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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2024



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 17TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING

Wednesday, 18 September 2024

Parliament met at 2.15 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: Thank you. Colleagues, I welcome you to today's sitting. In the public gallery this afternoon, we have pupils and teachers of Holistic Junior School from Bitereko Subcounty, Mitooma District. *(Applause)*

They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Member for Ruhinda North County — *(Laughter)* — and Hon. Juliet Agasha Bashiisha. *(Applause)* When I am blessed with such an opportunity, that is sufficient communication for today.

Matters of national importance - Hon. Flavia Kabahenda - *[Hon. Pacuto rose]* - *(Laughter)* - Hon. Pacuto, are you reacting to the communication?

2.18

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving the people of Pakwach an opportunity to comment on your communication today.

We have known leaders in this country but you are one of such great leaders that Mitooma has blessed this country with. *(Applause)* And I say this from the bottom of my heart.

Many people will deceive you and want to say good things when you are dead but I tell you the people of Pakwach never lie. Yesterday I was disturbed because the banks of River Nile burst - *(Laughter)* - and there are very many young pupils like these from Pakwach who are not able to access schools.

There are teachers who have rebelled because they want motorised boats from the Office of the Prime Minister because they can no longer manage to cross on small canoes. Since we are blessed with such great leaders like you from Mitooma, I plead with you because young Ugandans from Mitooma like you and the ones who have come here today are not accessing education, moreover, at a time so critical because in just a few weeks, primary seven pupils are beginning examinations. I thought I should make this comment. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Government Chief Whip, we have a memorandum of cooperation between Pakwach and Mitooma districts - *(Laughter)* - I really cannot fend for Mitooma alone yet we have a cooperation agreement.

The people of Pakwach need help from the Office of the Prime Minister. They need boats for the children to cross the river - and also want to come to Parliament and see -

2.20

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Mr Speaker, I undertake to connect the honourable member to the responsible minister such that the issue she has raised can be handled directly. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Pacuto, link up with our brother, the Government Chief Whip. We tackle this issue to ensure that these children are helped. There is a procedural matter from Hon. Ssewungu.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I am also happy to see the children from Mitooma and -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: The area you visited.

MR SSEWUNGU: Yes, the area I visited and where I married from. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development promised to give us information yesterday, and fortunately the Minister of Education and Sports is also here. If kids from Mitooma are here without the capitation grant as of now –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, have you read the Order Paper? Honourable colleagues - *(Laughter)* - before you come, you should always check on the Order Paper. Hon. Flavia Rwabuhoro.

2.21

MS FLAVIA KABAHERA (NRM, Woman Representative, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I welcome the children from Mitooma who are here. I rise on a matter of national importance that concerns the people of Kyegegwa in Kyaka South County.

These people have been living on and around Kyaka I Refugee land for a long time because the Government transferred the refugees in 1994 from Kyaka I Land to Kyaka II, and so, the whole land has been occupied.

However, the people have been receiving threats of irregular evictions since 2007, which have even caused some deaths. As we speak, it is not only the people coming from

Kyegegwa that are occupying that land but also the 8,000 Ugandans who were brought by the Government in 2016 after they left Tanzania and camped at Sango Bay to Kyaka I Land.

The same people have started receiving documents both from the honourable minister, Hon. Hillary Onek and some Government entities, threatening eviction. We have given them the Parish Development Model (PDM) money but they cannot invest it because they are living in anxiety.

We, as Members of Parliament from Kyegegwa, have tried to reach out to Hon. Hillary Onek for a solution-based discussion to no avail.

I request and implore you to cause a meeting between us, the members of Parliament from Kyegegwa and Hon. Hillary Onek, the line minister, to have a discussion that has solutions on what we should tell these people because some of them have even started selling their land at a very low price to go and just languish wherever they can because they think that they can be harshly evicted anytime.

Mr Speaker, we are living in anxiety and we do not want that to cause insecurity at this time. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip, I assign you this. Arrange a meeting between the Minister for Disaster Preparedness and the members of Parliament from these affected areas.

Beyond Members of Parliament, you could call the Local Council V chairpersons to attend the meeting and maybe the District Internal Security Officer (DISO) and the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) so that you have the buy-in of the community to understand what is going on. Thank you. Hon. Acrobat Kiiza-

2.24

MR ACROBERT KIIZA (Independent, Bughendera County, Bundibugyo): I would like to raise a matter of national importance regarding the charging of the

Secondary Science and Mathematics Teachers' (SESEMAT) Programme fees in most of the secondary schools in the country. The SESEMAT Programme initiative was good when it was being initiated. When it was started, the Ministry of Education and Sports used to train teachers in the areas of practical knowledge.

However, to our dismay, since the COVID-19 time, according to the information on the ground, teachers, especially those from my subregion - that is, the Rwenzori Subregion - no longer receive that training. Even as we speak, the Secondary School Science and Mathematics Teachers (SESEMAT) Programme fees has been increased from Shs. 1,000 to Shs. 2,000. To make matters worse, even the information from UNEB to the head teachers is that to access UNEB stationary, one must pay.

Mr Speaker, this matter was brought to this House last year but the response from the minister was not clear. So, my prayer is that we get a clear response in regard to this.

Secondly -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable member, please, let us stop there. It is one matter.

MR ACROBERT KIIZA: Okay. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for education?

2.27

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, Hon. Moses Kiiza, for raising this very critical issue concerning the Secondary School Science and Mathematics Teachers Programme, referred to as SESEMAT. Indeed, this is one of the effective tools that is being implemented in secondary education to promote science and mathematics. As he has said, very many teachers have benefited

from this programme - and it is still being implemented.

However, the issue that he raised, about high charges of fees in order to access this programme, is something that we need to find out - whether it is an isolated matter or not. I request that we liaise with him to provide information on those specific schools that might be going beyond the programme line so that we deal with them directly.

I beg to request and submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. So, honourable member, link up with the honourable minister. Yes, Hon. Migadde.

2.28

MR ROBERT MIGADDE (NRM, Buvuma Islands County, Buvuma): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In 2022, Parliament passed the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act and the President assented to the same in March 2023. However, for now over a year the fisheries ministry has failed to table the regulations to operationalise this Act.

Unfortunately, they continue to implement some of the provisions of this Act piecemeal. The Commander of the Fisheries Protection Unit (FPU) banned a specific method of fishing for silverfish - which is the "hurry up" fishing method. However, what is perturbing is that she is moving around, telling people that the reason for the delay in tabling these regulations is the Members of Parliament.

Secondly, she is giving specific holidays - "I have given you two days to fish, but if it was not for those Members of Parliament, you would be fishing."

So, Mr Speaker, my prayers are:

1. To the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries - you have directed, many times, for them to have meetings, which have not yielded results. I plead with the minister to table before this Parliament, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Regulations; and

2. The other prayer is to the minister for defence. Now that the commander of FPU is not a member of this House, I pray that the minister for defence comes with an explanation on the specific allegations made by this officer.

Those are my prayers –(Interruption)

MR KABUUSU: Mr Speaker, thank you for this unusual opportunity under this item. The information I would like to share with Hon. Migadde is that the commander of FPU may choose to visit two or three landing sites in a district that has over 70 and, for those three landing sites, she gives a two-day grace period for them to fish. The challenge there is with the other landing sites that she may not have visited, yet they are under the same conditions.

The other challenge, Mr Speaker, is that since the minister banned the fishing of silverfish, she has not come out with any working document or guidance on how fishing would resume. So, the resumption of fishing for two days using the mechanisms or techniques that the minister banned is a challenge and causes political challenges to us.

So, we want the minister to not only come up with the regulations but also to come out and state whether she is still in control or whether fishing has been taken up by the ministry for defence, such that we deal with the defence ministry other than the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Member: "Information."] The Member is no longer on the Floor. It was Hon. Migadde who gave way for the information.

I do not know: how can Parliament delay the regulations? The regulations are usually brought by the ministers. That is what the law says.

Government Chief Whip, we need the regulations; it is a requirement of the law.

2.32

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Mr Speaker, in such a situation, our hands are tied by the law. If it is a requirement of the Act, then, we have no option but to comply. I wish to undertake, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, Animal, Industry and Fisheries, to communicate this request by Parliament in writing such that the minister can take appropriate action, as required by law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the minister update us on Tuesday. Yes, Hon. Florence Kabughho.

2.33

MS FLORENCE KABUGHO (FDC, Woman Representative, Kasese): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the heavy damage that has been caused by River Nyamwamba in Kasese Town over the years.

On the 7th of September, River Nyamwamba burst its banks and flooded Kasese Town, killing people, destroying houses and sweeping away merchandise, leaving the business community with a lot of suffering.

Mr Speaker, it has become common that in May, June and October, this river bursts its banks and leaves many people dead and property destroyed. And this is not happening in Kasese alone but in the whole of the Rwenzori subregion. Districts such as Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Bunyangabu and Kabarole are also affected.

My prayer, Mr Speaker, is that you appoint a team of technocrats from the Ministry of Water and Environment to go and find out what exactly could be the problem in Kasese.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who should appoint? (Laughter)

MS KABUGHO: I pray that the minister appoints a team of technocrats to go to Kasese and find out, exactly, what the problem is because every now and then we keep talking about this issue yet it has never got a solution.

Number two, I pray that the Government holds accountable every person who has received money meant for desilting River Nyamwamba. We know the Government has released a lot of money to desilt that river, but we are not seeing what the money is being used for, which has caused the people of Kasese to think the Government has neglected them.

Finally, I pray that the Government identifies disaster-prone areas and relocates people to safe areas for their safety. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees? Oh! I think both of you can contribute because there is the Minister of Water and Environment as well.

2.36

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Indeed, what the honourable member has raised is now a challenge in Kasese.

Mr Speaker, last week I invited the UN agencies, and we had a meeting to look at the long-term plan for handling Kasese, Ntoroko, and Bundibugyo. We invited members of Parliament from Ntoroko, and this is a plan, which is underway that we are organising, and we will be able to have an interface with the community in Kasese as well.

The Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees has also sanctioned relief food items to be taken to Kasese. But I just want the honourable member to note that we are looking at a long-term solution on how the community can be supported, and that includes the relocation that you also requested. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister of State for Water and Environment?

2.37

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT (ENVIRONMENT) (Ms Beatrice Anywar): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity, and I want to thank Hon. Florence Kabugho, for raising the concerns of her people.

Mr Speaker, let me thank you for checking on me when I was sick; I am happy to be back. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know she is my OG. *(Laughter)*

MS ANYWAR: Mr Speaker, the issue of River Nyamwamba is a big concern, and as Government and the ministry, we already have in place an inter-ministerial committee, which is chaired by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. There are already meetings, which have been taking place, including the ones held last week because it needs a bigger intervention.

We have the environmental issue, which also is evident, but as a Government, there are also some directives which were raised by His Excellency, the President, that the inter-ministerial committee is incorporating. I hope, very shortly, we shall reach there.

I would also want to get in touch with you, my honourable colleague, because there are other interventions that can happen, maybe clean water, which is needed for our people. We need to incorporate you so that we can find a solution together.

As far as we are concerned, there is already an inter-ministerial committee, chaired by the Rt Hon. Prime Minister but it is good that we get in touch with her too. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Gilbert Olanya?

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The issue of flooding has been raised on the Floor of Parliament several times and for several years. Right now, the ministry knows that in

Kasese, within this specific period, there will be flooding.

In Elegu; in my district, Amuru, where I come from, within this specific time, there will be flooding. And I recall the Minister of Works and Transport promised on the Floor of Parliament that they were working on permanent solutions, almost three years ago. However, up to now, nothing is on the ground.

The same problem is occurring every year. It is procedurally okay if the minister could really be very serious and you mark; you put what they are saying into action. Every year we see the same problem and people are suffering.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, honourable colleagues, yesterday, this is the point I made that, as put straight by Hon. Gilbert Olanya, we know the season. So, we requested the minister for disaster preparedness to bring a report to the House on Wednesday, on how prepared they are to mitigate - because I am receiving nearly - I do not know how many MPs speak to the issues of disaster every week. The answer we get is the same. Even the stores are empty yet, they are coordinated under the Office of the Prime Minister. So, we requested the minister to bring a report on Wednesday; we shall then discuss that report.

When we are discussing that report, it is when all of us will come in. I do not think Hon. Rwemulikya can be here now, because of what is happening in Ntoroko. During this period, you can never see him and Hon. Anne Tumwine here because of what is happening in Ntoroko.

We always know that every year, as a must, River Nyamwamba floods. When you look at the money we have spent to mitigate, you know, resettling, giving food, what, you know, every year. So, let us wait until Wednesday, honourable colleagues when the minister presents a report, and we shall have a long debate on this issue. Hon. Dr Musa Noah?

2.42

DR NOAH MUSA (Independent, Koboko North County, Koboko): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The Government has prioritised tourism as one of the key sectors to grow the economy of this country. During the regional sitting of Parliament in Gulu, the issue of lack of artefacts and attractive features at the regional tourist sites was raised.

On the 28th of June this year, the Government received 39 artefacts from the United Kingdom (UK). Those are artefacts, which had been taken by colonialists and they are part of about 1,500 artefacts from Uganda that are lying in the University of Cambridge, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in the UK.

These returned artefacts, as it was indicated, are the property of the Museum of Archaeology in the UK, yet these are Ugandan artefacts though they have been loaned to Uganda for an initial period of three years, with the possibility of extension.

Now, we have taken tourism as a key sector that we need to develop. This, therefore, means that we need to think of returning all the artefacts from all over the world to help us develop the tourist sector.

My prayer is that the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, should brief this House and the nation on the arrangement of returning the 39 artefacts and clarify, if indeed these artefacts are the property of the University of Cambridge, Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology.

Secondly, I wanted the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities to brief us on the stock of artefacts from Uganda that are lying outside the country - in Europe, Britain, the UK and other countries.

Thirdly, I want to know the preparations - the Government should brief us about the preparations for taking these returned 39 artefacts to their different locations, because these are artefacts from Ankole, Lango, Buganda and so on. The plan is to have these

taken to those regions to develop tourism and museums in those regions. So, I want to know the plans for relocating these artefacts to their respective regions. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is a very critical issue for which the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities needs to consult further. So, let us give him up to Tuesday to bring a statement. Yes, Hon. Kiiza Nyendwoha.

2.44

MR KENNETH KIIZA (Independent, Bujenje County, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I rise on a matter pertaining to the sharp collapse of sugarcane prices across the country, that is defeating the principles of scarcity in economics.

Around the close of the calendar year last year, the price of sugarcane per tonne was ranging between Shs 80,000 to Shs 230,000 across the country. It has since collapsed and a tonne of sugarcane now is going for between Shs 80,000 and Shs 100,000. This is pushing farmers to leave the crop. It is a bit of a difficult situation because normally when a commodity is scarce, the price goes up. The same farmers are now failing to purchase fertilisers. Some time back, we raised the issue of the fertilisers being overpriced and the Government promised that the price would be handled.

Mr Speaker, the sugar industry is a major contributor to the economy in the form of taxes and employment. My prayers are: A comprehensive review of the sugar value chain should be undertaken to investigate the underlying causes of this sharp collapse of sugarcane prices; two, I implore the Government to re-table the Sugar (Amendment) Bill. They had brought it here, but the points of departure were very many. I thank you for ably chairing a meeting between the farmers, millers and the ministry, where the ministry withdrew the Bill, promising to go and re-consult and come back to the House with a better Bill.

The challenge we are having –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you had finished.

MR KENNETH KIIZA: It is part of the prayers. On that particular Bill, one of the challenges was that it was full of one –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, be mindful of Rrule 80 of our Rules of Procedure.

MR KENNETH KIIZA: I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to make the record clear that the minister never withdrew the Bill. The minister requested to go and consult and I also went an extra mile in those consultations. Something might be cooking up soon but honourable minister for trade, please.

2.47

THE MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is true that the price of sugarcane has come down because of a number of factors and as you know, we are running a liberal economy. The only way the Government can intervene in such a sector is through a piece of legislation. When we brought the Bill here, Mr Speaker, you participated in the negotiations and the honourable member from Masindi was one of those opposing the continuation of the Bill.

Today, I am extremely happy that the honourable member has realised the point that we were making. Anyway, we have finished the consultations on the Bill and we are now ready to consider it so that the price setting; the minimum price of sugar cane can be determined through a legislation. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I will be waiting for communication because we agreed that before we come back to the Floor, we would hold another meeting with the Members of Parliament from sugarcane-growing areas to first reconcile - there is no one on the Floor so the rules are – Hon. Kubeketerya James, these are your rules honourable; I am sorry.

2.48

MR JAMES KUBEKETERYA (NRM, Bunya County East, Mayuge): Mr Speaker, I have a matter of national importance concerning a disaster that has befallen two primary schools in Bunya County East - Isenda and Baligasima primary schools. In Isenda Primary School, three blocks were blown off, and one of them is the examination hall for the Primary seven pupils who are likely to sit exams within the next month. The villages around Namugolo, Isenda, and Kiriwe were also affected.

Before I place the prayer, in the Baligasima, one primary school, the roof was blown off –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, I need your attention. Honourable colleagues, let the minister first -

MR KUBEKETERYA: The roof of a block for Baligasima Primary School was blown off. My prayer is I request the minister of disaster to provide us with the necessary roofing materials to reroof this block so that these Primary seven children can sit for the exams because they are serious Ugandans that need to pass. That is my prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister for Disaster Preparedness.

2.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES) (Ms Lillian Aber): Mr Speaker, Hon. James prays for roofing materials, but what I can provide, as a ministry, upon receiving the report from the disaster committee, will be the iron sheets. Therefore, I request the honourable member to let the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) write to our ministry and attach the disaster committee report; we will be able to provide it. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister for Education and Sports?

2.51

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Kaducu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the chairperson of the education committee, Hon. James, for raising this critical issue. It is so sad that a disaster occurred in a primary school, especially the block housing the candidate class. I want to add that the Chairperson is aware that our education ministry has no budget for disaster.

However, as the Ministry of Education and Sports, we have in the budget, a school facility grants and there is a provision for school maintenance.

This money is in every local government district but is not meant for disasters; it is meant for the district to ensure that we give a facelift to our schools, especially primary schools. What I want to add is that in such an urgent matter where learners cannot be able to sit for Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), the district - we could ask them to prioritise and to ensure that part of these funds save the urgent situation other than this situation stopping the children from sitting for their PLE. I beg to - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable minister ran off; I do not know whether you are sure that that money is already at the districts. But, honourable colleagues I received a request from the Government Chief Whip, there are around six Members whom he wants to re-designate. I want to grant that request. Government Chief, you can do it now.

2.52

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Denis Obua): Mr Speaker, I move under Rule 15(10) (C) and Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament to designate, with the approval of this House, the following Members to the following standing committees:

- i. Hon. Nsegumire Muhamad Kibedi - Committee of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Central;
- ii. Hon. Kambale Ferigo - Committee of PAC-Local Government; and

iii. Hon. Mujungu Thembo - Committee of Commission, Statutory Authority and State Enterprises (COSASE).

Secondly, pursuant to Rule 15(10) (C) and Rule 187(1) of the Rules of Procedure. I move that the following Members, with the approval of this House, be designated to the following sectoral committees:

- i. Hon. Cherukut Rose Emma - Committee on Natural Resources;
- ii. Hon. Katwesigye Oliver K – Committee on Natural Resources; and
- iii. Hon. Akampurira Prossy Mbabazi - Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. I beg to move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I put the question that the Members be designated to the committee's proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE
RELEASE OF CAPITATION GRANTS
IN PREPARATION FOR TERM THREE
OPENING OF SCHOOLS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, honourable minister.

2.55

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (General duties) (Mr Henry Musasizi) Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to present a statement on the release of funds for the Capitation Grant for the Financial Year 2024/2025, as I committed to this House yesterday.

During the 16th Sitting of the First Meeting of the Fourth Session of the 11th Parliament of Uganda, held on Tuesday 17 September 2024, I made a commitment to provide a statement on the release of the Capitation Grant for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Funds for the Capitation Grant are released in line with the school calendar year during the

first, third and fourth quarters of every financial year to cater for term three, term one and term two, respectively. More funds are released in the second quarter of the financial year.

The total approved budget for the capitation grants for the Financial Year 2024/2025 is Shs 490.298 billion. During the first quarter, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development released Shs 163.433 billion to local governments to cater for term three, as shown in the table below. I invite members to look at the figures displayed on the screen.

Mr Speaker, whereas the Ministry for Finance released the capitation grant in the first quarter, the Ministry of Education and Sports requested accounting officers in local governments and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to halt the transfer of these funds to institutions until the schools have validated enrolments.

The instructions from the Ministry of Education and Sports to this effect dated 23 July 2024 are attached as Annex 1. Because the Ministry of Education and Sports noted discrepancies in the online Education Management Information System (EMIS) data submitted by the head teachers, the ministry intends to ensure that enrolment numbers are not inflated.

Based on the information from the Ministry of Education and Sports, 113 local governments have to date been cleared to transfer capitation grants to the respective institutions and the remaining have been reminded to submit their validated enrolments before they can be cleared to pay.

The instructions from the Ministry of Education and Sports to this effect dated 9 September 2024, are also attached as Annex 2. I have also attached Annex 3, showing the total budget and first quarter releases, corresponding term 3 of the Capitation Grant for the financial year 2024/2025, for each local government, for further information to this House. I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Minister for Education and Sports, how are other Schools going to operate?

2.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here to confirm that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development issued a circular on the 10th of July this year, on expenditure limits as the minister has presented in his paper.

Number two, I stand to confirm that the Ministry of Education and Sports issued a statement to all local governments and KCCA on the 23rd of July this year during term two, and that statement was very clear that before children could go for second term holidays - we issued a statement that all -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, please go on.

DR MORIKU: Thank you, for protecting me, Mr Speaker. The ministry issued a statement to all head teachers to verify the enrolment of learners by headcount and to put it in writing so that we correlate the ones we have in the soft copy records at the Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) together with the headcount information.

I confirm that this was done because there were disparities as the minister has presented - *(Interjections)* - I just want to finish then you clarify later, please.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I guided you to mention it twice. Please take your seat. I do not want it to degenerate into harassment of a colleague on the Floor. Yes, clarification is optional.

DR MORIKU: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Number three, I would like to confirm that according to the letter the Ministry of Education and Sports issued on the 9th of September, permitting payment to the local governments of 113 following the verification, as of today, the 18th of September, we have a total of 158 local governments that have been cleared so that funds can be disbursed to the respective schools based on the verified enrolment.

However, the remaining local governments that have not submitted their verification headcount documents, will be permitted as soon as we receive the documents.

As I conclude - *(Interjections)* - I think I have more authority on this matter. I will probably allow my sister at a later time.

The ministry has cleared 158 local governments out of 177. We have communicated that by the 30 of September this very month, we want all local governments to be cleared for all schools to receive their funds.

I can confirm that before this week ends the 158 local governments' schools will receive their funds because they are submitted, verified and confirmed.

Finally, we will continue to do more sensitisation to the district and head teachers on the importance - [*Hon. Asinansi rose*]

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Asinansi, please take your seat. Honourable minister, please continue.

DR MORIKU: We will continue to sensitise the public, head teachers, and district officials on the importance of data. Data for planning, using, utilising, and planning for our finances.

I would like to thank you, much as there are challenges in primary schools, in terms of managing the database and entering the names of the learners into the software, we are continuing to improve the collection of this data. I commit that all will be well before 30 September. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This issue was raised by Hon. Ssewungu. Honourable colleagues, there is a misconception, and I want it to be understood, that procedure takes precedence. Please be informed that the Speaker is a custodian of the rules. I can look at your face, and know that what you are raising is not even a procedural matter. Many of you on several occasions, juggle between a procedure, and clarification - on a "wild goose chase" until

you land on what you think you must stand up. Please, no. (*Laughter*)

2.04

MR JOSEPH SSEWUNGU (NUP, Kalungu West County, Kalungu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I would like to correct the minister for finance, and I am addressing his statement using the table he told us to look at, on the screen.

The approved budget was Shs 298 billion. I am on the first page - the table you told us to look at on the screen. Shs 298 billion is the amount that we have approved.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, read the information in the total that features in the budget that was approved.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I am going to Capitation Grant – Category 1: Primary Education, under Non-Wage Recurrent, we approved Shs 298 billion. In Quarter 1, you released Shs 99.58 billion, in Quarter 3, it was Shs 99 billion and in Quarter 4, it was Shs 99 billion something. When you add up that money, it comes to Shs 280 billion.

So, where is the Shs 90 billion? Kindly, address yourself to that area. You have so far released Shs 280 billion, but we approved Shs 298 billion. Shs 90 billion is not seen where it is supposed to be.

Mr Speaker, let me thank the minister for education – and, I am still winning on the issue, which I raised yesterday: there is no Capitation Grant in schools.

Parents, children and teachers are not aware of what you are talking about. When a school is beginning, you need money to run it. If you are dealing with validation, that is yours. The weakness of the Ministry of Education and Sports should not impact our children. If you have not sent the money to schools and you are telling us that you stopped districts - you gave them - you have called it a “statement”. I do not know whether it is a statement or a directive. I do not know how you communicate with your

local governments. Do you communicate to them through statements, or you give directives for validation? Schools must continue running.

I spoke to the minister, but as we talk, we have schools in Kampala like Buganda Road Primary School, Bat Valley Primary School and Kitante Primary School, which do not have pit latrines. They use –(*Interjection*)- I can take the information - (*Interruption*)

MR GAFABUSA: Let me just give information on the challenges. Through you, Mr Speaker. The information I would like to give to my colleague and the whole House is that among the challenges – why this exercise of validating the numbers of children in our schools is becoming difficult is because as one of the requirements, they need a National Identification Number (NIN) of a parent or guardian for it to be complete.

However, many people do not have National Identity Cards, so, they do not have the NINs to provide. The schools find it difficult to submit incomplete information, where they have failed to get NINs.

Secondly, I got an example in my constituency. A guardian who is looking after orphans refused to offer his NIN because of misinformation that if you provide your NIN for the registration of these children, tomorrow, when you die, they are entitled to your property as an inheritance. So, they refused to give their NINs.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I think the Ministry of Education and Sports, in their admission, are themselves saying they have refused to release the funds. As I was saying, Bat Valley and Buganda Road primary schools do not have pit latrines. They use that money to pay for national water and electricity. That means they might even cut off their water.

When I talked to the minister before we entered here, we were talking very well, but when I sought clarification, she refused. Let us speak the truth. We need an audit on Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools in Uganda. Can you give us the status of these UPE schools? It is

these Members of Parliament who are building pit latrines, doing construction work, putting up the blackboards, painting and everything for UPE schools.

The little money you are giving is useless, yet you are not sending it in time. You talked about the – (*Interjection*) - honourable colleague, I am going to give you way - 113 districts, which have been cleared – the minister of finance said they are 113, but you are saying they are 158. However, even those that you have cleared have not yet received the money yet what is happening is that Members of Parliament are called by the head teachers to give assistance to buy boxes of chalk as well as red and blue pens.

So, where are we heading? You know that we are going for Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). The whole chairman of the Committee on Education and Sports is here also having a challenge with his schools because the roofs were blown off. He is our committee chairman!

So, can I take the information as I –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you are taking over my role. I gave you an opportunity, but I see you donating your time. Donate to one more person.

MR SSEWUNGU: Okay, you can use one minute and then I conclude –(*Interruption*)

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: Thank you, Mr Speaker –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You could not donate to an NRM Member! (*Laughter*)

MS ASINANSI NYAKATO: Thank you, honourable member, for giving way. Mr Speaker, whereas we appreciate the statement of the minister, I would like to bring it to her attention that several teachers were removed from the payroll countrywide – for both primary and secondary schools. It is seven months down the road and they have not been reinstated, yet they have been teaching and are expected to be in class.

As I speak, these teachers are in class teaching. I would like the honourable minister to clarify what the Government has done to ensure that these teachers are reinstated on the payroll. I humbly submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. There are teachers, health workers – and the minister for public service had promised that she was concluding the process of verification.

Minister of Public Service, do you have any updates?

3.11

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE (Ms Grace Mary Mugasa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. People were removed from the payroll after the audit validation. However, recently some people have been reinstated, depending on how their accounting officers own them. Some did not have the requirements to be validated there and then, while others did not have minutes from their local service commissions. These days some of them have had disaggregated minutes because some were lumped up.

However, as they go back to their local governments, they are verified by their accounting officers. Slowly, people are being reinstated. I would like to commit that we are going to bring a comprehensive report to the House, for information.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, can we have it on Wednesday?

MS MUGASA: Yes, Sir.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly, categorise them for us – health workers, teachers and all that.

MS MUGASA: Much obliged, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: In fact, honourable minister, in your statement, also show us the ones that you have confirmed as ghost workers so that we know that the validation exercise helped us to clean up the

whole – not only in the districts but the whole system.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also would like to thank my brother, Hon. Ssewungu, for accepting me to ask him a question.

You said that in Category 1: Primary Education, under Non-Wage Recurrent, our budget is Shs 298.7 billion. In Quarter 1, we released Shs 99.58 billion. In Quarter 3, we shall release the same, and, in Quarter 4, we shall also release the same.

Ninety-nine point five billion shillings (Shs 99.5 billion) multiplied by three is Shs 298 billion yet you said Shs 90 billion is missing. Would you like to revisit your numbers?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: He said it is Shs 280 billion, so, the balance is missing.

MR MUSASIZI: You get Shs 280 billion and divide by three – simple mathematics – and you will get the figure.

MR SSEWUNGU: Thank you, honourable minister. We have been here for the same time. How can a clarification be responded to by the same clarification? You should be giving me the right figure now. So, I think you have not answered and I will give you mine after this House, because this is your document.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, honourable, you cannot raise issues here and then handle them outside the House. They should be handled here. *(Laughter)*

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, you see, I read this figure. I gave him the total and showed him the Shs 280 billion he had released. I was telling him that there is Shs 90 billion I am not seeing. As the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, he cannot seek clarification where I have also sought for one. He must correct this.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Oboth Oboth - the two of you are dodging each other - let me bring in security to help me in case you continue with that behaviour.

MR OBOTH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I know Hon. Joseph Gonzaga Ssewungu very much. We joined this Parliament about the same time. Professional teacher turned lawyer. He has actually admitted without saying, that he had not seen the figures he was giving. Now that a certified accountant has given the figures, the matter is settled.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, I know we shall get a lot of misleading information here. The honourable minister who is talking about figures does not even have a single paper referring to the matter I am talking about.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me settle it easily. Clerk, add for me the figures; we shall read them for you.

MR SSEWUNGU: Counsel will face the wrath. Mr Speaker, I want to conclude my response to the minister in this way: teaching children is not about entering class and the teacher starts talking. Even the environment itself helps. Once I entered class, the beauty and the cleanliness of the class gave me the teaching appetite.

What is happening, Mr Speaker is that we are not helping these children. Madam minister, as you look for validation, go back and direct as you did. Make a statement as you said, and ask the local governments to release this money.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, sorry for the interruption. Honourable minister, there is a way you handle universities. All fees are paid to the Consolidated Fund, and you front-load before the students pay to the universities. Then they are required to go and ensure they correct those fees. When the university does not correct the amount, which was front-loaded, then the balance is deducted from funds for the next quarter.

Since we are at the beginning of the term, why not release the money to these schools

because headmasters and parents do not know all these issues you are talking about? Then give these schools a deadline; those schools which will validate and you find that they had given a number less than what you released the money for, you deduct it from funds for the next quarter. It is very simple. Do it the way you do for universities. Why don't we do that? Because really, I see a crisis.

What Hon. Ssewungu is raising is a very critical issue. These schools need to start operating. They are now disturbing us; the politicians are saying, "fundraise, fundraise, fundraise". Why can't we do that, honourable minister?

3.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for guiding us. Moving forward we will take that into consideration, as you have guided. In the case of this term, as we have stated, the minister has already said that as of 9th September, 113 local governments had already been paid.

As of today, 18th September, I have mentioned 158 local governments, meaning that out of 177, the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) should be able to release that money at any time because they have been told to disburse the funds to the respective schools.

I want to take your advice seriously. Moving forward from the next school's calendar, we will be able to take on that format. However, as for this term, I think the remaining few local governments, I believe this week, will be done. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu, let us first allow Hon. Muzaale, then you conclude.

3.19

MR MARTIN MUZAALÉ (NRM, Buzaaya County, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concern is one: in a district, where there are so many schools, you may find a situation where about three schools have not been

verified yet this is affecting the entire district. My worry is: what is the plan for those schools that have been verified, and approved and are only affected by those that have failed? We need to have a solution. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, is that true that you wait for the whole district to first clear? Number two, what punitive measures have you put in place for the head teachers who are not complying?

DR MORIKU: Mr Speaker, my statement is clear. A letter has already been written to all the CAOs and the letter is attached. I think the minister has already attached it here. It was written on 9th September, and it is to all local government accounting officers and the Executive Director of Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA).

The heading is: "Release Advice for First Quarter, Term 3 for Financial Year 2024/2025." I think if, as the minister has presented, you go through this letter, which was sent on 9th September, you will notice the total number of 113 local governments and accounting officers who have been ordered to release the funds.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but honourable minister, what Hon. Muzaale is saying is that all accounting officers - I do not think we have a district that has no single school that has complied. So, you are failing to clear that single school, which has complied because the rest of the schools have not.

What Hon. Martin Muzaale is saying is: write to accounting officers to release funds to schools, which have complied. You release to those, not to the district. This is school-based, not district-based.

MR SSEWUNGU: Mr Speaker, let us agree. Honourable minister, through the Speaker, let us release the funds as the other exercise goes on. We need this money to run the schools. There is no other shortcut. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development released the money and you stopped it. Allow this money to be utilised as you look at

the head teachers and the district leaders who are not carrying out your directives.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, my prayer and I request that if it pleases, you direct the Committee on Education and Sports to get us the status of Universal Primary Education (UPE) schools in Uganda; only UPE. Let me talk about UPE. I will not go to Universal Secondary Education (USE) so that we get a report here and see what we can do. Otherwise, what we are having in the schools in our constituencies is appalling. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, would you like to –

DR MORIKU: Mr Speaker, I want to commit. I have listened to the logic of the local governments as opposed to the schools. I want to commit that we will look at that and implement as per the directive. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Any comment on the UPE schools? Hon. Ssewungu is saying we need a status report of the UPE schools in the country. How much time would you need?

DR MORIKU: Well, I think you could give us a month; so we could look at that and bring the report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry?

DR MORIKU: One month.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: One month.

DR MORIKU: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ssewungu has said it is not enough. We give you two months. Please, Hon. Ssewungu, you do not need to go back to the Floor. Two months. Honourable colleagues, when the report comes, we shall send it to the committee. I cannot send a committee to go looking for a report.

DR MORIKU: Mr Speaker, is it okay to have three months?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Three months granted.

DR MORIKU: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, for the record; I want the record to be clear - on the issue of the total where the lawyer disagreed with the accountant, I assigned our technical bench to give us the total. So, the figure is Shs 298.74, which is exactly the one the accountant, who happens to be a minister, gave. So, one-nil in favour of Hon. Musasizi. *(Laughter)*

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE
MINISTER ON TERMINATION OF
CONTRACTS OF PART-TIME TEACHING
STAFF OF KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY
AND NON PAYMENT OF THEIR DUE
WAGES AND SALARIES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Let me first receive a procedural matter from Hon. Namugga.

MS NAMUGGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mine is related to the report that you requested regarding the payroll from the Minister of Public Service. Mr Speaker, the report on the consolidated payroll was referred to the Committee of Public Account (Central). I would request that our report is also presented because it is ready. We present it and she also brings hers because it is already submitted to your office. I request that it be given priority on the Order Paper.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure, honourable chairperson. Let me look at your report; I will guide but let the minister go on and present the statement with regard to what I requested.

3.26

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I stand to present a statement on the non-payment and discontinuation of part-time teaching staff by the Kyambogo University management.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, the Ministry of Education and Sports received the concerns raised by Hon. Margaret Rwabushaija, the Member Parliament for workers, on the non-payment and discontinuation of part-time teaching staff by Kyambogo University management.

We wish to respond as follows, Mr Speaker:

1. The cost estimated or the cost establishment for Kyambogo University is as reflected in table 1 below. We can see in table 1 that the total number of staff that has been filled as opposed to the established a number of 1390, we have currently only 30 per cent of academic staff that has been filled. Meaning that 70 per cent of academic staff position remains vacant. You can also see for the administrative staff as well as for the support staff right over there.
2. Mr speaker, with the current wage of Shs 67.17 billion against the costed establishment of Shs 191.3 billion, this guarantees just only 35 per cent of the staffing at the university. It leaves a gap of 65 per cent.
3. The teaching staff gap of 70 per cent is filled by searching for part-time staff to undertake the teaching and learning in the university. In the Academic Year 2023/2024 Kyambogo University employed a total of 1,084 staff across the faculties, schools and the learning centers.
4. The wages for the part-time lecturers and technicians is catered for under the vote item for allowances from the non-wage budget line. This is released quarterly and it suffers from budget cuts, which was worse during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which the university ran two academic years with one financial year.

Mr Speaker, during the Financial Year 2023/2024, the budget line for allowances, which caters for the part-time staff suffered a budget cut of Shs 2.6 billion. This definitely results in non-payment of part-time teaching staff, which the claims were talking about and hence it has accumulated into arrears.

1. The proposed intervention is that, the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Finance increases the wage for Kyambogo University, so that, we are able to fill the critical vacant positions in the approved structure.
2. The arrears for the part-time staff currently stands at Shs 6,743,716,266; that is the arrears.
3. Mr Speaker, this quarter, the university received Shs 149 million, of which Shs 52 million was for utilities and 97 million for other expenses. This is inadequate as you can see to pay the above outstanding arrears of over six billion for the part-time teaching staff.
4. Therefore, Mr Speaker, the recruitment of part-time teaching staff is dependent on the needs of the department where the full-time staff cannot meet the requirement for teaching - this need is reflected as the teaching load and recruitment of part-time teaching staff is carried out every semester depending on the teaching gaps and the qualification of the applicants.
5. Prior to the Academic Year 2024/25, part-time teaching staff were singularly recruited by heads of department who would submit their names for appointment. However, management and the appointment board of the university decided to enforce the regulations. They put in place standards and quality by identifying the part-time staffing needs, advertising the positions and considering the recommendations from the departments and the faculties and the schools, as required by procedures. Those who were not selected to teach in semester one of Academic Year 24/25 are those who do not meet the job requirements.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, the policy for recruitment of part-time lecturers on the long tenure is still under consideration by the University Council. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will start with the Member who raised the matter, then I go to Hon. Bakkabulindi. I hope Dr Florence Akiiki, will guide us a little on this matter.

3.32

MS MARGRET RWABUSHAIJA (Independent, Workers' Representative):

Mr Speaker, I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity. Mr Speaker and colleagues, I said yesterday that the required full staff is 1,281 but the university has 401, which is only a third of the required staff.

We talked about the current deficit of Shs 5.6 billion; it is good that the minister has even added on and it is now at Shs 6 billion, that is required.

The part-time staff, we talked about were needed because they do not have the staff required. Full-time staff is required but at the same time the human resource was directed to get other part-time staff and the ones who were not paid, were laid off. I see there is a problem that the workers are nothing yet they also have families although we do not look at it that way. They were clear and said that we get a necessary committee to investigate because the honourable minister who presented, showed me that they got it late from the person or the university itself.

We know what we are going through as Ugandans. So, it would be important to get a good team of members of Parliament, of your choice, to go and find out the truth because it is like the person we are talking about has a problem and is defended by answering without intervention.

There are issues that we need to clear so that these people can know that they are Ugandans and surely, they need a salary like any other. A forensic audit should be necessary.

What has been the trend? That is when we shall get the truth but the leader of the team in Kyambogo sits *decerebrato*, we shall not get the truth. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, one forensic audits are very expensive. When we order for one, Kyambogo University should pay for it. They do not have money to pay the staff; how will they get Shs 1 billion to pay auditors for forensic audit because the Auditor-General does not have a budget for it. I had clarified on that issue and the Auditor-General is a staff of the Parliament.

Two, I can give you some little information on issues of this nature. I happened to be on the university council of Makerere University and I chaired the Finance and Administration Committee for five years.

We were grappling with the same issue of part-time staff and as the chairperson, I was concerned at that time. So, we first did an audit of the timetable to see whether the staff had the maximum teaching load before recruiting part-time staff.

We found out that some professors had zero teaching hours and for those who know, there is a trend that went on. Do you remember when I was doing my Social Sciences course, at first I was taught by professors but I could hear that students are being taught by teaching assistants.

Professors are for research and they are doing their consultancies; they do not want to teach. So, they ensure that they do not get a teaching load so that they have all this time but I am told that a lot of things have changed.

Indeed, we discovered that and it helped one to have a maximum teaching load and it reduced tremendously the required numbers.

The teaching load per week should be a minimum of 10 hours and a maximum of 12 hours because you need time for research and mentoring students.

We also calculated the cost of extra time versus part-time because part-time is prone to abuse; people create a need because they are creating employment. We requested the Ministry of

Finance and Economic Development and it allowed us to recruit so that people can now be permanent and then on top of their maximum teaching load, they could take on extra hours in the evening at Shs 50,000 per day.

Even when money for extra hours delayed, at least someone had a salary but now someone who has nothing apart from teaching at a university, for three months has not received any payment, what do you do?

They are in a crisis and that is when the suspicion on how you recruit comes in. I felt that I should share that information from the experience that we had and now you no longer hear those quarrels; you cannot achieve 100 per cent of the establishment but at least you should reach somewhere and progress.

3.39

MR CHARLES BAKKABULINDI (NRM, Workers' Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Part-time teaching staff were either recruited in the right or wrong way; they are not ghost workers but are entitled to their payment. *(Applause)* They are families and to make it worse, you are terminating their services. How do you expect them to go?

Before you come in on how to fill the gaps, first deal with this. Say bye-bye to them with their package and we go back to the Speaker's advice to correct the mistake.

To say that because they were part-time teaching staff and now we have terminated them because we have got teaching gaps does not answer the question. Let us treat them like human beings the way we are here.

Some of you here but you were part-time teaching staff in universities and now you are members of Parliament. With due respect, I expect the minister to tell me the way forward on how we are going to get the Shs 6 billion and say farewell to our colleagues. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Florence Akiiki?

3.41

MS FLORENCE ASIIMWE (NRM, Woman Representative, Masindi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is good that the Workers' Representative has said that a mistake was made however, these people have to be paid.

Part-time teaching supplements the resource gap at universities and indeed, while I was still a lecturer at Makerere University, we had that challenge and what took place there reduced that challenge.

Honourable minister. We are talking of Shs 6 billion but you have only been able to advance Shs 149 million; what a gap. It is a big issue. Where are we going to get this money?

My sister, I sympathise with you; Government, where are you? *(Laughter)* Honestly, this Shs 6 billion has to be gotten and we are tired of a supplementary. Can we have some solutions? Where do we get the Shs 6 billion?

Secondly, the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) collects all the money from universities. We used to have this money collected at the universities but now, all the money is collected by URA. Because they said that we were giving them the wrong data since they did not know the number of students.

They said, "Now we have got you. We want to see how much you collect." So, can you tell us how much you are collecting vis-a-vis what you are giving back? I submit. *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bwanika, Hon. Emmanuel Ongiertho and then Hon. Nakayenze.

3.43

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. With an academic staffing level of 30 per cent at Kyambogo, I am worried about the quality of education from that university.

If they have only 30 per cent of the staff required, and we are here saying that that

university is producing the right quality products for this country, there is a problem. For a university degree, in any discipline, there must be a number of professors and a number of PhDs at the senior level and lecturers.

Mr Speaker, you are on the council and you have rightly guided. We need an audit of Kyambogo University so that we understand.

We are here thinking that they are producing a product. Mr Speaker, there are problems with the quality of products from our universities now. It is not the same. The way part-time lecturers teach and give their time to students is very different from the way a permanent lecturer does.

I request, Mr Speaker, that you guide to let the Ministry of Education and Sports do an audit and bring back that report so that it guides our debate. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But, honourable colleagues, universities have somehow made some progress. I remember when we were studying – I am trying to see those who were my classmates. Martin Muzaale could sometimes attend class. *(Laughter)* There are some who are here. There is what we used to call “studying by rumour” at that time.

Now, “studying by rumour” – we would be very many and the lecture room was small. For some lectures, you would stand in the compound and then you keep asking: what did the lecturer say? Now, if you landed on a stubborn person like Hon. Muzaale, the notes he would give you would be the opposite of what the lecturer had said. *(Laughter)* So, we “studied by rumour”.

However, now, like on infrastructure, we are doing well with the ADB project. In fact, honourable minister for environment, I will be waiting, again, to hear from you – I had told my people to write - on the issue of Gulu University, where we built, using ADB money, on the land and we have failed to give that title to the university. We are the ones who borrowed the money, as the Government, and

built there and then, after, we say it is a forest! We have to sort out that issue. When we came from Gulu, it was a big issue – I visited the university. However, that will be for later, honourable minister.

So, honourable colleagues, there are some improvements. I do not know who else studied by rumour. Hon. Ongiertho?

3.47

MR EMMANUEL ONGIERTHO (FDC, Jonam County, Pakwach): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I hope that out of the “learning by rumour” we do not have “MPs of rumour” also. *(Laughter)* The point I want to bring here is that we are talking about Kyambogo University, but this problem is in all universities.

I do not think there is another time when we are going to be talking about Muni University, Gulu University and others. I think we should talk about all these universities now. *(Applause)* By the way, the 30 per cent teaching staff in Kyambogo is even better than in some other universities, particularly the fairly new ones. For the fairly new ones, the majority are at 25 per cent in terms of the teaching staff.

In that case, if we are going to take a decision on whether to do an audit, particularly the way you guided, Mr Speaker, it has to be done for all public universities.

Mr Speaker, there is one thing that I have also noticed. It is not only the universities, but the other higher institutions of learning also have similar problems. We have a Uganda College of Commerce (UCC) in Pakwach, and it has a similar problem. Some years back, actually, they were using the part-time.

To me, this is to perpetrate even dictatorship in these universities. You have to be very submissive; you should not even be reasoning. And, immediately you start to argue with the university, even on the right things, you are sent away. That is because there are many others out there, who want to come in.

So, we need to look at all these things, and we need to allow some minimum level of discussion from these lecturers. A number of them use it as a tool for stifling discussions at the universities.

Mr Speaker, that is my submission. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I had allowed Hon. Galiwango.

3.50

MS CONNIE NAKAYENZE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mbale City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to re-emphasise that staffing levels at all public universities are wanting. There is one at a 12 per cent staffing level. Imagine a university operating at a 12 per cent staffing level. Kyambogo is at least at 30 per cent. What products are we getting? I pray that this august House handles this issue expeditiously. Kyambogo has been an eye-opener, but all universities have issues.

If universities are like that, it is worse at lower levels, beginning with primary schools. Mr Speaker, you find seven teachers in the whole school. We must make a deliberate move to see that the staffing of all institutions is handled so that we talk of quality education in this nation.

Otherwise, if we do not do that, we are going to end up badly. We must note that the part-timers are the ones holding these universities. They are the ones that are doing the donkey work and, if they are not paid, it is quite sad. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: You see, honourable colleagues, part-timers cannot sustain a university. This is because a university is not a secondary school where you go on the chalkboard, read notes, and they go. No! There is mentorship, there is research – in fact, most of the work should be in research. You cannot put a part-timer in the research and development of new knowledge.

So, the issue of part-timers cannot be a solution. We must get staff. We have a former Guild President of Kyambogo. Let us, first, listen to the former Guild President.

(*Mr Muwanga Kivumbi rose*) Okay. Let us have Hon. Kivumbi and, then, the former Guild President comes.

3.52

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGA KIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Mr Speaker, I have carefully listened to the issues this House is grappling with. An officer of this Parliament, the Auditor-General, carried out comprehensive audits of all these issues we are talking about – from every university to every hospital and every other institution. If you could give us time – because he was saying, we should not cherry-pick.

If you could give us time, our report on universities, as the public accounts committee, is ready. Our report on all referral hospitals is ready. Our report on all government ministries is ready. If you could allocate time, we would table this report, go through the staffing gaps in hospitals as well as land issues and others. Then, this Parliament would have a very comprehensive debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kivumbi, I had not seen these reports. I usually advise committee chairpersons that, on top of submitting to the Clerk, also give a copy to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

MR KIVUMBI: Mr Speaker, I have not only given your office a copy; I have even written to the office of the Speaker saying these reports are ready.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will check with the office of the Speaker, but I have not seen a copy on my desk. What I will do, starting tomorrow, we are going to follow up and see which reports are urgent and start working on those. Okay?

Former Guild President, Kyambogo University? I campaigned for her at that time, and I was deployed by Hon. Kivumbi. (*Laughter*)

3.54

MS BRENDA NABUKENYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Luwero): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I cannot forget that you

were there when I was running for office at that university.

Mr Speaker, I must say that I have been to Kyambogo University recently, and you can see the good infrastructure. But you cannot get quality education without the human resource, even with good infrastructure. Both have to move together.

With 30 per cent staffing, there is a problem. The minister must accept this. Like a hospital where you have a ward round, you have a senior doctor, you have a nurse, you have a medical assistant, then those who are always in the - equally in education, a department must have senior lecturers, assistant lecturers, lecturers, and also other levels, and professors as the lead.

Mr Speaker, we need to look at the staffing because when I was in Kyambogo, I noticed we could have different things. Some people are doing research, others have tutorials; you find that you need a big team for each and every department.

It is also necessary to have teaching assistants, because you would not find professors in tutorials. They will instruct the assistants, and they will be running the tutorials. That means, everyone –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are talking of part-time. Teaching assistants can be permanent staff, and progress in the system.

MS NABUKENYA: Yes. Mr Speaker, by the time the university employs part-time lecturers or teachers, there is a reason why they are being employed. It is because the permanent teachers are not enough. So, we need to understand, did they employ people to cover the load for the part-time teachers, or they are just offloading them without even filling that space?

Now the question is, are the students getting what they paid for, or what Government is giving? That is very fundamental, Mr Speaker, and we need these answers.

Also, we need to look at a bigger report for all universities. This is for Kyambogo, but equally, even other universities have the same problems.

I want, through you, Mr Speaker, to ask that Parliament should pronounce itself on this, because to rank universities, you must have sufficient human resources, and also other things. You will find that our universities are always not ranked well internationally, or we are not even tapping into the global research funds, because we do not have enough human resource that is qualified, and that affects the students at this level, and also at the international level. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Bhoka.

3.57

DR GEORGE BHOKA (NRM, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I thank my colleague, Hon. Margaret, and the minister for the response to the issue raised about the use of part-time staff in Kyambogo University.

Colleagues, the issue we are talking about is the tip of the iceberg. Our children deserve quality education. The quality of education is determined by the teachers that we have, and we have standards for learner-to-teacher ratio in our primary schools, secondary schools, universities. Why are we using part-time staff? It is because we failed to attract, to retain, and to motivate teachers in our school system?

I think, Mr Speaker, we need to pick interest, and especially the Committee on Education and Sports, as well as the Ministry of Education and Sports, to interrogate the factors that have resulted in us failing to attract, to retain, and to motivate teachers across the education value chain, in order for us to come up with solutions at the policy level, financing level, standards level, and performance level. I submit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kahonda?

3.59

CAPT(RTD) DONONZIO KAHONDA (NRM, Ruhinda South County, Mitooma):

Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I personally attribute this to poor planning.

Mr Speaker, we have priorities as a Government. We have priorities as a country, and among the priorities, we have education, health, and agriculture.

Mr Speaker, when you look at education, right away from primary level; there are primary schools that have only six teachers on the Government payroll. There are secondary schools where they have eight, nine teachers on the Government payroll, against 20, 30, 60 teachers required.

When it comes to the university level, Mr Speaker, I think we need to be serious in handling these issues. A public university requiring 1,390-something academic staff, and then they have only 418 on payroll! What are we planning? What are we doing? And this is only Kyambogo. No wonder these other cases are being reported day and night from these public universities.

Mr Speaker, I think, I would really recommend that investigations should be done on human resource management in these public universities; not only in Kyambogo, but across other public universities.

And when we come in to address some of these challenges, especially when it comes to budget, then at times Parliament is seen as if we are tampering with the budget. Yet these are the priorities that we think we should address as a Government. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, you want us to investigate people we have not even facilitated. They have been giving us unfunded priorities in terms of the gaps. Now, on top of them being denied money, we are even saying go be investigated. It is very, very – Hon. Kangwagye?

4.01

MR STEPHEN KANGWAGYE (Independent, Bukanga County, Isingiro):

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me an opportunity at least to say something about this.

Still on the issue of the part-time teachers and lecturers, a question is very clear here, Mr Speaker; Why do we have all these gaps? Another one is, have we given enough money, enough resources to the Ministry of Education and Sports so that they can have enough manpower or teachers or lecturers and they have failed to recruit them?

If that question is not yet answered, then we should not blame them. The issue of having to go to those universities and institutions to ask them how they have used that money. Have we given them enough money? If we have not given them enough money, why should we come here again and lament?

The ministry should really give us a real budget. How much is required? We sit as a Government, prioritise, and sort out that problem. Failure to have that one, we shall continue lamenting. Another thing, Mr Speaker, as a university, where do you base to enter into an agreement with someone to come into your university, give a certain service that you cannot give, and at the end of it all, fail to pay that person? Where will that person go? When that person comes, you should pay the person. Failure to do it, let the Government come in and solve the problem. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Kangwagye is asking, did you commit these people against the budget? Did you have a budget? Because you are not supposed to commit Government without a budget. So how are they generating these arrears? If the money was budgeted, then Hon. Musasizi can come in. However, if it was not put in the budget, then his hands are tied. Chairperson, Education Committee?

4.04

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (Mr James Kubeketerya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Most of these universities have privately sponsored students and the common problem has been that this money is now collected and taken to the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development. There is what we call the Non-Taxable Revenue (NTR). I want the minister to clarify whether Kyambogo University has been given their money, the NTR because they could use the NTR to pay those part-time teachers

As a short-term measure, I would propose that the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, because all universities have complained. They collect money, and now they keep begging and they are given portions. Can we get clarification from Finance?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition?

4.05

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am glad we are having this conversation, even though, as you have guided us, we will have a more comprehensive one when the reports come through.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we will do it tomorrow.

MR SSENYONYI: What is clear though is we need to invest in education. We need to put our money where our mouth is. All of us in this room are products of education. It might not have been a very good education, you might have studied by rumour, but you are here presiding over us because you attained education so it is important that we take care of this.

The part-time teaching staff- let us pay what we owe them before throwing them out. Incidentally, if some of them are sharp, they will go to court and then you will have a lot more money to pay because you have benefited from their services and that is not being addressed.

Why I am emphasising that we need to invest in education if you have 30 to about 36 per cent staffing level and yet, for Kyambogo University, it is worse for senior academic and technical staff, especially in the faculties of engineering, and architecture. And yet, Kyambogo has been thriving on these two faculties.

How do we then address the question of quality? In our alternative policy statements, every so often we keep saying, let us allocate a lot more money and attention is not given to it. I will cite an example. We discussed Capitation Grant and we did suggest that for Capitation Grant, for the advanced level, put it at Shs 150,000, Ordinary and primary level, put it at Shs 100,000 because this money is not useless.

It is money that was put in place to replace revenue that has been lost to schools because of the abolition of fees and also to improve the quality of education. What we have now is quantity education as opposed to quality education. You have so many children who are in school, but what kind of education are they getting? I am sure you have read this report.

There is a report that was done by an entity called *UWEZO*. They did research and children in Primary six were failing Primary two work in these schools. Why? Because we have not addressed the question of quality. I am glad we are going to have a further discussion on this so that hopefully, the Government will take action. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: There were a few questions which they brought but I want us to carry on this tomorrow when Hon. Kivumbi's committee presents the report. We shall start with the one of public universities. Honourable minister, I do not know if there are urgent issues you feel you should answer now.

4.08

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (PRIMARY EDUCATION) (Dr Joyce Moriku): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to say thank you for giving opportunity to colleagues to raise very critical issues, which I may not respond

to right now, but I want to thank them for acknowledging the fact that there is a critical budget gap. The need is critical, but the finances are not adequate to meet the funding gap. As I presented, there were budget cuts under the allowance budget line, which could not cater for the payment for the part-time staff.

Mr Speaker, this afternoon I talked with my colleague, Hon. Margaret, my dear sister, who raised this issue and in her presence, I called the Vice Chancellor, because the matter is not simple. We agreed that especially for those part-time staff who have taken a long without being paid, we should look at the matter case by case, together with her providing the necessary documents and the Vice Chancellor, the University, and us try to see how this matter can be handled. We discussed that as a way forward.

Number two, I do not know whether you got this Mr Speaker, you agree with Margaret. Thank you so much for acknowledging that. The matter of probably providing more resources as a way forward, I have discussed with my colleague here looking at the coming Financial Year 2024/2025 the university should be able to cater for some of these gaps in the budget line where there was a lot of cuts, how this can be factored into their budget to cater for these arrears that have accumulated.

Lastly, I want to say, I think as the Minister of Education and Sports we have tried to balance the quality of education and the quantity in terms of the numbers. Where we have moved, there is a lot of improvement. I want to say yes, my brother, the Leader of the Opposition, has raised the issue of quality, but as a ministry, this is what we are addressing day in, and day out, to improve the quality and make sure the standard of education is improved for the children of Uganda.

Lastly, thank you, Mr Speaker for the fact that we should invest much more in the education sector by providing more funds in this sector. I thank you for that because the Head of State made a special appeal while we were in Gulu that let us put more money into comprehensive

universal education, and the entire sector so that we improve on the quality. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, we are waiting for you to come and guide how you want the House to facilitate your policy of Universal Primary and Secondary Education. The President has mentioned it several times and it is appearing as if Parliament is doing its part. We want you to come here and tell us what you want us to do because we support the President's position. The implementation part of it is what we need at work on. Honourable Minister for Finance Planning and Economic Development. Front-loading NTR for the Universities.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We cannot front-load NTR. We remit NTR as and when it is received. We control NTR simply for good treasury management. We want all the monies that belong to the Government of Uganda to be managed from one pot, and then from one pot we can distribute to the various spending MDAs.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, if assuming NTR in this respect is school fees, you pay school fees today, by the end of the week we do reconciliation, and next week we give you the money.

We have nothing to do with NTR from agencies at all and we do not use it for anything else. However, the agencies must have budgeted for this NTR. We have many cases where some entities under budget for NTR, and accessing it without a budget is not possible.

In such incidences, we require that these agencies write to us and we raise a Supplementary Budget. That is where NTR can delay. But if you have budgeted properly, NTR is a straight-through process through our system, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, I agree with you, and that there is help from, and I am speaking from experience. You do not front load 100 per cent.

However, at the beginning of the semester, you front-load so that the institution can operate, and then it is required to collect that money. If it does not, you cut it from the money for the next quarter.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for that experience. In northern Uganda, we have a district called Lamwo- I am explaining the case. In Lamwo, they took advantage of front-loading and they overstated their budget for NTR.

As a result, we gave them money, which they could not realise, among many other agencies. That one also led us to a shortfall. That is why we are now careful not to enter into the trap of these Accounting Officers, who normally want to use any means possible to beat our systems. That is why we stopped front-loading.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, let us resume this tomorrow and discuss all issues related. After receiving the report from the Public Accounts Committee(PAC). next item-

PROPOSAL TO BORROW UP TO
\$15.22 MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK AND \$73.15
MILLION FROM THE AFRICAN
DEVELOPMENT FUND AS ADDITIONAL
FINANCING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE LAROPI-MOYO-AFOJI/KATUNA-
MUKO-KAMUGANGUZI ROAD PROJECT

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister for Finance-

4.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay, the proposal to borrow up to \$15.22 million, from the African Development Bank, and \$73.15million equivalent to 55milliom unit of account, from the African Development Fund, as additional financing for the construction of the Laropi-Moyo-Afoji/Katuna-Muko-Kamuganguzi Road Project, I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The proposal is referred to the Committee on National Economy for consideration and report back within 45 days. Procedure, Dr Bhoka?

DR BHOKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to raise a procedural matter related to the request to borrow that has just been laid on the Table.

On the 1st of December last year, the Board of the African Bank approved a project worth about \$252 million for the same project. The same Parliament some time back, approved that borrowing.

Before we get additional funding for the same project, will it be procedurally right to give this Parliament a status update on what the \$252 million that was borrowed some time back has done? What is the gap, and justify the additional financing? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, that is what the committee will do- honourable minister, do you want to give a quick clarification?

MR MUSASIZI: Mr Speaker, I know that we shall go to the committee, but for the interest of the public, some straightforward things must be answered. What I have just presented is additional.

Prior to this, in July 2020, this project was approved, but the project was approved but before the detailed designs were made. And after the detailed designs, there was an adjustment.

There was a need to increase the cost by the amount we are borrowing, this is why we are here. Where the money went, we cannot start the project until when we have the full amount. We cannot procure a contractor until when we are sure that we have the money.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, you see why I wanted you to go to the committee? Thank you. The minister is off the Floor; he has not granted. Next item-

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS
ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE
DISTRICTS OF MOROTO, KAABONG
AND ABIM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson for the Committee on Defence- After the chairperson, I will request the Chief Whip to clarify on the issue of Gulu University land, you remind me.

4.20

MR LINOS NGOMPEK (NRM, Kibanda North County, Kiryandongo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I report to the House, I would like to lay the reports of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs on the security situation in the districts of Moroto, Kaabong, and Abim. I beg to lay. Together we have attached the minutes and attendance list. Thank you.

We have two main bodies of this report. We have the executive summary and the main report. Therefore, I beg your indulgence on whether to proceed with the executive summary or present the full report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, the full report will be captured on the *Hansard*. This report has been with us for long, so, do a summary.

MR NGOMPEK: Thank you. Mr Speaker, Karamoja sub-region of Uganda, home to the Karamojong people, is deeply interconnected with neighbouring communities in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Despite primarily practicing pastoralism, the region faces significant challenges, including armed violence, stemming from internal conflicts and clashes with neighbouring groups.

In response to the pressing issue of cattle wrestling and armed conflict, the President of Uganda issued an Executive Order No.3 of 2023.

Although the involvement of the UPDF has led to some improvements in the security landscape by launching operations to counter armed raids and recover stolen livestock, persistent armed conflicts, raiding cultural practices and the proliferation of firearms from neighbouring regions continue to fuel insecurity.

The unresolved border dispute between Uganda and South Sudan poses a significant threat to security and has the potential to strain their relationship further.

Moreover, the Uganda Wildlife Authority's unresponsiveness may precipitate demands for compensation from affected communities due to incidents involving stray wild animals.

The committee's findings underscore the need to resolve territorial conflicts with Sudan. Security infrastructure needs enhancement including installing a Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) brigade in Kaabong, opening more security roads, and ensuring that pastoral communities can access water sources.

It is also important to implement a compulsory boarding education programme for Karamoja to provide valuable education and transformation for the mindset of an entire generation, ultimately establishing stability and peace in the region.

Mr Speaker, I request you allow me to touch on a few recommendations. I am not going to discuss the background. Maybe I can go to the objectives and methodology.

Terms of reference

Term of Reference (TOR) 1: To establish the current security situation in the Karamoja subregion and appraise the ongoing military operations in selected districts against armed cattle conflict.

We came up with the recommendations that;

- i. The Government should develop and implement a free and mandatory boarding education programme for Karamoja. This initiative will provide crucial education for the children and reshape an entire

generation's mind-set while effectively reducing the cultural sentiment of "warriorism".

- ii. The Uganda Police Force should increase its presence in this region to effectively maintain law and order within Uganda's territorial borders as mandated by law. Uganda Police Force should be provided with mobility facilities such as pick-ups and motorcycles in the subcounties of the Karamoja region.
- iii. The Government should expedite the joint border demarcation with South Sudan to protect Uganda's territorial integrity and mitigate security threats from South Sudan's armed forces. The demarcation should follow existing treaties, orders, colonial maps and coordinates to minimise conflict.
- iv. Uganda People's Defence Forces and Uganda Police Force should intensify patrols along the porous borders to safeguard the border and surrounding communities and increase border security.
- v. Uganda Wildlife Authority should intervene to contain poaching activities and address the issue of stray wild animals to Kidepo National Park to protect the lives and property of the surrounding communities.

TOR 2: To establish the causes and effects of the recurring cattle wrestling and related crimes.

The committee recommends that;

- i. The Government should persist in supporting peace dialogues meetings and involving the *Karachuna* in the skilling programmes that extend beyond Moroto. This will provide alternative sources of livelihood since most of the land in Karamoja is reserved and under the control of Uganda Wildlife Authority as part of the national park. The Government should consider freeing up some arable land for the youth to engage in commercial agriculture.
- ii. The Government should allocate funds for the desilting of the Morungole and Longoromit dams as they are crucial water reservoirs in the Karamoja region. Having sufficient water sources helps to minimise conflicts that could escalate into armed conflicts among pastoralists.
- iii. The Government should install more freshwater points required by the security forces in the strategic areas in the Karamoja region. This will facilitate the effective deployment of security forces and rapid responses in all security threat areas.
- iv. The Government should provide tractors to organised groups in Acholi, Lango and Karamoja subregions to cultivate vast lands for commercial agriculture, creating alternative livelihoods for the youth.

TOR 3: To establish the actors that are still armed and continue to engage in armed conflicts.

The committee recommends that;

- i. The UPDF should establish a brigade in Kaabong due to its strategic location within the porous borders of South Sudan and Kenya to curb the proliferation of illegal arms through this area.
- ii. The Government should increase the quota allocation for Karamoja in the UPDF recruitments to integrate more Karamojong people into the army. The Karamojong are natural warriors, and assimilating their natural abilities into the army, where they can best contribute, would reduce redundancy and potentially discourage cattle raiding and armed conflicts in Karamoja.
- iii. The youth who were innocently arrested and detained by the UPDF should be screened and released back into the community after reconciliation and dialogues between the UPDF and the affected families.
- iv. The Government should provide tractors to organised groups in Acholi, Lango and Karamoja subregions to cultivate vast lands for commercial agriculture, creating alternative livelihoods for the youth.

TOR 4: To appraise the level of collaboration with the counterpart forces in Kenya in dealing with the disarmament and inter-communal cross-border violence associated with cultural rustling.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, the committee assessed the security situation in Karamoja to abreast Parliament. The committee found that the UPDF's reinforced deployment has improved border security and reduced conflicts. However, unauthorised entry through porous borders still facilitate arms proliferation. The Government needs to enhance security by installing a UPDF brigade in Kaabong, opening more security roads, and ensuring that pastoral communities can access water sources during droughts.

It is also essential to implement a compulsory boarding education programme for Karamoja to provide full, valuable education and transform the mindset of an entire generation, ultimately establishing stability and peace in the region.

Mr Speaker, I beg to report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, committee chairperson. Honourable colleagues, these are the recommendations from our own committee, which we all belong to and they are very straightforward. I do not expect a long debate on this.

Let me start with the Members of Parliament from Karamoja, which is the area under consideration – nearby will be handled after the actual. *(Laughter)* We also have the experts. *(Laughter)* Let us have one, two, three and four. Then, I will go to the neighbours, starting with Kwania. Please, let us use three minutes each so that we also handle the health report.

4.32

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Mr Speaker, I wish to thank the committee for a great job. Even though the committee sampled three districts out of nine, we associate ourselves with the recommendations that cut across the region.

As we said while in Gulu, there is a way our government has continued to prove that insecurity in Karamoja and the neighbourhood can be subdued. This is the evidence given out by the committee in their report.

What has remained a challenge, which the recommendations of the committee seek to address, is how to sustain that peace. By the time the UPDF secured the region, the next issue of transformation and sustaining the attained peace has continued to be a challenge.

So, the recommendations, as given by the committee, are very useful. I will only add a small thing on the issue of developing a skilling programme.

We already have an industrial hub in Napak. The idea of industrial hubs in the country is good because it opens room for those Ugandans who have not had formal education to be skilled. However, the capacity of that industrial hub is so small it cannot manage the entire region. We only take about 20 per district in a season, and it is not enough. It is my appeal that another industrial hub is opened in the northern part of Karamoja.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those are the ones under State House?

MS NAKUT: Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Skilling Hubs?

MS NAKUT: Skilling Hubs. They skill the youth who have not had formal education and we have a majority.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I know, but I wanted to have the actual language because the industrial hub and the skilling hub are different.

MS NAKUT: Okay. These are the Skilling Industrial Hubs, the ones managed by State House. It is my appeal that we have another one in northern part of Karamoja so that the numbers can increase.

The committee has recommended desilting of some dams. Mr Speaker, we submitted

severally to the committees, also to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, the dams that need to be desilted in the entire region.

So, identifying two dams and leaving out the other 38 will still pose a problem to the region. Maybe the two were important, but it is good to increase the scope so that those are also considered.

Finally, I appreciate the recommendation on increasing the quota allocation for the Karamoja youth to join the UPDF. It is my appeal that as that is done, even the minimum requirement be waived. Many of our people did not complete Senior Four, and even if they did, they did not complete at the age of 23, at least 30. They say they do not want a scar, but with the bushes we have been moving in, the scars are there. So, those considerations should come along to support our youth to join the forces, I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think if they could put in other requirements that fit the Karamojong, you find they would even perform better. *(Laughter)* Gen. Elwelu has heard properly.

4.35

MR ALBERT LOKORU (NRM, Tepeth County, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, I want to thank the committee for the job well done. This is the first time I am really appreciating a report from the committee. It has touched all it takes to sustain and maintain peace in Karamoja region. The only issue is implementation of all these recommendations. All the recommendations are so beautiful, so nice and they can take Karamoja to the next level.

However, when it comes to allocation of resources to implement these recommendations, look at establishing a brigade in Kaabong. It is so critical because that is the outlet where the least harms come into the country. When the people in the country are quiet, they use it for disrupting the peace.

The other critical one is collaborating with the Kenyan and the Sudan counterparts in ensuring

that there is total cross-border relationship. That one requires the Ministry for East African Community Affairs to work with the relevant ministry here in Uganda. Otherwise, without that, we may not proceed well.

Without much to say, I only pray that these recommendations are implemented. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, the relevant minister will bring an action-taken report after we have adopted. Okay, since you are already here, honourable.

4.38

MR ISMAIL LOMWAR (NRM, Kotido Municipality, Kotido): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I stand to support the recommendations of the committee and the work well done.

Mr Speaker, when we look at Karamoja, the conflict is not a new one, but there is an apex of conflict that I expected the committee to have visited, that is Kotido.

As we speak, there is another gruesome rise of insecurity moving from cattle theft to targeted killings. Within a period of two to five years, Kotido District has lost five LC III chairpersons, and of which, on the 14th of this month, we lost our dear LC III Chairperson of Kotido Subcounty by the name of Mario Lotyang Lokaino who was gruesomely killed by armed warriors. We pray that the Government looks at this new form of killing, targeting local leaders.

The chairpersons are not only elected leaders. We are not only elected leaders. There are also chairpersons of security of their sub-counties. When they are targeted, there will be panic and total chaos in the community.

I pray that the Ministry for Defence and Veteran Affairs, together with all the security personnel, look at this matter and investigate why the leaders are being targeted by the local people, so that we can give confidence to our people. I pray.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable. That is very critical.

4.39

MR JOHN BOSCO NGOYA (NRM, Bokora County, Napak): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to debate. I want to agree that the report presented by the committee is spot on and makes good recommendations. Just like Hon. Albert has indicated, if we picked it up I think we will not be able to revert back to a very insecure Karamoja.

The report rightly points out the fragility of the borders. If you look at how the 2018 conflict started, it was at the grazing point in Kobebe. I wish we had actually resolved it then, it would not have spiraled down to the bordering districts. So, the quick response to incidents is what I would actually argue that could be taken by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) or the security agencies.

In fact, I want to applaud the new designation of Gen. Don Nabasa. He has actually been very good, at working with the leaders, because that is one way through which we could actually be able to stem some of the things.

The committee also recommends the desilting of dams. Most of the conflicts related to cattle rustling are because of the search for water. Severally we have actually engaged the Ministry of Water and Environment, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to see how they can desilt the dams. We in Bokora rely on the people of Kapelebyong. When they do not allow us to take the cows there to drink water, it is actually a disaster. So, we really wish that the desilting of dams is taken care of.

Finally, about the security roads. Usually when there are attacks, the security agencies find difficulty in tracking down the attackers. We have also been able to present various reports about the possibility of trying to work on the security roads so that there is quick response when there is an occurrence. I want to thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member from Amudat?

4.41

MS BETTY CHELAIN (NRM, Woman Representative, Amudat): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

I want to thank the committee for the report you have given. I am really praying for implementation to take place on the recommendations.

Mr Speaker, currently, there is peace in Karamoja. You know, where there is peace, there are a lot of things which are going to take place. For example, our men have been in the bush providing security for us, but now since there is peace in Karamoja, they are close to us. I am requesting the Government to put its eyes on Karamoja in regard to population increase. Yes, so that should be an indicator of proper planning for the region.

Mr Speaker, I did not hear any report about minerals in Karamoja. When these factories are being started in our region, I am requesting for our people to be considered, especially the engineers who are from Karamoja.

Lastly, during the recruitment by the UPDF, there is what they consider as age. I started P.1 when I did not know my age, but I was approximately 12 years old. So, if I were to join the army - it is good that Gen. Elwelu is looking at me when I am presenting so that they can consider the age factor in Karamoja. Thank you, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no one on the floor. These are the - Kwania. I will take both Members from Kwania and I will start with the gentleman.

4.43

MR JOSEPH KOMOL (NRM, Dodoth North County, Kaabong): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. For record purposes, I am Komol Joseph Miidi, Member of Parliament, Dodoth North, Kaabong District. I am not from Kwania.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, honourable. I was mistaking you.

MR JOSEPH KOMOL: Thank you very much. Mr Speaker, allow me to also thank the committee for having recommended a lot about Karamoja, and particularly in the districts of Kaabong, Abim, and Moroto. I come from Kaabong.

The committee has done a lot on prevention but one fact has not come out. As a result of cattle rustling, the people of Karamoja and particularly in Kaabong, lost nearly all their animals. What is biting in the region, particularly Kaabong where I come from, is rural poverty. A family has failed to open land. Opening land is normally by use of oxen and because people have lost all their animals, no food can be produced because they have to use local tools.

Mr Speaker, what has not come out here is the question of compensation. I do not know if I have ever heard about it. In Kaabong District, we had up to a tune of 180,000 cows by 2014 but by January, we had less than 7,000 cows. All had been raided to Kenya and to the neighbouring districts.

The other factor is the question of giving tractors; this needs to be expedited.

Mr Speaker, what could have solved the whole problem is, since I came to Parliament, we have been asking for the establishment of a deployment brigade in Kaabong. If that had been done, no animal would have gone. Kaabong District has porous borders; it is bordered by Kenya and South Sudan. With the deployment of the UPDF, the issue of guns can be contained.

I want to mention two incidents that have been very painful in the past two weeks. On 27th August 2024, at around 10.00 p.m. in Narube Primary School, armed thugs broke into the primary school and got the teacher on duty, moreover, a head teacher pulled him out of the house and shot him dead. His wife is in hospital.

Before that happened, two months ago, along the Kamion-Nawontos-Kenya border, a boda

rider who had been operating in Kakuma and then Kaabong was also intercepted. They took millions of his money and then slaughtered him. They hid his body far away from the road and he was recovered seven days later. This has not been a good thing for the isolated armed warriors. We feel that if a brigade is expedited - it has been recommended, all right, but if it is expedited, then the rest of the people can be saved. I rest my case. Thank you very much.

4.47

MS KENNY AUMA (UPC, Woman Representative, Kwanja): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Kwanja borders Karamoja. It is not far because we are in the Lango Subregion. The insecurity in Karamoja has been long overdue and yet they have a whole brigade of UPDF stationed in Kaabong and in some other districts.

We have to find out why it is that the insecurity in Karamoja cannot end. What could be the problem? Who is causing all these problems? These are some of the questions that we have to answer as Members of Parliament who come from Northern Uganda, because whenever there is a problem or whenever there is insecurity in Karamoja, the entire Northern Uganda is affected in terms of production, in terms of farming and all those other things.

I would suggest, if possible, that we have the brigade that is stationed in Kaabong. Why don't we put UPDF brigades in most of the districts in Karamoja so that we attain the peace that all other Ugandans are yearning for? Thank you so much, Mr Speaker.

4.48

MR PETER OKOT (DP, Tochi County, Omoro): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join colleagues who have spoken earlier in appreciating the report by the Committee of Defence and Internal Affairs. The military colleagues who are here; General Elwelu and the rest, will agree that you can take over a territory but if you do not leave personnel behind, even if you go to pursue another territory, by the time you come back, you will find that the territory you had taken over has already been run off.

I think the major thing in Karamoja - Over time, we have seen the situation in Karamoja improve and then deteriorate. Why? Because of not sustaining the force that had been put. If the military can put a brigade, as has been proposed, that would be a plus.

However, what the committee did not touch on - You know, when we are looking at the military, we most times forget about the police. There are areas where police would be necessary in parts of Karamoja because with the military, theirs is the harder part. The police need to handle some of the software so that the people get interested and used to our security forces.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, we also must know why the Karimojong or the people in Karamoja hold guns. For as long as the neighbouring countries are not disarming, it will be very difficult for Karamoja to remain without arms because they also need them to protect themselves against external raiders. That also needs to be looked into. In the report, the committee mentioned clearly that Sudan and Kenya also need to be sorted out if we need permanent peace in Karamoja in terms of illegal guns out of the hands of the local population. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Oseku? I am picking one Member per subregion. The subregions where I have already picked - the neighbouring subregions of -

4.51

MR RICHARD OSEKU (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. Permit me to applaud the committee for the report because most of the recommendations are good.

Mr Speaker, I worked in Karamoja for nine years and these recommendations are merely part of the solutions that should be able to render Karamoja a secure place.

We want to applaud the UPDF and the NRM Government because before NRM came to power, they had a 10-point programme and Karamoja was identified to be one of the areas

to be tackled by the Government. Indeed, they have attempted to deal with this problem and to some extent they have succeeded.

Mr Speaker, the issue now is the cause of recurring insecurity in the region. Perhaps the Government has failed to properly diagnose this problem. There are two issues: one, like Hon. Peter Okot said, if we do not deal with external factors, we, as a country, are only dealing with the tactical issues that pertain to us internally.

For that matter, I request that this issue be recommended to the East African Community so that a strategic plan is developed from there to which all these member states; South Sudan, Kenya with the Turkana and other aggressors can properly discuss this issue and come up with a plan to implement and we can have peace forever. Without that, this problem will continue recurring.

Secondly, what guided the success of the first disarmament up to the recent programme was a guiding programme. We had what was called the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Plan (KIDDP). However, that plan was abandoned some time back. The Ministry in charge of the Karamoja Affairs should put together a proper plan to be followed other than these mere recommendations we have put forth.

We need a plan that can be properly checklisted to see how far we are progressing in as far as the investment in the peace and development of Karamoja is concerned. We need water and industries.

This livestock and pastoralists' industry needs meat packers to ensure that development and employment opportunities are provided and the people gain out of it - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member from Toroma -

4.55

MR JOSEPH KOLUO (Independent, Toroma County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Katakwi, especially Toroma, where I come from, is an immediate neighbour to Karamoja.

First, I would like to thank the Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda armed forces for deploying Gen. Don Nabasa. At least the situation is improving, however, there are still some challenges.

There is a security road that begins from the side of Abim, Kapelebyong, Amuria, Katakwi up to the Bugisu region. How I wish that road could be put in place and also water provided in the areas where there are soldiers because getting water in those areas is very difficult. That could improve the situation.

The armed forces who are trying to sort out this problem do not even have motorbikes to arrest the situation. If they can be availed, especially in the barracks, it would be very easy.

Lastly, Gen. Elwelu is also here. The solar-powered cameras that can do visual sight, even at night, can help soldiers conducting operations to net the captives. Thank you, I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Dokolo North County -

4.57

MR GOLI OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you. I thank the committee chairperson for his presentation but it cantered mainly on military solutions. All the time I have been hearing that solution for raiding in Karamoja. I propose a private sector approach mainly because I come from the private sector.

A cow that is being raided is usually one that is 70 kilograms and when a raider whistles, the cow will run for 50 kilometres without stopping. *(Laughter)* Let us change the strategy and have cows in Karamoja and the neighbouring areas weigh at least 400 kilograms -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Obese cows. *(Laughter)*

MR OGWAL: Those cows will never be raided because they cannot move even for 500 metres. So, what should we do?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Ayoo picked cows from our area that were fat and he managed to take them up to - *(Laughter)*

MR OGWAL: Mr Speaker, we must now develop Karamoja with support mainly for breeds and feeds. Karamoja is very easy to develop because they live in *manyatas*.

The Parish Development Model (PDM) can be used partly to support a process that would allow water to be installed in the *manyatas*. You just need solar pumps, not dams. After that, have the pasture grown nearby and the cows will become bigger and raids will end completely.

Mr Speaker, what I realised too is that when those raiders see a cow that they cannot - they will never shoot it. They will just leave crying that, I have left a very nice cow - *(Laughter)*

We have an Egyptian group that has invested here; they do not have cows. With the help of the private sector, let us support them in skilling and so that the big cows will be achieved. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Youth Representative from the Northern region -

5.02

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Youth Representative, Northern): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you, committee, for the elaborate report. Given the sub-regional development gap and the extremely high poverty rate, Karamoja certainly needed affirmative action yesterday.

Every morning and evening when you are stuck in traffic, you will notice that almost all the street children in Kampala and the urban

centres on the eastern route come from the Karamoja Subregion.

I know that the Government is now prioritising mind-set change and there is a recommendation by the committee for free and compulsory boarding education in Karamoja. This Parliament must prioritise this particular resolution.

The Woman Member of Parliament of Napak talked about the skilling centre in Karamoja. I have been there and certainly, given the pressure and the need in Karamoja, we must fast-track the expansion of this particular skilling hub in Karamoja. The need is enormous, compared to all the other sub regions.

Mr Speaker, recently, I met a team coming from a university that is in Karamoja called KAPATU – Karamoja Peace and Technology University. I listened to their very unique teaching methods and proposed approaches. They are prioritising sustainable peace in Karamoja through some of the faculties that are proposed therein. This university certainly needs support. They shared with me the nature and ways through which they are trying to acquire support, mostly from the private sector.

Given the fact that we have all agreed that Karamoja needs affirmative action, the Government must support this particular institution.

Finally, Mr Speaker, usually when we make proposals, as the Government, the proposals are a bit scattered. I believe that intensity is greater than extensity. There is a Karamoja regional development master plan by the National Planning Authority. I would propose that we take this up as a blueprint and not propose too many ideas, but look at that particular blueprint. At least, I have listened to most of the leaders from Karamoja and they agree that this blueprint is an excellent one. This is so that the development in Karamoja is comprehensive, not scattered. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Muzaale?

5.04

MR MARTIN MUZAALÉ (NRM, Buzaaya County, Kamuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking the chairperson of the committee for the good proposals.

I have been around and I have heard the problems of Karamoja, mostly to do with insecurity in that region. We may have so many good ideas but provided we have not managed the issue of insecurity in the region, there will be nothing.

Mr Speaker, my concern is one: today, if you go to Chinese construction sites, you will find mini-barracks on those sites. You will find individuals being guarded by soldiers – about 10 soldiers for one individual. If you go to Chinatown here, you will find about 20 of them.

These are sites that are supposed to be manned by police personnel. We are supposed to deploy these people to Karamoja. These people should be in Karamoja. Uganda has performed well outside the country. We have performed very well in Somalia, the Central African Republic and Congo. Why should we still have insecurity in our country, yet we are doing well outside the country?

Mr Speaker, it is good that Gen. Elwelu, the UPDF representative, is here. He should come here and explain why soldiers are being deployed to construction sites, yet we have insecurity in Karamoja sub region. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

5.06

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (Mr Joel Ssenyonyi): Mr Speaker, I would like to, first of all, appreciate Hon. Linos Ngompek and his committee for the report. I saw Members laughing when he stood up to speak. This man can be serious when he chooses to be. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I have been to Kidepo Valley National Park. For those who do not know - By the way, if you want to be assured of seeing lions, Kidepo Valley National Park is the place to be. While there, I hiked with the team

to Mount Morungole. We went to see the Ik Community.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why do you look for small hills? Why don't you hike serious mountains? (*Laughter*)

MR SSENKYONYI: I have done all those ones, so, I wanted a new challenge. (*Laughter*) So, we met the Ik Community at the top of Mount Morungole. It is a very vulnerable community, which hardly accesses Government services. I know we are talking about defence, but I thought I should slip that in because I saw the Ik Community with my eyes. There are several others but for this one, specifically, I kept wondering which world they are in: there are hardly any social services. I hope the Government knows about those people. They are there.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just for information, it was in the 10th Parliament when they had their inaugural MP. The President made it very clear that this was an affirmative action because they are an endangered tribe. I think we have the Ik, the Dodoth, the Tepeth and the Batwa. Indeed, they need more support, like you said.

MR SSENKYONYI: That is the point I was emphasising, Mr Speaker. It is good that there is an MP from that area but the community itself is still extremely vulnerable.

In connection to that, Mr Speaker, one of the reasons why disarmament is difficult in Karamoja, and this area in particular, is because there is a game park where elephants keep raiding the crops of the community. So, the community keeps thinking that they have to protect themselves against these animals. When you tell them to surrender their guns, it does not make sense to them at all because they do not feel safe.

They are also not safe from intruders from other countries. You see when you look at the Ugandan map - that tip. So, we jumped into Kenya, came back to Uganda, jumped into South Sudan and came back. The borders are very porous. That is what happens.

There is entry and exit and little wonder, the communities feel unsafe. Therefore, disarmament becomes a convoluted process. Hopefully, that can be addressed. This is because, if you want to convince them, they have got to be convinced that they are safe.

Mr Speaker, districts like Abim have insufficient police manpower and no wonder, crime becomes difficult to manage because of this shortage. This very district – I do not know if the MPs from this district are present. Maybe they could confirm what I am saying. There is a challenge of transport. In fact, this district has no police vehicle to handle emergency issues. If we are to address security concerns, this is where we have got to start, for the community to feel safe.

The reason why there is a shortage in some of these districts is because, one, they do not feel very safe because they are very few, and two, honourable colleagues have been talking about water shortage issues and all that. They also find it very uncomfortable to be there.

I know that for a very long time, Karamoja has been handled as a very vulnerable community but sometimes, the Government just talks about it. We need to see a lot more of that translating on the ground. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, the debate is closed. I want us to also handle the status report for hospitals and health centres in northern Uganda. We will finish it today. I know the rules do not allow members of committees to debate but they allow them to clarify and inform the House. We represent constituents, sometimes, of a special nature, and we are lucky to have Gen. Elwelu here, who represents the UPDF.

General, they have raised some issues and I know you can help us with some feedback. For some, you can take them back to your superiors. I want to give you the opportunity to help clarify some issues. Let us give him time and not disturb him with “clarifications”.

5.12

GEN. PETER ELWELU (UPDF Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will talk about, one, the killing of the LC III chairman. That one is a matter of investigation. I think it could be politically motivated or any other reason, but it is very unfortunate. Surely, Kotido has lost quite a number of LC III leaders to some criminals.

On the brigade for Kaabong, I do not know whether you people know what a brigade is. You do not know. What I can assure you is that we will make - I will talk to the Division Commander because Karamoja was reinforced. Karamoja is one of our reinforced divisions and the President gave quite enough manpower. The only problem may be how that manpower is being used.

I want to assure the people of Kaabong that we shall make sure that they have adequate security because Kaabong has very few raiders. Kaabong is not a raiding community, they need to be protected very well and we shall make sure Kaabong has adequate security. *(Interjections)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, please. He is my Member here on the Floor. I do not want him to answer very many issues. Gen. Elwelu, go on.

GEN ELWELU: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We shall make sure that Kaabong has adequate security to deal with the insecurity coming from other districts.

On security roads, this one is being implemented, though the progress is very slow. However, I am very sure that very soon, we shall have adequate security roads to handle mobility in that area. Without security roads, we cannot deal with some of these criminals urgently but there is progress along that line.

The other thing is on recruitment, where you talked about the issue of the standard of education. That one is a policy matter and I cannot commit myself to it. The honourable minister will bring his report on what he can do about it. This is what we decided; that a private

soldier should have completed Senior Four and that is it.

The other thing, Mr Speaker, is that this is an internal security matter, which is purely a police matter. The police are supposed to deploy 10 policemen per subcounty but that has not been implemented. I hope that with the recruitment they are carrying out, they will be able to deploy 10 police officers per subcounty. When that is done, I think they will be able to help us in curbing cattle theft within and outside Karamoja.

Mr Speaker, the challenge in Karamoja is a very big one that the UPDF alone cannot manage. What we need to deal with first is education; where the committee has proposed compulsory boarding education, because we need a new generation in Karamoja, which does not understand these issues of raids. Otherwise, without doing that, we shall continue with that problem.

The other thing is about water for animals, water for agriculture, and water for people. These are the two things that we need to deal with in Karamoja. That is a Government issue and I think they are working on it and it will be handled. There is always money for water. I see there is money but the problem is that it is being eaten by some people. That is where the problem is. The Government has been sending quite a lot of money to that region to handle issues of water. I think that is all. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, General. I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs on the security situation in the districts of Moroto, Kaabong, and Abim be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we shall receive an action-taken report in three months and we shall take it on from there to do an audit of the implementation of recommendations. Next item?

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH ON THE OVERSIGHT VISIT
TO ASSESS THE STATUS OF HEALTH
SERVICES IN NORTHERN REGION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we received this report. We were – Chairperson, is this the report we received? Yes. We were just remaining with the debate.

DR RUYONGA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. This report was presented in Gulu and we did part of the discussion. I think this is just a continuation. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, we had a few - because I had more Members and they were saying, “you have not given us a chance” and I said, no, we carry the debate and conclude it from Kampala. I do not know - Honourable minister, are there any clarifications you had come up with regarding the same so that we can conclude it well?

5.19

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Anifa Kawooya): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I want to thank the committee for a very comprehensive, well-outlined report, which has covered the northern region on the status of the health services there.

Mr Speaker, as you have said, I have read through the report and I have seen that much of the recommendations from the committee and the observations are well spelled out. As a ministry, we note that much of the recommendations dwell on the financing - sufficient funds.

Most of the issues that have been raised are recommendations that as Government and as a ministry, there is urgency in ensuring improvement and enhancement of health facilities in the northern region.

Mr Speaker, in some areas where the recommendations are administrative, I pledge that as a ministry, we shall address them administratively. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, why we did not conclude it is because the minister was not there and we wanted that component.

Honourable colleagues, I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Health on the oversight visit to assess the status of health services in the northern region be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall extract the recommendations and we expect an action-taken report in three months.

Colleagues, I am thinking, let us receive the report on education in northern Uganda and then discuss it the next day. It should be presented now so that you have enough time to read through and prepare for a debate on it tomorrow.

Procedure, Hon. Gilbert Olanya?

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural point I wanted to raise is, that when we were in Gulu, there were many matters that were raised concerning health. I recall you guided well that the minister was absent at that time. I really feel, Mr Speaker, if it is okay, let the minister respond to those concerns. For example, we raised a matter about the absence of drugs in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: But Hon. Olanya, I have given an opportunity to the minister and that is what she has responded to. Let us wait for an action-taken report. Moreover, the report is already adopted. I have not denied the minister an opportunity so, we cannot reopen it. We cannot go back.

MR OLANYA: You are right but other things are more urgent. There are indeed others that can be solved over the long term period. There are other urgent issues, for example, the supply of drugs whereby the National Medical Stores should be supplying drugs, but in Gulu Regional Referral Hospital, doctors only prescribe and all patients are sent to buy drugs

from outside. Those are simple things that the minister can only direct.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had asked for a statement last time because every time, colleagues talk about national drugs, not only in Gulu but also in other places. I think we will receive a monthly report on drugs delivered so that it is shared with Members of Parliament. Honourable minister, what do you think about that?

MS KAWOOYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to make the record clear that I had notified the Office of the Rt Hon. Speaker that I would be out of the country on official duty so, my colleague, Hon. Margaret Muhanga, went to Gulu and I think she also had permission.

The only report we have received as a ministry is this one. Once the questions that were raised are tracked with the Clerk, I shall come on this Floor and respond to them. As of now, we have not received them. Once we get them, we shall respond to them immediately.

About the drugs, in this report they are also raised. I pledge that I will come on this Floor and give a comprehensive report about National Medical Stores in line with the drugs supply. I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: When do you think you can do that, honourable Minister? How much time?

MS KAWOOYA: Next week, Thursday.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson, Committee on Education?

5.25

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPORTS (Mr James Kubeketerya): Mr Speaker, this is a report of the Committee on Education and Sports on the state of selected public – Just a moment, Mr Speaker. Give some five minutes -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Oh, then I have to suspend the House.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Mr Speaker, I beg to proceed. We have the minutes and I think I will tender them in. The report of the Sectoral Committee on Education and Sports on the State of Selected Public Universities, Tertiary Institutions, Seed Schools, and Public Sports Facilities in Northern Uganda.

Introduction

The Committee on Education and Sports was among the committees selected by the Rt Hon. Speaker to undertake an oversight visit to the Northern Region to assess projects under their jurisdiction. The Northern Region is composed of sub regions of Acholi, Karamoja, Lango and West Nile.

The Government of Uganda attaches great importance to education and sports, as it plays a vital role in ensuring attainment of both social and economic transformation as envisaged in the Uganda Vision 2040, NDP III, and the NRM Manifesto. There are notable changes in the sector with the Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education in addition to higher learning institutions under BTNET and universities all considerably supported by Government and supplemented by other non-state actors countrywide.

The committee therefore visited some selected primary schools, secondary schools, tertiary institutions, and public universities in the districts of Arua, Pakwach, Nebbi, and Madi-Okollo in West Nile sub region. Gulu District in Acholi sub region, Abim District in Karamoja sub region, and finally Lira, Dokolo, Otuke Districts in Lango sub region.

2.0 Objectives of the Field visit.

The main objective of the visit was to ascertain the existence and status of development projects in selected Traditional and Seed schools, Tertiary Institutions, and Public Universities in the Northern region.

2.1 The specific objectives include:

- i. To ascertain the status of implementation and progress of the UgIFT projects in selected schools.

- ii. To ascertain the status and progress of the development of infrastructure facilities in selected traditional and seed schools, tertiary institutions, and public universities.
- iii. To ascertain the existence and state of Akii-Bua Stadium in preparation for AFCON 2027 in Lira City.

3.0 Methodology

To achieve the above objectives, the committee:

- i. Visited and held meetings with the district officials, tertiary and university top management teams, head teachers, and some members of staff of primary and secondary schools.
- ii. Inspected the projects including ongoing construction works at the universities, tertiary institutions, and schools.
- iii. Reviewed progress reports on the status of infrastructure, construction works, policy reports, and academic performance reports, among other documents prepared and presented to the committee.
- iv. Reviewed previous reports by Parliament regarding matters of education in the northern region of Uganda.
- v. Visited Akii-Bua Stadium to ascertain the existence and status of the stadium in the preparation of AFCON 2027.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Chairperson, we shall sleep here if you are to do this. I will give you 10 minutes to summarise. **Members will read, and the report will be captured on the Hansard.**

MR KUBEKETERYA: Background - I think that one is highlighted. We can skip that. Okay, we can go to:

1.0 Findings, Observations, and Recommendations

1.1 West Nile Subregion.

In the West Nile Subregion of Northern Uganda, the committee visited districts of Pakwach, Nebbi, Madi-Okollo, and Arua districts, and inspected the following institutions and schools.

1.1.1 Muni University in the Arua district
Muni University is one of the public universities in Uganda, which was established by the Uganda Government by Statutory Instrument No. 31, 2013, in accordance with the University's and other Tertiary Institutions Act.

The university has an established governance structure comprising a fully-fledged council, Senate, and Committees to run its affairs.

Mr Speaker, let us go to the findings because most people are eagerly waiting for the findings. But before findings, I think we should also look at the observations.

In Arua or Muni University, there are two buildings that have stalled for so many years. One of them is the delayed completion of the Health Science Laboratory building and administration block.

The committee observed that the contract for the completion of the construction of the Health Science Lab Building was signed between Muni University and Kisinga Construction Company Limited on the 13th March 2019.

The ground-breaking ceremony and site handover were done on 25 March 2019, and the actual work started on 3 May 2019 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the project was delayed and thus construction elapsed on 25 March 2022.

However, the completion date was later revised by two years up to 24 March 2024 but this was not attained, and yet the work executed is only at 67 per cent.

The Administration Block Annex: the committee observed that this construction project commenced on 11 April 2022 and is expected to be completed on 11 October 2024 and yet the work executed is just at 55.5 per cent.

The committee observed that the capacity building centre facility has some structural problems requiring immediate attention like

the lecture hall, which has developed cracks in its ceiling and needs fixing. The dining hall has no ceiling and repainting is needed for all of them. These defects affect effective delivery of services to the intended beneficiaries.

The committee observed that the university generally has inadequate office space for the faculty and departmental staff, considering the increase in enrolment of students, and this has resulted into the allocation and use of lecture rooms to accommodate staff offices.

The committee observed that the university budget for capital development has stagnated for the past three years, making it difficult to complete the construction of the two multi-year development projects of the Multi-Purpose Health Science Lab and Administration Block. This has affected space for lectures, labs, offices and staff respectively, as illustrated below.

Mr Speaker, that is on the board, given the budget. The next page has pictures of the infrastructure we are talking about.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) should consider availing funds for the completion of the Health Science and Administration Block Annex – (*Interruption*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Procedure, Hon. Muzaale?

MR MUZAAL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Looking at the front bench, which is mandated to respond to some of these concerns, I do not see the Minister for Finance or the Minister for Education. Would it be procedurally right that we proceed with this report yet the people who are mandated to respond to the concerns of Members are not here?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable, if you listened to me earlier, I said that the debate will be tomorrow. I do not know whether you procedurally followed what I said or you are also legislating dilemma and suspicion. (*Laughter*) Let us receive the report

though the responses are not coming today. Hon. James, again, you are remaining with five minutes.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Thank you. I was concluding on Muni University. before the Hon. Muzaale intervened. We were saying that the committee recommends that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED) considers availing funds for the completion of the Health Science Block and Administration Block Annex construction in order to create space for faculties in the existing administrative block and lecture space.

Mr Speaker, after Muni University, we went to Alwi Secondary School in Pakwach and the committee had those observations. Generally, I can attest that Alwi Seed Secondary School is one of the best-constructed schools in that region.

Observations:

The committee observed that after the construction of Alwi Secondary School, the population surged. The committee observed that the school has inadequate teaching and learning materials such as learners' books, internet access and others.

The committee further observed that staff accommodation is grossly insufficient. That was as far as Alwi Secondary School is concerned.

Recommendations for Alwi:

The Ministry of Education and Sports should provide additional staff to address the untenable 1:100 teacher-learner ratio and meet the acceptable standard of 1:50, to improve teaching effectiveness and curriculum execution.

The Ministry of Education and Sports should provide additional essential educational resources, such as learners' books.

The Government should consider connecting Alwi Seed Secondary School to the national grid and enhance internet access because they are just using solar.

The Government should provide the funds to construct additional schools -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable, there are several seed schools. We cannot go one by one when the issues are more or less the same.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Mr Speaker, Pawor is the opposite of Alwi in Madi-Okollo. It was condemned on inception. It only has 80 students and is in a game reserve, something that the ministry should look at.

We also observed and concluded that the mother district, Arua, should look for a contractor who is elusive because the buildings are sinking.

In Nebbi District - I am not going to give the narrative but briefly - Mamba has many buildings at a cost of Shs 2 or 3.3 billion. It is a massive infrastructure but the contractor is dragging his feet. We were told that he has more than three sites.

He is very elusive and not up to time. They have kept on extending and something must be done. That is as far as Mamba in Nebbi District is concerned. The other one was -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Chairperson, can you touch other sub regions?

MR KUBEKETERYA: Okay –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, we are going to read the report.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Let us go to Karamoja where we only look at Abim as a sample - (*Interjection*) - Teso is not part of the northern region. Let us begin with where we started from. We started from Lango and we are going to Dokolo where the “Private Sector” comes from. However, before Dokolo – I have already reached Karamoja. In the Karamoja subregion –

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me make it easier for you, Mr Chairman. Read your conclusion, okay? We shall read the report.

Clerk, capture the whole report on the Hansard.

MR KUBEKETERYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us use “Private Sector”-led methods of doing business here. (*Laughter*)

MR KUBEKETERYA: However, Mr Speaker, on page 65, there are strong recommendations. Could you allow me to summarise them?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure.

MR KUBEKETERYA: What we discovered was that, generally, there is lack of enough human resource in these regions and you get districts returning money. Pakwach returned Shs 1.5 billion, Arua returned Shs 800 million and Nebbi returned Shs 900 million – for recruitment.

The committee, in its wisdom, proposes that this money has no right to come back to the source. Let the Ministry of Education and Sports and even the Education Service Commission be facilitated to go and do recruitment on site because there is money and so that the people there are recruited.

On the issue of banning recruitment - I think that was done.

So conclusively, Mr Speaker, the field visits revealed critical challenges in educational infrastructure and resource management in the Northern region.

There is a general problem of contractors under Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers (UgIFT) projects taking on more than three seed schools, which are more than they can handle. This constrains them in performing effectively under the project.

The committee noted that across the districts, money allocated for the wage bill was returned to the Consolidated Fund because of the ban on recruitment.

Furthermore, the teachers who upgraded from Grade 5 to graduate level still earn the same salary, yet they are about to retire. There are many technical schools in the region without instructors and administrators.

The above matters require serious and urgent attention from the Government.

Similarly, Akii-Bua Stadium in Lira City faces stalled development with poor facilities and management issues. Addressing these problems is essential for supporting the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027 preparations and enhancing educational outcomes.

Effective collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, local authorities, and other relevant bodies is necessary for an improved education or education sector.

I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable committee chairperson.

Honourable members, the House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

(The House rose at 5.46 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 19 September, 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)