities, which are very limited, and the elevation of medical trainers, who have reached that level of supervising these students.

When you read the minister’s statement, yes, it is okay but there is a tendency of always coming to Parliament without giving proper justification. When you took your policy statement and budget estimates to the Committee of Health, did you indicate this fund and the figure? You did not. I am seeing the chairperson nodding in support of my side. If you did that, where is the failure?

Mr Speaker, as you stated - because you cannot ask parents to pay privately without a legal instrument. We need that. Explain that to this House so that these parents can continue doing so *-(Interjection)*- because there is nothing to do. You have for almost three years now.

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

4.10

DR NICHOLAS KAMARA (FDC, Kabale Municipality, Kabale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank God for saving your life.

I have two points and the first is about regulations. I have seen documents from the National Council for Higher Education recommending some universities to train 100 medical students. However, when it is time for graduation, you hear these medical schools graduating over 300 medical doctors. So, one thing we should do, as Parliament, is to interact with the National Council for Higher Education and ask them: you recommended 100 medical students, why is this university graduating 300?

We should also interface with the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council and the universities, which are training way beyond what the National Council for Higher Education recommended.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Hon. Kamara. For clarification, let me help you with information. This started this year - listen. I know universities – now, they have written to them saying, “We renew your course, but admit only 60.” Now, some universities still have people in the pipeline. They have now started - they have already written to universities and the universities are even protesting but, at least, the National Council for Higher Education has put it.

Before, they were not only giving you a threshold – no, it has just started. So, for people who are in the pipeline, will they pay the price? You should, first, get done with the people who are in the pipeline and, then, the recommendation you started with can start applying.

DR KAMARA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that information. The second issue is about internship versus studentship. When you are a student, you are paid for as a student. When you become a medical, nurse or pharmacy intern, you are different from a student because you are doing work.

Therefore, I do not support the Government getting free labour from these interns and hiding behind the notion that for some interns, they were paying for them. They were paying for their studies, but this time they are now working for the Government, so the government must pay them. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are teachers doing school practice being paid? They are working; they are in class -

DR KAMARA: If they are, they should be paid -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are lawyers working in Government being paid? (*Laughter*)

DR KAMARA: Lastly, Mr Speaker, the Government has been emphasising that they are supporting sciences, they have enhanced science teachers’ salaries – (*Inaudible*) - are going to be paid, but now the cream of science is medicine, pharmacy and nursing.

Now, they have trained but they cannot pay them. The Minister of Education and Sports must also tell us if prioritising sciences is still a policy of the Government. If we have failed – please, you must pay the scientists or say that the Government has failed. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have Hon. Namugga and, then, the Shadow Minister of Health, Dr Batuwa.

4.14

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank my colleague, the minister from Ssembabule – you know I was also a minister. I would like to submit on a few issues.

Honourable colleagues, we are looking for Shs 18 billion. We do appreciate that there might be policy changes but at a later stage. We are talking about Shs 18 billion. We have just given ROKO Construction Limited Shs 300 billion. We gave Dei BioPharma Limited Shs 500 billion. We have classified expenditure

under State House and Office of the President, of close to Shs 500 billion.

Mr Speaker, I propose that in the interest of having continuity and sorting out this current challenge, let us look for the Shs 18 billion -*(Interjection)*- yes, we should look for it. We can get it and plan better.

I remember the same ministry had arrears of close to Shs 80 billion, which led us to reduce the payment for interns from Shs 2 million to Shs 1 million. It was reduced and we agreed -*(Interjections)* - it was reduced from Shs 2.5 million to Shs 1 million although we have also failed to pay the Shs 1 million.

I suggest that as we go back to plan better, we should look for the Shs 18 billion. The sources of the Shs 18 billion are: one, the classified budget - *(Applause)* - go to the classified budget and get Shs 18 billion. If you cannot, go to ROKO Construction Limited. If you cannot, go to Dei BioPharma Limited, where you are allocated Shs 500 billion, and get Shs 18 billion. We have the money for now to sort out this mess as we plan better. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, from Hon. Namugga's submission, which the MPs are applauding - for us to have a structured debate – if you provided the Shs 18 billion, would it also provide for the necessary specialist supervisors and the space? From your statement, you are saying “four interns per specialist”.

That might be money for allowances yet we need specialists to supervise these interns. Yes – listen. You have been told that the numbers have now grown. So, beyond money, there are two critical things: specialists to do the supervision and the space where they can be placed.

I was talking to one of the specialists, who told me: “Look, I am in a theatre and you have given me an intern – I am surrounded by 12 interns for training. How will I teach these people and how will I know that they are concentrating?” Do you get it?

There are no shifts for patients – you get done with one patient, and get to work on another? *(Laughter)*

The reason I am asking these questions, Hon. Namugga and honourable colleagues, is that, of the money we need, is it only this Shs 18 billion or something beyond so that we can have more specialists?

You can answer that before the shadow minister comes in. It guides us in the debate

MS KAWOOYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to thank the Members of this august House for this concern. My prayer – again - as we had come in - is that you allow us, as the ministry - I thank you, colleague, Hon. Namugga. This time, we are moving together nicely. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I am asking that you allow us to go and bring our strategic plan on how to solve this internship deployment situation well. Let us come back before the Committee on Health and discuss with them what we are bringing to take care of the issues of allowances, space and specialists. After that, we will report to this august House.

On the way forward, let us go back for proper planning because this involves the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Ministry of Education and Sports – to come up with the policy and regulations – and the Ministry of Health.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KAWOOYA: It is an issue that we must bring to an end. Thank you for the guidance. Let us put this to zero and plan for the future so that this issue does not occur again. We will, then, come to this House and, together, we find the remedy once and for all. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, from my little experience of nine months in the Cabinet, as the minister has said, it does not even help for me to say, “Tomorrow, the committee starts

handling it.” I think we need to give the minister space to coordinate this matter with the Cabinet secretariat; she will take the statement to the Cabinet on Monday and then on Tuesday, she will appear before the committee. Let us give the committee Tuesday and Wednesday. Then on Thursday, the committee can report back on the Floor. Would that work?

MS KAWOOYA: Mr Speaker, on Monday, we are not meeting. Maybe the other Monday *-(Interjections)-* do you now want to go to Cabinet? I am giving information. Mr Speaker, Monday will be a day for celebrating International Youth Day and we want to celebrate with the youth. So, Cabinet and all of us will be there. If we can be -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, give me time to consult with the Prime Minister. This is a very urgent matter. However, whereas it is urgent, I know the minister cannot sort it out alone without going to Cabinet. Otherwise, we shall be roasting her yet she cannot do much with the direction she is taking without going to Cabinet. If the Cabinet cannot, at least the Head of State needs to be appraised on the matter too.

Honourable colleagues, I will guide you on this matter tomorrow. Next item.

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE
OPPOSITION IN RESPONSE TO THE
PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS ON THE STATE
OF THE NATION PURSUANT TO RULE 53
OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The shadow minister is a member of the Committee on Health where the statement is going. Okay, let me allow a word from the shadow minister.

4.21

DR TIMOTHY BATUWA (FDC, Jinja South Division West, Jinja City): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not provoke debate again because we have already guided.

DR BATUWA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank you for the wise guidance you have issued. Indeed, this matter can only be decisively handled by the Committee of Health.

The minister highlighted 78 centres that have grown from 58 to 78 but I can see outright that we have 62 general hospitals, 17 regional referral hospitals, which brings the number to 79. I have not talked about the specialised hospitals like the Uganda Heart Institute, the Uganda Cancer Institute, the Mulago Specialised Women and Neonatal Hospital and the national referral hospitals, meaning, there are gaps we can exploit to really widen the number of interns.

Mr Speaker, Kamuli General Hospital has not received interns despite having specialists. It has a paediatrician, a surgeon, and four obstetricians but no intern received. Bugiri Hospital, which has a small number of specialists has interns. This is to highlight that there are still gaps.

Last and most important, Uganda has ever registered its name in the area of medicine. You can go to South Africa and many other African countries and find Ugandan doctors there. I have colleagues who are teaching and working in Namibia.

There is something we did very well at that time to write our name high in the field of medicine. What we have been doing is that we have been paying interns and supervising them directly. There should never be a reason for us to stop doing what we have been doing right and what has made us write our name up there. *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Switch on.

DR BATUWA: As we make all these suggestions, last year, we reached a consensus. Interns were getting in excess of Shs 2.5 million, as Dr Kamara has stated. We reduced that to Shs 1 million such that we could take up all the interns. I was surprised to hear that there was a backlog.

In the Committee on Health, as we interface with the minister, we shall establish exactly what the money we passed during last year's supplementary did, establish the right backlog, look at the resources we have this year and the possibilities of having private facilities like Nakasero, Nsambya to support us so that we get rid of the backlog as Dr Ayume said, for us to clean up such that we start on a clean page where we admit from universities what we are able to consume.

As we do this, we should establish how many private hospitals we can bring on board? Otherwise, the interns are supportive; they will support the functioning of those hospitals and it is the idea that they will buy and get on board. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, you can see this is not just a matter of finance; it is mainly a matter of policy. Just go tweak that and then come to the committee. I will guide the House tomorrow after consulting tonight. Let us go to the next item.

I want to give enough time for the debate on the State-of-the-Nation Address when we are very fresh. So, let us first clear item seven.

LAYING OF PAPERS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH RULE 33 OF THE RULES OF
PROCEDURE:

I) THE REGULATION OF INTERCEPTION
OF COMMUNICATIONS REGULATIONS,
2024

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

4.25

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (SECURITY) (Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Jim Muhwezi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise under Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the 11th Parliament to lay before this august House the Regulation of Interception of Communications Regulations, 2024.

Mr Speaker, Section 16(1) of the Regulation of the Interception Regulations Act, 2010, mandates the Minister of Security to make regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act. The regulation of Interception of Communications Regulations, 2024 was published in the Uganda Gazette on 26 July 2024, as Statutory Instrument No. 60 of 2024. The regulations seek to primarily improve the process for SIM card registration in Uganda.

I accordingly, beg this honourable House to consider the Regulation of Interception of Communication Regulations, 2024, duly laid on the Table, in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Regulation of Interception of Communications Act, 2010. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. These are for information purposes. Let the Clerk put them in the library for easy access by Members.

II) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY
AND INNOVATION BENCHMARK
VISIT REGARDING SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AT THE COUNCIL
FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL
RESEARCH IN PRETORIA – SOUTH
AFRICA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before the chair comes, Minister of Education and Sports, there was a clarification - he wanted to give us a memorandum on the Bill.

4.28

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (HIGHER EDUCATION) (Dr John C. Muyingo): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. When I laid the papers, I forgot to lay the National Teachers Bill, 2024 Memorandum. I now beg to lay it on the Table.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is to accompany the teacher's Bill and it is for record purposes - Hon. Christine, do you have a procedural matter?

MS KAAYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. When we received the matters of national urgency last week, the matter relating to leasehold remained hanging.

Mr Speaker, when you direct us to meet with the ministers, we don't get clearly how to meet the Prime Minister and where to begin. I do not feel it is very difficult for us to address this issue by the line minister availing us information on how they have been renewing leasehold land, what we call, former public land, for the last two years and how they have been transforming leases into freehold. Otherwise, our people are getting landless; it is an urgent matter, Mr Speaker.

This is a simple thing so I request that our line minister comes with a presentation. Who is benefiting from these renewals and those transformations from leasehold to freehold? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, if I remember very well, we agreed that you structure it for the Prime Minister to answer it this Thursday. Otherwise, the minister is under the Prime Minister; it is the same. Whether it is a line minister or what, it is the same Government. I think if you could do that quickly. The way you have brilliantly brought it up here, if you could put it in writing, I will ensure the Prime Minister, on Thursday, answers it.

Usually, if I can tap into my practice when I was a Government Chief Whip, the Prime Minister gets these answers from the respective ministries. She does not sit on her own and develop these answers for written questions. So, let us do it and ensure it is answered. Thank you. Yes, next. Chairperson, Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation. You have only ten minutes. Will that be enough, chairperson?

4.30

THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (Dr Florence Asimwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I move under Rule

33 of our Rules of Procedure to present three reports. However, I need your guidance on whether I should present one by one.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, they read a report you were supposed to present. We keep calling an item for the *Hansard* to capture it clearly.

DR FLORENCE ASIMWE: I am looking at report number one; the Report of the Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation on the benchmarking visit regarding science and technology for sustainable development at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Pretoria, South Africa. I wish to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, this is under rule 33, you are supposed to give us a brief, and then I will appoint the time for debate.

DR FLORENCE ASSIMWE: One by one?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, because that is the item we are on, so give us a brief on that.

DR FLORENCE ASSIMWE: Mr Speaker and Members, on behalf of the Science, Technology and Innovation Committee, I wish to express gratitude for your unrelenting support towards science, technology and innovation in Uganda. Your direct involvement and advocacy have been instrumental in driving the development of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in our nation.

Pursuant to Rule 168(a) under which the STI committee derives its mandate to operate, a number of hiccups and hindrances have been met while executing the committee's mandate, especially the oversight mandate. This has been fundamentally affected by the lack of legislation.

The legislation and legal framework ecosystem on science, technology, and innovation is still wanting.

Mr Speaker, we have just had the legislative agenda for this session but STI is still missing

on that legislative agenda. The STI sector in the country anchors on the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology Act of 1990, Cap. 209. The Act has not been reviewed nor amended to suit the ever-changing trends in technology in the country and the world over.

Through you, sir, I would like to request the Minister of State for Science, Technology and Innovation to come up with a legal framework for science, technology, and innovation.

Whereas the Government established the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in 2016 in recognition of the dire need to have a sector to regulate and coordinate STI in the country, the Ministry of Science and Technology was disbanded in 2021 and a new administrative unit was established. The Secretariat for STI in the President's Office was established. However, the legislation and legal regime were not reviewed to be aligned with the current administrative unit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedural matter?

DR BWANIKA: Mr Speaker, the chairperson is supposed to present a report on the benchmarking visit to South Africa but she is elaborating on issues obtaining in Uganda. Are we proceeding well when the honourable member is informing us about the status in Uganda, not what they saw in South Africa?

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: The benchmark, of course, is based on the gaps.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON: Honourable chairperson, it is me to rule and you take your seat when I am going to rule. When a colleague is on the Floor - we cannot have two colleagues standing on the Floor. Why I told you that you have ten minutes - if you read rule 33(2), you will notice that it says, "*Upon laying of the report...*" - this covers reports of Parliamentary delegations abroad - "*Upon laying of the report under sub-rule (1), the leader of the delegation or the Member shall present a summary of the report and highlight the key lessons learnt and recommendations contained*

in the report". Just highlighting, not going into details. We can avoid things here, just highlight key findings and recommendations. Yes, Hon. Nandala.

MR NANDALA-MAFABI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are aware Parliament recently changed the leadership of committees and it is, maybe, the reason other new members who are now leading committees are not aware of:

1. Our rules of procedure;
2. Their roles as chairpersons of committees; and
3. What to present when they have been told to present.

Wouldn't it be procedurally right, Mr Speaker, that you induct these chairpersons so that they can quickly help us?

Why I had kept quiet was - (*Interjection*) - I think you can see - that is why you need some of us to help. Wouldn't it be procedurally right that you induct our colleagues so that we do not start bashing them? It does not look nice. I would be very glad to be one of the facilitators, to assist these colleagues. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Number one, I want to inform you that Dr Akiiki is serving a second term as Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology, which is a standing committee, she is an astute legislator and a very good chairperson who has presented many reports.

Number two, even me, or we the senior legislators - I know that you, Hon. Nandala when you were chairperson, you had technical staff to help you because those things are many. The Clerk to the Committee should have helped the Member to prepare a summary because she cannot write a report of the committee without the Clerk to the Committee. That is very important.

Number three, for the new chairpersons, it might have been short, but we had a one-day induction for the new chairpersons, taking them through how to work with the committees

and all that but she was moving very well only that Hon. Nandala-Mafabi wanted –

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the guidance. I was giving the Members the background as to why we went to benchmark. The reason we went out is that we lack a legislative agenda and so, I was only giving you a brief on that.

Against the background I was giving, I would like to report that we lack a legal framework for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

A team led by Hon. Remigio Achia, the chairperson then, went to attend a conference organised by the African Institute for Capacity Development from 24 to 29 April 2023 in Pretoria, South Africa. The theme of the conference was, “Science and Technology for Sustainable Development.”

What did the team find out? Mr Speaker, our attendance of the conference was to find out how South Africa addresses science, technology and innovation issues in terms of the legal framework so that we can come back here and address that issue, which I have been talking about.

The conference led to another continued workshop because we realised that there was a need to visit some of the agencies that implement science, technology, and innovation. One of the agencies is the Centre of Scientific Research in Pretoria. What we found out is that the centre for technology partners with the Government and the Government injects 15 per cent of its national budget into this centre.

In terms of budget allocation, the Government of South Africa puts a lot of money into this centre. This is the centre for innovation where most of the scientists – (*Hon. Naluyima rose*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, just help me mention just the key lessons learnt, not what you found out, and the recommendations.

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Through multidisciplinary research, technological innovation, and industrial scientific development, this centre has been able – (*Interruption*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of procedure?

MS NALUYIMA: Mr Speaker, from her reading, it is indicative that she was not part of - there was a chairperson of the delegation. As we have realised, there was no summary prepared. So, wouldn't it be procedurally right that we stay this matter and it is allocated time such that the honourable committee chairperson is given a moment, other than having these continuous interruptions while she is reading? We need to listen and get something that does not make us interrupt her every time.

For such moments where she may not have attended in person as the leader of delegation, can this House allow and stay this matter for a good presentation to be prepared? I beg to Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, would you find it more comfortable that way?

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: Mr Speaker, it appears Members are not understanding what I am presenting – (*Laughter*) - because science is not - I tried to bring them on board on how we are lacking the legal framework, then we went for the conference but they have failed to understand me. I do not know what they can do. Maybe they can read the report.

I am trying to make it as simple as possible but they are not ready to listen. I know what I am trying to present, how one conference led to another, and what we found out.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, Members are understanding you. On the record of Parliament, we cannot say that Members are failing to understand you because it is science. I think what should have

been done was for you to do a brief then it is uploaded; you would be flowing very well.

Clerk at Table, inform all committee clerks to ensure this is always done. You do a summary of around two pages. Since there is no meeting of minds on how things are moving and only few people like Hon. Nandala-Mafabi are understanding – (*Laughter*) - I would propose that since we are not debating the report now and it has been laid, we go to the next one. Honourable members, go and read the report, understand it very well and then you come to engage the professor.

(III) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION ON A BENCHMARKING
VISIT REGARDING BEST PRACTICES IN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARKS IN
TURKEY

4.45

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (Dr Florence Asimwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This is another benchmarking report on a visit to Turkey where the team visited different organisations in trying to benchmark on:

- i) The legal framework; and
- ii) Best practices of science, technology, and innovation.

Three organisations were visited, that is, University Technopark, Intertech Technology Transfer Centre, and Gebze Technical Park.

Findings

The committee established that the administration of the Technical Park is mandated to inform companies within the technical park of the available opportunities for collaboration and funding. The companies are well established to mentor the start-ups. The mentoring is both for peer-to-peer scientists, vertical with companies that are established and with more experience and expertise.

The Government of Turkey creates a conducive environment for investment. This is done through giving tax incentives to companies to encourage them to establish themselves in the technical park and partner with universities for research purposes. These include waiving export duty to encourage companies to expand out of Turkey, and income tax exemption, among others.

The delegation also observed that Turkey has a committee that is responsible for providing technical guidance on the operations of the park, selection of projects and monitoring and implementation of projects to ensure that selected projects translate from research into viable projects. The committee is comprised of a director of technical parks and qualified personnel from universities and the industry.

On the other hand, Uganda is treading well –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, you are now reading the report. Let us go to another one.

DR FLORENCE ASIMWE: These are the findings. Industrial parks are established and fall under the mandate of Uganda's investment.

The delegation also learnt that Turkey has a clear development plan and as a result, the parks are organised, in terms of sectors – (*Interjections*) - Mr Speaker, honestly, these are the findings.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I am referring you to your own rules. You are not supposed to read the report but to highlight it. This is just very simple.

DR FLORENCE ASIMWE: I am highlighting what we found out. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you are reading the report.

DR FLORENCE ASIMWE: The delegation learnt that Turkey has a clear development plan and the results of the parks are organised in terms of sectors. As such,

the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) committee derived the following recommendations:

- i. The Government of Uganda should strengthen the legal framework for the industrial value chain;
- ii. The Government of Uganda should put up measures and guidelines on how tertiary institutions and industries can work together to have research and innovation implementation;
- iii. The STI Secretariat in Uganda should have guidelines on how the innovation funds can be accessed by the scientists, compared to what Turkey is doing;
- iv. The Government of Uganda should invest in building and upgrading infrastructure, to support STI activities and innovation hubs;
- v. The Government should also learn from Turkey how to designate land for innovation hubs in industrial parks; and
- vi. The Government of Uganda can also organise industrial parks into sectors to ease the allocation of finances.

It is our prayer that this report is allocated time for a full debate and the matters that arise from the observation of the committee are put under effective consideration by the STI Secretariat. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: To lay.

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: I have already laid. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That was the second; you already laid -

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: I have laid the second report on the visit to Turkey.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable chairperson.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION ON A STUDY VISIT
REGARDING THE INTEGRATION OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO SPUR
EFFICIENCY IN SERVICE DELIVERY
AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, chairperson.

4.51

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE (Dr Florence Asiimwe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to lay the Report on the Committee of Science, Technology and Innovation, on the study visit to Kenya regarding the integration of information, and technology to spur efficiency in service delivery and social economic development. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now the highlights.

DR FLORENCE ASIIMWE: While in Kenya, the committee visited the following organisations: Kenya Education Network, Microsoft, Amazon Web Service, and TAIFA to understand their contribution to Kenya's education sector. All these agencies or organisations are looking at the digital and internet connectivity to different sectors that can make Kenya efficient in its day-to-day running of these organisations.

Under Microsoft, the team noted that there is a value chain between industries and Microsoft itself. There is a linkage between the Microsoft organisation and other Government organisations, especially in digital transformation. Microsoft is cutting across many departments; especially education, climate change, food security, and health care.

The next agency that we visited was Amazon. It was also trying to collect data; especially in cloud computing, to store the data that can be used by different agencies of Government.

We also visited TAIFA Computer Assembly Line, in Kenya. This organisation is assembling iPads, which are being distributed to schools, and most of the schools in Kenya, have access to these iPads. Therefore, Uganda can borrow a leaf by having some of these organisations established here so that more iPads are assembled for our children to access these facilities.

In a nutshell, after visiting those four agencies, we came to realise that in Uganda we are still behind, much as efforts are being made, especially in the areas of digital transformation in schools, hospitals, and many other organisations. Therefore, a lot can be learned from this piece, and the details can be derived from the report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Chairperson. Well done. Three reports. Honourable colleagues, let us thank our Chairperson. Colleagues, whereas some of you are struggling with what to quote, people like Dr Florence and Prof. Mushemeza, quote their publications. That is why sometimes they find it difficult to deal with us when we rush them, and how we want a summary when for example, they have written 200 pages - and you are saying she should summarize that in a minute?

These are critical reports; Clerk, you crosscheck. There were other reports, which she had laid some time back. Otherwise, put these on the Order Paper for Tuesday. Three of them can be debated together on Tuesday. Point of procedure Hon. Kayondo.

MR KAYONDO: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In my profession, however good you are -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your profession?

MR KAYONDO: However good you are, after some time, you have to be taken for a refresher course.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But what is your profession; we just want to know.

MR KAYONDO: I am a chemist but however good you are; you have to be taken for a refresher course. Being taken for a refresher course does not mean that you do not know what you are doing; it is mandatory. Won't we be proceeding well, if some of our leaders and chairpersons and we, as Parliament, are taken back for refresher induction?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is why honourable, we held an induction last week for committee chairpersons, together with the Clerks. We know that new developments always come in.

However, the best induction, honourable colleagues, is being here. Because I have seen Members struggling to switch on microphones. On that, I do not know how we can induct you afresh.

However, if you always come here and peep, and/or keep looking at how others do it, then you will not struggle. You know, you just press once - but someone presses three times, on and off, when it gets on and off then they start talking.

Honourable colleagues, learning from each other - we have legislators who have been here longer. Just come near Hon. Ssewungu and ask him, because sometimes learning has to be a personal initiative.

I have very many - come to Hon. Onzima - he has been here for some time. There Hon. Stephen Kagwera there, these are historicals that have been here. Hon. Kyooma, Hon. Nandala. People like Hon. Gorreth Namugga should be going to Hon. Kyooma to learn - *(Laughter)* - unfortunately, Hon. Namugga is the boss of Hon. Kyooma. Next item? Learning from each other is the best way to go.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY
AND FISHERIES ON FOOD AND ANIMAL
FEED SECURITY INTERVENTIONS IN
THE COUNTRY

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries as you come in, Hon. Namugga –

MS SANTA ALUM: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

On the report of the Committee on Science and Technology that the chairperson has just laid before us – this is a very important sector in the country, but you have referred it to next Tuesday. That will be approximately one week. So, wouldn't it be procedurally right for the chairperson to come up with a brief on Tuesday, this being a new sector, which is very crucial upon which some of the Members who are not here may be in the House on that day and willing to debate this very important report? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Why a brief when she has given a full report? Now we have reports - and that is what makes us lazy. We want to read by listening.

I have given you one week. Go through the reports, consult and dig deeper so that when you come on Tuesday, you can debate seriously. It would be better, Hon. Santa, instead of Members waiting for a summary - and they are not voluminous reports.

Let us read through these reports, thank you. Mr Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, your item has already been called. Hon. Atkins Katusabe, what is the issue?

MR KATUSABE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to tap into the advantage of having the Attorney-General in the House. The reason our interventions, especially from the Government, do not make a lot of impact is because they are not based on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) - it is a procedural issue -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Honourable. When you say that you are taking advantage of the presence of the Attorney-General - he is always here. I do not want us to debate a report as if the Attorney-General is not going to come back here.

MR KATUSABE: I am seeking his opinion on procedural grounds. Every time the Government wants to come up with a programme, we ask the sector or ministry for a Certificate of Financial Implications.

On this particular Floor, I have raised it multiple times that it is not enough to ask a ministry for a Certificate of Financial Implications. We should go an extra mile. "You are asking for this money; yes, our citizens need this money or that programme, but can you serve us with a certificate of STI (Science Technology and Innovation)?" This is for us to be sure that the programme or the intervention that you want to put in place will have the desired impact.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, wherever certificates of that nature are required, it is expressly stated in the law.

The Climate Change Act asks for a Certificate of Climate Change. For the budget, you have a Certificate of Gender and Equity and a Certificate of Financial Implications.

The Attorney-General does not do that because that is the laws that we make. Therefore, honourable colleagues, let us move on. Please let us move on.

MR KATUSABE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My only issue was: can the Attorney-General – to me, as a scholar – do we have enough room, legally, to accommodate a certificate of STI? This is because that is critical otherwise all of these interventions will be meaningless without STI. Thank you.

5.04

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question is: do we have any room to accommodate a certificate of STI? The answer is yes.

When Parliament is conducting any matter, especially when it is dealing with oversight and legislation, it is at liberty to consider everything required to make the necessary policy guidance or law.

Therefore, if Parliament feels the need to have a certificate of STI, that is perfectly fine. Actually, in Government, for all the Bills that come here, we have what we call a regulatory impact assessment. It is not provided for in the law, but it is a policy. We go out and say, "What will this law - how will it affect the regulations in the country?" So, yes, we do have room and we should actually use it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Attorney-General, why I was clarifying on that is because I do not want us to reach the budget next year and members begin asking: "Where is the certificate of STI?" *(Laughter)*.

We cannot process a budget without a certificate of STI and they will begin quoting that the Attorney-General said "We can ask for it; without it, we cannot process the budget". I would like us to be very clear so that whatever is needed is either anchored in the law or it is not mandatory.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No, it is not mandatory and if anyone asks for it, the House must first all agree that for that particular aspect, it is required and they need it to help them make that decision. Otherwise, it is not mandatory. Whatever is mandatory is clearly set out in the relevant laws. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have given the Chairperson Committee on Agriculture time to finish something small to do with the report. Let us listen to the Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE PRISONER
EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since we have our Minister for Defence - the Minister of Foreign Affairs does not usually deal with issues of - I am sure it is sufficient - we can have a debate and sort this matter. Yes, Hon. Chairperson; you have 20 minutes.

5.06

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Ms Catherine Lamwaka): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In accordance with Rule 33(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to lay a Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Prisoner Exchange Programme between the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

I also beg to lay copies of the minutes of the committee meetings that processed this report.

In accordance with Rule 33(2) of our Rules of Procedure, I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Prisoner Exchange Programme between the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We start with 3.0 then we move on.

MS LAMWAKA: Okay, let me proceed to 3.0 in the report by presenting the summary as you have guided. I believe Members will be able to look through it. 1.1 is on the mandate of the committee and the background that led us to this activity

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, since it is short, you can read the methodology; read all of it.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have the findings and observations

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. However, I would like to draw the attention of Members to 1.1, which is the background to this report, and which members can read on their own.

Findings 3.1 - the plight of Ugandans in prisons in DRC

The Committee on Foreign Affairs learnt that the issue of Ugandans imprisoned in DRC was a recurring topic, which formed a key item in the framework of the Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) meetings.

Mr Speaker, on the number of Ugandans in prisons in DRC, the Committee on Foreign Affairs held a meeting with the head of the Uganda Embassy in Kinshasa in November 2022. Efforts were still ongoing to establish a formal cooperation mechanism between Uganda and DRC to address the problem.

These efforts had been ongoing since 2014 up to 2022, when the committee interacted with the mission's officials. The committee was informed that the following were the number of Ugandans in prisons in DRC – and, of course, a list of Ugandans in prison has been attached as Appendix A;

- i) Makala prison in Kinshasa – 13 prisoners and, unfortunately, out of these, four died.
- ii) Ndolo prison in Kinshasa – 64 prisoners.
- iii) Goma Central Prison (North Kivu) – 32.
- iv) Bunia Central Prison (Ituri) – 26.

Total – 135 prisoners.

Observation of the committee;

All the above, Mr Speaker, are Ugandans who were imprisoned on various charges and most of them were sentenced to a period not less than 20 years. The details are attached herewith as Appendix B.

Mr Speaker, the committee further learned that at the 6th JPC meeting, which took place in Kinshasa in 2014, it was agreed that Uganda should draft a memorandum of understanding (MoU) and present it to the DRC for

consideration. The MoU was drafted and presented as requested, but at the time of the committee's meeting in November 2022, DRC was yet to respond.

Mr Speaker, in October 2018, during the 7th session of the JPC, which took place in Kampala, the same issue was raised and it was agreed that Uganda should re-submit the draft MoU within one month after the JPC meeting and also convene a meeting to discuss and conclude the draft MoU within the next six months. It is important to note that despite the fact that the draft MoU was re-submitted, there was no response from DRC as at November 2022.

3.2. Release of prisoners

It was further agreed during the JPC that the two countries would work out modalities for the speedy release of prisoners, especially fishermen and those with minor cases, Mr Speaker. The two countries also agreed to allow consular access to nationals in prisons.

In April 2019, the Minister of Justice of DRC granted Uganda Embassy consular access to Ugandans in prisons in DRC, and consular visits were undertaken in Kinshasa and eastern DRC. Several Ugandans were found in prisons, and they were also yearning for justice since they were imprisoned without any trial. They were also not certain of their time of release. The Uganda Embassy brought the matter to the attention of the Ministry of Justice of DRC and was awaiting a response.

Mr Speaker, during the visit of President Felix Tshisekedi to Uganda in November 2019, the two presidents took note of the arbitrary arrests and the prolonged detention of nationals in prisons, and reiterated the urgent need for a prisoner exchange programme to release prisoners, especially fishermen and prisoners with minor cases.

Following that meeting, His Excellency the President of Uganda used his prerogative of mercy and pardoned 141 Congolese nationals who had been detained in Ugandan prisons.

He ordered for their release and handover to the DRC authorities and it was done on 9th and 10 June 2020, through the border posts of Busanza, Bunagana, Goli, Mpondwe, Wanseko and Ntoroko.

Mr Speaker, in the same month of June 2020, the Uganda embassy in Kinshasa, DRC, requested the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Justice of the Democratic Republic of Congo to consider releasing Ugandan nationals who were in the prisons in DRC.

In August 2021, the Ambassador of Uganda to DRC, together with the leadership of North Kivu, held several meetings, which culminated in the release of 76 Congolese and 54 Ugandans. These had been charged with illicit fishing. All the confiscated fishing gear was returned to both parties.

In June 2022, Mr Speaker, the Director of Public Prosecution of Uganda participated in a meeting in Kinshasa under the auspices of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region over the same issue of prisoners. In the same month, the Minister of Justice of DRC paid a visit to Congolese nationals in Ugandan prisons and pledged to fast-track the prison exchange programme.

On 30 October 2020, the Uganda Embassy was granted access to prisoners in DRC. The mission promised to continue prison visits and transmit to the authorities in DRC the cases of Ugandans in prisons in DRC.

Observation of the committee;

It was observed that although both states agreed to release and exchange prisoners, at the time of the committee's interaction with the mission, there was no extradition treaty between the two countries to effectively facilitate the process of extraditing the prisoners. DRC undertook to provide a draft of a treaty, but it is yet to be presented.

3.3. Legal attachés

The committee observed that Ugandan missions abroad lack prerequisite attachés such as legal attachés. The absence of such staff denies Ugandans abroad the following services:

- a) Appropriate coordination of legal assistance overseas;
- b) Sharing investigative leads and information;
- c) Managing country clearances; and
- d) Coordinating victim and humanitarian assistance.

4.0. Recommendations

- 4.1. Legal Attaches should be deployed to all missions to facilitate Ugandans in the diaspora and to ease access to legal facilities in countries where Uganda's missions are hosted.
- 4.2. Mr Speaker, an extradition treaty between DRC and Uganda should be negotiated to effectively facilitate the process of extraditing the prisoners in the two countries.
- 4.3. The committee recommends that the Government should enhance its engagement with the DRC Government to fast-track the signing of all pending agreements.
- 4.4. The Uganda Embassy should always reach out to Ugandans and encourage them to register their presence and to live within the confines of the law.
- 4.5. The Government of Uganda should reclassify its missions abroad.
- 4.6. Mr Speaker, finally, the Government of Uganda should come up with a tentative post-exchange rehabilitation programme to help the released prisoners to fit back in their society.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report to this House for onward process, as you may guide – for

discussion of the report and final adoption. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, committee chairperson, for the good job done. The Committee on Foreign Affairs has another small report. Let us get it and we handle them at once.

**MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON AN
ALLEGATION THAT THE UGANDA HIGH
COMMISSION IN PRETORIA, SOUTH
AFRICA, ACQUIRED A MORTGAGE
TO PURCHASE ACCOMMODATION
FACILITIES FOR ITS STAFF**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable committee chairperson?

5.16

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

(Mr Fred Opolot): Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 33 (1) of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to lay the minutes on the accompanying report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on an allegation that the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa, acquired a mortgage to purchase accommodation for its staff. I beg to lay.

Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 33(2) of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to present a summary of the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on an allegation that the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa, acquired a mortgage to purchase accommodation for staff.

Mr Speaker, the mandate of the committee is as stated in the report.

Background to the assignment

Mr Speaker, during the 32nd Sitting of the First Meeting of the Second Session of the 11th Parliament, which was held on 21 September, 2022, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker directed the Committee on Foreign Affairs -

To get the details of information given by Hon. Asiimwe Florence Akiiki, in her advice to the Government that the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria, South Africa should be emulated by other missions and get mortgages to acquire accommodation facilities for their staff, hence reduced accommodation expenditure while at the same time retain the properties as properties of Uganda. (A copy of Hon. Asiimwe's statement is attached in Appendix A).

In the event that the mission obtained a mortgage, the committee should establish who authorised the borrowing, since it can only be approved by Parliament, as provided by Article 159(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 36 of the Public Finance and Management Act. Mr Speaker, the oversight report is guided by the terms of reference and methodology as stated.

4.0 Findings and observations

Mr Speaker, Uganda's Ambassador to Pretoria, in his communication dated 11 August 2023, informed the committee that:

The allegations were false and were taken out of context; and the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria had never acquired a mortgage to buy accommodation facilities for its staff.

He, however, added that the mission wrote to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting permission to get a mortgage, in which letter he suggested that if funds are available, the Government could make an outright full payment for the properties or alternatively, obtain mortgages that would be financed by the monthly rental payments. However, according to his statement, the requests were rejected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Speaker, note that the committee requested for copies of the said letters but they were not availed. Meanwhile, the Minister of Foreign Affairs denied ever having received such letters from the mission in Pretoria.

H.E the Ambassador, further informed the delegation that during a meeting held with the Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry at the Chancery in Pretoria from 20-30 July 2023, he presented a verbal proposal suggesting that the Government of Uganda should consider acquiring properties for home-based staff who are posted in Pretoria in order to reduce the cost of rent in country admission. He emphasised the fact that the Government of Uganda was losing a lot of money in rental payments for staff. He advised that Shs 3 billion which Uganda allocated for rent would be sufficient to secure properties through a mortgage.

The committee observed that the proposal for the acquisition was a good idea. However, it requires a policy position from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the support of the Executive and Parliament.

Mr Speaker, in order to establish whether the properties were secure, the committee made findings on the title deeds of the following properties of Uganda in South Africa.

Aware that the Uganda Land Commission (ULC) is mandated to where applicable, hold and manage any land acquired by the Government abroad and to procure certificates of title for any land vested in all properties acquired by Government, the committee invited the ULC to establish whether the properties in South Africa were duly owned by the Government. Thus, on 15th – Mr Speaker, there is a correction there. The dates have been mixed. On 15 November 2003, the committee invited ULC to present to it the original certificates of title for the Chancery and the official residence of the mission in Pretoria.

In a meeting held on 22 November 2023, to interface with the committee, the Ag. Secretary-General of Uganda Land Commission, Mr Andrew Nyumba informed the committee that the original certificates of title for the official residence and the Chancery of Uganda in Pretoria were not available and that ULC did not have any copies.

He stated that the Uganda Land Commission had reached out to Amb. Paul Amoru in Pretoria asking for the certificates of title, and he stated that he had never seen those titles.

The committee was further informed that the Uganda Land Commission went ahead and contacted the former accounting officer, Amb. Sarah Nakamya, who also stated that she had never seen the titles during her tenure in office.

The Ag. Secretary-General of the Uganda Land Commission further reached out to Amb. Julius Mugume, the ambassador who replaced Amb. Paul Amoru and he also indicated that he was not aware of the availability of such a certificate.

Mr Speaker, members of the committee were concerned that the Uganda Land Commission did not have the original titles and that fruitless efforts had been made to trace the whereabouts of the certificates of title from various ambassadors who had been in charge of the mission in Pretoria.

Therefore, the committee observed that the fact that more than one ambassador who had been in charge of the mission in Pretoria denied having seen the certificates of title or their copies, indicates that the ambassadors occupy and leave office without proper handover to their successors. This generally puts Uganda's properties abroad at risk amongst other issues.

Mr Speaker, having observed that the authority that is supposed to keep custody of Uganda's certificates of title, that is, the Uganda Land Commission, declared that it did not have the said certificates of title. The committee agreed to convene a joint meeting between all the stakeholders to the said parties, which parties included the entire Uganda Land Commission Board; its parent ministry, that is, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador of Uganda in Pretoria, Amb. Amoru. This meeting was aimed at getting clarification on the whereabouts of Uganda's Certificate of Title for its residence at the Chancery in Pretoria.

Observation arising from the joint meeting

Recommendation

i. The Chancery

The Chancery is located at 882 Church Street, Arcadia, 0083, Pretoria. While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs eventually provided proof that it handed over the title deed for the Chancery to ULC (a copy is attached in Appendix B), ULC claimed that it could not trace the said title deed.

The same chancery that covers 2014 square metres was leased for a fixed period of 12 months renewable and the lease commencement date was 1 April 2010. The committee was not given any proof of whether the lease was renewed every 12 months as should be the case.

However, the committee observed that even after a very long search by ULC, ULC was not able to locate the Title Deed for the Chancery.

The Official Residence

The Official Residence is located at 297 Grus Street Waterkloof Ridge, in Pretoria. Despite the fact that the Official Residence is said to be located in Waterkloof Ridge Township, the said ERF number (plot number) which is 297 is different from the number indicated on the title, which was availed to the committee. It reads 'ERF 515 Waterkloof Ridge Township'.

It should be remembered that this is a Title Deed that was availed to the committee after the Uganda Land Commission (ULC) had been seriously cautioned and sent out of the first meeting. A month later, ULC reported that it was able to avail the Deed and the Acting Secretary stated that it was obtained after a very long search.

The Official Residence, which covers 2886 square metres was leased at a fixed period of six months in 1995. However, the committee was not given any proof of whether the lease was renewed at the end of every six months.

Noting that some Title Deeds were acquired on leasehold as indicated above, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should present to this Parliament, a report on the status of all properties abroad, either owned or leased.

Observations on the approved budget estimates for Financial Year 2022/2023, 2021/2022 and 2020/2021

The committee, given these budget approvals, could not verify the specific allocation for mortgaging. On the other hand, the committee requested for the bank statements of the Mission for the financial years above of which records the committee could not verify whether a mortgage was actually acquired.

Since the committee was not availed with the bank statements of the above-mentioned dates, it cannot meaningfully make a valid conclusion as to the existence of a mortgage in South Africa.

Staff accommodation and tenancy agreements

These are as stated. I will skip this because of time. From the established facts that have been presented above, the committee made the following observations;

The monthly rental fees are quite high generally in South Africa and they vary from property to property.

Staff tenancy agreements indicated that the agreements were made between the Mission and the following landlords; Zelda Muller, Willem Heymans Trust, and Delferro Properties.

The committee was informed that staff accommodation payment is directly remitted from the bank account of the Mission to the landlords' bank accounts. However, a scrutiny of the bank statements of the Mission, revealed that rental payments were only remitted/sent to only one landlord, namely, Delferro Properties

as indicated in the table below. The reason for this action was not explained. The committee cannot therefore tell whether the Mission pays Delferro, who later remits respective rental payments to other landlords, or otherwise.

Recommendation

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should explain to this Parliament how other landlords are paid since it was not indicated on the bank statements that were availed to the committee.

Number eight is the Auditor General's report. I will skip it and go straight to the observations.

Observation

The committee observed that the Auditor-General did not audit accounts of Uganda's Mission in Pretoria for financial years 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

In view of the Auditor-General's statement that he did not audit the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria during the years that have been mentioned, the Committee recommends that an audit of the Mission for the financial years that have been mentioned be carried out and the report be presented.

General observations

In a meeting held on 22 November 2023, the Acting Secretary General to ULC informed the committee that the two Certificates of Title under investigation were not available to ULC.

The committee, however, observed that in a letter dated 12 May 2017, referenced ULC/44/183/01, a copy of which is attached in Appendix G, the Uganda Land Commission requested the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide it (ULC) with the land inventory being managed on behalf of ULC and this was done.

In a response by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs dated 16 May 2017, ULC was availed a copy of the land inventory being managed on behalf of ULC, in which inventory it was indicated that the location of original land titles

for the Official Residence and the Chancery in Pretoria, was with ULC.

The committee further observed that the Uganda Land Commission was actually a disorganised entity and required a complete overhaul to enable it to streamline its operations. Otherwise, Uganda's properties under its custody are at risk of disappearing.

General recommendations

Government should carry out a feasibility study to establish the required cost of acquiring properties in countries where Uganda's Missions are located, in order to reduce on the cost of accommodation which is immense. This will also enable a comparative cost-benefit analysis of acquiring or construction, versus renting of properties.

The Auditor-General should carry out a special audit on the accounts and financial transactions of the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria for the years that I have already mentioned, that is, 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 to establish whether there were any irregular acquisitions and payments of funds other than those approved by Parliament. In addition, any irregular or suspicious payments made to any institutions or individuals in South Africa from the accounts of the Mission.

The Auditor-General should also establish the reason why only one landlord was being paid as indicated in the bank statements and not remitting payments to individual landlords with whom the tenancy agreements were signed. That is amongst other contradictions raised in the report. Should it be found necessary to get external funds to enable all missions to acquire properties, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should follow the proper channels and expedite the process.

Mr Speaker, I beg that the report be adopted. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we have two reports that they have presented –

MR NANDALA-MAFABI: Mr Speaker, I have a procedural issue. There is something very interesting before we discuss these reports, which needs a quick answer.

The Auditor-General is the one who issues a warrant every financial year to charge the consolidated account. The Auditor-General is mandated to audit the accounts of Uganda on an annual basis.

The report reads that they have not audited the accounts from 2019 up to some year, maybe 2024. Yet, to audit does not necessarily mean that you should get a plane to go to South Africa. You can get the documentation sent to you; you look through them and do verification.

In addition, one of the items to be audited is assets and liabilities. The titles, they are saying, are missing. The liabilities, we do not know what they are. Is it procedurally right that the Auditor-General of Uganda who is an officer of Parliament, can take five years without auditing accounts, yet every year we come here to close the financial year? When we close the financial year, it is on the basis of the Auditor-General's report. Did we close years without completion of audits? Did we do it right?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is the question we should also, ask ourselves as a House. The Auditor-General is an officer of Parliament.

The committee that is in charge, which does oversight on missions abroad; if you received audit reports of all other missions, and you found that this mission was never audited, did you raise it with the leadership of the House or the Auditor-General? For now, I cannot answer that.

I want to guide on this second report, but let us first start in the order they are in, with the report on the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is a very sensitive report that is very straight, which I do not think we should even debate. These are issues which the Attorney-General – (*Hon. Hassan Kirumira rose*) - No, not on the DRC, please. You see, the exchange

of prisoners, honourable colleagues, is not an issue of debate here. They are issues which are straight.

Please, when the Speaker is ruling, you do not start that business of - take your seat please.

I know issues which are sensitive. I am dealing with the DRC, okay?

Attorney-General, on this issue, I want to first hear from you.

5.41

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the committee for the report. It is true we do not have a direct extradition treaty with DRC, but we are members of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, which you have mentioned.

This treaty was assented to, here, in 2017, and domesticated in 2018. Article 7 of that treaty allows us to deal with the issue of extradition and we have been using it in our office when we are confronted with such an issue. We have succeeded in some instances.

The issue of extradition and especially the exchange of prisoners, Mr Speaker, is really not a must. The parties must agree, and the other party must agree in some instances to do that. We have been trying to do that and we will take it up. Maybe, I will get some time and share more with the Committee of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, and we will know what else needs to be done. However, we have been working with this treaty to try and get people back from Congo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: To the committee, why choose only DRC of all countries? I remember it came as a matter of national importance.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Mr Speaker, when you look at the background of how this came about, this was a bit specific according to your directive, for Ugandan prisoners in the Democratic Republic of Congo. That is

why this committee was very specific in this undertaking -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remember it came from an issue to do with fishermen on Lake Albert –

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: It was the 32nd Sitting of the First Meeting of the Second Session where you guided on this, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Onzima, are you the one who raised it?

5.44

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): No, Mr Speaker, I am not the one. I have risen because I had also raised a similar issue of a gentleman called Malamungu Rasul, who was arrested and detained in Beni, and it is not among the list of areas that have been read here.

Actually, I learnt this issue from a lady who called me from Kasese that she had gone to see her brother in a prison in Congo, in a place called Beni. As they released her brother, one of the prisoners gave her a chit through the brother and said, I am his Member of Parliament. She searched my name and contacts on the website of Parliament.

I had raised this issue here, asking the Government to look for this gentleman and, if possible, retrieve him. After I had raised it, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called me for the details which I gave them. However, since then, and up to now - I expected that just as you have said, if we are talking about prisoners in Congo, we needed comprehensive information on all the Ugandans in Congo.

However, the way they have raised it, I expected them to give the details of these prisoners, the districts where they come from, and the villages, and also an update on those who they said are dead and the rest. We need a comprehensive report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: That they did. If you check on the report. Hon. Kirumira.

5.45

MR HASSAN KIRUMIRA (NUP, Katikamu County South, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Similarly, on that issue, my query was on why we are focusing on Congo. We are reliably informed that we have prisoners in so many countries, of course in China, South Africa and other countries.

My big question on that – of course being imprisoned in a foreign country is something else compared to being in prison in your own country - much as we want to conduct that exchange between countries for prisoners, the crimes differ. You will find that we are bringing back prisoners who were arrested on charges of bad fishing on lakes, and taking back people that committed hard-core crimes in our country.

We need to be very clear on the criteria we are using for the prisoner exchange. We may end up giving up hard-core criminals who committed very grave crimes in Uganda, and getting back Ugandans who committed very light crimes in Congo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Muwada, the Shadow Minister.

5.47

MR NKUNYINGI MUWADA (NUP, Kyadondo County East, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a shadow minister, what is even more concerning is, first, the line Minister of Foreign Affairs is ever missing. We have two other state ministers who are equally missing.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, when it comes to DRC, I have raised it on this Floor before and I want to raise it now, that as we discuss the exchange of prisoners, as we speak, we do not have a substantive ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The ambassador who was posted three years ago, possibly, was never accredited by the DRC.

When we are discussing and the government is briefing us that there is negotiation, we must receive it with the lacuna within the representation we have. The lack of a substantive ambassador to DRC means our

diplomatic efforts are questionable. We cannot tell who is handling what and who is answerable to the Government of Uganda in terms of our negotiation. Probably, when we face such a scenario, we must ask ourselves and we must task the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Last time, the Minister of East African Affairs was here, and she conceded to that fact on the Floor of Parliament. To date, we do not know what action has been taken to ensure that we have effective diplomatic representation as a country and possibly also for DRC to send a substantive ambassador to Uganda. I have not heard of any and this is quite alarming.

Mr Speaker and colleagues, if you could allow me to comment about South Africa-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please, just finish one.

MR MUWADA: As well, Mr Speaker, if I am to conclude on the issue of the prisoners. We also want the Minister of Foreign Affairs to come out strongly and talk about the Ugandan prisoners in Cairo. We have thousands in Cairo who are detained, in the Middle East, those stranded in Dubai, and in India, among others.

Recently, we were crying for those who have been detained by rebels in Myanmar. It had to be the efforts of the International Organisation for Migration to bail us out, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not substantively come to this Floor to tell us what has been done and what is being done in terms of Uganda and if we have to negotiate our diplomatic presence and protection for our country.

This is equally related to the failure to negotiate protective bilateral labour agreements because largely many of our prisoners in the RAC are fishermen. It is very alarming.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues and Chairperson, when we give you such an assignment, you can widen your scope to look at the issue in a wide perspective, without of course looking for each and every country. This is very specific, honourable colleagues.

It would be very important for the Minister of Foreign Affairs to come and update this House on Ugandans held in foreign prisons abroad and if there are efforts being made to help them return home. That does not mean we have said go and bring them back home- No. The efforts and if there is any support we can give- but for now the report is very clear.

I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Prison Exchange Program between the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want - please honourable. On action taken report, this is where the minister would bring a detailed report. As of now, I do not see how you can justify DRC, you leave out China, Saudi, South Africa and countries always do this; they negotiate for their prisoners.

Hon. Oboth, did you want to comment on-? No- I have allowed, Hon. Oboth. I have allowed the minister, this is not the usual Hon. Oboth, he is a minister and not just a mere minister, but the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs.

5.52

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (Mr Jacob Oboth): Mr Speaker, I must first thank you for those very kind words and also extend our good wishes, for the protection that God gave you. However, the information that I would like to give to this House, which has been in circulation, and I would assume that the other shadow minister, should know is that I have moved around, including in Kinshasa and I have gone to China also.

Apparently, not everyone who happens to be in those prisons are Ugandans. There is a deeper work that will probably need the intervention of the two committees, probably, of internal affairs and defence, with the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs but in Congo, it is very clear that some of the issues are complicated.

It is not true that we do not have somebody there who is working. I was with Ambassador Twaha Matanta even just last week. He is doing the work. With diplomatic issues, you may blame foreign affairs, but that is how they are trained. They are very diplomatic. They do not yap and they do so many things behind the curtains. We should not dismiss them for not working. You do not *-(Interjection)-* wait for the minister. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you *-(Mr Ssewungu rose)-* No, Hon. Ssewungu, please. We do not have anyone on the Floor. They have told you to wait for the minister. *(Laughter)*

Honourable colleagues, Rule 220 of our Rules of Procedure, requires action taken reports. I think a month would be enough to compile these lists because I do not want to again send a committee on a wild chase of running around and “Say you have not facilitated us to go to this country.”

Let the minister speak, he should be having more details. No. I do not need help - *(Mr Nandala-Mafabi rose)-* No. That is covered. We got the one of South Africa. Let us wait for the Minister to bring a report - *(Mr Ssewungu rose)-* Please Hon. Ssewungu, I request you to take your seat. Thank you. I know where this will lead.

Honourable colleagues, for the one of South Africa, it will be prudent if we wait for the minister. These issues are very critical but also, the issues are very specific in nature. Some are even scary - from how some of these things are going. I would suggest that we give the minister one week, and we tell him to come up with a comprehensive response to these issues, he puts it here and then we are able to debate. They are very specific. Therefore, for this one, Tuesday next week.

Next, we had agriculture but we stood over it. Chairperson, your item had already been called.

5.56

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Ms Linda Auma): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. On my own behalf, the people of Lira District and also on behalf of my committee, we would like to thank God for sparing your life. Continue doing the great work and that is how God will pay you.

Mr Speaker, I would like to lay on the Table the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries on Food and Animal Feeds Security Intervention in the country. I beg to lay the minutes.

Mr Speaker, the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries undertook an oversight visit to agencies implementing the government and cabinet-approved food and animal feeds security intervention, following the recent famine in Karamoja and other parts of the country by then.

The implementing agencies were UPDF, Uganda Prisons, National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), National Animal Genetic Resources Centre (NAGRC), veterans, National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), all supervised and coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF).

The background to this intervention was that the National Food Security Outlook indicates that food insecurity in the respective regions as follows; Karamoja was 41 per cent, Teso 21.4 per cent, Acholi, Lango and West Nile 19.4 per cent, Buganda 17.7 per cent, Rwenzori 6.3 per cent, Busoga, Bukedi, Bugisu, Sebei 5.4 per cent and Bunyoro, Ankole and Kigezi 4.2 per cent, according to the MAAIF and UBOS 2022 report.

The ministry established that the factors contributing to these statistics included unpredictable weather patterns, drought, pests and disease outbreaks.

The effect, the COVID-19 pandemic was one of them combined with the limited supply and

availability of fertilisers due to the Russia-Ukraine war. Lack of water for production, limited access to irrigation facilities, inadequate mechanisation and insecurity, especially in Karamoja and areas with bad and low terrain. This resulted in increased retail food prices, according to UBOS-

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, is this a field visit report of the committee?

MS LINDA AUMA: Yes -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is provided under Rule 34 that you should just lay it on the Table and give highlights of the findings. Then I appoint a date for debate.

MS LINDA AUMA: I wanted to give the background because it was a bit overdue.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You go by the rules.

MS LINDA AUMA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, in addition to that, the Cabinet also approved large-scale private landowners to combat the issue of food security in the second season through the provision of finances to clear and open land to plant these crops.

The rationale; pursuant to Article 90, clause 1 of the Constitution, rules 156, 159, 187 and 189 of the Rules of Procedures of Parliament, the committee was allowed to go and do oversight.

The objectives were to assess and review the food and animal feed security strategy and intervention with a view to determining their viability and sustainability.

To assess and evaluate the performance and to make recommendations.

I would not want to go to findings but to observations because it is very important. The committee observed that most operations, especially land clearing, crop protection and harvesting, were manually done. Uganda prisons use their available resources, that is

labour and machinery and do not outsource or hire external services.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, the rules do not allow you to go into that. Just listen to me.

MS LINDA AUMA: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am using your rules. Rule 34(2) "Upon laying of the report under sub rule (1), the Chairperson or the Member shall present a brief summary of the report and highlight the key recommendations contained in the report".

Then, I will appoint a date for debate, meaning members should go and read the full report. We are not debating today. So just go on with recommendations as required in the rules.

MS LINDA AUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker; these were the general recommendations of the committee:

1. For service handling, the grains, seeds, and feeds produced were not professionally handled, fresh and cleaned.
2. Market, there should also be a fully developed market strategy in the other planting seasons to relieve pressure on the market, leaving the public to have access to enough food.
3. UPDF, NEC, and the veterans should sell the grains to the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs to feed the army. This will relieve pressure on the open market and reduce the high cost of feeding.
4. NARO and Uganda Prisons should sell seeds to the open market/ public since the aforementioned agencies have been producing seeds. They should continue using their market channels to help in seed multiplication.
5. Uganda Prisons will off-take the grain it produces to feed the prisoners, other than Government buying. NAGRIC should sell the feed to the open market and public at a subsidised price, affordable to the public. And we have benefited because of the animal feeds produced by NAGRIC.

6. MAAIF should deploy extension of staff at every farm to guide and supervise the harvesting and post-harvest handling activities; and ensure, ascertain, and record the volume tonnage produced per acre.
7. The government should get a permanent solution for land grabbing and more stringent penalties to be preferred to the land grabbers.
8. There should be timely release of funds to enable timely execution of time-bound activities, subsequent planning and implementation of seed production should also be done early and timely enough in order to catch up with the seasons.
9. Associated farm machinery should be planned to solve the challenge of farm labour required for large-scale production activities.
10. The post-harvest handling capacity of produce should be well planned. This should be before the next season. This is to solve the problem of storage and processing.
11. MAAIF should ensure that irrigation facilities are procured and availed to the implementing agencies. The agencies should acquire agricultural machinery like tractors, planters, movable irrigation and spraying drones to supplement the manual labour and rainfall shortages.
12. For sustainability, proper coordination, and management of the intervention, MAAIF should turn this intervention into a national food security program managed within MAAIF but working with the private sector and other ministries such as Defence, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Trade, and Ministry of Water and Environment.

This also needs us to have as a nation a national storage facility, because it will help us.

Those are the recommendations of the Committee on the Intervention of Food and Animal Feed Security in this country.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS LINDA AUMA: I beg that the members and this House adopt this report. Thank you, so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The rules require me, to appoint a date for debate. Honourable minister, can we do that tomorrow? It is a small report. It is designed in such a way that members should read the report, so we can go through it tonight, tomorrow we debate and we conclude it.

6.06

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY, AND FISHERIES (Animal Industry) (Lt. Col Bright Rwamirama): Mr Speaker, we are ready to debate tomorrow, we shall be available. And I would also like to congratulate you for surviving the accident and to warn you about these helicopters.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since I have been warned by a veteran, I was waiting for the Minister of Defence to warn me - but anyway, honourable colleagues, the aviation industry is a very safe industry. I do not want my unfortunate incident to kill the whole sector. When in other countries, it is raking in billions and employing very many of our people.

Accidents happen and maybe more caution needs to be done. But I will take the advice as an individual. Hon. Oguzu Lee, you wanted to comment?

6.06

MR DENIS LEE OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): Mr Speaker, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture and the chairperson for the committee are here. As a House, we requested the Committee on Agriculture, to go out and study implementation of the agricultural cluster development project and bring a report to the House.

For quite some time - I do not know where that report had been shelved because the committee produced and submitted that report to Parliament but it could not find its way to the Order Paper. We know that some of the issues that relate to food security are linked to that report.

Can I, please, seek your indulgence that we get that report and know what, exactly, is happening with that project since these two people are here?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Committee chairperson, is the report already uploaded?

MS LINDA AUMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That report was worked on before I even became a member of the committee. However, I was told that the report was ready and uploaded, but the presentation was deferred. So, any time, we can bring it back.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister – honourable colleagues, do you think you could read the report tonight since it is uploaded, and then tomorrow it is presented and we have a debate that sorts out both of them? Hon. Bwanika?

6.08

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Mr Speaker, one of the schemes that ensures food safety and food security in this country is the seeds which are received through the Members of Parliament – and the rains are on. We are receiving calls from the countryside.

Mr Speaker, I implore you that you speak to the minister since – the minister is here – so that they can provide the people of Uganda with the seeds. When they give us seeds, we take them to the people –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Did we budget for them?

DR BWANIKA: Yes, we had provided for a budget for the seeds -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, are they in the budget?

DR BWANIKA: I do not know whether they were removed, but we had provided for them.
(Laughter)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

LT COL (RTD) RWAMIRAMA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable colleagues, you cannot eat your cake and have it. We took the money to the Parish Development Model (PDM) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries was asked to avail the lists of certified seed suppliers – which we did – to all the local governments. Therefore, the farmers get their money and buy their seeds
-(Interjections)- Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, there is something I want to put straight. We have finished budgeting. If an item is not in the budget, what would I base on to tell the minister to supply it?

So, let us really - it is not in the budget. We tried our level best, but came here and rescinded it. So, there is no way I can tell the minister for agriculture to supply it.

Honourable colleagues read that report and tomorrow, Clerk, put it on the Order Paper so that we have a joint debate for both reports. House adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 6.11 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 7 August 2024, at 2.00 p.m.)