



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2024



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 13TH SITTING - FIRST MEETING

Wednesday, 28 June 2024

Parliament met at 10.00 a.m. at Kaunda Grounds, Gulu City, Northern Uganda.

Parliament meets on such days and such places as the Speaker determines;

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

PROCLAMATION

THE SPEAKER: “*WHEREAS the Vision of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda is to be a ‘transformed, independent and people-centred Parliament’;*

AWARE that the 98th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) resolved that members foster a direct contact between parliamentarians and the citizens, through meetings and discussions at all levels, nationally and internationally;

FURTHER AWARE that the 126th Assembly of the IPU reiterated the need for close links between parliaments and the people under the overall theme of its general debate ‘Parliaments and People: Bridging the gap’;

COGNISANT of the need to implement the commitments of the 98th and 126th IPU Assemblies by bringing Parliament closer to the people;

NOTING that Rule 17(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament provides that

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Rule 17(1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I hereby proclaim that;

- (1) Parliament shall sit at Kaunda Grounds in Gulu City on 28, 29 and 30 August 2024; and*
- (2) Kaunda Grounds in Gulu City be the precincts of Parliament for the above-mentioned purpose.*

GIVEN under my hand at Parliament House, Kampala on the 7th day of August 2024.

*Anita Annet Among (MP)
Speaker of Parliament of Uganda.”*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker, who is about to join us and honourable members of Parliament, the Leader of Government Business and the entire Front Bench, the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Cabinet ministers, all local leaders present, notably: the Resident District/City Commissioners (RDCs/RCCs), Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs), district chairpersons, District Internal Security Officers (DISOs), local council leaders, religious leaders, representatives of the civil society, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to this historic sitting of the Parliament of Uganda at Kaunda Grounds, Gulu City.

It is the first time, in post-colonial times, that the Parliament of Uganda is sitting outside the Capital City of Uganda - Kampala.

In a special way, please join me in thanking the lovely people of Gulu City, for the warm welcome and the extraordinary hospitality they have accorded to us while we are here. Thank you so much, people of Gulu.

I would also like, in a special way, to thank the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, for endorsing and equally supporting our sitting in Gulu. We will be forever grateful to him.

Further, let me also commend the Clerk to Parliament and his staff for ensuring the success of our sitting. Thank you, my wonderful staff of Parliament.

In a very special way, I would like to thank the Members of Parliament; you are very gracious people. Travelling from Kampala to Gulu means you are leaders who love your country, Uganda. You travelled all the way from the West, East and Central to sit in Gulu; thank you, for coming.

Honourable members, the decision to hold Parliamentary sittings in Uganda's traditional four regions is a strategy to bridge the gap between Parliament and the people. This decision was based on an elaborate cost-benefit analysis and attention to the specific and varying nature of the distinct realities affecting the different regions of Uganda.

We have always sat in Parliament and made decisions for the country forgetting the difference from one to other. They have distinct issues that need to be handled, region by region.

Contrary to misinformation by some members and sections of the public, the regional sittings of Parliament are budget neutral; we are not incurring additional costs. A strategic decision was taken to upgrade the always budgeted-for parliamentary outreaches into fully-fledged House sittings, which will deliberate upon

matters that are distinct and pertinent to specific regions hosting the sittings.

Unlike outreaches, the deliberations during these sittings will culminate into parliamentary resolutions that will require Government action. We have money that is always available for outreaches. In these outreaches, we could only go and invite the leaders of the area and discuss with them. However, in this case, we said that instead of calling the leaders in these areas only, let us go and have a sitting in those specific regions, get the issues affecting them, have the resolutions and forward them to the Executive for action to be taken in those particular areas.

When you look at the budget of Parliament, you will notice that no money was added for this sitting. So, the people moving with the misinformation just do not like the northern region.

Parliament is not a stationery building; the building in Kampala is not Parliament. It is an Arm of Government that can convene in any part of the country, and this is not unique to the Legislature; it is also being done by the Judiciary. It is prescribed under Article 95(2) of the Constitution that the Speaker shall proclaim, at any one time, where Parliament should sit. Where Parliament is, is where the Speaker is and is where the Speaker proclaims that "this will be Parliament". So, this perception of saying that Parliament must always sit in Kampala is selfish. Next time we can sit anywhere - we can even proclaim the middle of Kampala Road to be Parliament and we shall sit there.

A people-centred Parliament must be responsive to the needs of its citizens or else society will be without effective parliamentary representation. Remember our roles, as Parliament, are: representation, legislation, appropriation and oversight.

The 11th Parliament, right from inception in 2021, vowed to put the people at the centre of the legislative process and its decisions. That is why we are bringing Parliament to the people;

we have brought Parliament to the people. We do not want people to come to Parliament; we have brought it to them.

Legally and procedurally, the regional sittings of Parliament are anchored in Article 95(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995. Some of us were not even there, but the framers understood that at one time we could decide to sit in Gulu, Mbarara or Masaka.

Rule 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda also empowers the Speaker to convene Parliament at such a place and time through a proclamation – which we have already done. You may recall that at the start of today’s sitting, a proclamation was made – and it has always been done. That is why we always sit in Kololo. It is the same legal basis upon which Parliament sits in Kololo Ceremonial Grounds and Kampala Serena Hotel.

In any case, Gulu City, where we are holding this historic sitting, is part of Uganda. Therefore, no one, in their right state of mind, can attempt to deprive the beloved people of Northern Uganda of the opportunity of hosting this landmark sitting. How I pray that those who are boycotting, do not come to Gulu or the greater north only when it is campaign time.

Honourable members, this is the first of the planned four regional sittings that Parliament will host this financial year. In the second quarter, we shall go to another region. The next sitting will be communicated – where we shall be sitting. It may be in the east, west or central. At all these regional sittings, Parliament will prioritise matters of urgent and utmost importance to the specific region hosting the sitting.

Honourable members and the local communities of Northern Uganda will confirm that over the last few weeks, various parliamentary committees have been conducting oversight roles on various areas of service delivery in the region.

The relevant committees will present their reports in the course of the next three days. We will discuss them and appropriate action will be taken by the Executive – and, to confirm all this, that is why the President will be here tomorrow to hear the issues that are arising out of the northern region.

Remember, we have been budgeting for most of these activities. We now need to understand whether there is value for money in whatever we have been appropriating money for. These reports, alongside the various motions, will be exhaustively deliberated upon by the House and resolutions will be passed and transmitted to the relevant Government agencies or departments for action.

Pursuant to Rule 220 of the Rules of Procedure, the House will require actions taken on the reports from the relevant agencies of Government on the status of implementation of the findings from the committees that have been on the ground – and from what we have discussed in this session.

I, therefore, urge Members of Parliament from across the political divide to actively debate and deliberate on the issues affecting this region. We can find solutions for the benefit and well-being of the people of the greater north.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, we encourage all stakeholders to desist from opposing progressive initiatives aimed at fostering cohesion and growth, and embrace unity and cooperation in the furtherance of inclusive decision-making and progress.

Unity is strength. Let us build a Uganda that will work for everybody. You cannot be seen fighting the decision of holding a sitting in an area or Gulu - Gulu – Kaunda Grounds – where the Pope was in 1993 and Gulu, which is on the map of the political history of Uganda, and you say, “We are boycotting”! Well, while it has been boycotted, I see all the Members of Parliament here. I salute you, Members of Parliament. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, over the last few weeks, the Nation has had to contend with some difficulties, notably, the loss of lives and destruction of property at the Kiteezi garbage landfill in Wakiso District.

We also had the demise of Prof. Edward Khiddu Makubuya, a former Member of this House who represented Katikamu South Constituency and was also a minister who served with distinction in different portfolios, including being Minister of State for Luwero Triangle, Minister of Education and Sports, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Attorney-General and then Minister in Charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister. May we rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of the deceased?

(The House rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 August 2024, which is tomorrow, His Excellency, the President will grace this sitting and address the House, and by extension the region and the nation at large, in line with Article 101(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

We should all be here to welcome the President and hear what he has to say to the people of Northern Uganda. We will furnish him with all our findings.

As I said, we should debate with sanity. We should not play to the gallery. Let us go straight to the issues. I know we want some of our voters outside there to see us express the issues, but let us do it honourably; the issues will still be captured.

Honourable members, we have a number of members in the public gallery who have always seen you only on television. We even have some church leaders here. We have cultural leaders who also always only see you on television. I would not mind losing 30 minutes for my Members to just mention their names and their constituencies.

Members, kindly mention your name and constituency. I can see that we are starting with the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. *(Laughter)*

MR OKIN OJARA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Okin P.P. Ojara. I represent the people of Chua West County, Kitgum District. I belong to the FDC Party. I am the Shadow Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ONEKALIT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Onekalit Denis Amere, a Member of Parliament representing the people of Kitgum Municipality. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR AKOL: Madam Speaker, Anthony Akol is my name. I am the Member of Parliament for Kilak North in Amuru District. I am from the FDC Party. Thank you and you are welcome to Gulu and Northern Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LWANGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Lwanga Jimmy. I represent the people of Njeru Municipality. I am a member of the National Unity Platform legally but Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba is my next President. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LUMU: Madam Speaker, my name is Richard Lumu Kizito. I represent the humble people of Mityana South in Mityana District. I am from the Democratic Party.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KAZIBWE: Thank you. I am Hajj Kazibwe Bashir Mbaziira, a Member of Parliament representing the people of Kawempe South. As you can see, I am a proud member of the National Unity Platform. I am also the self-appointed minister in charge

of information, communication and national guidance. (*Laughter*) Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR BWANIKA: Madam Speaker, Article 82(a)(1) clearly says that there shall be a Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. In the absence of the Leader of the Opposition, Dr Abed Bwanika is able, willing and ready. (*Applause*)

I am a Member of Parliament from Kimaanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City and I am from the National Unity Platform.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Dr Abed.

MR OLANYA: Madam Speaker, my name is Gilbert Olanya, the Member of Parliament for Kilak South Constituency in Amuru District. I am the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (Local Government). You are most welcome to the Acholi Subregion, Madam Speaker and all my colleagues. I belong to the mighty FDC Party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSANA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Eric Musana Acaali. I am the Member of Parliament for Buyaga East Constituency, Kagadi District, all the way from Bunyoro Subregion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OKELLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Nelson Okello. I represent the people of Maruzi North County in Apac District. I also double as the Vice-Chairperson of the Lango Parliamentary Group. You are most welcome. I am from the UPC Party. Everywhere UPC! (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ONGIERTHO: Madam Speaker, I am Emmanuel Ongiertho Obonyo Jor, the MP for Jonam in Pakwach District. I am a member of the FDC Party in abeyance.

MR OKOT: Good morning, Madam Speaker. Okot Peter is my name. I represent the hospitable people of Tochi County in Omoro District and I am also the Democratic Party Whip. Thank you.

MR NAMANYA: Thank you. Namanya Naboth is my name. I represent the people of Rubabo Constituency in Rukungiri District, Kigezi Subregion. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS MARGARET LAMWAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Margaret Lamwaka. I represent the people of Chua East, Kitgum District and I am an independent Member of Parliament. Thank you very much and you are welcome to Gulu.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR OTUKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Dr Eunice Otuko Apio. I represent the great people of Oyam County North in Oyam District, Lango Subregion and I am an ardent member of the Uganda People's Congress Party. UPC everywhere!

MS ISODO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Stella Isodo, Woman MP, Ngora District. I am from the FDC Party, headquartered at Najjanankumbi. (*Laughter*) I am the spokesperson of the Teso Parliamentary Group.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR LULUME: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Dr Bayigga Michael Lulume *Ssalongo*. I represent the people of Buikwe South Constituency. I am the Vice Chairman of Buganda Parliamentary Caucus and I belong to the Democratic Party, a party under capture. (*Laughter*)

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR KAGABO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Dr Twaha Kagabo *Mzee*, a member of the National Unity Platform representing the people of Bukoto South, Lwengo District, and the riders and bikers in Uganda.

Allow me to use this singular honour to pass on the message from that team to the legendary, Rt Hon. Jacob Oulanyah, who was a member of the Uganda Bikers Association. May he continue to rest in peace. Jacob, we shall ride with you until we meet again.

THE SPEAKER: Amen.

MR EMIGU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Julius Peter Emigu is my name. I represent the people of Ochero County in Kaberamaido District, a member of the Forum for Democratic Change. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KABUGHO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Florence Kabugho, Woman Member of Parliament for Kasese District, and I belong to the Forum for Democratic Change Party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. I have noticed one thing; the Opposition is sitting on one side yet it is free sitting. Interact with the other side; go ahead.

MS NANYONDO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Veronica Nanyondo, the Woman Member of Parliament for Bukomansimbi District, under the National Unity Platform.

THE SPEAKER: Welcome, *Mugole*.

MR MUHINDO: Madam Speaker, thank you. My name is Harold Muhindo Tonny. I represent the people of Bukonzo County East. I am a member of the Forum for Democratic Change, sitting at plot 6, Katonga Road. *(Laughter)* Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KATO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Alhaji Muhammed Katooto Kato. I represent the people of Katerera County, and I am a member of the mass party, NRM.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

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MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Lwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Madam Speaker, Theodore Ssekikubo is my name. I represent the people of Lwemiyaga County in the Parliament of Uganda. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, I am the chief petitioner of – *(Laughter)* - the motion that was properly processed and handed over to your office. I am glad to be in Gulu because as I sought for signatures with my colleagues, we set up camp here. The people of Gulu, I have come back to you to show you that I never ended up in shame. The signatures were obtained.

Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us have introductions.

MR SSEKIKUBO: Can I be allowed to raise a procedural matter?

THE SPEAKER: Let us have introductions. We are discussing issues regarding the Northern Region. That will be discussed later.

MR SSEKIKUBO: I am much aware, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Yes, next. Honourable members, we have an order of business, and whatever you want to raise will come at an appropriate time. For now, I only want introductions. Can I have the next person?

MR SSEKIKUBO: Through your guidance, Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Ssekikubo, we want our peace in this debate. Yes, peace!

MS ACHAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a representative from this subregion, I thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, your able leadership of Parliament, and my colleagues who are here.

Madam Speaker, at this critical moment we are here to deliberate on issues, and our hearts are bleeding to raise issues. Is it in order for our colleague, Hon. Theodore Ssekikubo, to continue resisting obeying your ruling even after you said that it is only introductions? Madam Speaker, I beg to be guided.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, this session is devoted to the people of Northern Uganda, and for us to discuss issues regarding the Greater North. Let us have respect for the people of the Greater North. Issues that do not concern this region should not be discussed. We have the Kampala House where you can do all the *manyanga*.

MS AOL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Betty Aol Ocan. I am the Member of Parliament for Gulu City. I am here to welcome Parliament to Gulu City. You are all welcome.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OKAE: Madam Speaker, I am Bob Okae, Member of Parliament representing the people of Kwania North County, and I belong to the UPC Party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Bob.

MR OCAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Patrick Ocan, Member of Parliament for Apac Municipality, Apac District in Northern Uganda. I belong to the Uganda People's Congress.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS AUMA: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. My name is Kenny Auma, the Woman Member of Parliament representing the people of Kwania District, and an ardent member of Uganda People's Congress, the party that liberated this country. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Kenny.

MR KOMAKECH: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. My name is Christopher Komakech, the Member of Parliament for

Aruu County, Pader District, which is 130 kilometres from where you are seated, Madam Speaker. I welcome everyone to the land of *Morya*. Welcome!

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS AKELLO: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I am Lucy Akello, representing the warm people of Amuru. I am also the Shadow Minister for East African Community Affairs. Also, as your Chairperson of the Catholic Parliamentary Chaplaincy, I welcome you back from the blessed land of the Vatican, and we receive the blessing from the Pope. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KAMUSIIME: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Caroline Kamusiime, representing the people of Rukiga District in Kigezi Region. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUTEMBULI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Yusuf Mutembuli, Bunyole East County, Butaleja District.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS AGUTI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Sarah Aguti, the Woman Member of Parliament for Dokolo District, and I belong to Uganda People's Congress Party. I welcome you all to Gulu City and Northern Uganda at large. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MOSES OKOT: Madam Speaker, my name is Hon. Moses Okot Junior Bitek, the Legal Secretary of the Forum for Democratic Change, and the vanquished Deputy Speaker of Parliament. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Katonga or –

DR KAMARA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Dr Nicholas Kamara. I am the Member of Parliament representing the people of Kabale

Municipality. I am the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum on Non-Communicable Diseases and these days, and these days I sit at Plot 6, Katonga Road in Kampala. I thank you.

MR SSEBIKAALI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Ssebekaali Joel, a Member of Parliament for Ntwetwe, Kyankwanzi District.

MS NAKAZIBWE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Hope Grania Nakazibwe, Woman Member of Parliament, Mubende District, and the Deputy Chairperson for the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. Thank you.

MS AUMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Auma Linda Agnes, Woman Member of Parliament for Lira District, and the Publicity Secretary for the Lango Parliamentary Group. In Parliament, I am the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries. Welcome to Northern Uganda. Thank you so much.

MS OKOT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Santa Okot, Member of Parliament for Aruu North Constituency. And, you know that I am the greatest Member of Parliament because I represent the whole country. I am the colleague of President Museveni because I am the Acting President of the People's Progressive Party, the Whip of the People's Progressive Party and a shadow minister for special regions. One of these special regions is Northern Uganda. The other areas are Karamoja, Teso Affairs, Luwero triangle, Bunyoro, and recently Busoga was added. Thank you so much and welcome to Gulu.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Members, let us mention the name and the constituency so that we can go to other businesses.

MS BAHIREIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Sylvia Bahireira Tumwekwase and I represent the people of Kamwenge District. Thank you.

MS TUMWINE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, my name is Tumwine Anne, Woman Member of Parliament for Ntoroko District.

MR TWALLA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Twalla Fadil, Member of Parliament for Tingey County, Kapchorwa District.

MR AEKU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Aeku Patrick, I represent the people from Soroti County and I am happy to be in the North. Thank you.

MR KABUURA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Derrick Kabuura, Member of Parliament of Bushenyi-Ishaka Municipality.

MAJ. GEN. MASIKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Maj. Gen. Henry Masiko, representing the UPDF.

LT COL DR ALANYO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Lieutenant Colonel Dr Jennifer Alanyo. I represent Uganda People's Defence Forces. Thank you.

COL DR NEKESA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Colonel Dr Nekesa Victoria. I represent the UPDF in Parliament. Thank you.

LT GEN. ELWELU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Lieutenant General Elwelu is my name, representing the UPDF. Thank you.

MR ITUNGO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Itungo Nathan, Member of Parliament for Kashari South in Mbarara District. Warm greetings from the Ankole Region.

MR SILWANYI: Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable members. I am Silwanyi Solomon, Member of Parliament for Bukooli County Central in Bugiri District, and a backbench Parliamentary Commissioner.

MR BRIGHT TOM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Tom Bright Amooti, representing the people of Kyaka Central, Kyegegwa District, Tooro Kingdom. Thank you.

MR KIIZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Kiiza Acrobert Moses. I represent the people of Bughendera in Bundibugyo. I thank you so much for this gesture. Honourable

colleagues, pray for the people of Bundibugyo; floods are killing us. I thank you.

MS ATUKWASA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Atukwasa Rita. I represent Mbarara City and I am the Secretary General, Ankole Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you, the people of Northern Uganda, for hosting us.

MS NEBANDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker and colleagues. Nebanda Andiru Florence is my name, Woman Representative, Butaleja District, and I am also the Executive Secretary of the Bukedi Subregion Parliamentary Caucus; glad to be here.

MS RWABUSHAIJA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Rwabushaija Margaret Namubiru, Member of Parliament representing the Workers. Thank you.

MR BAKKABULINDI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Charles Bakkabulindi, Workers Member of Parliament, Uganda and NRM. Northern Uganda, we are at home; we are together. Thank you.

MS CHEMUTAI: *Asante Mweshimiwa* Speaker. My name is Chemutai Everlyn. I represent the people of Bukwo District, Sebei Subregion and I am the Vice Chairperson of the Sebei Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you.

MR MUGEMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I am Hon. *Panadol*, and I represent Iganga Municipality. Thank you.

MR MUSHEMEZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Mushemeza Elijah Dickens, a Professor of political science and a Member of Parliament for Sheema County, South.

MR KOLUO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Koluo Joseph Andrew. I represent the lovely people of Toroma County, Katakwi District, in the Teso Subregion.

MR FETA: Madam Speaker, my name is Geoffrey Feta, the Member of Parliament for the Ayivu Division of East Constituency. I bring you greetings from West Nile. I am also

the Chairperson of the West Nile Parliamentary Caucus.

MR RWEMULIKYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, I am Rwemulikya Ibanda Gerald, representing the flooded Ntoroko County, Rwenzori Region, and Gen. Muhoozi is my next president. I thank you.

MS ACAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Joyce Acan is my name. I represent people with disabilities in Parliament. I am a member of the NRM Party. Thank you.

MR KOMOL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Komol Emmanuel from the Northeast, which is in the Karamoja subregion, and I am from the original NRM.

MR MUSEVENI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Museveni William. I represent Buwekula South Constituency in the Mubende District Central Region. I belong to NRM by leaning. Thank you.

MR ASABA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Asaba Paul, Member of Parliament representing Kyaka North, Kyegegwa District, NRM party.

MR WAAKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Mboizi Arthur Waako, Member of Parliament for Budaka Constituency, Budaka District, and the Vice Chairperson Bukedi Parliamentary Caucus.

MR MIGADDE: Madam Speaker, I am Robert Migadde Ndugwa. I am the Member of Parliament for Buvuma Islands, Deputy Chairperson Committee on National Economy, and Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary SACCO.

MR OKABE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Emmanuel Omoding Okabe, representing the people of Serere in Serere District. Thank you.

MS MAKHOHA: Madam Speaker, Makhoha Margaret is my name, Woman Member of Parliament, Namayingo District and

Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children. I am happy to be here.

MR MUSILA: Thank you. Madam Lady Rasta, Musila John, the Rasta man representing the people of Bubulo in southern Bugisu. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, rasta man.

DR OPIO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Dr Samuel Opio Acuti -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Musila, I am not a Lady Rasta (*Laughter.*)

MR MUSILA: Respect, respect, Madam Speaker! Thank you.

DR OPIO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Dr Samuel Opio Acuti, I represent the people of Kole North, I am the Secretary General of Lango Parliamentary Group, and the Deputy Chairperson of the Health Committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ADIDWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Adidwa Abdu, the Member of Parliament for Bukooli South, Namayingo District in the Busoga Region.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS WAAKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Peggy Joy Waako. I represent all old persons in Uganda, and thank you, Gulu, for welcoming us.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS MAVENJINA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, together with the Deputy Speaker and all your team who came up with this best idea of starting to hold regional sittings and for holding the first in my region.

Akumu Catherine Mavenjina is my name. I represent the Northern Region and I am the happiest. My constituency comprises West

Nile, Acholi, Lango, and Karamoja, so I am the happiest. And thank you very much. I welcome all of you to "Wii Polo". That is heaven. Here we call it heaven. So, you are all welcome and you are nearer to God. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS BUSINGYE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Hon. Busingye Peninah Kabingani. I represent all the old people in the Buganda Region. Thank you, Gulu people for welcoming us. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NANDUTU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Agnes Nandutu, the Woman Member of Parliament for Bududa District, a former State Minister for Karamoja Affairs, and a former *Speaker of the People's Parliament*. I am happy to be in Gulu District. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KATENYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Katenya Isaac, the Member of Parliament for Bulambuli County in the Bugisu Subregion, the land of circumcision. Thank you.

MS BARODA: Madam Speaker, my name is Kayanga Baroda Watangola, the Member of Parliament for Kamuli Municipality.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ISAMAT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Amb. Dr Isamat Abraham. I represent the people of Kapir County, Ngora District in Teso Subregion, and I am a member of the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUSA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Dr Musa Noah, the Member of Parliament for Koboko North Consistency in Koboko District in West Nile. I am also the General Secretary of the West Nile Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR RWAKAJARA: Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, I am Arinaitwe Rwakajara Katambuka in Northern Uganda. I am also called Obama. I am the only MP who gets 100 per cent votes from Northern Uganda. I represent workers. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KAKEMBO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Ssalongo Kakembo Michael Mbwaterkamwa. I represent the people of the Entebbe Municipality. I belong to the mighty National Unity Platform.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KATALI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Hon. Loy Katali from Jinja.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Loy.

MR KYOBE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Eng. Kyobe Luke Inyesinko, MP for Luuka North, Busoga Subregion. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, so much.

MR GAFABUUSA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Richard Gafabusa, Member of Parliament, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo District. I belong to the mass party, the NRM. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS MBAYO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Esther Mbayo. I represent the people of Luuka District, Busoga Subregion.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NDAMIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Ndamira Catheline Atwakiire, the Woman MP for Kabale District, and the NRM whip, Kigezi Subregion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LEKU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Leku Joel, MP Terego West. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR AYUME: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Dr Charles Ayume, the Member of Parliament for Koboko Municipality.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, doctor.

MR KATUNTU: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My name is Abdu Katuntu, the District man, MP for Bugweri District from Busoga Subregion. Thanks to the people of Gulu for welcoming us.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KATUNTU: Formerly Forum for Democratic Change (FDC).

THE SPEAKER: Now in the NRM?
(Laughter)

MR ORONE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Orone Derrick, the Member of Parliament, Gogonyo County and the regional whip for Bukedi Region. Madam Speaker, welcome back from Rome.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KARUBANGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. David Karubanga is my name. I represent the people of Kigorobya County in Hoima District.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Daudi.

MR NYANGWESO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Denis Nyangweso. I represent Samai-Bugwe Central County in Busia District and I am proudly independent. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KARUHANGA: Madam Speaker, the people of Rwampara East have told me to thank

you for this innovative legislative agenda. My name is Julius Tusiime Karuhanga. I represent the people of Rwampara East Constituency.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OKIROR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Bosco Okiror, a Member of Parliament representing the people of Usuk County. That is the US and UK, you can only find it in Katakwi District in the Teso Subregion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ATUGONZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Allan Atugonza, the Member of Parliament representing Buliisa County in Buliisa District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS GALIWANGO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Nakayenze Connie Galiwango, a Woman MP, Mbale City. Thank you for this innovation.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS ABEJA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Abeja Susan Jolly, the Woman MP, Otake District.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Jolly.

MR OJOK: Madam Speaker and colleagues, my name is Ojok Andrew Oulanyah. I represent Omoro County in Omoro District, the last-born child of Gulu District. We were very honoured to have you yesterday, and Omoro is very happy to host you in Gulu.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR AKUGIZIBWE: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I am Akugizibwe Aled Ronald, Member of Parliament of Buruli County, Masindi District, Bunyoro Subregion. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KABUUSU: Madam Speaker, my name is Moses Kabuusu. I am a Member of the Parliament for Kyamuswa. Madam Speaker, Kyamuswa is in Kalangala District in Lake Victoria, in the Northern Region here. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KABUUSU: Madam Speaker, I am in the transitional party. Formerly FDC, now transitioning to a new party.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NAKADAMA: Madam Speaker, I thank you so much. I am Nakadama Rukia Isanga. I am the Woman Member of Parliament for Mayuge District in Busoga. I am the Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without a Portfolio. And right now I am representing the Office of the Prime Minister. I thank you. People of Gulu, thank you, for welcoming us.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Can we start from behind, then the front bench does it last? Madam Prime Minister, you will introduce yourself again.

MS ACHAN: Madam Speaker, I bring you greetings from my lovely people of Nwoya District. My name is Judith Peace Achan. I am the District Woman Member of Parliament for Nwoya and the Vice-Chair of the Anglican Chaplaincy and the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Persons with Disability.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

FR ONEN: Madam Speaker and colleagues, I am Rev. Fr Charles Onen, representing the people of Laro-Pece Division, Gulu City. You are most welcome.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR AZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Alero Tom Aza, the Member of Parliament for West Moyo County, Moyo District, West Nile. At the same time, I am the Chairperson of the Madi Parliamentary Forum. Thank you very much.

DR BHOKA: Madam Speaker, Dr Bhoka Didi George is my name. I am the Member of Parliament for Obongi Constituency, Obongi District in West Nile. I am also the Vice-Chairperson of the West Nile Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you.

MS KABAHENDA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My name is Kabahenda Flavia Rwabuhoro. I represent the people of Kyegegwa District. I am a founding member and the Chairperson of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection. I thank you.

MS PACUTO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Avur Jane Pacuto. I am the Woman Member of Parliament for Pakwach District.

Madam Speaker, I humbly beg that the proposed sitting in the middle of Kampala Road be taken to Pakwach District, along the Nile so that our economy can as well improve, like the one of Gulu. Thank you.

MS MANENO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Maneno Zumura, the Woman Member of Parliament for Obongi; the only district without electricity in this country. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable minister of energy is here. Yes?

MS MENYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Aciro Paska Menya. I am the Woman Representative for Pader District. You are most welcome to the Acholi Subregion.

MS ALYEK: Good morning, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. I am Judith Alyek, Member of Parliament for Kole District. I am the Chairperson of the Lango Parliamentary Group. I am also the Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities in the Parliament of Uganda. Greetings from Kole District and the people of Lango Subregion. You are most welcome to the northern region, Madam Speaker. Thank you.

MR KITANYWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Kitanywa Sowedi is my name. I represent the people of Busongora County North in Kasese District.

MS ENGOLA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Betty Engola, the Woman Member of Parliament for Apac District; certainly NRM.

MR BYANYIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Nathan Byanyima, Bukanga North County in Isingiro District. I am happy to be in Northern Uganda. I thank you.

MR ETUKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Etuka Isaac Joakino, Member of Parliament, Upper Madi County, West Nile Subregion. Thank you.

MS BUSINGE: Madam Speaker, I am Businge Harriet Mugenyi Akiiki. I represent the people of Hoima District.

MS KISEMBO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Kitembo Basemera Noeline. I represent the people of Kibaale District in Bunyoro Subregion.

MR AMOS OKOT: Good morning. I am Okot John Amos, the Member of Parliament for Agago North County. You are most welcome to the Acholi Subregion. Glory be to the Almighty God. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Amen.

MS CHRISTINE AKELLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Christine Akello, Member of Parliament for Erute North Constituency, Lira District. I belong to the mighty party, NRM; steady progress. Thank you.

MS RUTH LEMATIA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for making this wonderful decision. Gulu has always been the headquarters of the northern region. Today, we are able to realise this wonderful opportunity of

holding a parliamentary sitting in the northern region; we are grateful to you.

My name is Lematia Ruth Molly Ondoru. I represent the people of Maracha East in Maracha District in the West Nile Subregion. Thank you very much.

MR TUMWESIGYE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Tumwesigye Josephat. I represent the people of Bugangaizi South in Kakumiro District. I am also the district NRM Chairperson, and at the same time, the Chief Whip of the Bunyoro Parliamentary Caucus.

DR KUGONZA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Dr Emely Kugonza, Member of Parliament for Buyanja East County in Kibaale District, Bunyoro Subregion. I am very pleased to be here in Gulu.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Doctor.

MS ACHAYO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Achayo Juliet Lodou, Member of Parliament for Ngora County.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, *Achi*.

MR RWABURINDORE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Rwaburindore Bishanga Tarsis is my name. I represent the people of Ibanda Municipality. Thank you for bringing us to Gulu.

MR ONZIMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Onzima Godfrey. I represent the People of Aringa North County in Yumbe District and I am on the NRM ticket.

MR ALINGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Chelangat Alinga Solomon is my name. I represent the people of Too County in Bukwo District, Sebei Subregion. I am a member of the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

MS PAPARU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Paparu Lillian Obiale, the Woman Member of Parliament for Arua District.

MR JOHN LEMATIA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is John Lematia. I represent the people of Ayivu Division West, Arua City in the West Nile Subregion. I am happy to be in Gulu.

MR AFIDRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Afridra Olema Ronald. I represent the people of Lower Madi from Madi-Okollo District. Madam Speaker, I would like to disagree with Hon. Avur on the issue of having the next parliamentary sitting in Kampala; it should be taken to Madi-Okollo.

THE SPEAKER: We shall discuss that. Hansard, please have everything recorded. We need to know the people who are in Gulu.

MS MAGOOLA: Madam Speaker, my name is Racheal Magoola, the Woman Member of Parliament for Bugweri District and the Chairperson for the Parliamentary Forum for the Creative Industry. Thank you.

MS ACIBU: Madam Speaker, Acibu Agnes is my name. I am the Woman Representative for Nebbi District, in the West Nile Subregion. Thank you.

MS DRIWARU: Madam Speaker, I am Driwaru Jennifer, the District Woman MP for Maracha District in West Nile and I belong to the mighty party, NRM. Thank you.

MS ATUTO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Atuto Jacinta. I represent the people of Kapelebyong in the Teso Subregion and by the grace of God, I am the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Climate Change. I am humbled to be here. Thank you.

MS ANIKU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Joanne Aniku Okia. I represent the people of Madi-Okollo District as their Woman MP. Thank you.

DR BUKENYA: Madam Speaker, Dr Michael Bukenya from the “gold city” of Bukuya in Kassanda, Buganda Region.

MR ACON: Madam Speaker, I thank you all. My name is Julius Acon Bua, the Member of Parliament for Otuke East Constituency in Lango Subregion. I also represent people who are Olympians for life. I am also the treasurer for the Lango Parliamentary Group. Thank you.

MS AFOYOCHAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Esther Afoyochan, the Woman Member of Parliament for Zombo District and a Parliamentary Commissioner.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SONGA: Madam Speaker, welcome back from the holy city. My name is Songa Lawrence Biyika, Member of Parliament for Ora County in Zombo District and also the Chairperson of the Committee on Climate Change. The people of Zombo asked me to tell you that in this meeting we should conclude the issue of tarmacking the road to Zombo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister for Northern Uganda Affairs, I hope you are hearing.

MS PHYLLIS CHEMUTAI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Chemutai Phyllis, Woman Member of Parliament, Kapchorwa District, a special district where Olympic gold medallists come from. Thank you.

MR TIMUZIGU: I am Timuzigu Micheal Kamugisha, Member of Parliament for Kajara County, NRM, Ntungamo District. Thank you.

MR BATARINGAYA: Madam Speaker, I am Bataringaya Basil Rwankwene. I represent the people of Kashari North in Mbarara District, which has been denied electricity. I am also the NRM Whip for the Ankole subregion and Chairperson of the Ankole Parliamentary Group. Thank you.

MR NABETA-IGEME: Madam Speaker, I am Nathan Nabeta-Igeme, representing Jinja City South-East Constituency, and a member of the NRM. Thank you.

MS CHERUKUT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Emma Rose Cherukut is my name. I am the District Woman Member of Parliament, Kween in the Sebei region. *Asante Sana*.

MR BAGIIRE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Aggrey Henry Bagiire is my name. I represent the people of Bunya County West, Mayuge District. I am also the Chairperson of the NRM party in the district. When I joined this House, my people who had gathered somewhere watching us and told me to share with you and the entire august House about their problems associated with the lake; the fishing community is still suffering. Thank you.

MS NAKUT: Madam Speaker, I am Nakut Faith, the Woman Member of Parliament for Napak District and the Treasurer of the NRM Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you for bringing Parliament to the people of Northern Uganda.

MR MUTIWA: Madam Speaker, Mutiwa Geoffrey Eric is my name. I represent the people of Bunyole West Constituency, Butaleja District. Thank you.

MR OLOBO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. James Olobo Dubai is my name. I represent the people of Kioga North, Amolatar District, the centre of Uganda.

MR BINGI: Thank you, Madam Speaker and Members. Bingi Patrick Nyanzi is my name. I represent the people of Butemba County, Kyakwanzi District, and I am from the NRM.

MR KANGWANGYE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Stephen Kangwagye Rwakanuma. I represent the people of Bukanga Constituency, Isingiro District in Ankole Subregion and I come from the most affected and hard-to-reach district due to the lack of a good from Isingiro to Rakai. You are most welcome, people.

MR ARIKO: Madam Speaker, my name is Herbert Edmund Ariko, the Member of Parliament for Soroti City East, the Chairperson of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I thank you for this very wise idea

of us coming to sit closer to the people. I thank you.

MR SSEMWANGA: Madam Speaker, my name is Ssemwanga Gyaviira. I represent Buyamba County in the Rakai District, the only district with two lakes, that is Lake Kachera and Lake Kijanebarola. The beauty of it is that we supply water to the first district, Kiruhura and yet in Rakai, we do not have piped water. Thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Take note of that. Honourable members, now you see the beauty of this sitting. In the northern region, we are going to discuss issues pertaining to the North. When we go to sit in Masaka, we will discuss issues pertaining to that particular region and they must be resolved before we leave. Please go ahead.

MR SSENTAYI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Ssentayi Muhamad. I represent the people of Bukoto West, Lwengo District. I am NRM.

MS KOYEKYENGA: Madam Speaker, my name is Katwesigye Oliver Koyekyenga. I represent the people of the Buhweju District in this Parliament. Thank you.

MS KEMIREMBE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Kemirembe Pauline Kyaka, Woman Member of Parliament for Lyantonde in the central region and I am from the NRM Party. Thank you.

MS SHARIFAH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Taban Sharifah Aate, Woman Member of Parliament, Koboko District. Welcome to Northern Uganda. Thank you.

MR KATALIHWANA: Madam Speaker, my name is Donald Katalihwa Byabazaire, Member of Parliament Mwenje South, Kyenjojo District. Thank you.

MS NKUNDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Kinshaba Patience Nkunda. I am the Kanungu District Woman Member of Parliament, who represents the people who

are now suffering because of the problems in the tea sector. We need the Government to intervene. Thank you.

MR BONIFACE OKOT: Salutations, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. I am Boniface Okot, the Member of Parliament representing the youth of Northern Uganda. I am also the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Trade, Tourism and Industries. Warm regards from the youth of Northern Uganda.

MS MUGUMYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Clare Mugumya, the Woman Member of Parliament for Isingiro District. I am delighted to be here and warm greetings from the people of Isingiro District. Thank you.

MR KANKUNDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Amos Kankunda. I represent the people of Rampara County in Rampara District in Greater Ankole. I am the Chairperson of the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Parliament. I am glad to be in Gulu and be blessed for spearheading this decision. Thank you.

MR THEMBO: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for affording us this opportunity in Gulu. I am Thembo Gideon Mujungu. I represent the people of Busongora South Kasese, Rwenzori Subregion. I belong to the mighty party.

MR DAVIS KAMUKAMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Kamukama Davis. I represent the people of Bunyangabu County, Bunyangabu District, Rwenzori Subregion and I belong to the mighty NRM party. Thank you.

MR WAKIKONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Wakikona David. Coming back to Acholi, Gulu where I worked - we stayed for five years here and they called me *Munu*. Thank you. I represent the people of Bushigai Constituency, Bududa. And the years, I cannot imagine. Thank you.

MS KAHUNDE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Kahunde Helen. I represent Kiryandongo District in the Bunyoro Subregion.

MR JOSEPH KOMOL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Komol Joseph Miidi. I represent the people of Dodoth North, Kaabong District, as their Member of Parliament. I am a member of the mighty NRM party. Welcome to Northern Uganda. Thank you.

MR ISABIRYE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Al-Haji Iddi Isabirye. I represent the people of Bunya County South in Mayuge District. I am the Chairperson, Busoga Parliamentary Caucus and also the Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance.

Madam Speaker, about this sitting, my people said that they will also directly benefit if we talk about the suffering fishing communities on Lake Kyoga. Thank you.

MR EZAMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Ezama Siraji Brahan is my name. I am the Member of Parliament for Aringa County, Yumbe District in West Nile. I am affiliated to the mighty NRM party.

MR NGOYA: Madam Speaker, my name is Ngoya John Bosco, the Member of Parliament for Bokora in Napak.

MR YERI: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My name is Apollo Yeri Ofwono. I represent the people of Tororo Municipality, Tororo District. I am also the Chairperson of the National Resistance Movement, Tororo District.

MS AWAS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Awas Sylvia Vicky. I represent the people of Nabilatuk District, where the floods have been constant with the Government not attending to my people. Thank you very much.

MR MUTEBI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Mutebi Noah Wanzala, the Member of Parliament for Nakasongola County, Nakasongola District, on the NRM ticket. I am the Vice-Chairperson of the Seventh-Day Adventist Parliamentary Association. Thank you.

MR SULAIMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Hashim Sulaiman, the Member of Parliament for Nebbi Municipality in the West Nile subregion. Thank you.

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Isaac Ismail Otingiw, representing the people of Padyere County. I would also like to add my voice to the urgent need of tarmacking Nebbi-Goli Road.

MR KAZINI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Kazini Francis Twinomujuni, the Member of Parliament for Buhaguzi County in Kikuube District, Bunyoro subregion and a member of the NRM party. Greetings from Kikuube.

MR LOKWANG ILUKOL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Lokwang Philiphs Ilukol, Member of Parliament for Napore West Constituency, the host of the second tourist destination in Africa. We are waiting for the tarmacking of the road, which was recently approved. They need an update.

MR LAGEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Lagen David. I am the Member of Parliament representing the people of Agago County. The people of Agago are very happy about this regional sitting but on a sad note, some of them have been displaced by floods. Therefore, they expect this regional Parliament to discuss those issues so that the Government can respond immediately. I thank you.

MS BEGUMISA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this great innovation. I am Pastor Mary Begumisa, the Woman Member of Parliament for the good people of Ssembabule District.

MR SSEJJOBA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Isaac Ssejjoba, the Member of Parliament for Bukoto County Mid-West in Lwengo District. Madam Speaker, thank you for being patriotic, thinking straight, and being strong. We are also waiting for you in Masaka City.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MUTUMBA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Mutumba Abdul, the Member of Parliament representing the people of Kiboga West County in Kiboga District and the Imam of the Muslim Parliamentary Caucus.

MS KUNIHIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Agnes Kunihira Abwooli, the Member of Parliament representing workers and also the Chairperson, Committee on Gender, Labour, and Social Development.

MR NKWASIBWE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Nkwasiibwe Henry Zinkuratire is my name. I represent the people of Ruhaama Constituency, Ntungamo District.

MR KAMUKAMA: Madam Speaker, my name is Kamukama Benjamin Katangura. I represent the people of Ruhaama East in Ntungamo District.

MS RWAKOOJO: Madam Speaker, I am Rwakoojo Robina Gureme, Member of Parliament for Gomba West. I am from the NRM.

MS APOLOT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Apollo Christine, Woman Representative, Kumi. Thank you.

MS SENDAWULA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Sendawula Christine Bukenya, a woman representative from Kyankwanzi District and, also the Chairperson LC I for the national political school. Greetings from that village.

MS BIGIRWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Bigirwa Norah Nyendwoha, representing the people of Buliisa District in Bunyoro subregion. Madam Speaker, I request that we handle the issue of animals and the problems facing the fishing communities while we are in Gulu. Thank you very much.

MS LAMWAKA: Madam Speaker, my name is Catherine Lamwaka, the Woman Member of Parliament for Omoro District. I warmly welcome you to this region. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Cathy.

DR MAGOLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Dr Magolo John Faith is my name. I am the Member of Parliament for Bungokho North in Mbale District, Bugisu Subregion.

MS KINOBERE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Kinobere Herbert, the Member of Parliament for Kibuku and also the Vice-Chairperson of the NRM Parliamentary Caucus in Parliament. At the same time, I was appointed the Chairperson, Board of Uganda Network of AIDS Service Organisations (UNASO). I want to encourage colleagues to visit UNASO offices in their respective regions. There are better opportunities for us. Thank you.

MS AVAKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for bringing Parliament to the people of Greater North. My name is Avako Melisa Naima Gule, the Woman Member of Parliament for Yumbe District; the district that continues to host the largest number of refugees in Africa and yearning to see that Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo Road is constructed under the Refugee Response Programme, funded by World Bank.

I am also the regional coordinator for the West Nile Parliamentary Caucus, and, I affiliate with the NRM Party. Thank you.

MR WOKORACH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Simon Peter Wokorach. I represent the people of Aswa Constituency in the 11th Parliament of the Republic of Uganda. I am happy that some of the leaders from my constituency are here. Others are watching on television and others are listening in on radio. You are most welcome.

MS AVAKO: Madam Speaker, allow me to make a correction. I am a Member of the NRM Party. Thank you.

MR AWANY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Tony Awany is my name, the Member of Parliament representing the people of Nwoya County. I am the Deputy-Chairperson,

Committee on Physical Infrastructure of Parliament.

MS ABABIKU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Ababiku Jesca, the Woman Member of Parliament for Adjumani District, a member of NRM and an Executive Member of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU), West Nile Chapter.

Adjumani is now flooded. Rt Hon. Prime Minister, I wish you could assign people to go to Adjumani. We lost a person two days ago in Arinyapi Sub-county. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Madam Speaker, I am Dan Kimosho, the Member of Parliament for Kazo County and the Chairperson of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure in Parliament.

Madam Speaker, this being our first sitting in regions and Northern Uganda, I request that we consider a motion to thank Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) for galvanising and returning peace to this region. With the able leadership of President Museveni and aware that the final assault was done in Garamba by Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, that should also be rightly captured in the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: So, are you bringing a motion without notice?

MR ATWIJUKIRE: With your permission, Madam Speaker, I will bring the motion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: We can have the motion on the Order Paper tomorrow.

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MR BIRAARO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Biraaro Ephraim Ganshanga, Member of Parliament, Buhweju West County, Buhweju District, Ankole Region.

Buhweju is the only district I know with no inch of a tarmac road and suffering under the tea sector neglected by the Government. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Of course, in that motion, the Commander-in-Chief is the first person to be recognised.

MS MULONI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Eng. Irene Nafuna Muloni, Woman Member of Parliament for Bulambuli District. It is a pleasure being in this beautiful Gulu City and thank you for making it happen. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MAJ. (RTD) DR OKULLU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Retired Major Doctor Aabuka Okullo Jallon Anthony, NRM Member of Parliament for Lamwo County.

The people of Lamwo County would like to thank the President and Commander-in-Chief for stationing a brigade in my constituency to protect them from South Sudan raiders. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR NANGOLI: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My name is Gerald Nangoli, Member of Parliament, Elgon North County in Bulambuli District, Bugisu Subregion. I am also the Vice-Chairperson of the Bugisu Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ANGURA: A very good morning to you, Madam Speaker. My name is Angura Fredrick, Member of Parliament for Tororo South County.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR WANDWASI: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I am Wandwasi Robert, Member of Parliament representing the people of Bungokho County South in Mbale District, Bugisu Subregion. I am happy to be in Gulu.

MS BALMOYI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Laker Sharon Balmoyi, the Woman Member of Parliament for Gulu District. I would like to thank you and His Excellency, for allowing this first historical event of bringing Parliament to the people; to Gulu City.

Warm greetings from the people of Gulu. We have been eagerly waiting for this day and it is good it has come to pass. We love you, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, for making it here.

Madam Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to thank the President, you, the Speaker, honourable ministers and colleagues for having stood with me when I lost my husband last month. Thank you all for the support that you rendered to my family. We will forever remain grateful. May God bless you all. Thank you for coming. Feel at Gulu, feel at home.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Sharon.

MR SEKYANZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Sekyanzi Bernard Kirya is my name. I represent the people of Budyebbo County in Nakasongola District.

Madam Speaker, I would like to correct my colleague “Dubai” who said that the centre of this country is in Amolatar. It is in Nakasongola –(Laughter) - in my constituency. He is just a neighbour. Another thing –

THE SPEAKER: Can we you move faster?

MR SEKYANZI: Yesterday, one of our escort cars knocked a child in my constituency at Nakitoma but they did not identify this escort car. So, colleagues, I request – and by the way, they did not stop yet this is a very poor family. We need to help them.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Bernard, how did you know that it was our escort car?

MR SEKYANZI: They called and talked to me over the phone when I was here.

THE SPEAKER: We have always agreed on evidence-based information. How did you know it was –

MR SEKYANZI: I will table the evidence.

THE SPEAKER: How did you know that it was one of our escort cars? As far as I know, God was with us and so, none of our escort cars got into an accident while coming over. We thank God for that. Unless another car but not the one for any of my Members or Parliament.

MR OCHWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Ochwa David. I represent the people of Agule, Pallisa District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Bernard, accidents are not reported in the plenary. They are reported to police. Nevertheless, where we can be able to help through a Member of Parliament of the region, then we shall help. Otherwise, accidents are reported to the Police and not to Parliament.

MR OGWAL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Ogwal Goli. I am the Member of Parliament for Dokolo North, a constituency which is dark without electricity.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KABASHARIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Naome Kabasharira. I represent Rushenyi County in Ntungamo District. Thank you for this wise indirect roll calling.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KATUSIIME: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Katusiime Annet Mugisha, the Woman Member of Parliament for Bushenyi District. I am happy to be here.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS BASHIISHA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Agasha Juliet Bashiisha is my name. I represent the people of Mitooma District. I am glad to be here.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MODOI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I represent the disaster-prone constituency of Lutsheshe in Bududa, which has been demanding the tarmacking of the circular road to Bubulo but with no avail. I am called Modoi Isaac.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR RUTAHIGWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues. My name is Dr Rutahigwa Elisa, Member of Parliament, Rukungiri Municipality.

Madam Speaker, I would like to request that the parliamentary sitting for Western Uganda takes place in Rukungiri.

THE SPEAKER: In Rukungiri? *(Laughter)*
Thank you.

DR NINKUSIIMA: Madam Speaker, I am Dr Ninkusiima John Paul “Panadol”, Member of Parliament, Ibanda South. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, “Panadol.”

MR LOLEM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Micah Lolem Akasile. I represent the people of Upe County in the Amudat District, a community, which still survives on a health centre II and has never seen something called a tarmac road. I am a yellow “Karachuna”

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Karachuna.

MS OPENDI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Sarah Opendi, Member of Parliament for Tororo District, Bukedi Subregion.

I would like, in a special way, to thank the people of Gulu for enacting the Alcohol Ordinance in 2017. They noted the dangers of alcohol; how alcohol was negatively affecting their people. I hope that this Parliament, in future, can reconsider the Alcohol Control Bill.

MR LOCHAP: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Peterkhen Lochap, Member of Parliament for Bokora East –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, Order! Let us listen. Hon. Sarah and I stay at the border, so we are used to smuggling in our issues.

MR LOCHAP: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Peterkhen Lochap, Member of Parliament for Bokora East County, Napak District, Karamoja Subregion. I am a member of the only mighty party, the National Resistance Movement (NRM). Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Peterkhen Lochap.

MR ECWERU: Madam Speaker, my name is Musa Ecweru. I am a Member of Parliament for Amuria County in Teso Subregion, and by the grace of God, Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Transport, in charge of works. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR OTAALA: Madam Speaker, my name is Dr Emmanuel Otiam Otaala, Member of Parliament for West Budama South Constituency in Tororo District, Bukedi Subregion, the only subregion in Uganda that is yet to get its city. I thank the Minister of Local Government for giving me the assurance that the city is coming. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. City for Tororo?

DR OTAALA: Yes, city for Bukedi Subregion at Tororo.

THE SPEAKER: But Hon. Sarah Opendi wants a district.

MR WANDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Richard Wanda, Member of Parliament for Bungokho Central in Mbale. I am also the Chairperson of the Bugisu Parliamentary Group and the NRM Whip for Bugisu Subregion. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR NULU BYAMUKAMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Nulu Byamukama.

I represent the people of Kitagwenda County in Kitagwenda District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LOKERIS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Peter Teko Lokeris, Minister for Karamoja Affairs from Chekwii East County in Nakapiripirit District, Karamoja.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

MS MUHEESI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Jennifer Muheesi, the Woman Member of Parliament for Kazo District, and I am blessed to be here.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MAGYEZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Raphael Magyezi, the Minister of Local Government. For clarification, I have not assured Dr Otaala about a city; that is the mandate of Parliament, not of a minister. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS TAAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Agnes Taaka, Woman Member of Parliament, Bugiri.

Listening to Members here, I thank you for this innovation, but I pray that we have another innovation where every Member gets an opportunity in the whole sitting to have something to say. It seems Members have a lot of issues in their hearts. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, remember we sit from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. We have 556 Members. If we can, we can start sitting at six in the morning and end at six in the evening, so that everybody has a piece of what to say. But for now, when we come to your region, we shall customise it to you; be the ones to speak about your issues.

MR MUWUMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Milton Kalulu Muwuma, Member

of Parliament for Kigulu County South, Iganga, NRM.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Muwuma.

MS KUNIHIRA: Madam Speaker, I thank you for two things today. First, for bringing Parliament to the people. Secondly, for sharing a picture of yourself and the twins in *the New Vision* today. My name is Faith Philo Kunihira, Woman Member of Parliament for the mighty district of Kyenjojo. We are also praying for a municipality. Minister of Local Government, when you bring those other issues, think about us.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS ACORA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Nancy Odonga Acora. I represent the wise people of Lamwo District, bordering South Sudan, one of the refugee-hosting districts in Northern Uganda. I take this singular honour to welcome you to Acholi, the land of *mwo yaa* and *odii*.

However, on a special note, Madam Speaker, the people of Lamwo, particularly my civil servants – I got a call this morning that from the onset of this quarter, our district has not got money disbursed to the subcounty.

Secondly, the issue of –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Acora, you will have that time to compliment what the Minister of Northern Uganda is going to present.

MS ACORA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to submit. You are most welcome.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS ATYANG: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this initiative of regional parliamentary sittings. My name is Stella Atyang. I represent the people of Moroto District. I pray that the next regional parliamentary sitting for Northern Uganda is taken to Moroto District, Karamoja Subregion, so that the Karamojong can have the feel of the regional sittings. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we are going to have this annually, by God's grace. Now, if this time we have sat in Gulu, next time we will sit in another place in the North. After the first round of four regions, the next one will be in another place. We shall not repeat it in Gulu. So, you never know, it may come to Moroto or Lira. We can even take it to Hon. Avur's constituency.

MS ALEPER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Margaret Achilla Aleper, Member of Parliament representing the people of Kotido District in Karamoja Subregion and member of NRM.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Stephen Mugabi Baka. I represent Bukooli County North in Bugiri. I am NRM. I am also the Chairperson of the Sectoral Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.

Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the committee that exercises oversight over Parliament, I wish to thank you for this historic initiative and for that reason, Parliament is becoming exciting. Remember I had said that Baka is gone, but now I am saying Baka is back - (*Laughter*) - such that Bugiri could also get an opportunity in the next Parliament when I am there.

Additionally, my quick observation is that we are moving very well and we are very proud of you as a committee. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Baka, and thank you for coming back. Welcome back.

MR ESENU: Madam Speaker, first of all, congratulations upon the papal blessings that you received with the twins, and thank you for organising these innovative regional parliamentary meetings. Anthony Eсенu is my name, Member of Parliament for Kapelebyong, and I am very happy to be here. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Anthony Eсенu. Frontbench –

GEN. MUHOOZI: Madam Speaker, I am Gen. David Muhoozi and I represent the UPDF. I am also the Minister of State for Internal Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Gen. Muhoozi.

MR KABYANGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Godfrey Baluku Kabbyanga, Minister of State for Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance and also the coordinator for the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU), Rwenzori Region.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS KITUTU: Madam Speaker, welcome back from the Holy Sea. I am Mary Goretti Kitutu, representing the people of Manafwa District, a member of the NRM party.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LOKWANG: Madam Speaker, I welcome my colleagues to Kidepo Valley National Park for the Karamoja cultural event taking place beginning Monday for the entire week. My name is Hillary Lokwang. I represent the people of Ik County in Kaabong District, Karamoja Subregion where there is no power and network. I thank you.

MR ABRAHAMS LOKII: Madam Speaker, Loki Peter Abrahams, Member of Parliament for Jie County, Kotido District.

MR JOHN BAPTIST LOKII: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We congratulate you for visiting the Pope and bringing the Papal blessings to the 11th Parliament. Everyone here has got a piece of that blessing by osmosis.

My name is John Baptist Lokii. I am the Member of Parliament for Matheniko County in Moroto District, Karamoja Subregion. I am NRM Parliamentary Whip for Karamoja Subregion.

The youth of school going age in Karamoja are saying, they need primary boarding schools so that these young people can remain at school

and stop moving with animals from place to place. Thank you.

DR RUYONGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Dr Joseph Ryonga, representing people of the Hoima West in Hoima City. I am the Chairperson Committee on Health. Greetings from Bunyoro. They request that the next sitting be held in the beautiful Hoima Oil City. Thank you.

MR MWESIGWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Mwesigwa Robert Rukaari, Mbarara City North.

MR MAPENDUZI: Madam Speaker, my name is Ojara Martin Mapenduzi, Member of Parliament for Bardege-Layibi Division, where Parliament is sitting today. I also chair the Committee on Public Service and Local Government. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for bringing Parliament to the North and welcome to Gulu where God lives.

I am very happy that the honourable minister, Musa Ecweru is here today. He had promised to come to Gulu to see the road that was poorly designed by UNRA and claims lives almost weekly. Honourable minister, the road is right there on your right and it runs from Bank of Uganda to custom corner. Probably, you will take time to work with your team to do the needful. Thank you very much.

MR NYONGORE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Greetings from Nakaseke North. My name is Enock Nyongore, Member of Parliament, Nakaseke North.

MR NSEGUMIRE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Nsegumire Kibedi Muhamad, representing Mityana North Constituency from Buganda region.

MR CHEMASWET: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This is Kisos Chemaswet, Member of Parliament for Soi Constituency in Kween District. Madam Speaker, you did well to bring me back to my home in Gulu. Unfortunately, I reached the barracks and my house was not there anymore and it was not secured.

On 20 August 2024, I wrote a letter to you. Remember very well, in any move, there is a remove. Madam Speaker, as Hon. Ssekikubo was speaking, I was still waiting for your reply that I informed you that I am withdrawing from that motion that was moved by him. There are various Members who have volunteered to withdraw based on the fact that the court had already decided on it.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Chemaswet, that is not in the Order Paper of today. Let us discuss issues pertaining Northern Uganda.

MR OSEKU: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As I introduce myself, I beg your indulgence to acknowledge and appreciate the leadership and the people of Gulu City for the cleanliness that we have observed in this city. We thank you very much. I am Richard Oseku Oriebo, representing Kibale County in Pallisa District, and also the chairperson of the Bukedi Parliamentary Caucus. Thank you very much.

MR JACOB KARUBANGA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Jacob Karubanga Ateenyi, NRM, a representative of the people of Kibanda South County in Kiryandongo District, and also chairperson, Bunyoro Parliamentary Caucus. I join the rest in congratulating you upon the peaceful visit to the holy city.

I also pray that the issue of animals around Murchison Falls National Park be resolved this time here. I know it will also greatly help the mid-western region along Karuma Wildlife Reserve. I thank you.

MR NSABABUTURO: Madam Speaker, I am Nsaba Buturo. I represent people of Bufumbira East in Kisoro District, popularly known as the pearl of Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, elder.

MR MAMAWI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. James Mamawi is my name, Member of Parliament from Adjumani East Constituency, where Zoka Forest is, which needs the attention of the Government now. Thank you.

MR GEOFFREY OKELLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Geoffrey Okello Charles, the Member of Parliament representing people of Nwoya East County. I would like to welcome you on behalf of the people of Nwoya, who also expect that Parliament this time will be decisive over issues of elephants and the non-payment of health workers in my constituency. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We even lost somebody yesterday in Nwoya. A child was killed by an elephant. So, honourable minister, take note.

MS OLERU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Oleru Huda Abason. I represent the people of Aringa East County in Yumbe District. I am also the State Minister of Defence in charge of Veteran Affairs, representing the Ministry of Defence.

MR OCHERO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Ochero Jimbricky Noman. I represent the people of Labwor County who are suffering and enjoying the worst roads and the worst hospitals in the country. I belong to NRM, but now, I am in PLU to sort out the question of transition in this country. I can assure you transition is now sorted.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We shall have a political forum where we shall talk about transition.

MR JOAB BUSINGE: Madam Speaker, I am Businge Joab, Member of Parliament representing Masindi Municipality. I am grateful for having joined my historical relatives of Northern Uganda.

MR ADRIKO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Yovan Adriko, representing the people of Vurra Constituency, Arua District. Greetings from West Nile. You are welcome.

MR KATUSABE: Madam Speaker, Atkins Katusabe. By the grace of God, I represent the people of Bukonzo County West, and with the support of the people of Bukonzo County West, Kasese District. Greetings everybody from the

Rwenzururu Kingdom. I urge our honourable sisters and brothers that today is a day for Northern Uganda. So, I will focus on Northern Uganda. Madam Speaker, I really appreciate it.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The ayes have it. *(Laughter)*

MR KAMBALE: Madam Speaker, Ferigo Kambale is my name. I represent the people of Kasese Municipality, a proud member of NRM, and a proud person who comes from Rwenzori Region. The people of Rwenzori greet you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OCHAI: Madam Speaker, I am Maximus Ochai, member of the NRM party, Member of Parliament for West Budama North Constituency in Tororo District. I thank you for this strategic sitting.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR LOKORU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Albert Lokoru, Member of Parliament representing Tepeth County in Moroto District, Karamoja Subregion. Thank you for this wise idea.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BAATOM: Madam Speaker, my name is Baatom Ben Koryang. I represent the people of the Dodoth West Constituency in Parliament, Karenga District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS OKORI-MOE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Janet Okori-Moe Grace Akech, Member of Parliament for Abim District. Thank you.

MR RICKY ANYWAR: Madam Speaker, I am Ricky Anywar. I represent the people of Agago West Constituency. I am also the regional whip for NRM for Acholi Subregion. Agago District is about one and a half hours from where we are sitting. It is one of the districts without a tarmac road and they are expecting good news

from the sitting about the Moroto Road. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: We will get that from the Committee on Infrastructure.

MS NAKWANG: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Tubo Christine Nakwang, the Woman MP, Kaabong District. I am also the Vice Chairperson, Karamoja Parliamentary Group, and a senior member of the mighty NRM Party. You are welcome back and thank you for being in Gulu.

Madam Speaker, Kaabong District, because of its porous borders requires a brigade to beef up security. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR HERBERT TAYEBWA: Madam Speaker, Tayebwa Herbert is my name, Member of Parliament Kashongi Constituency in Kiruhura District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OKOT-OGONG: Warm greetings to you, Madam Speaker. Felix Okot-Ogong is my name, Member of Parliament representing Dokolo South, Dokolo District, Lango Subregion. You are most welcome.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Felix. Can we move faster so we can go to the next item?

MR NGOMPEK: Madam Speaker, my name is Linos Ngompek, Member of Parliament for Kibanda North County; a constituency where 60 per cent of the population are landless, displaced by land grabbers, problem animals and UETCL. I am the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs. A Member of the NRM and in charge of special operations in Bunyoro Region, PLU. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS ALUM: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Santa Sandra Alum Ogwang, Member

of Parliament representing Oyam District and the Whip of UPC in the Parliament of Uganda.

I thank you for this very insightful occasion of hosting Parliament here. The people of Oyam and Lango expect a lot from this sitting.

I have seen the Minister of State for Works and Transport seated here. Our road from Kona Molem to Bobi is blocked and I would expect that this sitting helps us. Minister of Local Government, we need a district. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OCEN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Ocen Peter. I represent the people of Kole South County, gold medallist in the just concluded Taekwondo Championship in Zanzibar. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, I sincerely thank you for the support that made it possible for me to compete favourably and come back with a gold medal. *(Applause)* This is to declare that gold medals are not only in Kapchorwa, but they can also be found in Northern Uganda.

Taekwondo is a game of fitness, a game of discipline and it promotes health. Therefore, I encourage my colleague Members of Parliament, to join Taekwondo Club so that we can favourably compete and also make it part of the East African Parliamentary Games. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. We shall ask you to experiment for us.

MS CHELAIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I am called Betty Chelain Louke, Member of Parliament representing the people of Amudat, Karamoja. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for bringing us to Gulu. Some people here have never seen big trees, so we are really exploring the country.

Because of this Government, we are now at peace. Twenty years ago, you could not sit here. Therefore, we need to thank the President. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KYOOMA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Xavier Kyooma Akampurira. I represent the people of Ibanda County North.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for this strategic initiative of bringing Parliament closer to the people. It is a wonderful one. I do believe, actually, that in your thinking, next we will even have meetings so that those who cannot have their issues articulated in plenary, can go to the committees, then committees report to plenary. All those are within your prerogative, Madam Speaker. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. That is why we have all the committees here and where need arises, we will constitute committees, go and discuss issues and come and present. For example, we have a number of petitions to be presented. Thank you, my lecturer.

MS OSORU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. You are most welcome to Northern Region. My name is Mourine Osoru. I represent the women of United States of Arua. You are most welcome, Members.

Madam Speaker, I thank you in a special way for thinking about the people of Northern Uganda and bringing Parliament closer to us. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. By the way, I worked in Gulu for six years. I was a bank manager in Centenary Bank. Those who think that I am coming from nowhere, I am coming from somewhere. Yes. Then we can have the Frontbench.

MS BAINOMUGISHA: I know why that microphone failed to work. I think it is because God wanted me to use the yellow one because I am affiliated to NRM.

I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Jane Bainomugisha, I am the woman Member of Parliament for Ibanda District.

I would like to take this honour to thank, first of all, His Excellency, the President of Uganda, for bringing peace in Gulu. We have seen peace. I express my gratitude to him and all the people of Gulu. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Jane.

MR EDDIE KWIZERA: Madam Speaker, my name is Eddie Kwizera Wa-Gahungu. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for encouraging Members of Parliament to do domestic tourism, because I believe there are some Members of Parliament who have not discovered the whole country. I am from Bukimbiri, which is the most visited county in the whole world. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Eddie Kwizera.

MS KESANDE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Grace Kesande Bataringaya, Woman MP, Rubirizi District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS AKAMPURIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Prossy Akampurira Mbabazi, the Woman Member of Parliament, Rubanda District, and a Commissioner of Parliament. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

MS MOLLY ASIIMWE: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. My name is Molly Asiimwe, the Woman representative for Rwampara District and the Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Education and Sports. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Molly Asiimwe.

MR ACHIA: Our beloved *Achenio*, Madam Speaker, my name is Remigio Achia, Member of Parliament for Pian County, and the Chairperson of the Karamoja Parliamentary Group, an association of 26 members of the NRM party. I am also the Deputy Chairperson, Budget Committee.

We thank you for the blessings from the Papal seat. I also thank Hon. Mapenduzi, the former Chairperson of Gulu City, for the beautiful roads and clean town. Thank you so much for the work you did here before coming to Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, thank you for putting Karamoja on the Order Paper - the motion for free compulsory education for the people of Karamoja, so that they stop the recklessness of being recruited into cattle theft.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

MR KIBALYA: Greetings from Busoga Subregion, the land of the Kyabazinga. I am Henry Maurice Kibalya, Bugabula County South.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR ELOTU: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Cosmas Elotu is my name, Member of Parliament representing the people of Dakabela County in Soroti. Thank you for this great initiative. While on the way to Gulu - and I think all Members may have realised the infringement on the road reserves. As you approach Gulu City - I do not know how we shall expand those roads because of the incoming pipeline. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Cosmas Elotu.

MR TEIRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is John Teira from Bugabula County North.

THE SPEAKER: Vice-Chairperson?

MR BERNARD ODOI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Bernard Odoi Onen Mutusa. I represent the youth of the eastern region. This special sitting coincides with my birth date and I am very excited. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Happy birthday, Hon. Bernard.

We shall have the Prime Minister last. Let other ministers first introduce themselves. Second last, Government Chief Whip.

DR OMONA: Madam Speaker, my name is Dr Kenneth Omona. I am the Minister of State for Northern Uganda Rehabilitation in the Office of the Prime Minister.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You are the host.

ENG. ONEK: Madam Speaker, thank you very much for coming to Gulu. I am Engineer Hilary Obaloker Onok, Minister for Disaster Management in the Office of the Prime Minister. My constituency is Palabek County in Lamwo District. We appreciate your innovative and good leadership in the party and in Parliament. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Hon. Hilary Onok.

DR MORIKU: Madam Speaker, I am Dr Joyce Moriku Kaducu, the Woman Member of Parliament for Moyo District.

Mama Speaker, Moyo is the only district among the original 18 zones awaiting municipality status. I am the Minister of State – substantive - in charge of Primary Education; I am representing the Minister of Education and Sports here. I bring you greetings from *Mama Janet* and the entire people of Moyo. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS NAMUYANGU: Madam Speaker, I thank you so much for being a true African woman; very resilient, courageous and principled. Even when many people spoke, you stood your ground, and we are here in the Gulu -

THE SPEAKER: Amen.

MS NAMUYANGU: Jenipher Namuyangu Kacha is my name. I am a Woman MP for Kibuku District. That is in Bukedi Subregion, and by the grace of God, the Minister in charge of Bunyoro Affairs.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Have I seen the minister from the fisheries ministry?

MS ADOA: Madam Speaker, thank you so much for bringing us to the land of food. This region is the food basket for East Africa. I am Helen Adoa and I represent the people of Serere District in Teso, NRM. I am also the Minister of State for Fisheries. I assure all the fishing communities represented here that soon, we shall minimise the challenges.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable ministers, when you mention your name, mention your docket so that we know where to direct our questions.

MS BEATRICE AKELLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Beatrice Akello Akori. I am the Woman Member of Parliament for Agago District. I am the Minister of State in the Office of the President in Charge of Economic Monitoring.

Madam Speaker, I thank you so much for prioritising the issues of the people of Northern Uganda. These issues are isolated and different Arms of Government will decisively handle them, including the issues in Agago District.

We thank His Excellency, the President, for restoring peace in Northern Uganda, and also accepting to come tomorrow to this sitting to help deal with issues affecting Northern Uganda. Thank you, Madam Speaker. We love you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

MS MUHANGA: Mugisa Margaret Muhanga, MP for Fort Portal North Division, Fort Portal Tourism City. I am the Minister of State for Health, Primary Health Care. To go to Fort Portal Tourism City, we ply the worst road in the country. I hope Hon. Matia Kasaija has heard. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, if the ministers are crying, what about us? *(Laughter)* Yes?

MR BWINO: Madam Speaker, Fred Bwino Kyagulaga, Member of Parliament for Kigulu County North, in Iganga District, Busoga Subregion. I am also the Minister of State for Agriculture.

For these meetings, I will be holding fort for my senior colleague, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, our sitting is up to 30 August 2024. Nobody should come today, reports and goes back. We shall have roll-call until the last day. Yes?

MR MUGARRA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Martin Mugarra Bahinduka. I am the Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, for promoting tourism. A tourist is a person who leaves their normal place of abode, goes somewhere else and stays for more than 24 hours. All these people here are tourists. I thank you for promoting this and the benefits it comes with. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS ANYAKUN: Madam Speaker, my name is Esther Anyakun Davinia, Woman Member of Parliament for Nakapiripirit District. I am also the Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations.

In a special way, I would like to thank you for making an initiative to ensure that we come to this part of the country because most people leave Government positions without even coming to see what happens here.

I come from Karamoja and it is more affiliated to Northern Uganda. Thank you for making Northern Uganda the first to host the regional Parliament.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR BARUGAHARA: Madam Speaker, I am Barugahara Balaam Atenyi, *Mwijukuru wa*

Kabalega, Mwijukuru wa Rukidi Mpuuga. I am the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs, the Vice Chairman of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) in Western Uganda, also a *Musevenist* and *Muhoozist.* *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR KAFUZI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am called Kafuuzi Jackson Karugaba. I am the Deputy Attorney-General and a Member of Parliament for Kyaka South, Kyegegwa District. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MAFABI: Thank you, Madam Speaker, I am Gidudu Mafabi Dominic, member of NRM, member of the Central Executive Committee, and MP for Older Persons, Eastern Region. On behalf of the elders in Uganda, I thank you for making this happen and I pray that you also live to be an elder like myself.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, elder.

MS VICTORIA BUSINGE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Victoria Businge Rusoke, Woman Representative, Kabarole and Minister of State for Local Government. I am NRM. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Matia Kasaija. I am one of the living founders of the NRM party. I almost lost my life here when I was pacifying the people whom Kony had made impossible.

In Parliament, I represent the Buyanja County, Kibaale District, Bunyoro Subregion. I am also the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Matters of finance should not be raised today, we will go somewhere and then we make a decision when we are budgeting. Come on, thank you. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, all your issues regarding roads and everything, raise them so that the Minister of Finance gets to know what we need. *(Applause)*

MR OGWANG: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Peter Ogwang, Member of Parliament for Ngariam County, Minister of State for Education and Sports.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Sports.

DR BARYOMUNSI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. My name is Chris Baryomunsi. I am a Member of the NRM and also vice chairperson of NRM for Western Uganda.

In Parliament, I represent Kinkizi East Constituency in Kanungu District. Kanungu is in Kigezi, South-Western Region. I am also the Minister in charge of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance.

Together with my colleague, the minister of state, we are ready to answer all issues to do with communication; radios, TV signals, internet, network and all other issues of national guidance. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Government Chief Whip –

MR AKENA: Madam Speaker, my name is Jimmy Akena. I represent Lira City East Division and the President of Uganda People's Congress (UPC).

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR OBUA: Madam Speaker, my name is Obua Dennis Hamson. I represent the people of Ajuri County, Alebtong District, Lango Subregion. I serve as the Government Chief Whip of the Republic of Uganda.

I chair the majority party that is the National Resistance Movement Parliamentary Caucus in Parliament. I also serve as a member of the Central Executive Committee of the National Resistance Movement Political Party. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Government Chief Whip.

MS NAKADAMA: Madam Speaker, once again, I am Nakadama Rukia Isanga. I am the Woman Member of Parliament for Mayuge District. I am also the Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio in the Government of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

I bring greetings to the people of Gulu, from the Office of the Prime Minister and from the Rt Hon. Robina Nabbanja, who is out of the country on official duties. Thank you, for welcoming us to Gulu, the cleanest city.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, honourable members. From the roll call, we have 310 Members physically here. I would like to thank all of you for coming, that is a sign of unity we are showing in Uganda.

Yesterday, we visited the late Rt Hon. Jacob's home with Hon. Obua. We thank DR Chris Baryomunsi for giving the family a signal. We finally opened that radio yesterday.

The Parliament team has also been camping here. We have one of the oldest schools called Pece Primary School. Together with the Government Chief Whip, we commissioned the medical camp that is still there.

We also donated tanks and worked on the school toilets for the boys and girls. As Parliament, that is all under Corporate Social Responsibility.

We also pledged that since we are sitting here, we cannot leave this place the way we found it, Parliament under Corporate Social Responsibility has laid the foundation stone, we will have the Kaunda grounds fenced. *(Applause)* So, next time when you come, the place will be fenced and that is courtesy of Parliament of Uganda.

I thank all of you together with the team that has been here doing oversight role. Government Chief Whip - Can I have the microphones there?

12.27

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, pursuant to communication from the Chairperson and subject to the provision of Rule 25(2)(e) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I rise such that the record of Parliament sitting at Gulu City captures three fundamental facts, which are aimed at paying glowing tribute to you as the leader of the institution of Parliament and the entire parliamentary leadership upon bringing this parliamentary sitting here, in Gulu City, Northern Uganda.

Madam Speaker, I pay tribute to you and the entire leadership of Parliament because, first and foremost, historically, in the post- and pre-independence history of Uganda, this is the first time that the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda – from the First Parliament to the 11th Parliament that you preside over – is sitting outside Uganda's capital city, Kampala. We need to commend you, on record, for this. *(Applause)*

Historically, again, after the promulgation of the 1995 Constitution, there is no single moment that the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda is recorded to have sat outside our capital, Kampala. Again, this is another glowing tribute to you.

Secondly, we have been hearing people talking about the regional Parliament. I would wish to state that, legally, in the minds of the framers of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, as amended, they envisaged a situation where the Presiding Officer would take Parliament to any part, as long as it is within the Republic of Uganda.

So, legally, our sitting in Gulu is anchored on the provision of Article 95(2) of the Constitution, implying that for any Member of this House who refuses to be in Gulu, that act should be termed as unconstitutional and against the spirit of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

So, we want to thank you and the leadership of Parliament for, for the first time in our history, operationalising Article 95(2) of the

Constitution of Uganda, by bringing this Parliament to Gulu – which is within Uganda.

Finally, Madam Speaker, you should be commended, together with the leadership of Parliament because, economically, this sitting in Gulu is a big boost to the Gulu economy and to the northern Uganda economy. Over 10 committees of parliament, in the last two weeks, were deployed to West Nile, Acholi, Lango and Karamoja.

All these Members were sleeping in hotels within this region, and, for these days, we are sleeping in hotels in Gulu, eating from restaurants in Gulu and fueling cars from fuel stations in Gulu. This implies that a farmer growing cassava within a village called Tegwanda, in Gulu City here, benefits because we are eating food that is locally grown.

So, the sitting, termed as “regional”, has three fundamental importance that must go on record: legally; economically; and historically. The multiplier effect is huge.

Very finally, I wish, again, to thank His Excellency the President who accepted, under Article 101 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, to come to Gulu tomorrow and address this Parliament and, by extension, address the country through this sitting in Gulu.

Madam Speaker, it is imperative that this tribute be attributed to you because you will live in the history of our Parliament to have set a record of taking Parliament to the people because legislative power is derived from the people.

Madam Speaker, I beg to submit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, the Government Chief Whip.

Honourable members, we will move this way. Let us get a report from the minister of northern region. We will also get reports from the committees that were here and, then, Members will supplement and we debate those reports at once.

Where you find that what the minister has captured is not what you have, then, you supplement it.

BILLS FIRST READING

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS BILL, 2024

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Works and Transport -

12.31

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT (WORKS)(Mr Musa Ecweru): Madam Speaker, before I state what has brought me here, allow me, also, to add my voice to those of my colleagues who have thanked Hon. Ojara Mapenduzi for the oversight work he did in the management oversight and support supervision of the roads in the city while he was the chairperson.

These are some of the most organised roads in the cities, and I will be very happy to sit with my team to discuss some other things that will arise from the reports that are following.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to Rule 128(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Engineering Professionals Bill, 2024” be read for the first time.

THE ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS BILL, 2024

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Pursuant to Rule 129 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bill stands referred to the Committee on Physical Infrastructure.

MR ECWERU: Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the certificate of financial implications accompanying the Bill.

THE SPEAKER: Please, lay. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER ON
MATTERS ARISING FROM PUBLIC
DISCUSSIONS AND CONSULTATIONS
(BARAZAS) ON MAJOR ISSUES
AFFECTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF
NORTHERN UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, before we hear from the Minister of Northern Region, who had barazas with the different stakeholders, in the VIP Gallery this afternoon, we have the Most Reverend John Baptist Odama, the archbishop emeritus. He is right there. Join me in welcoming him. *(Applause)* He has done a lot for Northern Uganda. He did what he could at his time.

We also have Mr James Tolit, the Town Clerk of Laroo-Pece, Gulu City. Thank you for coming and they are:

1. Mr Emmanuel Oroch, the LC V Chairperson, Nwoya District;
2. Mr Christopher Opio, the LC V Chairperson, Gulu District;
3. Mr Martin Okumu, the Deputy Prime Minister, Ker Kwaro Acholi – that is the cultural institution;
4. Ms Jane Frances Amongin, the Resident City Commissioner (RCC) of Gulu City;
5. Mr Samuel Ojok, the Agago District Speaker;
6. Mr Innocent Ahimbisibwe, Gulu City Town Clerk;
7. Mr Kamba Amir, Deputy Resident City Commissioner (RCC), Gulu City;
8. Mr Lotee Paul, LC V Chairman, Kotido District;
9. Mr Cosmas Okidi, Deputy Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Gulu District;
10. Ms Stella Abeto, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Kitgum District;
11. Mr Joseph Nangole, LC V Chairperson, Amudat District;
12. Mr Geoffrey Otim, Division Mayor, Laroo-Pece, Gulu City;
13. Mr Richard Bukone, the CAO, Gulu City;
14. Mr Sam Atuil, Lira City Mayor;
15. Mr Semei Okwir, the former RDC; Prof.

- George Ladaah, the Vice Chancellor, Gulu University;
16. Ms Grace Atim, RDC, Zombo District;
 17. Col (Rtd) Ogwoya Oyat, LC V Chairperson, Pader District;
 18. Mr Orik Okello, LC V Chairperson, Lira District;
 19. Ms Akello Alice Opio, RDC, Gulu District;
 20. Mr Muwonge Mbaagwa, CAO, Agago District;
 21. Mr Christopher Arwai, LC V Chairperson, Kitgum; and
 22. Mr Geoffrey Osborn Oceng, RDC, Nwoya District.

They have come to witness today's proceedings. *(Applause)* Yes, honourable minister.

12.40

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Dr Kenneth Omona): Madam Speaker, I take this auspicious and historic occasion to welcome you to Northern Uganda, particularly Gulu City.

Madam Speaker, sitting to conduct business of Parliament in this beautiful, lively and peaceful city, especially on Kaunda Grounds here two decades after the war in this region, gives me hope that as long as communities live, anything is possible in their journeys.

I now have great hope in the transformation and development of the region and I thank the people, their leaders, the Government of Uganda for their resilience and resolve for peace. This peace and tranquillity came at a huge cost and we should guard it jealously.

When I talk about Northern Uganda, which falls under my docket, I mean the six subregions of Uganda; West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Elgon and its slopes which is Bugisu, Sebei and Bukedi, touching the international borders of the DRC, South Sudan and Kenya in the east.

However, for this sitting, Madam Speaker, and my statement, I will confine myself to the subregions of West Nile, Acholi and Lango. I will wait for you -

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter. Honourable minister, is it written? Have you uploaded what you are giving us?

DR OMONA: Madam Speaker, I submitted this to the secretariat of Parliament. I hope that it has been uploaded for Members to follow.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Isaac –

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise on a procedural matter mainly on the heading of item five, as the minister put it on the Order Paper.

It reads, “*Statement by the minister on matters arising from public discussion and consultations (barazas) on major issues affecting development of Northern Uganda.*”

I am wondering whether the minister did these consultations (*barazas*) alone, because as MPs from Northern Uganda, we have never been invited to any form of *barazas*. If the minister is giving a statement on matters that Members of Parliament have raised on the Floor of Parliament, then that is what it should read. But on *barazas*, we have never. I do not know when he held these *barazas*. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Isaac, you are actually reacting in anticipation.

Having a *baraza* does not mean you have to meet with the Members of Parliament because you have a privilege to get a report from a committee. I had a *baraza* yesterday with the religious institutions and they were able to tell us all the issues that are happening in Northern Uganda. We went to the cultural institution and they were also able to tell us all - Those are the *barazas*. It does not mean that you have to announce.

Let us not act in anticipation. Let us hear what the minister has to say and then we shall complement.

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was saying that for the purpose of this sitting and my statement, I will confine myself to the

subregions of West Nile, Acholi, Lango, and again wait for you when we sit in Mbale City, which still falls within my area of operation.

Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: For this, we are looking at West Nile, Acholi, Lango and Karamoja.

DR OMONA: Thank you. Madam Speaker, the guns have gone silent in this region save for some isolated cases of cattle rustling but the poverty levels in this region are still tingling.

According to recent household survey, 2019/2020, poverty levels outstood at 67.7 per cent for Acholi, 23.4 per cent for Lango, and 16.9 per cent for West Nile. Let me quote Karamoja in the neighbourhood, which stands at 65.7 per cent. From the data, Acholi Subregion is the poorest in this region and actually is the poorest region in Uganda.

I have held meetings and discussions with leaders and the biggest question of our engagements has been how to deal with the question of lingering poverty and low income levels in this region.

Madam Speaker, following the introduction that you have just conducted here, a number of issues were raised; others could have been captured in my statement - I request that later, through my Leader of Government Business that the honourable ministers who are here leading different sectors also make reference to some of those issues raised.

I am also aware that there are issues which are captured in the reports that are supposed to be presented and debated in the sitting in Gulu here. So, what I may not be able to raise in my statement, I hope are captured in those reports and any other that can be raised by the honourable colleagues in this sitting.

Madam Speaker, I would like to therefore, delve in some of the pertinent issues raised by the honourable colleagues and leaders of the people to me, as the coordinator of Government activities in this region. I have

heard an issue raised by Hon. Amos Okot from Agago County. He says, “*When will the Acholi war debt claimants be compensated?*”

Our response, Madam Speaker, is that in the Financial Year 2020/2022, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs received Shs 50 billion - Please, let the records capture it as Shs 50 billion, not Shs 55 billion which was divided among the 29 districts of Acholi, Lango, and Teso subregions. Subsequently, the payment of war debt claimants in Acholi, Lango and Teso subregions was launched by His Excellency the President on 26 March 2022 in Soroti.

In the Financial Year 2020/2022, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs paid out a total of Shs 11,919,586,927,000.

To the claimants and beneficiaries of the Acholi Subregion, Shs 18,472,763,793 and Shs 18,931,380,848 to the claimants and beneficiaries in the Lango and Teso subregions, respectively.

A total of Shs 676,268,432 bounced back due to various reasons and was swept back to the Consolidated Fund at the end of the Financial Year 2020/2022. We have here the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as well as the Attorney-General; if there is need, they will explain why this money bounced back to the Consolidated Fund.

Madam Speaker, in the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development released Shs 71.28 billion, which was to be divided among the 29 districts of Acholi, Lango and Teso subregions –

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter.

DR BWANIKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We have a full report on the Order Paper from the Committee on Government Assurance on the Compensation of War Victims and Insurgency in West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja subregions. I am hearing the

minister presenting on compensations. Are we proceeding right when there is a full report on compensation?

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members and honourable Minister of State for Northern Uganda, our expectation goes back to what Hon. Isaac Otingiw was saying. The expectation is and would be that you had a meeting - just a quick one, when we visited the Archbishop yesterday, he talked about the poverty in this region, war victims and land grabbing; those are the issues that this House wants to hear from you. The issues affecting northern region, not you answering the issues raised by Members.

You need to give us the issues affecting West Nile; the road from this and that area is impassable. Then we throw it back to the Minister of Works and Transport. You will have identified the issues in your region.

That said and done, let us hear from the minister, then we shall bring our issues. We will also hear all the reports before we go into a debate.

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your guidance. I may not be privy to every report in Parliament and also what all the sectoral committees are discussing in Parliament, and like it was said in the beginning, mine is trying to respond to the key issues in Northern Uganda.

I am very sure that in my report, there are issues that may not be in those reports, as I proceed. If there is any repetition, unless it is an omission, it costs us nothing for emphasis on the issues in this region.

Madam Speaker, permit me to say, again, that in this Financial Year 2023/2024, the Government released Shs 721.28 billion, which was divided equally among 29 districts of Acholi, Lango, and Teso subregions. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional affairs paid out a total of Shs 21,035,383,642 to claimants and beneficiaries in Acholi Subregion. A total of Shs 20,015,625,569 –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Emmanuel –

MR ONGIERTHO: Madam Speaker, are we proceeding well when all the compensations the minister is talking about are only about Acholi, Lango and Teso subregions? Where is West Nile and Karamoja in all this?

THE SPEAKER: We will get a response from the Deputy Attorney-General (DAG). Can you pass on the microphone to DAG? I expect a lot of responses from you, but what we need to do is, let us get the report first, and then we shall ask or supplement.

12.55

THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Jackson Kafuuzi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Currently, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs is handling war debt claimants, compensating three subregions of Acholi, Lango and Teso. That is the instruction we have. There are requests from West Nile, Karamoja, Bukedi, Busoga, and Rwenzori subregions.

The Cabinet agreed that since the resources are not enough, we first handle the three subregions, then if resources are available at a future date, we can consider the other areas. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, let us get to the report and those are some of the things that we must raise to the President tomorrow. For example, why are other areas not catered for; why did you make a political decision to have only Acholi, Lango and Teso? Hon. Abdu Katuntu –

MR KATUNTU: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do appreciate the uniqueness of this session, but I think we should better go into the normal Parliamentary procedure.

I am strongly suggesting that we hear from the committee first, because that is what we have sent out these committees to dig for us. Then the minister will come with his report and then we can have a short debate before the President comes in. However, hearing from the minister

first is putting the cart before the horse. If it may please you, let us hear from our committee then it can be followed by the minister's statement. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want the minister to go and reorganise himself and have issues of Greater North, not answering questions, because those questions should be answered by different ministries. If we are talking about compensation, it must be answered by the Deputy Attorney-General. If we are talking about infrastructure, then it should be handled by the minister in charge of infrastructure.

Therefore, honourable minister, reorganise your issues concerning the Greater North, then you come and present.

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker for your guidance. I may also seek further guidance that as Minister of State in charge of Northern Uganda, my work is particularly to coordinate the entire activities of Government in this region, irrespective of which sector. I look at infrastructure, security, household income - I look at all these activities of Government in this region.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, please come back and tell us, "The issues that I have in my region are; one, there are no health centres. Two, the roads are bad. Three, the fishing community is suffering. Four, poverty level is at 70 per cent. Five..." That is what we want you to tell us. "Six, interference on the cultural institutions. Seven..." Can we have the next committee?

DR OMONA: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, but you are still coming back. So, go and reorganise.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE SECTORAL
COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL
INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE STATE
OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
(ROADS, BRIDGES, RAILWAYS, AND
AIRFIELDS) IN NORTHERN UGANDA

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as I already alluded in my communication, during this sitting, we will have a report from the Chairperson of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure pursuant to Rule 189 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. He will give us an executive summary of his report.

1.00

THE CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Mr Dan Atwijukire): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you guided us, we moved around and toured the areas in Northern Uganda and analysed areas of roads, bridges, airfields and railways.

We agreed by consensus that my deputy comes from Nwoya and he is a son of the soil, so he led this process. I request that you allow me to invite Hon. Tony Awany to give us this summary and then Members will contribute later. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Tony, please make the presentation.

1.01

THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE (Mr Tony Awany): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to present a report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the state of transport infrastructure (roads, bridges, airfields and railways) in Northern Uganda. Allow me to lay on the Table the detailed report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure together with the minutes of the meetings of the committee.

THE SPEAKER: Please do.

MR AWANY: Madam Speaker, in accordance with Article 90 of the Constitution of the

Republic of Uganda and rules 159(c), (d), (e), (f) and 189 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, the Parliamentary Committee on Physical Infrastructure is mandated to exercise oversight and ensure effective utilisation of resources and implementation of policies related to physical infrastructure development.

In fulfilment of this mandate, the committee embarked on a field visit to Northern Uganda from the 4th to 10th August 2024, to assess the status of roads, bridges, aerodromes and railways in the region.

The visit aimed to evaluate the condition, usage and maintenance of transport infrastructure, with a focus on roads, bridges, aerodromes and the railway. The committee sought to gather fast-hand information on the progress of the ongoing projects, identify challenges and determine necessary interventions to improve the region's infrastructure.

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the committee aligning with its oversight role and contributing to informed decision making for the development of Northern Uganda transport infrastructure.

The committee visited the following sites:

- a) Karuma Bridge;
- b) Pakwach Bridge;
- c) Masindi Port Bridge;
- d) Karuma-Olwiyo-Pakwach Road;
- e) Rwenkunya-Apac-Lira-Puranga-Acholi Bur Road;
- f) Tororo-Mbale-Soroti-Lira-Kamdingi Road;
- g) Tororo-Gulu Railway Line;
- h) The Regional Mechanical Workshop and Logistics; and
- i) Moroto Road.

Madam Speaker, this report presents a critical opportunity for lawmakers to address the transportation challenges in Northern Uganda. The committee's field visit focused on evaluating the current state of integrated transport infrastructure and services, identifying key bottlenecks, and engaging with local stakeholders to understand their experiences and perspectives.

The committee interfaced with several stakeholders from the subregion of Acholi, West Nile, Karamoja, and Lango subregions. The findings from this field visit will provide Parliament with evidence-based information for Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and contractors to draw or review their strategic plans for the sector in Northern Uganda. This report presents the findings and recommendations of the field visit in the section on observations and recommendations.

Under observations, because of time constraints, I invite Members to check as highlighted above in the main report; objectives of the oversight and terms of references. The same applies to methodology.

Repair works on Karuma Bridge

Karuma Bridge was completed and commissioned in 1962 as a major link and gateway between the Mid-Western and Northern Uganda and West Nile subregions. In April 2024, the Minister of Works and Transport announced an immediate temporary closure of the bridge for three months to enable repair works. Therefore, the bridge was closed to heavy traffic with only lighter goods vehicles, SUVs, and 32-seater vans permitted to use the facility.

The committee was informed that the closure followed a proactive assessment in 2023 by the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) of the bridge structure to determine its integrity and soundness. The assessment involved physical examination of the elements on the bridge, including the bearings, clearing of reinforced concrete structures and checking of the deck abutments, expansion joints and approach roads.

Following the assessment, a decision was made to completely close the bridge to all traffic while restoring what is being undertaken.

Madam Speaker, during the visit, the committee observed that the bridge bearings were faulty, expansion joints had worn out, structural cracks had developed underneath the deck,

thereby requiring interventions to enable traffic to continue to use the bridge.

Further, the committee was informed that emergency works were expected to be completed by June 2024, after which the bridge would be accessible to all traffic.

However, works were delayed and was expected to commence on the 19 August 2024. Now that the contractor has been identified to undertake the repair works and the contract has been signed whose details are in Table 1.

I invite Members to go to Table 1 of the main report.

The committee was informed that during the remedial works, the bridge would be closed to all traffic for a period of three to four months to enable demolition of the bridge deck, replacement of the bearings, restoration of the expansion joints, and restoration of the deck. Remedial works are expected to extend the lifespan of the bridge by a further two to five years, during which time normal traffic use will be possible. The progress of the emergency works is provided in Table 2. I invite honourable colleagues to check Table 2.

The committee therefore recommends as follows:

Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) should ensure strict adherence to the work program for the remedial works on Karuma Bridge so that normal traffic is restored within three to four months. In any case, not later than 19 December 2024.

The committee recommends that UNRA should ensure that that funding is available for the proactive assessment of the major bridge structures across the country in order to determine their structural integrity and soundness, as this would prevent a likely sudden failure and closure that are inconveniencing road users.

The committee also recommended that the Uganda Wildlife Authority should consider providing a waiver for public transport

through the National Park during the period when emergency restoration works are being undertaken on Karuma Bridge.

Construction of the new bridge at Karuma

The committee was informed by URRA of plans to construct a new bridge over the River Nile at Karuma. The commencement date for a new bridge is expected to be September 2026, after feasibility studies are completed among others. The current Karuma Bridge was constructed in 1962 with a design lifespan of 50 years.

The ongoing repair works are expected to increase the service life of the bridge by a further two to five years. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government of Uganda considers a long-term solution to the movement of traffic at Karuma and construction of the new bridge - It is an ideal proposal by the committee.

The committee recommends that UNRA should expedite the completion of the necessary processes, including feasibility studies, designs, acquisition of land and sourcing of funding in order to ensure that construction of a new bridge at Karuma can commence as planned in September 2026.

Impact of temporary closure of the bridge

The committee observed that due to temporary closure of the bridge, travellers are experiencing delays in reaching their destinations, and movement of goods and services has been significantly affected. Despite Karuma Bridge being a crucial artery for commerce in West Nile and Northern Uganda areas, it facilitates the movement of goods and services between regions and supporting numerous businesses.

Currently, heavy goods vehicles have been diverted to alternative routes, including through Murchison Falls National Park and through Eastern Uganda - through Masindi port, and via Eastern Uganda, therefore increasing the travel time, cost of transportation, and inconveniences to road users.

The committee observed that alternative route through Masindi port is overwhelmed by increased traffic and negatively affected by floods.

In addition, the public facilities at Karuma and Kamdini such as toilets have been strained due to increased numbers of passengers on either sides of the bridge as they await transportation using smaller vehicles across the bridge.

The committee received a memorandum written by the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce, Lira Branch (UNCCI), to execute a directive of the UNRA on the 3 August 2024, expressing concern about the significant bottlenecks to the transportation of the goods.

The committee further recommends that UNRA should expeditiously undertake emergency repairs on Nakasongola-Zengebe Road to enable interim transportation of people, goods, services, while repair works at Karuma Bridge are ongoing.

UNRA should immediately deploy another bigger ferry at Masindi port and increase the working hours of the ferries due to the significant increase in diverted traffic that the committee witnessed at Kungu Landing Site.

UNRA should expedite the repair works so that normal traffic flow is restored over Karuma Bridge.

Madam Speaker, another elephant in the room is Pakwach Bridge

Assessment of Pakwach Bridge

The committee noted that the bridge was commissioned in 1969 and has been in existence for over 55 years with minimal maintenance. The committee observed that there were structural cracks on the abutments, expansion joints had failed, and embankments on the western bank of the river had weakened with visible erosion.

In addition, there was floating vegetation underneath the bridge surrounding the structure

and impeding the river flow. This vegetation resulted in a dump lot around the bridge including the abutments and other structural elements.

The committee was informed that UNRA undertakes various types of assessment on its bridges, including periodic, special, and routine inspections. These inspections enable UNRA to determine the integrity and serviceability of the structure, including the various elements thereon.

The committee noted with concern that Pakwach Bridge had evident structural cracks on the abutments and failed expansion joints. This poses challenges to the performance of the bridge and may result into sudden failure unless possible defects are comprehensively established and corrected early.

Madam Speaker, the committee was informed that the flooding at Pakwach Bridge is due to the wrong designs at Tangi Bridge.

The committee, therefore, recommends the following:

UNRA should undertake an immediate special inspection of the bridge to assess its performance and correct any likely anomalies thereon.

UNRA should urgently design and source funding for a new bridge over the Albert Nile at Pakwach to replace the existing one. The design should be cognizant of the unique environmental challenges faced by the existing bridge, including floating vegetation and soil instability.

We recommend that Ministry of Works and Transport should review the designs of Tangi Bridge so as to manage the water flow at Pakwach Bridge.

The floating vegetation on the bridge

The committee observed with concern that there was a floating vegetation surrounding the bridge elements within the water, thereby

impeding the river flow and creating other challenges.

It was noted that this vegetation is likely to lead to dump loads on the bridge structural elements, which will result in increased risk of flooding and weakening of the bridge over time.

It was also reported that another piece of floating vegetation had been spotted downstream and was likely to arrive at the bridge in three days, posing a risk to the structure's stability.

The committee noted with concern, Madam Speaker, that the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has only one dredger that is used across the country which affects its timely intervention when more than one bridge needs its services at the time.

The committee recommends, Madam Speaker, that:

- i) UNRA should institute a debris removal system and increase the frequency of dredger operations at the site. In addition, the local community should be mobilised to engage in a maintenance program for clearing the debris and floating vegetation on a routine basis.
- ii) UNRA should immediately return the dredger that was transferred to Zengebe to Pakwach Bridge, so that it can be used to clear the floating vegetation.
- iii) Due to the persistency of the flooding vegetation, UNRA should procure more dredgers to facilitate timely interventions on the various bridges and landing sites in the country.

Degradation of the embankment of the western bank of Pakwach Bridge

The committee observed that the embankment on the western river bank had eroded and was weakening as a consequence. There were visible signs of failure and the situation was expected to get worse as there was no intervention taken to protect it from erosion.

Therefore, the structural integrity of the bridge would be affected over time if the embankment was not protected.

The committee recommends that UNRA should urgently build a retaining wall and undertake sheet piling at the exposed embankment in order to protect it from further deterioration and likelihood of catastrophic failure.

Masindi Port Bridge

Delayed construction of the Masindi Port Bridge

Madam Speaker, the Masindi Port Bridge is expected to be completed under Phase 4 of the Rwekunya-Masindi Port-Apac-Lira-Puranga-Acholi Bur Road Project. It should be appreciated that the bridge is under procurement and, therefore, the commencement date is yet to be established. UNRA informed the committee that Islamic Development Bank, who are financing the road projects, has committed to funding the bridge works at Masindi Port.

The committee noted that the construction of this bridge is a long-time Presidential pledge, and therefore, delays in the commencements of works on the Masindi Port Bridge are expected to affect the optimisation and the under-construction of Rwekunya-Masindi Port-Apac-Lira-Puranga Road.

Madam Speaker, this is because upon completion of the road, there will be diverted traffic on the road, leading to an increase in the number of vehicles using the newly constructed road. Consequently, the delays will be longer, since more vehicles will be using the new road, and yet only a single ferry remains being used at the crossing point.

Madam Speaker, further, the committee observed that the temporary closure of Karuma Bridge has increased traffic at Masindi Port Bridge. The committee was informed that the Masindi Port ferry broke down due to a lot of work.

The committee, therefore, recommends that:

- i) UNRA provides a bigger ferry to manage the situation.
- ii) The Government should expedite the sourcing of funding and identification of a contractor to undertake construction of the Masindi Port Bridge.

The National Roads

Karuma-Olwiyo-Pakwach Road

The committee was informed that rehabilitation of the Karuma-Pakwach Road is currently ongoing under two separate lots, namely; Lot 1: Karuma-Olwiyo, which is 43.5 kilometres, then Lot 2 is Olwiyo-Pakwach, which is 62.5 kilometres. The works on the two lots are being undertaken in separate contracts, but the same contractor. The previous works on the road were completed in 2007, with a design lifespan of 15 years.

The scope of the works for Lot 1 constitutes rehabilitation works, mainly comprised of provision of an asphalt concrete overlay on the entire section to replace the existing double bituminous surface treatment. These works are to ensure that the service life of the existing road is extended by at least seven years.

For Lot 2, the road is to be reconstructed and the whole road to be widened with benched, earthworks and gravel fields. The final road conforms to the design class II paved standard with asphalt and concrete surface.

I invite the honourable colleagues to refer to Table 3 and 4: Works Construct Details for the Rehabilitation of the Olwiyo-Pakwach Road is therein.

Madam Speaker, the committee also examined issues of the delayed payments to contractors. The committee noted with concern that the contractors were demanding money for unpaid works since Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) remained outstanding.

The total value of the unpaid IPCs was Shs 15 billion, that is to say, Shs 2 billion on Lot 1 and Shs 13 billion on Lot 2. The works contract

contains provisions permitting the contractor to claim for interest payments on any outstanding IPCs, as well as an option to stop execution of works until payment are effected.

The committee recommends that:

- i) The Government provides adequate funding to enable UNRA immediately pay the outstanding payment of Shs 15 billion to the contractors in order to curtail further accumulation of the interest and enable works proceed as per the approved work plan.
- ii) UNRA should ensure contractors are paid for any completed works in the future, as per agreed time frame in the works contract.

Delays in completion of the works

The committee noted with concern that the works on the road project are behind schedule and are unlikely to be completed on time. Karuma-Olwiyo section works are supposed to be completed on 30 November 2024, yet physical progress was at only 16.7 per cent, and those for Olwiyo-Pakwach section are to be completed by 25 May 2025 but physical progress is only at 28.8 per cent as at July 2024.

UNRA attributed the delays to a late commencement by the contractor on Lot 1, the riots in Kenya that affected the supply chains of imported construction materials such as bitumen.

Despite concerns by the committee, UNRA reported that the contractor had deployed adequate resources on Lot 1: Karuma to ensure completion of the project within the remaining time frame, including machinery to apply 500 metres full-width asphalt concrete surfacing.

The committee recommends that in order to ensure the timely completion of the project, UNRA should effectively monitor and enforce the contract to ensure compliance with the contract terms and project timeliness.

The structural damage and block access to property

The committee met with the individuals whose property was damaged due to the ongoing works and were demanding for compensation. These individuals were located in Agung along the Olwiyo-Pakwach section.

UNRA reported that it was aware and committed to compensating the affected individuals since the project insurers are liable for meeting such eventualities, which is usually done once after establishment of all affected persons is completed.

In addition, Madam Speaker, the committee noted that some project-affected persons had access to their property cut off due to embankments built higher than the existing roads. The road elevation in Puranga had been raised, leaving nearby shops in a lower-lying area, making accessibility challenging for locals. This alteration will lead to floods destroying businesses of the community.

Madam Speaker, the committee recommendations:

- i) UNRA should immediately maintain open and transparent communication with the affected individuals, providing regular updates of the compensation process and timeliness;
- ii) UNRA and the contractors should expedite compiling a detailed list of project affected persons and consider to timely compensating them.
- iii) UNRA should implement measures to mitigate the negative impact on business and surrounding communities such as providing alternative access to roads, to routes or rams and implementing temporary drainage solutions to prevent water accumulating during construction.
- iv) UNRA and the contractors should reinstate the utility lines.

Madam Speaker, Rwenkunya–Apac-Lira–Puranga-Acholi Bur Road project is for upgrading of Apac-Lira-Puranga Road-Acholi Bur. Details are summarised in Table 5. I invite the honourable colleagues to get to Table 5.

The committee noted with concern that the project had a design review which was undertaken by a new consultant. This resulted into significant changes in the scope and price of the project. UNRA informed the committee that initially, the road had been designed to go through the existing road with the approval of the then leaders.

However, during implementation, there was new leadership in Kwanja District and Town councils who decided to maintain the old roads due to many buildings in the town.

Consequently, UNRA had to redesign the road to create a new section, which was less expensive to compensate compared to the buildings on the old road.

In addition, the committee was informed that design of civil works depends on samples. However, during implementation, after opening the ground, there are variations in length and width which result in either savings or additional costs.

The committee recommends as follows;

- i) UNRA should use a design consultant to supervise the contractors so that any design reviews do not result in additional expenditure by Government.
- ii) UNRA should make its design review process clearer and more transparent to ensure that any changes to the project scope and price is thoroughly justified and documented.

Delays in granting full access to site

The committee was informed by the contractors that one of the challenges they were facing during project implementation was the delay in granting full access to site or right of way. And that 19 kilometres had not been acquired on lot 1 and 20 kilometre on lot 2.

UNRA reported that land acquisition on this project commenced in 2017 with preliminary processes including the stakeholder

engagements at all levels. Survey and valuation data capture and the first valuation report was approved on 3 September 2018.

The second and third reports were approved in August 2021 and then the fourth in September 2023 and the fifth report on (Lira-Ngetta section) in July 2024. All are currently under implementation with two supplementary reports arising from the regional reports.

The project was divided into the following smaller sections:

- i. Apac-Lira handed over to the contractor 93 per cent-this one members can go through.

Madam Speaker, Tororo-Mbale-Soroti- Lira-Kamdini Road.

Government of Uganda received funding from World Bank for implementation of an output performance-based road contract along Tororo-Mbale-Soroti-Dokolo-Lira-Kamdini, that is about 340 kilometres. The project is being implemented in two lots. The project duration is 8.5 years and table 7 summarises the contract.

The Delayed Project Implementation

The committee observed, that the eight-and-a-half-year project is being implemented at a slow pace. Since it has 29 months remaining out of the 102 months for the project duration and yet rehabilitation works have not started on lot one and lot two is at 47 per cent physical progress on the rehabilitation works as at the end of July 2024.

The committee was concerned that further delays could lead to project extension of time which could result into additional supervision costs even if there is no cost time extension for the contractor.

UNRA informed the committee that delayed approvals to key installations and auxiliary sites by NEMA had hindered the progress as planned.

The committee recommends that NEMA expedites its approval process to enable timely implementation of the project and prevent additional costs that could arise.

Madam Speaker, an issue that demands attention, is the scale-up use of force account for maintenance of national roads. The committee appreciated the fact that in June 2012, the Government of Uganda instituted a policy shift from contracting road maintenance works to the use of a force account.

The force account policy for road maintenance applies to district, urban and community access roads. We refer to them as DUCAR and the national roads under the Uganda National Roads Authority. This was after the Government of Uganda acquired 1,425 new equipment through a \$100 million loan from China.

According to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets (PPDA) Act, the force account mechanism means undertaking the work of procuring and disposing entities using the personnel and equipment of the procuring and disposing entity or of another procuring and disposing entity.

To ensure value for money in the application of the force account mechanism, the PPDA Act guides that the accounting office of a procuring and disposing entity shall make available material, employees, tools and equipment adequate for the works, ensure that the works are executed as per the applicable technical standards, that a qualified supervisor supervises the works, the employees and supplies used for the works are commensurate to the works, and maintain and manage the records, equipment and supplies that works for the Public Finance Management Act.

The committee noted that the UNRA team, under the force account, uses Shs 5 million per kilometre to maintain the unpaved murrum roads, and Shs50 million per kilometre to maintain the same category under the framework contract.

The committee was concerned that Government spends a lot of money on framework contracts *vis-a-vis* what would have been used on force account.

In response, UNRA team informed the committee that the team is always constrained by staffing gaps and lack of adequate and reliable equipment among other challenges to cover the vast network.

In addition, the committee was informed that the staff in the UNRA stations on the level of fleet assistance are inadequate. For example, the current ratio of fleet assistance to vehicle is one to two in Kitgum station, five to three for Lira station.

Consequently, staff are multitasking on the vehicle making them inefficient. The committee was informed that UNRA needs to recruit more fleet assistants for effective service delivery. However, there is a ban on recruitment.

The committee recommends that UNRA should ensure effective and efficient road construction and maintenance. That the Government provides additional equipment and review the staff structure to accommodate more fleet assistants, among others.

The inadequate funding of the maintenance of national roads

The committee noted that in recent years the budget for road maintenance under Uganda Road Fund had been declining, save for financial year 2023-24, when the budget for the local government increased by Shs 1 billion per local government.

Madam Speaker, here we need to thank you and the House for having availed through the Committee on Physical Infrastructure, the Shs 1 billion to districts, municipalities and cities.

The committee observed that inadequate budget allocation is affecting the maintenance of national roads. For example, the quarter one financial year 2024-25 release of Shs 90 million had been received by Gulu-UNRA Station for maintenance. Only Shs 90 million and yet it supervises seven districts.

This implies that under Force Account, the money can maintain 18 kilometres, while under framework contract, all the money would maintain only 1.8 kilometres of the entire road.

The committee recommends that the Government prioritises the maintenance of national roads to reduce on rehabilitation costs of early reconstruction of non-maintained roads.

Encroachment on road reserves

Madam Speaker, on encroachment on road reserves, like the honourable colleague mentioned, the committee was informed by UNRA that one of the challenges faced by the station is encroachment on road reserves and other property, especially those under the Kitgum station. The committee was concerned that, currently, the mitigation measures by UNRA are encouraging staff to be more vigilant in identifying encroachers during the inspection.

The committee was further informed that the UNRA enforcement unit did not have staff at every station and, therefore, there was need for them at all stations for faster response to encroachment.

The committee recommends that UNRA provides enforcement staff at each station and, where necessary, evacuates some encroachers from its property as a deterrent example to prospective encroachers.

Madam Speaker, allow me to briefly get to the recommendations of the committee in that respect.

1. UNRA should consider engaging public-private partnership – this is in respect to the request which was placed by the Karuma business community about the health facilities – the restroom facilities – at the town council. They said that UNRA should consider engaging public-private partnership to establish restrooms along national roads to ensure that Ugandans and tourists along the roads do not get embarrassed.

2. UNRA should consider establishing bus stop sheds along the roads.

Oil roads and other strategic roads in northern Uganda

The committee observed that the oil roads in Nwoya District have not yet received the requisite attention and maintenance.

The poor condition of these roads is not only hindering the smooth transportation of oil equipment and personnel but also affecting the livelihoods of local communities who rely on these roads for their daily activities.

Through sharing with stakeholders, the committee was informed that there are a number of strategic roads that need to be attended to, so as to enhance interconnectivity of the road network in the northern region. These roads offer substantial economic and social benefits to the region.

Awer-Amuru-Otwee-Kololo Road – the gateway to West Nile at Rhino Camp

This road serves as a vital link connecting Nwoya and Amuru districts to the West Nile region. By connecting communities to the ferry at Kololo and providing access to Rhino Camp, this route is essential for boosting regional trade, enhancing market access, and catalysing cross-district commerce.

Moroto Road (through Omoro to Pader, Agago, and Abim in Karamoja)

This road is key to unlocking the economic potential of the subregion, connecting Omoro, Pader, Agago, and Abim districts up to Moroto. Upgrading it to a high-grade tarmac road will facilitate the efficient movement of agricultural produce, lower transport costs, and stimulate regional trade. This road is essential for attracting investments in agriculture, education, and other key sectors, driving inclusive growth, and enhancing socio-economic outcomes for communities in these districts.

Atiak-Apyeta-Lamwo-Kitgum Road

This road links Lamwo and Kitgum to the regional economic hub at Atiak and provides a key route for cross-border trade with South Sudan. Developing this road to high-grade standards will not only improve regional connectivity, but also boost economic activities, enhance service delivery and reduce travel times between key districts.

Madam Speaker, Members earlier on alluded to Nebbi-Goli and other networks of the roads in West Nile that should also be given due attention.

The committee recommends that:

1. The Government and relevant authorities should prioritise the rehabilitation and maintenance of oil roads in Nwoya District to align with their policy commitments. This is because in Acholi subregion, the oil roads have not been optimally worked on, as you would see in other regions.
2. The Ministry of Works and Transport conducts feasibility studies on the above-mentioned strategic roads and have them tarmacked.
3. The Government should allocate sufficient funds and resources to ensure timely and quality construction and maintenance of these roads so as to enhance economic and social growth to the region.

The District Urban and Community Access Roads (DUCAR)

The committee observed that the network in most local governments was in fair to poor condition. The committee observed that in Financial Year 2023/2024, the Government allocated Shs 1 billion to local governments for rehabilitation of roads and, this year, the same amount has been allocated for road maintenance following a parliamentary recommendation to rename the grant.

During oversight, the committee established that the Shs 1 billion had enabled Gulu City to rehabilitate some roads and construct two

bridges (box culverts), improving the condition of the network in the city.

In Apac, the funds enabled them to rehabilitate roads which had not happened in over 10 years, and similar reports were received from other local governments across northern Uganda.

The committee noted that only districts have road equipment, while cities and municipalities rely on bureaucratic processes of requesting for equipment from the Executive Director of UNRA, since the district equipment is always utilised with the provision of Shs 1 billion and money is released at the same time.

Further, the committee observed that while the Government shifted to the policy on Force on Account and districts are now using Force on Account for maintenance of roads, the works departments have no supervision vehicles. This makes it challenging for the staff in the works department to supervise equipment and ongoing works in the field.

The committee recommends that;

1. The Government provides additional funding towards maintenance and rehabilitation of roads.
2. The Government provides supervision vehicles to the works departments to facilitate supervision of road works and equipment.

Madam Speaker, allow me to make this footnote: northern Uganda has only one regional mechanical workshop – which is stationed here in Gulu – that supervises the entire northern Uganda. The committee recommended that at least each subregion be funded to have its own mechanical workshop.

USMID roads

The committee noted that the USMID roads completed under phase I were being maintained by the respective local governments. However, the life span of most of the solar lights expired.

In Gulu City, 162 lights had been replaced using local revenue from property tax. However, vandalism of the solar batteries was reported as a major challenge experienced by the USMID project during phase I. Gulu City alone had 15 criminals arrested and are being prosecuted

The USMID project has no component for land acquisition and, so, the local government depends on the goodwill of the people. Where the people refuse, the carriageway is reduced since there is no provision for land compensation in the project.

Further, the committee was informed that, often, road construction works involve relocation of utilities. However, during the process of implementation, the utility companies demand that local governments replace them with upgraded and more expensive installations.

The committee recommends as follows;

1. Local governments should continue sensitising the population of the individual benefits of paved roads to increase on the goodwill of project-affected persons.
2. Utility companies that are upgrading their utilities should work hand in hand with the relevant stakeholders.
3. Concerned government ministries, departments and authorities should work together and come up with clear guidelines and engage with one another so as to address disagreements between local government entities and utility companies.

Madam Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to thank Gulu City for the good management of the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Project. I thank Gulu City, because in other parts of the country where we went for oversight, there is a delay. For example, in Mbarara, Ntungamo and Kabale, there was a serious delay. We can say that Gulu City is a benchmarking point for successfully implementing the USMID Project.

Madam Speaker, allow me to touch briefly on the regional mechanical workshop, then I will

conclude. I will invite Members to go through the report because of time constraints.

Gulu Regional Mechanical Workshop was established in 2001, as a regional workshop servicing 12 districts at the time, in the subregions of Acholi, Lango, Karamoja and West Nile. The beneficiary districts have since increased to 38.

The workshop's primary responsibility is major repairs on equipment since the districts have a percentage of road maintenance budget to cater for the minor repairs.

The committee was informed that the workshop does not have sound supervision vehicles, making it difficult to supervise equipment. Like I noted earlier on, Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that at least each subregion should have its own mechanical maintenance workshop.

Madam Speaker, the committee also interested itself in the rail lines. The rehabilitation of the Meter-Gauge Railway from Malaba- Soroti-Lira is ongoing. What is concerning is the pace at which the project is being undertaken. We visited the logistic hub in Gulu. We thank the Government for this beautiful facility, but this logistic hub can only function when it is well fed by a properly rehabilitated rail line.

Madam Speaker, we visited Gulu Airport and we interfaced with officers from the Civil Aviation Authority. The committee recommended that this particular airport facility should be upgraded to an international airport. We also got information from Arua Airfield, which is being upgraded under a public-private partnership.

Madam Speaker, the committee recommends that the Government expedite completion of Arua International Airport by fully compensating projects affected persons in addition to providing the necessary funds.

Other aerodromes that the committee interested itself in are the Kitgum Airfield; the Kidepo Airfield which is being upgraded to an international standard; and also Pakuba.

In conclusion, the Committee on Physical Infrastructure appreciates your support to increase funding to the sector priorities inclusive of the transport infrastructure so as to ease mobility of people, goods and services.

I now move that Parliament receives and adopts the observations and recommendations of this report. I beg to report, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much, Honourable Deputy Chairperson. We will proceed this way: the area of contention is the northern region. We want any addition to what the findings are. If something is left out - we are talking about the national roads, not the community access roads. We will start with Hon. Tom Aza, and we need to move faster because of one reason; we need to get all this and put it in the report that we will present to the President. Yes, Hon Ekanya?

MR EKANYA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity, before I state the procedure, to say that I am Geoffrey Ekanya, Member of Parliament, Tororo North County, and Treasurer-General of the FDC.

Madam Speaker, this is historical, and we are proud of you having your root in the FDC. We know you will do much greater things for Uganda.

Recently, we faced a bit of a misunderstanding with the President in terms of how we manage the Budget. Madam Speaker, we need to be smarter. I thank the committee. The only way to be smarter, is to operate within the system.

We have the Vision 2040, the National Development Plan (NDP), the public investment plan, the policy programmes for the sectors for these areas, and then we have the Public Finance Management Act and other laws, establishing the institutions that we supervise and monitor.

Madam Speaker, I think that the committees presenting the reports should go outside the box and do much greater work by making reference in their reports to the National Development

Plan (NDP). For example, what does the NDP state about roads in this region? How many kilometres have been done? How many are pending? We got the public investment plan –

THE SPEAKER: And is that road under NDP III?

MR EKANYA: Exactly, Madam Speaker. Go to the public investment plan and look at it and find out which road was captured in it, whether it was budgeted for and the resource allocated.

Unless we do that, Madam Speaker, we are glossing over this and other areas where these issues are not captured will get swept away year in and year out.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I request the committees, especially the infrastructure committee - we thank you for this report - but go in-depth, look at the public investment plan, the National Development Plan, and resource allocation. Sometimes we allocate resources for roads, and it is diverted year in and year out.

Madam Speaker, the committee established a very fundamental legal glitch but they did not recommend remedial legal disciplinary action. For example, the committee said, on Pakwach Bridge, the matter was about the design but the committee did not recommend disciplinary action and sanctions, which is provided for in the Public Finance Act –

THE SPEAKER: But this House has a right to make an amendment on what the committee has found.

MR EKANYA: Yes. Thank you. Therefore, Madam Speaker, are we proceeding well for the committees to make reports which are not rooted and founded on the institutional system and the policies that we operate in?

THE SPEAKER: The committees work on behalf of this House and when we realise that something is outside the scope, we can have that off the report, or we can make amendments

on the report that is being presented by the committee.

MR EKANYA: Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: As of now, the committee has done a good job. If the committee is talking about Pakwach, Pakwach Road would not be worked on if it was not in NDP III. If it is talking about Karuma, it would not be worked on if it was not under NDP III. Most of the issues that the committee has raised are on delays, non-compensation of Project Affected Persons (PAPs) and failure to release the monies.

However, I want to find out from the minister for finance, much as the committee is excited about the Shs 1 billion, have you released the money to all the districts?

1.55

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Matia Kasaija): Madam Speaker, I do not want to give half an answer. I request that you give me some time. I will ring - maybe tonight - the permanent secretary, with the specifics, so that I can answer this question tomorrow.

THE SPEAKER: We need an answer on the release of Shs 1 billion that was supposed to go to the district. As of the last sitting, the money was not yet released. So, we need that response and it will not cost you to – because we are closing this debate on infrastructure.

Hon. Matia Kasaija, it will not cost you much to make a call, just a phone call to the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury and find out on the releases of the Shs 1 billion that was going to districts to help in the road network. We will give you 30 minutes to do that. We will have finished this report and then we will go to the next report.

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Much obliged, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Tom Aza? Honourable members, I want you to be very

brief. Say the road from Olwiyo or wherever should be worked on and as Hon. Ekanya said, is that road under National Development Plan (NDP) III? If it is under NDP III, why is it not being worked on? Just mention the road and then the Minister of Works and Transport should be able to respond to all of that.

1.57

MR TOM AZA ALERO (NRM, West Moyo County, Moyo): Yes. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker and Members of the august House. I am called Alero Tom Aza, Member of Parliament for West Moyo County. I would like to thank the Committee on Physical Infrastructure for the report.

However, Madam Speaker, the report has not highlighted the stalled work on Koboko-Yumbe-Moyo Road, which was launched by the Prime Minister on 17 May 2024.

Secondly, the bridge across the Nile at Laropi, Moyo District has not been highlighted. Laropi-Moyo-Jale-Afoji Road has not been highlighted, yet the procurement process has stalled.

Lastly, there is a floating vegetation -

THE SPEAKER: Clerk, take note of the roads that are being mentioned.

MR AZA: There is a floating vegetation on River Nile that has always grounded the ferry services connecting Moyo District to other areas.

My prayer is that the Minister of Works and Transport fast-tracks the construction of the bridge across the Nile–Laropi-Moyo District so that we can be able to develop. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Dr Bhoka? I wish they could bring a microphone there.

1.59

DR GEORGE BHOKA (NRM, Obongi County, Obongi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the committee chairperson

and the members for the very comprehensive report.

However, I note with concern that the report seems to have focused more on the mid-north than West Nile and Karamoja. Within West Nile, we have the greater Nebbi, with the infrastructural challenges, greater Arua -

THE SPEAKER: Dr Bhoka, mention what you want to mention.

DR BHOKA: I have the following, Madam Speaker, to highlight. We have a strategic security and tourism road from Panyimur, Pakwach, Rhino Camp, Obongi, up to Difule, that for the last 15 years has been highlighted in both the party manifesto as well as the NDP III. It has not been mentioned. The same applies to the road that comes from Arua City through Obongi, Adjumani to Elegwen International Road.

Lastly, under transport, water transport is very important, Madam Speaker. In the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, West Nile was served by steam ships that plied from Nimule to Namasagali. In our strategic plan, there has been a highlight about reintroduction of water transport system that would reduce the cost of movement of people and goods.

I pray that the Committee on Physical Infrastructure as well as the Ministry of Works and Transport take interest in investing in water transport as an alternative means of transport to improve the movement of goods and people. I thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, some of the words may be misspelled because the Clerk may not write them very well. So put it down in writing and give it to the Clerk to capture it and that will be our opening remarks to the President tomorrow. Next? The microphone is supposed to be there, unless you want - Who has the microphone? Give it to Hon. Avur.

2.02

MS JANE PACUTO (NRM, Woman Representative, Pakwach): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I want to commend the Committee on Physical Infrastructure for their observations on Karuma Bridge and Pakwach Bridge, and I am going to address my mind to the issue of bridges.

Whereas the committee rightly observed that Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) should stick to the specified period for the maintenance work on Karuma, and that UNRA should ensure funding is secured, I am aware that UNRA stops at planning and budgeting, and the approval is done by Parliament, and the release is then done by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

I, therefore, want to implore this august House to send a strong signal to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to ensure that Government expenditures on critical projects like bridges and roads are addressed with immediate effect.

Madam Speaker, if we are supposed to yield the high returns that we expect from this infrastructure - leaving it to UNRA may not solve the issue because the releases are not done by UNRA.

Constant movement of goods and services both domestically and internationally is key if we are supposed to compete comparatively within the region and outside our country and for our goods to earn the requisite foreign exchange that we badly desire. I, therefore, want to pray that the works on Karuma Bridge and Pakwach Bridge be expedited sooner than later.

Madam Speaker, about the floating vegetation in Pakwach, indeed I want to commend the committee because I was at home just yesterday; the floating vegetation is very close to the bridge now and this is impeding the fishing activities on the Albert Nile and even killing our fish, which is really our cash cow in the district. I pray that we move fast to clear them.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS PACUTO: Madam Speaker, I want to disagree with the committee, calling upon my people to come and support in clearing the floating vegetation. Aware that the fisheries operations on both Lake Albert and Albert Nile have left 90 per cent of our boats not only destroyed but burned, then how possible is it that our people are going to help in supporting UNRA to clear this vegetation without having boats in place?

I, therefore, want to call upon this House to emphasise to Government that whereas we are ready as people of Pakwach and beyond to adhere to the new fishing policy, we need to be supported. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish you could summaries.

2.05

MS JUDITH ACHAN (NRM, Woman Representative, Nwoya): Madam Speaker, I thank you. You asked for those with the microphone and I am one of them. I want to thank you for bringing this because it is the right time that we raise these issues. I want to thank the committee for the elaborate report.

However, within the national roads that we have in Nwoya District, we have Oyam-Koch-Lii-Koch-Goma Town Council Road, which is in the National Development Plan. And then we also have Katikati-Alero-Kona-Nwoya Road, which is also in the National Development Plan.

We also have Anaka-Longolo-Amoro road, which is also in the National Development Plan.

I want to explain this clearly, because, Madam Speaker, every week that our businessmen and women are traveling, especially on the roads of Kate Kate, Alero, Kona Nwoya, we have lost so many lives. Even right now as I speak, there are so many trailers which have blocked the road. The pedestrians cannot use the roads because it is impossible.

I would like to request that the Ministry of Works and Transport send Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA) today as we plan and look for the contractors to start working on these roads for maintenance. Madam Speaker, it is my humble -

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Minister of works and Transport you have heard. Can we first hear from the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Madam Speaker, by good chance, as I was going to phone my permanent secretary, I met two people who said, "Minister, do not waste your time. Money has been sent." I quote Nebbi District; this money is sent quarterly. So, in the first quarter Nebbi has got Shs 250 million, Pakwach District has got Shs 250 million also. Even Kibale and Gulu, is now being told. I think that I have answered the question.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. And then on the priority on releases of money for working on the bridges?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: The main bridges like Karuma and Pakwach; that one again, because as I said, these small details at times I do not catch them.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR MATIA KASAIJA: I will come back tomorrow.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Fr Onen has been waiting here.

2.08

REV. FR CHARLES ONEN (Independent, Laroo-Pece Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the committee for the good work.

Madam Speaker, we have historical sites in northern Uganda one is Fort Patiko, where Sir Samuel Baker came to end the slave trade. We have the Paimol shrines, where two martyrs were killed and yearly, people go there. These

sites, among others, contribute to local tourism. I expected the committee to consider those roads and it is not there in the report and I pray that those roads be considered for construction.

Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: The question goes back, is it something that is in National Development Plan (NDP) III?

REV. FR ONEN: Exactly, and it is also in the NRM manifesto. Information. Thank you – *(Interruption)*

MS AKORI: Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I want to give more information on those tourism roads in Acholi sub region, especially the one in Paimol where people from all walks of life come yearly on 20th October to celebrate those two martyrs.

They get stuck on the way because in Agago, we do not have any tarmac touching the district of Agago. We do not only have a historical site in Paimol, we also have another one in Kalongo, where in 2022 where Blessed Dr Ambrosoli was blessed to be one of the blessed persons in the world. And still people come from all walks of life and the roads are impassable because we do not have any tarmac touching Agago.

We have option that the road work from Puranga to Acholi Bur will also extend up to Pader District. Therefore, if UNRA can prioritize this in NDP IV it is not in NDP III but they should prioritize this road in NDP IV from Pader District headquarters to Kalongo-Paimol then to Namakora joining Kidepo Tourism Road; that will be a complete road that will help our people from the whole world.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, David.

MR WOKORACH: Madam Speaker, additional information. Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank Father Charles Onen for reading my mind ahead of my submission.

Madam Speaker, on Gulu- Patiko Road, which is 72 kilometres, is a national road. I raised this during the caucus meeting in Kyankwanzi and the President himself said, “This is my road. And it is a road that leads me to a very important historical road.” That is Fort Patiko. And when he came for the burial of Brig. Gen. Okoya, I again reminded him in Palaru, my constituency and he promised me that he was going to work on this.

Madam Speaker, it was an omission from the Committee on the Physical Infrastructure. They put it there but I wondered how it skipped the mind of the presenter.

In Onyama sub-county, when Gulu City was carved, some of the parishes was obtained from Onyama sub-county. And since 2020 up to now, Onyama sub-county has never received a car fund. That has limited the work that Onyama sub-county is supposed to give as service delivery to the people of Onyama sub-county in my constituency. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Jesca.

2.13

MS JESCA ABABIKU (NRM, Woman Representative, Adjumani): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the committee for a very good report. I have the following observations. One, inadequacy in pro-activeness. Karuma Bridge has stayed for 62 years now and we are still doing emergencies. The Pakwach Bridge is now for over 55 years. This calls for pro-activeness so that we avoid death threatening issues.

I want to talk about the Uganda Support Municipal Development Infrastructure (USMID) roads. I want to thank the government but I request the Ministry of Works and Transport and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to go to Adjumani because we are very far from finishing the Town Council roads under USMID.

Madam Speaker, the issue of flooding around Pakwach Bridge is not only in Pakwach

District, but we have Tete Bridge, we have Sinyanya Ferry. The two areas are now flooded and people do not have any option of survival. I request that the Prime Minister and also the Ministry for Works and Transport go to those areas because we are losing people daily. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Gilbert Olanya.

2.14

MR GILBERT OLANYA (FDC, Kilak South County, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In a special way, on behalf of the FDC, I would like to welcome this sitting in Gulu and Northern Uganda, and I am proud that we are the first in the region. I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker.

On the Karuma Bridge, I would like to appreciate the committee but the closure of the bridge has brought down the development and the businesses in northern Uganda. I am happy you are here. Most of the bus owners have parked their buses, big trucks that transport heavy goods from Kampala; are no longer bringing commodities like tiles in northern Uganda.

Madam Speaker, there is a new bridge which was reconstructed and it is operational near the electricity plant in Karuma. I pray that the minister directs that the bridge be used temporarily. The bridge is very strong and is working very well. Madam Speaker, when we do that, it will ease the transport to Northern Uganda.

Number two, Madam Speaker, is about the maintenance of roads in the district. Government provided equipment - graders, the lorry - but most of that equipment is down. Many of the districts are crying about roads.

The feeder roads across the district in Northern Uganda are down because the districts do not have power and road equipment. I pray that the Ministry of Works provides new equipment to all the districts, or get a special mechanic to repair the road equipment that was provided to our districts. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Songa -

2.17

MR LAWRENCE SONGA (NRM, Ora County, Zombo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the committee -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the whole Northern team will speak.

MR SONGA: I thank the committee, but if I am to give marks to them, it is only 40 per cent. First of all, we have to use logic. There are roads that already have the -

THE SPEAKER: Which roads are we talking about that you want to be tarmacked?

MR SONGA: Yes, one priority road which we need to tarmac is the road which can generate for us revenue, and that is the road from Nebbi, Goli, Paidha, Padea, Zombo, Zeu, Warr up to Vurra Custom, then Liya toward Odramacako. Because Uganda needs revenue, we need to prioritize that road which appeared in the NDP II but was left out. In the NDP III; it is not tarmacked up to now.

We need to use that logic to generate money from the border in order to build the internal roads. So, that is the priority road the President talked about it recently at Hon. Nyamutoro's function in Nebbi; let us prioritise that road.

For some of these roads being mentioned, they are still doing the concept; let us grade them; that this road already has full engineering design, this one is at the concept stage, and then from there, we can prioritise because we cannot do all of them at the same time.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, you have information.

MS AFOYOCHAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to give this information that much as we thank the committee for the work they did, we realised that the way they handled this particular road of Goli to Vurra depicts that the road is not as urgent and necessary in this country.

We want to request and implore the minister of Finance to take interest in the economic value that this road will give to this country. We are not only talking for Zombo, but this road of Goli to Vurra can make other roads in this country.

Minister of Finance, I would love to give you free transportation to go and we do this study together. Possibly you will appreciate what we, the Members of Parliament, have already appreciated. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR SONGA: To conclude, Madam Speaker, this road has about five border points and each border point receives about 50 vehicles per day crossing to DRC. And from DRC, on average, each border point receives about 20 vehicles. Because of the bad roads, once a lorry or a truck blocks the road, that means loss of revenue for Uganda.

Therefore, I implore that this must be a priority and my prayer is that this issue of the road from Nebbi to Vurra to Odramacako should be concluded tomorrow. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Etuka - then we move away from West Nile.

2.20

MR ISAAC ETUKA (NRM, Upper Madi County, Madi-Okollo): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity.

THE SPEAKER: Etuka, Noah, Feta, then we come to Acholi.

MR ETUKA: In 2021, when Upper Madi cumulatively lost 21 people, several of those school pupils, the Ministry of Works and Transport sent one of the senior engineers, Eng. Odong Richard from the Ministry of Works, went to the constituency and inspected eight bridges.

Two weeks ago, we lost five school pupils, and the Ministry was informed. I personally wrote to the Ministry of Works, and I have talked to the Minister of Finance, whenever all these

tragedies happen. To date, Madam Speaker, despite the comprehensive inspection of these bridges, none of the bridges is constructed. And yet, this river connects so many institutions, particularly health and education institutions. Madam Speaker, I started the struggle in 2016 but all this time, nothing has been done.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, in 1996 when the Ugandan National Liberation Front II came in Madi-Okollo, particularly in Lali, the President and the UPDF generally found it difficult to eliminate these rebels. That is why they had to resort to air bombardment to make sure that the rebels were removed. And that was because of –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, tell us the road that you feel needs worked on.

MR ETUKA: Madam Speaker, the road that time, which was pledged by the President, was the Pawor, Canya, Baribu and Vurra Road. And in 2016, the President who could not access Upper Madi, particularly Offaka Subcounty for his campaigns, he had to be airlifted because the bridges were all broken.

He pledged that the Anyiribu–Offaka–Uleppi Road would be rehabilitated. All these years, I have been drawing the attention of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Works, but nothing has been done. I pray that these roads be worked on and be prioritized in the ministry's budget. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Noah Musa, Hon. Feta, Hon. Ayume –

2.23

DR MUSA NOAH (Independent, Koboko North County, Koboko): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank the committee for the report, but I want to remind them a 38.5-kilometre central government road, from Keri Lima, Midigo, Kerua. This road has not been maintained for several years, Madam Speaker. They need to consider it.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, I want to talk about the district bridge. This is on account that investment in bridges are really huge and

districts cannot manage them. With the Shs 1 billion which has been released to the districts, some good work has been done on the roads, but it becomes useless not to connect them.

Therefore, the Government should also provide funding to the district to deal specifically with the bridges. For example, in Koboko, we have three strategic bridges which need to be fixed. One is Kiyi Bridge in Ludara Subcounty.

We have Abiebi Bridge in Lobule Subcounty, and Kochi Bridge. The district cannot fix these bridges. It is important that the government should consider allocating funds to the district to work on the bridges. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: You have information? Feta, Dr Yume - Chris, I will give you.

2.24

MR GEOFFREY FETA (NRM, Ayivu Division East, Arua City): Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I thank the committee, particularly on the recommendation of a review at Tangi Bridge that has been causing the flooding of that stretch.

Two weeks ago, we had a meeting with UNRA and they told us that they were doing an addendum design for that work, but that design does not have the money. It is important that the minister takes note that to resolve the floods at Pakwach, we need additional money to implement that design.

Two; the Nebbi - Arua Road, 76 KMs. Madam Speaker, God forbid, you will lose a member on that road very soon. The potholes on that road are now gullies.

THE SPEAKER: No, we are not going to lose a Member in Jesus' name.

MR FETA: The road now has gullies. It is no longer potholes. I expected the committee to have visited, physically, to appreciate so that they can report exactly the state of the road.

THE SPEAKER: What is the name of the road?

MR FETA: It is Madi-Okollo-Arua Road, 76 kilometres. The committee did not visit it.

THE SPEAKER: Take note of that.

MR FETA: Thirdly, West Nile hosts the second busiest airport; Arua Airport. I expected the committee to have visited it and reported exactly what was happening there. That airport has been in plan but no action has been taken. There is no communication on the plan – *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of information from Hon. Okin.

MR OKIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. West Nile is in the south western part of Uganda. Recently, I visited Arua city, and indeed, as the honourable member has put it, we had to travel 75 kilometres in almost six hours; that road is deplorable.

I would like to support the honourable member from Arua that if priorities are supposed to be given, they should give them to Arua so that the road is repaired. I also want to -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, it is not the first time we are hearing about that road.

MR OKIN: Let him conclude because I want to bring my issue. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: First bring yours - let Hon. P.P. finish.

MR OKIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the committee for the good work done. I know it is a very tedious exercise to compile the nature and status of roads in this country.

You recall that at one time we had a motion discussed in the Parliament of Uganda where you had tasked the Minister of Works and Transport to compile all the contracts and statuses of roads, but the minister failed to present the report in Parliament to date.

However, Madam Speaker, the road from Kitgum through Chua West, Kitgum-Matidi, going to Kidepo, passing through Chua East, has been in the National Development Plan for a long time. The people constructing the road went there for an assessment, but as we speak now, not even a hectare of a single work is being done.

The compensation, which was promised to the people there, was not done completely. Can we consider the road from Kitgum District passing through Kitgum-Matidi going to Kidepo, which is also a tourist road?

Lastly, there are some strategic bridges. They may not be the main bridges, but they are strategic bridges, which the district cannot work on; two of them are in Kitgum District. There is one connecting one subcounty to the centre of nodding- There is a river barring the nodding syndrome children from passing through to get health facilities in a different subcounty. That bridge has been promised and budgeted for; it is in the National Development Plan (NDP III), but no work has yet begun.

Similarly, there is one connecting Kitgum-Matidi to a particular parish and it is also a nodding disease-infested area. Those bridges are supposed to be considered, Madam Speaker.

Lastly, recently we had an engagement with the district through the District Local Government Public Accounts Committee. We had recommendations –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. P.P., the road you have talked about - we passed a loan on the Kidepo Road. Isn't that the road?

MR OKIN: That is the road.

THE SPEAKER: Our issue is that the Government of Uganda is supposed to contribute 5 per cent towards that construction on top of the loan. Therefore, what awaits is 5 per cent of that contribution. That should be answered by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

According to the report, it is because of the deduction that was done; the money that was reduced from the budget. So, finance minister, you will give us feedback on the 5 per cent for the Kidepo Road.

MR OKIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was making my last submission and then I return the microphone.

There is the issue of recommendations from the districts who have been engaging the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Engineering Brigade. I thought of bringing this issue here. The districts that have been using the UPDF Engineering Brigade have registered almost 99 per cent of the success rate, as far as the contract is concerned, via efficacy, effectiveness, timeliness, and the quality of work.

We have had, for example, a district like Kwania which is solely using the UPDF Engineering Brigade to do their construction. We have heard this recommendation from almost 60 per cent of the Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs); to build bridges, roads, construct schools and to build mega construction. Can we find it relevant in this particular case to recommend that most of the important contracts we have in this Government be given to the UPDF Engineering Brigade? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, you have heard. Hon. Feta, you could finish your submission.

MR FETA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank my colleague for confirming the state of that road. The last issue I want to raise is on the Shs 1 billion given to the districts. That money is capable of doing a lot of work. The only challenge some districts and cities have is a lack of equipment. Without the equipment, you are now forced to borrow or hire. The little money that could impact the roads is now spent on hiring equipment.

I appeal and request the minister to give us information on whether he is going to release the money for the procurement of road equipment or not, so that our people get to

know the struggles we have gone through. This is because you cannot give people Shs 1 billion and then you want them to spend that money on hiring equipment. Definitely, the impact will not be there.

Therefore, the minister should come out very clearly and tell us if this Shs 1 billion should have an impact or no impact. Should it just be spent on hiring equipment? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: It has an impact.

MR FETA: It definitely has an impact. It is difficult for us where we are hiring from - I am the Chairperson of the Roads Committee and I am speaking about what I am feeling, as the committee. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: It has an impact. All you need to do is to ask for the equipment to be worked on. The Shs 1 billion has an impact all over. Dr Ayume and then Hon. Joel?

2.34

DR CHARLES AYUME (NRM, Koboko Municipality, Koboko): Thank you, Madam Speaker. In addition to what has been submitted, mine is the issue of value for money. Some of these roads, like Karuma-Pakwach were completed in 2007. You heard that the lifespan was 15 years but as somebody who comes from the region, by 2016, the road had become un-motorable.

My humble request to the Government, in particular, Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), and the Minister of Works and Transport, is that we get value for money on most of these roads, at least a bare minimum of 20 years. We are going to accrue loans, our children will come, and we are taking more loans to repair the roads.

Two, on the road that has been mentioned, that is Nebbi-Arua, I would like to add my voice to it that it is non-motorable and hopefully, as a matter of urgency, forward maintenance on that particular road should start as soon as yesterday.

Finally – *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is information from Hon. Isaac.

DR AYUME: I will take the information. Thank you.

MR OTIMGIW: Thank you, my fellow colleague on that matter, for giving way. Madam Speaker, the road of Nebbi-Arua commences all the way from Pakwach to Nebbi. You are very well aware that they are still working on it.

However, the problem of unpaid certificates causing problems which have been captured by the Committee on Physical Infrastructure is the same.

That road from Pakwach to Nebbi was supposed to have been finished last year but the same issue of delayed payments is causing the problem. If there are delays right now, from Pakwach to Nebbi, the same delay continues further from Nebbi to Arua.

I hope that the ministry pays up the certificate so that we do not have delays on the construction of those roads which are already proceeding.

DR AYUME: Thank you, Hon. Isaac. Finally, is the issue of town councils and municipalities where the trunk roads go through. My humble request is that we make it a standard that the town councils and municipalities should benefit from at least five to 10 kilometres within because it takes time.

In future, there will be no budgets to mobilise money to do some of these municipality roads and bridges. For example, in Koboko, now that the road from Koboko to Yumbe-Moyo-Laropi is being done, I would expect Moyo, Yumbe and Koboko to at least benefit from five kilometres of roads. Thank you.

2.38

MR JOEL LEKU (NRM, Terego West County, Terego): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am bringing to you the plight of people from

Arua City, Terego, Obongi and Yumbe on a road that has a political name. It was first called FDC Road but when NRM won elections, it is now called NRM Road.

That is the road from Manibe-Wandi to Ore Bridge. This road is a section of about 54 kilometres. It has appeared in the manifesto of NRM about four times but up to now, it is not considered anywhere. We request that the Government works on it.

Two, we have –

THE SPEAKER: Is it a national or feeder road?

MR LEKU: It is a national road but towards the end, Zika Forest has taken about 24 kilometres of it. However, the main part is not considered anywhere. Then there is a Katrini-Nadi road, which connects to Koboko-Arua Road, which should also be taken up.

Madam Speaker, I would like to talk about what Dr Ayume has just presented. We borrow money to fund roads in this country. However, the locals do not know the value of these loans.

I will request that Government puts funds together or we borrow money to do about 10 kilometres of roads in all the town councils for in at least every district; instead of every Member coming here to complain about roads.

Like in Terego, people there can only put their feet on tarmac when they come for treatment in Arua City, which is totally wrong. And yet these are taxpayers who do not know the value of the loans we borrow, if this House can adopt and resolve-

THE SPEAKER: So, as a Member of Parliament, don't you tell your members during representation that while we are in Parliament we are borrowing this amount of money and this is its cost? Don't you give them the feedback?

MR LEKU: We do feedback but they do not understand. Madam Speaker, if you allow. This

is something we need to take up as leaders, to do some roads in the communities so that we spur development in those areas.

THE SPEAKER: About the roads in the communities, we made a provision of Shs 1 billion on top of the Road Fund. We are now talking about the national roads that connect from one region to the other that you have been mentioning.

The issue that we have with the implementing body is; when we approve a loan like this one of Kidepo- we approved a loan, to date no work has started but we are going to start paying interest on that loan and commitment fees. We need to be very strategic in this kind of operation.

MR LEKU: Madam Speaker, that is my prayer. Thank you, very much.

2.41

MS ZUMURA MANENO (NRM, Woman Representative, Obongi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to add my voice onto the report –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Acuti and Hon. Christine, I will come to Lango. I am now going to Acholi.

MS MANENO: Madam Speaker, we have a road that connects Obongi and Moyo Districts, that is Obongi-Moyo Road, which is being maintained by UNRA. Right now, if a miracle happens here that Parliament is taken to Obongi, all these vehicles are going to get stuck on that road. As I speak, the road is flooded for the last two weeks but UNRA is not paying any attention.

Secondly, on Obongi-Yumbe-Terego-Arua Road, which is also a national road, the side of Obongi is also flooded. Therefore, I urge the ministry and UNRA team to rush to Obongi and take care of the roads that are under their docket.

Madam Speaker, allow me to thank the Ministry of Works and Transport for giving

our road equipment as a new district. However, some of the components of road equipment are missing.

The ministry should do something so that those components that are missing should be submitted to the district for easy road maintenance and improvement of the road connectivity in the district.

Madam Speaker, year in and year out, after every five years, there is a critical road that whenever His Excellency the President of Uganda is campaigning in Obongi, speaks about. And that is Pakwach-Rhino Camp-Obongi-Wadlai up to Moyo District, proceeding to South Sudan.

He calls it a security road but the road always features nowhere. I urge those who are drafting the manifesto of NRM, this year, to help us leaders of Obongi, Pakwach, Madi-Okollo and Moyo; not to indicate that road in the manifesto because it has over featured but the Government is not doing something about it. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Maneno, you do not legislate with too much feeling because you are not the only user of that road. There are very many users but of course, Government has priorities.

2.44

MS CATHERINE MAVENJINA (NRM, Older Persons Representative, Northern): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like to concur with all my brothers and sisters who have brought out our plight of the roads and bridges of northern Uganda.

There is another problem that was caused by the Karuma Bridge that has now affected us because many of the vehicles are diverted to go through Masindi. Most of the buses leave Kampala a bit late and spend the night around the area where you enter through the national park –

THE SPEAKER: And they are charged.

MS MAVENJINA: There is a Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) checkpoint there. They have to spend the night there and yet there are no facilities or hotels and you find mothers and children suffering - all our people. After spending the whole night there, when they are cleared to go the following morning, the vehicles have to go at a very slow speed of between 20 and 30 kilometres per hour.

By the time you get to Pakwach, you will be very exhausted, after spending the whole night there. I think there is another disaster looming there. Our people will soon begin getting cholera and all sorts of diseases because the hygiene of the food, which is sold there, cannot be relied on.

My appeal to the Government, through the ministry for wildlife, is to increase the speed, at least from 20 to about 60 kilometres per hour. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: We have heard enough from West Nile. We can now go to Acholi. Hon. Afidra, just use one minute and, then, we have Hon. Lucy, Hon. Onkalit and Hon. Junior.

2.46

MR RONALD AFIDRA (NRM, Lower Madi County, Madi-Okollo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to compliment and have the views of Madi-Okollo captured on the issues of infrastructure for West Nile.

First, I would like to thank the committee. You gave us a week to do this work and it has been very commendable that the committee, within this short time -

THE SPEAKER: Are you a member of the committee?

MR AFIDRA: I am not.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR AFIDRA: I am a member of the trade and industry committee. They did good work, from

Karamoja to West Nile - they could not go to all the parts of this country.

Now that we have come here, allow me to make a few compliments in regard to the gaps from West Nile. West Nile, strategically –

THE SPEAKER: Please, do not repeat what has been said.

MR AFIDRA: Exactly. West Nile has been cut off because of River Nile. We are either linked through bridges or ferries. Allow me to address my mind to the ferries, especially at the Amuru crossing to Rhino Camp.

Madam Speaker, to go to West Nile via Amuru, Rhino Camp and Arua City, it will take you almost one hour and a half. However, because of the delayed construction of Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) ferry crossing, which has taken 13 years, the ferry has never crossed the river from Rhino Camp to Amuru.

My appeal, through you –

THE SPEAKER: Everybody is talking about UNRA. What will be the name used after two weeks?

MR AFIDRA: I want to predict that we shall be using Ministry of Works and Transport.

THE SPEAKER: Okay, let us start using the Ministry of Works and Transport so that we get used to it – because they are the supervising body.

MR AFIDRA: Yes, Madam Speaker. Allow me, now, to address my mind to the Ministry of Works and Transport. Much as UNRA took 13 years to work on this ferry crossing, the docking site on the Amuru side has never been worked on. I would like to appeal to the Ministry of Works and Transport that from next week - at least before this financial year ends – the people from Acholi – Amuru – could gladly use the ferry crossing to West Nile via Rhino Camp Ferry. This is my appeal.

The second appeal is in regard to the tourism roads that we have talked about. When you go to Buliisa, it is networked with tourism and oil roads. Equally, Murchison Falls extends to Amuru, Rhino Camp and West Nile. Ajai Game Reserve is part of Amuru. I do not know how we can address the presidential pledges here. The President has always gone to the –

THE SPEAKER: We have a report on presidential pledges, under Government assurances, which is going to be presented by the Leader of the Opposition.

MR AFIDRA: Madam Speaker, the challenge is: how can the presidential pledges translate into action beyond National Development Plan III that we are implementing on ground? Some of these pledges were made in the past term - the 10th Parliament.

I would like to draw attention to the Pakwach-Ochoko-Arua Road. This is the shortest route. It can benefit from the oil and the tourism road that the Government has been talking about, so that when tourists go to Ajai Game Reserve and extend to Adjumani, they can equally be connected and they enjoy those privileges.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Let us go to this side first.

2.50

MS LUCY AKELLO (FDC, Woman Representative, Amuru): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to start from where Hon. Afidra ended.

MS AKELLO: Madam Speaker, the road to Rhino Camp is strategic and I would like to thank the committee so much for highlighting it in their report.

However, I did not hear feedback in regard to the pending design, which I am aware, is already approved by - and the funding is supposed to come from the African Development Bank. So, I do not know whether this has already gone off or we are still on track because the last time I checked, they were supposed to have got the consultant and the design was supposed to

have started. This would have provided us an opportunity to have the shortest route to Arua.

Secondly, this is a strategic road in terms of agricultural input that comes from that side. If you see the magnitude of the goods that come from there, it is really a lot.

In addition, I would also like to highlight a strategic road - part of the great north road, which starts right here from Lacor up to Elegu.

Madam Speaker, much as this road is tarmacked, it is now a death trap for so many people. The road is quickly getting destroyed and causing accidents on a daily basis. I have not heard this in the report of the committee and I do not know what plan is in place by the Ministry of Works and Transport in regard to this road. I want to get this –

Finally, I would like to re-echo about the aerodromes that have been highlighted both in Arua and Gulu. These are all very strategic areas. When I was the vice-chairperson of the Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) committee, we visited Arua and I must say we were very impressed by the traffic that comes – actually, it is a very busy aerodrome and needs a lot of support.

So, I still emphasise that money should be put in these two areas to really help the people of northern Uganda. Thank you, Madam Speaker. You have set history in northern Uganda.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Onekalit and then Hon. Junior.

2.53

MR DENIS ONEKALIT (NRM, Kitgum Municipality, Kitgum): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to begin by thanking the Committee on Physical Infrastructure for the good report that they have given us. I have admired the form and content.

I would like to touch on the matter of the aerodromes – the airfields. Six months ago, we held a meeting with the Civil Aviation commissioner-general on Kitgum Municipality

airfield. Kitgum Municipality airfield was scheduled to be among the top seven, including the Kidepo Airfield. We had agreed that the commissioner-general would send staff to Kitgum to survey the status of Kitgum Airfield so that it could be revived to the standard needed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister for Works and Transport how far they have gone with the issues of Kitgum Airfield. It was supposed to be surveyed and the report given so that the work begins.

Secondly, there is the issue of Karuma. I also admired the report given on the issues of Karuma Bridge. The business community in the northern region are incurring many losses due to the long routes and a lot of time the buses take crossing from the park. The committee laid a very vivid idea of creating a waiver but it did not specify the kind of waiver.

I would like that to be clarified; whether the waiver will be in terms of giving some fuel or compensation to the bus companies so that they can cut the costs of the bus fares. At the moment, the cost is double than what it was before. In that way, our business community that crosses that bridge will be supported very well.

Madam Speaker, the Karuma Bridge was constructed in 1963, one year after Independence. It is saddening for us, the people of the North, to find ourselves having the only bridge closed. All these years, the Government would have taken a step to construct an alternative bridge. We cannot wait to do a post mortem. Therefore, Madam Speaker, the Ministry of Works and Transport needs to be clear –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Onekalit, the committee handled the issue of Karuma very well. We will wait for a response from the minister as almost everybody has talked about it.

On the issue of the Kidepo aerodrome, the land was encroached on. There is just a small

runway next to the Presidential lodge that must be sorted out first and the issue of the land which was encroached.

On the issue that Hon. Lucy talked about, the committee did not talk about the road safety issues, which must be handled by the Minister of Works and Transport. Yes –

MR ONEKALIT: Madam Speaker, indeed we are aware about the encroachment. That is why we wanted the Civil Aviation Authority to come and analyse the status quo on the ground. However, as Kitgum, we have another alternative land that we can actually give to help put the airfield. It was discussed in the council –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister -

MR ONEKALIT: Madam Speaker, Acholibur-Musingo Road construction - Kitgum Municipality, particularly Pager Division, lost properties during that construction. The assessment was done. It is awaiting compensation of about Shs 61 million. We wrote letters and I went physically –

THE SPEAKER: Is it Shs 61 million or billion?

MR ONEKALIT: Shs 61 million.

THE SPEAKER: Million? Honourable minister, you need to check that because if it is Shs 61 million -

MR ONEKALIT: Madam Speaker, I will verify the figure and bring it but the issue is that compensation has not been done up to now. I physically went to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Mr Ggoobi, and up to now, we are waiting. I want to request the Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development to give us the status quo for that compensation.

Lastly – *(Hon. Moses Okot rose)*

THE SPEAKER: No, give way to Hon. Junior Okot now.

MR ONEKALIT: Lastly - Madam Speaker, just a minute. Regarding issues of the municipality, we have issues of road equipment and I believe all the new municipalities have the same challenges. We borrow road equipment from our mother districts. Therefore, if really the Ministry of Finance –

THE SPEAKER: We have made a budget for the equipment for the new municipalities and that is going to be purchased. It was in the budget we passed. Hon. Junior, Hon. Anthony –

2.59

MR MOSES OKOT (FDC, Kioga County, Amolatar): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. May the record show that I appreciate the input of the committee for the excellent work done. The committee in their findings did make very good recommendations, but they excluded key roads in Lango, inter alia, the road that connects Dokolo-Amolatar. This road, Madam Speaker, did appear in NDP III and was approved in a supplementary budget.

I am not privy to the NRM manifesto but I am alive to the information that it was in the NRM Manifesto. It beats my understanding how this road has disappeared and never has it surfaced anywhere yet it shares a nexus with Dokolo-Ochero, which is being worked on. Is it because the line minister has close proximity with Dokolo-Ochero? May I be informed?

Secondly, Madam Speaker, Masindi Port Bridge was approved in the budget. We did approve a loan. We coded the loan 1795. At the same time, Ochero-Katine loan was approved and coded 1796. I am persuaded to think that Masindi Port that was the initial inventor of the loan that Katine benefited from has disappeared but Katine is being worked on. What has Lango done not to get this road?

Madam Speaker, with the closure of Karuma, my constituency road of Dokolo-Amolatar is overloaded; it is un-motorable. If the line minister deems it fit to close Masindi Port and overloaded our road, let it be tarmacked. Lango wants to hear this. I submit. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. There is nothing that Lango has done and as I said before, we will debate with all the sanity, without lamentations, without the blame game. Remember one thing: we have priorities and we are here to resolve issues so we must deliberate honourably.

3.02

MR ANTHONY AKOL (FDC, Kilak North County, Amuru): Madam Speaker, I must thank the committee for the good work they have done, but I think to some extent, there is some information that is really missing in the report on the issue of Karuma Bridge.

Initially, the technical people thought the problem was only the bearings but the recent discussion that I had with the technical team on the ground - because we shared a place at night and I had the opportunity to interact with them - they have practically realised that the problem is not only the bearings, but also those metallic things are all now getting rotten, so the work will not be as planned before and it might take more time than what is indicated –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nakut, you are on the list.

MR AKOL: Secondly, it is putting a lot of risk to the lives of the other vehicles that they thought had the capacity to pass over the bridge. That is something that needs to be investigated more.

Also, regarding the traffic that has been diverted to the other roads, those roads do not have the capacity to handle the kind of traffic that is going through the park and the other areas. So there must be a mitigating factor to make sure that as we try to work on Karuma Bridge, we should not have further destruction on the other roads that are going to be affected by the traffic, which is diverted on those areas. That is my issue on Karuma Bridge.

Madam Speaker, we have been thinking that when we added Shs 1 billion to the districts, it was going to help. Unfortunately, we need an explanation from the Ministry of Finance, planning and Economic Development. It has

been communicated to us that when they were giving out the Shs 1 billion to the districts, they reduced the money on road funds that is going to the districts. This needs more explanation for us to know what is practically on the ground. Otherwise, it is affecting roads in the different areas in the district.

Finally, Madam Speaker, we have subcounties; new administrative units, which were created later in the country. Unfortunately, they were not were not planned for by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. They are still sharing the same amount of money that comes to the subcounties and the districts and this is really affecting the roads in all the different areas in Uganda.

In my constituency, there is a road in the town council named Kaguta Road in Papua Town Council. Madam Speaker, the name of the President should be removed. When you go to the town council, you wonder why it should bear the name of the President of the Republic of Uganda. Something needs to be done on the issue of roads in the country. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, in the VIP Gallery we have the Crown Prince of Aringa Kingdom, that is, Ingamule Adnan Doka. He is here to witness the proceedings. We also have:

- i) Hon. Akol Sizza, the District Speaker of Moroto;
- ii) Hon. Agilu Simon-Peter, the District Speaker of Napak;
- iii) Hon. Lodeo, the District Speaker of Kotido District;
- iv) Hon. Locoro, the DEC member, Napak, and the Cultural Head of Bukora people;
- v) Tebanga Emmanuel, the CSO of Napak, and they are represented here by Hon. Nakut;
- vi) Mr Ogwal Geoffrey Alex, LCV Chairman of Kwania Local District government. They are all here to witness the proceedings of today.

Honourable members, if you have not said anything, we have a number of reports. Those

who have not talked will speak on other reports. Can I have Hon. Lamwaka?

3.07

MS MARGARET LAMWAKA (Independent, Chua East County, Kitgum):

Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank the committee for their report.

However, Madam Speaker, as you have sent us to go to all these areas in Northern Uganda, I want to re-echo again on the issue of Kitgum-Karenga-Kidepo-Kaboong-Kotido Road, which is actually one of the busiest roads that gives us a lot of money from the tourism sector.

I want to inform you that when we went on the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs, there were other members of Parliament who could not cross from Moroto to Kotido because of Lopei Bridge which was flooded. At the same time, we could not even cross to Abim passing via Kotido to Aleret.

Secondly, Karenga is going to host –

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter, Hon. Lamwaka.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Madam Speaker, when my colleague, Hon. Lamwaka was on the Floor speaking, I was very keenly watching and I saw the label on the screen stating, ‘Hon. Lamwaka Catherine.’

THE SPEAKER: No, it is Hon. Lamwaka Margaret.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Madam Speaker, would it not be procedurally right for you to give me the chance to speak after her then? Thank you. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: Is that a procedural issue? *(Laughter)*

MS MARGARET LAMWAKA: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. As I said -

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter here. Hon. Catherine Lamwaka, you will speak after Hon. Margaret Lamwaka.

MSACORA: The procedural issue I am raising is that the honourable members sitting on the eastern side of the chambers have not spoken. We are asking whether it is procedurally right that your eyes are not seeing us on the other side, Madam Speaker. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nancy Acora, I do not remember losing my sight at any one time. It is very clear and I am in the right state of mind. Hon. Lamwaka Margaret?

MS MARGARET LAMWAKA: Yes, Madam Speaker. What I was raising is that Karenga District is going to host a gala of Ateker on the 2nd to the 9th. When I passed there, I also got stuck and slept in Karenga.

I want to inform the Minister of Works and Transport that the road is impassable and the President is going to open that gala officially. I implore him and his colleagues - let me say Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) - to go and work. When we got stuck, we called UNRA and they did some work in some few places. However, there are so many bridges, especially in our district, which the district could not work on. Like a bridging point in Omiya-Anyima where I went one time with the Minister of Local Government and he also witnessed it. This bridge connects Agago and Omiya-Anyima Health Centre and we have only one health centre III in Omiya-Anyima which serves us. So, Madam Speaker, I would say if my –

THE SPEAKER: When you see Hon. Linda coming, that shows that she now wants to present the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

MS MARGARET LAMWAKA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Catherine Lamwaka?

3.12

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA (NRM, Woman Representative, Omoro): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you so much.

THE SPEAKER: Karamoja, I am coming. Nobody has spoken from Karamoja. Yes. Leave Hon. Catherine to finish and then I will come over.

MS CATHERINE LAMWAKA: Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. I have been following the report of the committee and I want to thank the chairperson for the very elaborate report.

However, on one of their recommendations, talking about periodic assessment of bridges on some of the major roads in the country, I thought it would be very important for us to have a recommendation that covers all the bridges on the national roads in this country to avoid us operating in a manner that we are in now, especially regarding Karuma Bridge.

Secondly, I want to comment on the issue of roads under Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA). The Ministry of Works and Transport should really improve on their coverage and as far as their assessment on status of roads is concerned, there are roads under UNRA that have not been worked on for the last five years. In Omoro District, I want to cite two cases. There is a road from Minakulu that connects Omoro to Nwoya District via Okwui. That road is in a very sorry state.

Four days ago, the community around there and connecting to Nwoya were demonstrating. It is only your arrival in Omoro yesterday that calmed the situation down. We nearly lost two mothers who were in labour pain trying to access health facilities connecting to Kampala Road. I have written several times to the minister, and Hon. Musa Ecweru is aware of this, but nothing has been done on this road.

Another road is Minja connecting Omoro District to Gulu and Kitgum. This is also another national road that has never been worked on. Even simple maintenance has never been done on the road, Madam Speaker. I want to implore the Ministry of Works and Transport - now that UNRA is no longer going to be there, let the Ministry of Works and Transport take care of all the roads under UNRA properly.

I want to add my voice on the allocations for roads under Road Fund, Madam Speaker. It is very absurd. When Parliament is considering additional funding to the districts to take care of roads, you again find that they are reducing some of this funding that was there earlier on. I am not impressed with this move. The Shs 1 billion allocation by Parliament is really supporting local governments a lot in terms of maintenance. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Dorcus Acen?

3.14

MS DORCAS ACEN (NRM, Woman Representative, Alebtong): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity.

From the perspective of equal opportunities, and specifically on the issue of roads, Lango subregion is doing very badly. Only about three per cent of paved roads are in Lango subregion. For that matter, regarding the roads that Hon. Okot Bitek had raised under NDP III, we also have Dokolo-Aloi and Lira-Aloi, which have existed under NDP III and no work has been done. The entire Lango subregion has very few paved roads.

I would like, therefore, to request that the Government put special emphasis on ensuring that the Lango subregion does not continue lagging behind.

Again, Madam Speaker, on the issue of Rwekunyee-Apac Ferry, I had the opportunity to witness the traffic on that road; vehicles spend about five days without crossing with the ferry from one side to the other. Some of those vehicles are ferrying animals. It becomes very risky. The cost of doing business is extremely high.

I would like to support the committee recommendation of putting a much bigger ferry on that route. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. PPP? Honourable members, those who will have not spoken will put down the names of their roads

and we will capture them. In the next report, those who have not spoken will speak first: PPP, Hon. Acuti, Hon. Christine, Hon. Achia, and Hon. Baatom -

3.16

MS SANTA OKOT (PPP, Aruu County, Pader): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am going to be very brief by asking questions.

Number one, I would like to ask the Ministry of Works and Transport; you went to Pader and made a bridge called Watlac, which is from Atar to Kigwer Corner. After two months, the bridge collapsed, stopping children from going to school at Wipolo. We informed you several times, but you have not gone back to correct that bridge. When are you going to correct the bridge?

The second question is, there is a programme called Rural Development and Food Security in Northern Uganda (RUDSEC). It has taken two years. I heard about this programme. It is supposed to make a road from Puranga-Awere-Bolo Agweng to come and put a bridge on Aruu Falls. It will help the people to access the main road. When are you going to take on this project?

One of the roads is supposed to leave Lapul through Oweka to Okia. To date, we have not seen you doing this programme. Two years have ended. Can you explain to the people in Pader when you will do that, now that you are seated in Gulu Parliament?

The last one, Madam Speaker, is that you have said we should not speak about community access roads. However, they are very important because the community access roads are the ones that help our people undertaking economic activities to come to the main road.

THE SPEAKER: Community access roads are not national roads. We have given you money for that. Go and ask your local government.

MS SANTA OKOT: Okay. I wanted to propose that the funds be increased because it is little

money. Shs 2-3 million encourages corruption in the sub-counties. Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Dr Acuti, Hon. Christine, Hon. Alyek and Hon. Achia.

3.19

MR SAMUEL OPIO (Independent, Kole North County, Kole): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to propose three amendments to the report.

The first is in relation to Lango subregion having the lowest stock of tarmac roads in the country - just 3 per cent. The reason that we were given previously, as Lango Parliamentary Group, is that we have very few national roads. Most of our roads are district roads. We made a petition to the Ministry of Works and Transport to upgrade several district roads to national roads. It is now two years and that has not happened. I would like to recommend that the committee report is amended so that, that is provided for.

Secondly, we also have the AFCON roads. One of the roads that we have been informed will be linking Gulu City to Lira City is the Corner Ayer-Corner Aboke-Iceme Road. We have been informed previously that it would be tarmacked. It is also in the NDP III. We want to get information on when its tarmacking is going to be done.

Lastly, the report indicated that it costs Shs 5 million to carry out maintenance using the force account and Shs 50 million using framework contracts. Our NDP III clearly states that gravel road construction will cost Shs 30 million per kilometre. Therefore, I want to recommend that the committee also recommends that the cost of road construction per kilometre, especially the first class murrum, be realigned with the NDP III costs. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Christine, Hon. Alyek.

3.21

MS CHRISTINE AKELLO (NRM, Erute County North, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am Christine Akello, a Member of Parliament from Erute North Constituency.

Allow me to thank the committee for the report they have presented. I just want to add on about the few bridges. We have bridges that have taken seven years. These are the national roads. There is a bridge called Adyangoluto; it connects Kole up to Gulu. It has to be worked on. And we have Aler-Akor-Alebtong, which goes up to Teso. Then we have Aler-Akangi-Alebtong that connects up to Teso. We have Apuce-Ayile that connects Oyam up to Gulu. This one was being constructed by the Agriculture Cluster Development (ACDP) Project and it collapsed before they could even commission the project.

Madam Speaker, we have lost so many lives. Just last month, three people died as they tried to cross from Oyam to Lira District. Therefore, I am requesting the Ministry of Works and Transport to take this seriously.

I am also in support of the UPDF being given the mandate to construct the bridges.

Lastly, the road that comes from Rwekunyie, Apac up to Kitgum has issues, especially in Aler, my constituency, where they are quarrying rock. The people are complaining and they need to sign a new agreement concerning the compensation and the future of the people's land. This is because there is conflict of interest between the district and the community. I request the chairperson of the roads committee to investigate that.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Alyek?

3.22

MS JUDITH ALYEK (NRM, Woman Representative, Kole): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I am speaking on behalf of the Lango Parliamentary Group. I would like to first of all give credit where it is due. I want to thank the Government for the Lira-Kam dini

Road, which is now almost getting completed and also the construction of Rwekunyie-Apac-Lira-Puranga Road which is ongoing.

However, on the issue of the ferry, Masindi Port Ferry is the oldest in the country, and it is really outdated. I would like the Ministry of Works to consider this immediately because it is breaking down almost every day and it is affecting traffic.

Madam Speaker, on the RALP road; the Rwekunyie-Apac-Lira-Puranga Road, some of our people have never been compensated. I would like to ask the Minister for Works and Transport; when will the compensation get completed? This is because our people have sacrificed the land where the roads pass, yet they have never been compensated. The road is passing via Kole District where most of the people in the area of Akalo and other areas up to Puranga have not been compensated.

I want to talk about Dokolo-Amolatar Road and ask the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development because His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, wrote a letter of pre-financing to use the Chinese company that was ready to tarmac the Dokolo-Amolatar Road, in 2021. The President gave the directive to the minister for finance to accept pre-financing so that this road is constructed, and the payments are completed after three years. Madam Speaker, the minister for finance should give us an answer as this road should have been finished by now.

The Lira-Aloi-Abim Road is 179 kilometres. This was under the National Development Plan III, and in the NRM Manifesto as well. I would like the minister for finance to also respond, together with the minister for works.

Lastly, on the road maintenance fund of Shs 1 billion, not every district is the same. Kole District and other parts of the country are covered by water. If we use the Shs 1 billion for only swamp crossings, installing box culverts and others, it is not enough, even in your constituency.

I propose that the Government considers, through this Parliament, increasing the road maintenance fund to about Shs 1.5 or 2 billion, so that we see how each district uses that money. This is because, at the moment, climate change has affected all the districts in this country, and we have a lot of water breaking down the roads and the bridges.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. You said that you were speaking on behalf of Lango.

3.26

MR JULIUS ACON (NRM, Otuke East County, Otuke): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, Otuke is the only district in Northern Uganda where the five Nilotic tribes departed, when God created the universe. One was Teso. Second, Acholi. Third, Acholi-Jabwor. Then comes the Karimojong.

Madam Speaker, I request – each time I shall represent this side of Otuke which covers all these tribes. There is a bridge on the road from Kapelebyong; that is Alito and Ogor Subcounty. Secondly, there is a bridge on the road from Omoro to Orumo, which is in Ajuri County; Alebtong District. The third bridge, Nam Agago, is on the road from Agago District, Ogor. Madam Speaker, one of these bridges should be considered.

Lastly, the Shs 1 billion which, was given to the districts has been misused in Otuke District. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the district chairperson connived to grade only nine roads, out of the 24 roads which were meant to be graded. Madam Speaker, I would like this to be put into consideration. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The Public Accounts Committee on Local Government should look at that issue of the money, which has been misappropriated. Hon. Achia.

3.28

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I

came here this morning so happy to listen to the issues of Northern Uganda. You clearly guided that we should discuss these matters without emotion, with clarity and confidence.

Madam Speaker, what happens when a region like Karamoja is not included in a report like this report on works? The committee did not visit Karamoja. Why are we going to discuss our *manyanga*? You told us that we are going to discuss the rest of our *manyanga* in Kampala. What about Karamoja *manyanga*? Where is it going to be discussed? We are in Northern Uganda. How can we have a committee which is supposed to go to West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja, not go to Karamoja? You told us that we were going to speak during the debate on the next report, when we are not in it. We have to speak -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Chair of the Karamoja Parliamentary Group, is Moroto in Karamoja?

MR ACHIA: Moroto road starts from here and stops in Agago –

THE SPEAKER: I am asking?

MR ACHIA: The road they are referring to is the one that starts here in Gulu City.

THE SPEAKER: I want to read for you, Hon. Achia. Keep your cool. The road from Moroto through Omoro, Pader, Agago and Abim - Abim is in Karamoja. If the committee did not capture issues of Karamoja, let us put them down after the session. Let us sit as subregions; Karamoja, Acholi, Lango, West Nile, and agree on what was not covered. Let us agree on that. We do not have to lose our heads here.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: That could have been an oversight. We are sorry about that. Let us raise the issues that concern the area.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, I respect you so much. When you say I am losing my cool, it is because of these reports.

THE SPEAKER: My uncle, calm down. Hon. Achia, I want you to retreat and look at all the issues in terms of infrastructure, concerning Karamoja, and give them to my team before we sleep, tonight.

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, I accept your guidance, but let the chairperson and the members of the committee tell you that they did not go to Karamoja.

THE SPEAKER: I have apologised on their behalf, sorry about that. Yes. Information?

MR OCHERO: Madam Speaker, my prayer is that since we are going to deliver the report to your team by evening, I pray that this report is not adopted until tomorrow, when our report has been included.

THE SPEAKER: A report can be adopted with amendments, including the amendments of Karamoja. Yes, Hon. Ricky Anywar?

MR LAGEN: Information, Madam Speaker. I thank you so much for giving me the opportunity.

Madam Speaker, this regional meeting is very important and key. I thank God for the wisdom that he has given you, to allow the regional Parliament to come to Northern Uganda, which is quite important.

Madam Speaker, I request you, kindly, to allow the Members of Parliament from Karamoja, part of Acholi, and other people to speak. This is because the issues we are addressing are very key.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want us to look at only one report and present only that to the President, tomorrow?

MR LAGEN: Not really. It is because these issues are a priority. Madam Speaker, for example, I expected the committee –

THE SPEAKER: What are you raising now?

MR LAGEN: Madam Speaker, I expected the committee to talk about the issue of the security road. You know security is key.

THE SPEAKER: Which one?

MR LAGEN: Anything that is not protected by security becomes a problem. The security roads in Northern Uganda, from Odom to Kitgum, and from the Karamoja part of the region - The UPDF is doing a lot of good work in the area. However, there are challenges that need to be mitigated. The minister for works should be able to work on the issue of security roads to allow the UPDF to do deployment, execute their duty effectively and efficiently, for the protection of the local people in the community. That means that the Government's implementation of the projects in the area will not be jeopardised by the cattle raiders. I expected the community to work on that very seriously.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Lagen, what I am saying is that you should give us the names of those roads that have not been mentioned, so that we amend the report to that effect. Hon. Achia -

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, I take your guidance that the Karamoja Parliamentary Group sits after this, this evening, and makes an addendum to this report -

THE SPEAKER: Yes, an addendum to this report.

MR ACHIA: And it is adopted together with our report tomorrow. Let this report not be a matter of doubt.

THE SPEAKER: We will adopt the report tomorrow after we have gotten an addendum from the Karamoja team.

MR ACHIA: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Acora - First give the doctor a chance.

3.35

DR ANTHONY OKULLO (NRM, Lamwo County, Lamwo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I have been sitting for a long time.

Madam Speaker, I remember history very well. When this Government came into power, the first thing they did was to secure the country. In other words, without security, there cannot be any business, touring, or economic development.

I come from Lamwo County, which borders South Sudan. Recently, I made a submission in Parliament in respect to border insecurity whereby South Sudanese have been robbing and terrorising the people of Lamwo. It resulted into one big thing, which was the positioning of a whole brigade of 5,000 UPDF soldiers in Lamwo, my constituency.

Now the problem arises that, in case of supplies and other things, the road from Kitgum-Padipe to Ngomoromo-Lokung needs to be tarmacked to fasten communication quickly for the army personnel to supply the border posts. This is because there are now 5,000 UPDF men and women guarding the people of Lamwo, for which we thank the commander-in-chief of this country.

Secondly, there is another road from Aweno Olwi to Lamwo, which also needs to be addressed, preferably by tarmacking. I do not have a lot of words. We need to secure this country. We need the borders to be calm. We are in the North right now and we want the northern parts of the country to be secured. Right now, South Sudan is a hotspot for insecurity. I would like this Parliament to address this.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Acora, Acan?

3.36

MS NANCY ACORA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lamwo): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I would like to add to what my colleague, the male MP for Lamwo County, has said. Kitgum to Ngomoromo via Padipe Road is about

67 kilometres and is a number six priority road under the World Bank Refugee Funded Project. By the grace of God, the money for the construction is available. What is needed from the Government of the Republic of Uganda is the money for designing it.

Therefore, it is my humble plea, on behalf of the people of Lamwo District, to not just coordinate and connect the refugee district, but to connect us to South Sudan. Being a border district, this has been long overdue. His Excellency promised the people of Lamwo this road in 2018 when he visited our side.

Secondly, Lututuru Hill was one of the tourist sites in the history of this country. When His Excellency, by then, President Idi Amin Dada, was in power, he had his site at Lututuru Hill. So, I also want to interest the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry to take keen interest and make that site valuable to give some credit to the economy of Uganda.

Last but not least, Madam Speaker, we need a security road that borders the Kitgum people and Lamwo District. Recently, we had a land dispute where my people lost lives in a land conflict between the community of Mucwini East and the community of Madi Opei subcounty in Lamwo district. I request the Ministry of Internal Affairs to give us a security road to clearly demarcate the landmark. I beg to submit.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Betty Ocan?

3.39

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu city, Gulu): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am the host, the mother of Gulu city –

THE SPEAKER: We wanted the host to speak last.

MS AOL: Yes, thank you. I am here to welcome and to thank everybody who has managed to come to Gulu city. Gulu city is very beautiful because the roads within the central part of the city are good. However, if you go to the

suburbs, the roads are bad. We need to help the city become better; the roads.

A logistic hub was built and it looks very beautiful. Up to 82 families accepted to leave in order for the logistic hub to be built. They were promised payment and I have the list in my hands, but the people of Acholi are so poor.

Minister of Works and Transport, we are not happy. If you promised to pay something, why don't you pay them? Six years down the road, these 82 people have not been paid. We really appeal that the 82 - By the way, Madam Speaker, even your stamp is on one of the documents I am holding here in my hand. There is even a stamp from the permanent secretary and many others. I have up to five stamps here on the documents, six years.

These people were so good to allow the logistic hub work to continue, but we are now very unfair to them. I think this is what was even burning me because it would be very bad for us to finish the report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure without attending to the issue of the 82 people, after giving me this document.

I would also like to lay this document on the Table. I thank you. Let me now not bore people with the already mentioned roads in the city.

THE SPEAKER: So, we can have Hon. Ojara as the host.

MS AOL: Thank you, Hon. Ojara, for being the host. Please, come in; I want to lay the document.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as we have agreed, we are going to have all those roads that have been mentioned presented to the minister. The minister is not going to respond to these issues now. He will only respond after he has got all that has been said because he cannot respond on incomplete things.

3.42

MR MAPENDUZI OJARA (Independent, Bardege-Layibi Division, Gulu City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to elaborate - (*Hon. Nakut rose*)

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Nakut, we agreed – Karamoja, you are going to sit.

MS NAKUT: Madam Speaker, it is not on the list of roads but on the content in the report that affects the entire region and the country. Can't we also submit? I know that the committee did not capture -

THE SPEAKER: Yes, you are going to submit an addendum.

MS NAKUT: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: That is what they call addendum.

MS NAKUT: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Okay.

MR OJARA: Thank you very much.

MS NAKUT: Can I submit now or after Hon. Mapenduzi?

THE SPEAKER: No, you are going to make an addendum of the whole subregion and give a copy to the minister this evening so that he gets the responses to it, and then you present it in the House.

MS NAKUT: Madam Speaker, while I agree to the proposal that you have given to the Karamoja group, it is my appeal that when we consider the next report, we apportion maybe at least three members per subregion, so that one subregion does not occupy the entire time.

THE SPEAKER: That is okay. That is accepted. Three Members per region.

MR OJARA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I join my colleagues in thanking the committee for the report, without a necessary

petition. In 2017, the Minister of Works and Transport gave assurance to the people of Gulu that the Government had put in the budget and had planned to build a road from Kitgum to Lamwo, Lamwo to Palaro, Palaro to Gulu City and Palaro to Atiak. This has been for over five consecutive financial years.

It would be important, Madam Speaker, that this matter is clarified and we would love to hear from the honourable minister why this promise has been continuously -

Finally, Hon. Betty raised a concern on the plight of the people who got affected by the construction of the logistic hub. I have personally gone to the Ministry of Works and Transport and asked when these people would be paid. The story we hear from the Ministry of Works and Transport is that there is no money. Wouldn't it be okay to have it included now in the budget for the next financial year so that these people are paid?

THE SPEAKER: Include this in your report so that we adopt it together. The minister will respond and we budget for it.

MR OJARA: Thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, next item. Yes, Hon. Santa?

MS ALUM: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for this opportunity. We are winding up the debate on infrastructure in northern Uganda, but I do not know whether it would be procedurally right for me not to mention the issue of emergency in the great North road apart from Corner Molem to Bobi.

As we sit here legislating, one week ago, that road got completely damaged and blocked and now, all the people coming all the way from the eastern side of East Africa heading to the North, Juba or Cairo for that matter cannot access it because it has been blocked from a big swamp called Oryamapat.

Another emergency issue is about the landing site where a ferry can be used in Aturamutunda.

I do not know why Hon. Musa Ecweru, the State Minister of Works and Transport, cannot get this alternative route and give us a ferry on that landing site. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Include it in the report so that we can make amendments. The Leader of the Opposition -

3.46

DR ABED BWANIKA (NUP, Kimanya-Kabonera Division, Masaka City): Thank you, Madam Speaker. You have guided well on the Karamoja caucus. I propose that as we retire, all the caucuses of all the subregions go back, sit and provide priority lists for the infrastructure in their different subregions so that they also become addendum to that report because every Member of Parliament is giving in their own input.

However, it would be good for every subregion to come up with a priority list for instance on the national roads, bridges -

THE SPEAKER: And what is within the National Development Plan III (NDPIII), in consideration with the Public Finance Management Act.

DR BWANIKA: Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the Members that the NDPIII ends in June 2025 and we will begin NDPIV. This is supposed to be ready in the next month of September. While we are making the priority lists, we need to visit those two documents.

There is already a draft for the NDPIV, to see whether what we are proposing has been captured. That is when our discussion will add value to the people of Northern Uganda. I submit.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Honourable members, retreat and have those reports to the amendments of the committees and you should look at other reports. Do not look at infrastructure alone but rather all the reports and as you have heard, they said that we should be able to give three or five people per subregion.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE SECTORAL
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES
ON THE STATE OF WATER FOR
PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN
NORTHERN UGANDA

3.49

MS LINDA AUMA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lira): Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, I hereby present a report of the committee on a field visit to selected districts in northern Uganda to assess the water for agricultural production facilities.

Before I proceed, I beg to lay on the Table the copy of the report and the minutes of the committee when going through this report.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, please lay.

MS LINDA AUMA: Madam Speaker, in accordance with our Rules of Procedure, Rule 189(c), as a committee, we visited Pakwach, Kole and Oyam districts in northern Uganda to assess water for agricultural production facilities.

All these projects were under the NDPIII and under Water for Production Interventions. It was a facility that was on demand and the key big schemes that we visited were the Itek Okile Rice Scheme in Lira District, Tochi Rice Scheme in Oyam and Wadelai in Pakwach. These were the mega projects.

The committee had other small scale irrigation projects that were also visited through the district leadership of the various districts under Uganda Green Investment Facility (UGIF).

This was a project that was supposed to be co-funded by individual farmers to scale up water for production and enhance agriculture commercialization and on time production.

I know this report was uploaded and I believe my colleagues are well versed with agriculture.

I would like to move straight to our observations and recommendations.

Madam Speaker, Wadelai irrigation scheme is located in Pakwach District in the subcounties of Ragem and Wadelai with River Ora as its water source. This irrigation scheme was constructed under FIEFOC-2, which is implemented by the Ministry of Water and Environment. The original contract sum was Shs 54,784,397,918 but it was revised to Shs 61 billion after a change of scope in the design of the project.

This project was funded by the World Bank under Nordic Development fund and Government of Uganda (GOU). The contractor was M/S Coil and Nasr General Contracting Company Joint Venture. The consultant was BEC Engineers Ltd, in association with HP Devoc International Civil Engineering Ltd.

During the full visit, the committee was only able to interact with the district officials because the attempts to reach the site were frustrated by the bad roads as a result of flooding in Kagolo.

Madam Speaker, according to the officials, physical progress of the work is at 93 percent;

- (a) The completion of upstream and downstream embankment protection works.
- (b) Construction of the spillway tail race protection works.
- (c) Repair of the right-side head regulator.
- (d) Completion of bottom outlet/environmental flow structure.
- (e) Completion of Secondary canal 4, associated tertiary canal and control structures.
- (f) Completion of Secondary Canal 5, associated tertiary canal and control.
- (g) Assess and scheme roads.
- (h) Scheme buildings and facilities
- (i) Farm clearing.

There were a lot of findings that I do not intend to go through because I know Members have observed this but I would like to note that Wadelai Project had a lot of encumbrances, especially on land acquisition and compensation

in Paten where majority of the area was for that community.

They failed to agree with the ministry, especially on the compensation aspect, where titled land was being compensated at Shs 3,000,000 and untitled land was being compensated at Shs 2,000,000. This brought a lot of back-and-forth conflicts that made this project not to move as it was expected.

Madam Speaker, there were observations that the committee came up with. They were that:

- i) There was no community ownership of the land.
- ii) The outstanding work on the scheme was partially stopped due to the flooding and conflicts.
- iii) There was also failure to restore borrow pits by the contractor which poses a big threat to the life of the humans.
- iv) Even the money that was needed for bush clearing was not handled.
- v) Madam Speaker, there was also poor coordination between the district and the Ministry of Water and Environment. That is why the community was in conflict – because the district would have been the link.
- vi) The community was also not sensitised much on the importance of this project.

Recommendations

- i) The Ministry of Water and Environment should ensure that the dispute is resolved within three months to pave way for completion of the project. Madam Speaker, the conflict in this project reached up to the World Bank. Through some NGO, they formed a Gulu conflict resolution team, which failed and the matter is now in court.
- ii) There should also be an investigation instituted on the level of completion of this work. Madam Speaker, this project is not yet working, although they are saying that it is at 93 per cent. It is not yet completed because of the unresolved conflicts, yet the Government had put a lot of money, which is a loan that has a time frame.

iii) Madam Speaker, as I stated earlier, there was a Gulu roundtable, mediation efforts were made and this ended up in court. We also recommend that the ministry, through courts – because this matter is now in court – should expedite the process of resolving this conflict.

iv) The Ministry of Water and Environment, the Chief Government Valuer and other stakeholders should also expedite the negotiation mechanism to settle and compensate PAPs, not only in Wadelai – because this challenge is very common in most of the projects.

v) The community should be sensitised and this should be from the inception of the project so that they own the project in order to avoid conflicts that arise in the middle of the project.

Madam Speaker, also, on the same issue, the committee observed that the districts were not facilitated. Most of these hybrid projects that are being contracted by the ministry are very difficult to handle at the district level because there is no provision for facilitation, monitoring and supervision, which makes the districts tend to leave the contract. They fail to own it and this is one of the reasons that is failing the majority of these hybrid projects, despite the significant Government investment and loan funding.

The issue of ministries not facilitating districts in the monitoring of these projects is causing a lot of failure. This is an emphasis.

Itek–Okile Rice Scheme

Madam Speaker, this is a project in Lira District, located in Itek Subcounty. This project was implemented by both Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and Ministry of Water and Environment, but mainly sponsored by the ministry for water.

It had 6,000 acres of land but only 1,500 acres were irrigated. It had 13 dams, but only seven dams were constructed. The six dams that had remained were existing dams that just needed to be desilted, but, currently, are non-functional.

From the seven constructed dams, only three dams are functional and, by the time of our visit to the facility, one of the three dams that were made was completely vandalised and the water was flowing and flooding people's gardens.

The project roads were constructed. However, they require routine maintenance. We have talked to the district to take it up, other than waiting for the ministry to maintain these roads for them.

Madam Speaker, through this project, the Government supported by organising the farmers into a cooperative group with facilities like offices, storage facilities, tractors, milling machines - they had a fully functional office. According to the report from the community, they have embraced this project. There are no land encumbrances because all the 1,500 acres were Government land. So, there was no need for compensation and the community acknowledges that the land belongs to the Government.

We have to also give credit where it is due, Madam Speaker. The community was very grateful because in that area, there were reduced grass-thatched houses as a positive impact of the project. They told us that their children are even going to university – they are paying school fees – and NARO has also engaged them in seed multiplication of the new variety of the rice that NARO has come up with.

Madam Speaker, the total production output of this rice scheme is 12,000 tonnes per season and the community was requesting that the Government should extend the phase II project to handle the remaining part – the 700 acres of land – because all the 6,000 is fully utilised.

Observations

One of the observations was that the fields were not fully levelled and farmers find it difficult to utilise the land due to the control of the areas to be irrigated. For the main control gate of the damaged gate, they also informed the ministry. The ministry stated that they wanted Shs 100

million to repair it because it is a big valve. The district could not repair it because the funds were too much for them to afford.

Recommendations

- i) The committee recommends that the ministry should follow up the project design to completion to facilitate full utilisation of the scheme by farmers. Madam Speaker, most of this project has technically been handed over. When they were technically handed over, it means there were other defects or other areas that were not completed.
- ii) The Ministry of Water and Environment should also repair the damaged valve within one month. When we reached there, the farmers' gardens were already flooded because there was no control of the water and the dam size was also reducing. That will, again, cause the remaining dam to dry up because there is no control of the water.
- iii) The district local government, as I said earlier, was advised to also have a budget – to at least put a budget under production unit to help in curbing these emergencies.
- iv) The water user committee was also - I think this should be something that the ministry should take as a serious matter because if someone was taking care of that control gate, the thieves would have not broken it. There is a need to sensitise the water user committee to protect the project from vandalism.

5.3 Tochi Irrigation Scheme

Tochi Irrigation Scheme is located in Oyam District. It covers 500 hectares and 571 farmers are utilising it. This project was Government-owned but part of it was owned by the community where compensation was done. We did not hear any complaints from the farmers about the lack of compensation.

The project sum was Shs 30 billion but when these farms were used, the canals were narrow which failed to control the water and so, the Government came up with a supplementary budget of Shs 10 billion and this matter was corrected.

Madam Speaker, despite all these, the farms were not levelled. There are other blocks in the scheme that even the irrigation cannot reach because it is not levelled. We were happy with the farmers because they used it for horticulture, especially areas where irrigation could not reach.

As I am winding up, the cooperative groups are very organised. They have looked for funding from other sources. They have their plans to be the best rice scheme in the country and that is a very positive thing. It means they are owning their project.

On the small-scale irrigation, especially the one in Kole - Leye Valley Dam; this dam was constructed to help in aquaculture and the Government did everything and put this project in place which started in 2006 and ended in 2008.

The Ministry of Water and Environment implemented this and it was by then in Apac before Kole. Right now, the observation under this valley dam is not functional yet the Government has put everything in place. The dam is also silted and covered up by weeds, meaning that if we assess the value for money, it is not being utilised as per the investment of the Government.

Recommendation

The Ministry of Water and Environment should rehabilitate this dam so that it is restored to its original purpose.

2.4 UgIFT Micro-Scale Irrigation Scheme

We visited Lira District, some farmers in Oyam and Kole and Pakwach. The general complaint is on the issue of co-funding and the same issue on hybrid. Most of these contracts were given by the ministry but you find one contractor having a lot of contracts that sometimes, they fail to install this equipment to the farmers in time.

Madam Speaker, the farmers are very interested and most of the local governments are taking

back these funds, especially during the financial year because the farmers in Northern Uganda are poor. This is because a farmer was supposed to co-fund 25 per cent of the project yet the majority could not afford. Even those who have endeavoured to afford, there is a lot of delay in the installation by the contractors and the district has limited effort.

THE SPEAKER: Let us allow Hon. Linda to finish.

MS LINDA AUMA: I am winding up, Madam Speaker.

Recommendations

- i) The contribution of farmers to the irrigation system should be reduced from 25 per cent to 10 per cent because these funds have to be utilised.
- ii) The cost of the system should be reduced to make it more affordable to the farmers because you have to have a source of water before you get the project. It is giving at least those who are well off, instead of helping the poor ones whose finances need to be improved.

General recommendations

As a committee, you know agriculture –

THE SPEAKER: Before you come to the general recommendations, one, there was a point of procedure. This is a report of the Committee of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries on the state of water production facilities in Northern Uganda. I do not know how you set your question on the state of water. My perception is that when you are talking about agriculture, it is the backbone of this country. Honourable member, please take a seat.

MS LINDA AUMA: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: It is something that should be handled holistically. Irrigation is an auxiliary function that facilitates production. You must look at the primary and secondary aspects of

agriculture. You should be able to look at per region, that is, Karamoja, Acholi, Lango, and West Nile. In terms of mechanisation, how many tractors do these people in Karamoja want? How many do they want in West Nile? How many do they want in Acholi? How can we improve agriculture in these regions? With all the vast land that we have, you should have looked at that.

We also need to look at what kind of crops grow better in that area; the cash crops like tea, cotton, and cashew nuts. Then look at the pricing of what is produced in that area. When you look at the pricing in that area, you now look at the post-harvest handling. How do you do that? As a region in Karamoja, what do you advise the Government to do? How can we improve the post-harvest handling in that area? What value addition can we do for us to improve in terms of agriculture?

For instance, if we are producing a lot of cassava - Archbishop Odama will tell you that you must have a factory that is handling cassava which gives you starch, ethanol - The questions should be, what do we need in Karamoja, Acholi, Lira, and West Nile?

Also, talk about the livestock. People in Karamoja are cattle keepers. How much do they need to improve on the cattle they have? Or do they need additional cattle to be able to compete in other areas? Then look at poultry. Most of these women out there depend on poultry. You should be able to recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries should give poultry to these regions that can be able to help them, give animals for dairy and milk coolants in this area. For instance, Karamoja has little milk that they get from the cows but they may not have milk coolants. There is no way they can store that milk.

Also, talk about the agricultural cooperatives and the enterprise selection. Those are things that I imagine you should be talking about and the pricing of all these in terms of the milk. You will find the tea - the people in West Nile are complaining about the prices of tea or tobacco.

People here are complaining about the price of cassava. I think you still need to go back and – There is a procedural matter. I thought I had not finished.

MS SANTA OKOT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries but when we went to the field, the mandate which we were given was to research on water for production. That is why the report is only on water for production. We did not go into detail of all that you are explaining to the committee. Therefore, are we going to proceed well if we start diverting to other issues when the mandate was on water for production?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable member for People's Progressive Party (PPP). Water for production for what? You must have something primary that, that water must be able to sustain. Yes, Hon. Akol?

MR AKOL: Madam Speaker, we thank you for the guidance you are giving. When you are talking about water for production, it can be crop production, it can be animal production. In the recent Appropriation Act that was returned to Parliament, one of the persons who complained a lot was the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. Your guidance would help us a lot to see how best we can handle this subregion.

Madam Speaker, this is a subregion that is contributing to poverty in the country. It is the only area that has very rich land for production in terms of crops and animals. Therefore, I think the best we can do is to make sure that the chairperson should go and then come back with a comprehensive report that will help us.

If anything, this is a direction that should take us to a position where we demand for some supplementary budget so that something needs to be done for this subregion. Otherwise, we are not going to uplift this place from poverty. Madam Speaker, I implore you, procedurally, if we can go and then come back to debate this. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: On the same, when I have already made a ruling that I want a report that is comprehensive? I need a comprehensive report. I do not see why you need to bring up a point of procedure. There is no procedure that will add anything to the report. We want a comprehensive report that will help the northern region.

I want to thank you very much. Hon. Obua, the honourable minister for Northern Region, the Prime Minister and all the other relevant ministers, you need to sit down with the chairpersons of West Nile, Acholi, Karamoja and Lira, for us to come up with just a draft – All of you are going to work on all this but we want something on our communication on the issues concerning Northern Region.

I also request that after here, I want you to go and meet Archbishop Odama (Emeritus). He has a lot of information on the Northern Region. That does not mean that I have stopped the other meetings. Continue with the meetings. I know why I am telling them to meet.

Tomorrow, since the President will be here at midday, can we start the House at 9.00 a.m.? Rt Hon. Prime Minister, do you have anything?

4.19

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Dr Kenneth Omona): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for the deliberations. I also want to thank you for your patience, sitting all this time since morning.

Madam Speaker, I seek guidance from you. I also want us to guide ourselves to make our sitting, especially in this region, productive. I take your guidance, especially about the meeting we should have. If you could allow me only 10 minutes to share with you an overview of what I think could be captured in those meetings in our interaction with the leaders of this area and also the times I have met the people of Northern Uganda, maybe, it could inform that meeting –

THE SPEAKER: Please.

DR OMONA: I take your guidance. I have looked at these issues under these subdivisions to help guide us. Like I had said, in the beginning, my biggest discussion with the Members in this region was about the poverty and low-income levels in the region. We have had very many discussions with the people in these areas.

Madam Speaker, it is easy to talk about roads, bridges, schools and health facilities because Government will budget for this but when it comes to income, it is personal efforts assisted and guided by Government. I have been able to pick some ideas from the public and this is what I think.

One, on the issue of household income, we have just talked about poverty levels here. We have looked at areas in this country that have been able to pull up and found out that this particular area has been gambling for years, especially on what to invest in. Acholi, Lango and West Nile do not have an agreed high-value cash crop that people can grow to earn them income. They gamble from oil seeds, go to other grains and vegetables like we are hearing they are talking about and other things.

Madam Speaker, our discussion at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with other relevant agencies in Government, especially Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), Agriculture ministry, National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and others, has been to guide the people of Northern Uganda on what kind of cash crop they can grow that can earn them income. We are beginning on zero on those cash crops.

This is why I would require the ministers who are here, especially for Agriculture, to say to the people of Northern Uganda here that to get out of poverty, grow A,B,C,D. We now have extension workers in nearly all the subcounties in Northern Uganda but they are not guiding the people. They are not telling anybody what to do, so people gamble.

For the last few years, Madam Speaker, imagine Northern Uganda was said to have been given

43 million seedlings of coffee. When you ask those agencies, where that coffee is, they cannot show you. When you ask the citizens, they do not even know how to grow coffee yet they hear that there is money in coffee. These are the things I want us to talk about.

Secondly –

THE SPEAKER: So we need to customise; what is for Northern Uganda should be for Northern Uganda. If oranges do well in Teso, it should not be imposed on the people of Northern Uganda.

DR OMONA: Right. This type of guidance to the population should be empirical or scientific – *(Interruption)*

THE SPEAKER: There is a procedural matter.

Honourable members, before the procedural matter comes, in the VIP gallery we have Mr Milton Odongo, the RDC of Pader, and Mr Wadri Sam Nyakua, the Mayor of Arua City.

We also have, Mr David Kennedy Odongo from Alebtong District, Mr John Nangiromo from Nakapiripirit District, Mr Stephen Obitre from Maracha District, and Mr Abibu Bulia Khemij Awadi from Obongi District.

We also have Mr Hassan Ringitho from Zombo District, Mr Michael Ivan Ocaya from Kitgum Municipal Council – he is the Deputy Speaker, and Ms Vanessa Anyako, the Female Youth Councillor, Laro Pece Division.

MR OKIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have been following the Minister's presentation on the issue of poverty, the issue of agriculture production and what should be done in Northern Uganda to ensure perhaps we have a common cash crop.

THE SPEAKER: By the way, it is not a common cash crop; what grows better in West Nile may not grow well in Acholi, Karamoja, Lango and that kind of thing.

MR OKIN: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Speaker. I was just quoting him when

he said that we need to have an agreed upon cash crop in which the people of Northern Uganda are going to be able to engage in, in order to produce - then let them get away from poverty.

The procedural issue I am raising is that we are in what we call a free market economy, in which the forces of supply and demand determine what is supposed to be produced, what is supposed to be marketed, and the prices of those commodities.

In this circumstance, it will be a big disaster to, for example, restrict the production of a particular food crop or cash crop to a particular region. Why? Because I went to -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Okin, if I understood the minister well, he is not restricting. You need to grow what presents you with the best opportunity possible.

For instance, you cannot tell people in Bukedea to grow coffee because it does not do well there. They should do what is good for them; what grows well, where they feel they can market easily for them to be able to sell and earn an income.

MR OKIN: Madam Speaker, that is the exact point I was driving at because -

THE SPEAKER: He is on procedure -

MR OKIN: I am on a procedural issue. When you look at the marketability of even these items that we used to say were not cash crops, you notice that they have now become cash crops. So, I am raising a procedural issue to seek your guidance on whether the advice of the minister is going to be helpful for the people of Northern Uganda to agree on a specific cash crop to be produced in order to get them away from poverty. So, is the minister proceeding well?

THE SPEAKER: When I talked about Agricultural Enterprise Selection, that is what I actually meant; that this home will be able to do cotton, and they believe cotton is the best for them. And the other home will be able to

do potatoes, tea and whatever. While you may be making a selection on agriculture, others are able to look after cattle.

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just to add on that, as the Government, we shall not abdicate our duty of guiding the population of Uganda. This is exactly what I meant; that we must guide our people -

THE SPEAKER: Your colleague wanted to say something.

DR OMONA: There is a point of information over there.

MS NAMUYANGU: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving way. His Excellency, the President has, on many occasions, guided us. When he came up with the seven enterprises, he did a lot of research - *Kibalo*.

THE SPEAKER: Not *Kida Kyonka*?

MS NAMUYANGU: Not *Kida Kyonka*. When we look at Northern Uganda - you travel all the way, you see a lot of grass, why wouldn't we encourage our people to go into dairy? For example, why wouldn't we encourage our people to plant coffee?

THE SPEAKER: Why wouldn't we plan to give these people tractors for them to be able to till the land?

MS NAMUYANGU: Exactly! The mechanisation of agriculture, irrigation, and then we do value addition; we should stop gambling. The seven enterprises - the President has done *Kibalo*, and he has guided us. So, it is a question of our people picking what they can do from the seven. We cannot start reinventing the wheel. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

Honourable members, in the VIP gallery, we have Hon. Omito Robert Steen, the LC V, Pakwach District, Hon. Urombi Emmanuel, LC V, Nebbi District and Hon. James Oruna LC V, Zombo District.

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to agree with Hon. Minister Jennifer Namuyangu, but in addition to that, I want to give this information.

Between 1999 and 2002, Uganda carried out what we call suitability and capability of our soils in Uganda, in a project called Policies for Improved Land Management in Uganda. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and Makerere University have that information, and I was part of that team.

Now, we know exactly what can grow in the upper part of West Nile, and what can grow in the Teso Subregion and when the minister says these places should identify priority enterprises, what he means is that we are not stopping those regions from growing all other crops - food and cash crops, but there should be a niche.

These regions must have priority crops, which are known. For example -

THE SPEAKER: And what brings an income too.

DR OMONA: And that priority crop must be where we have comparative advantage. If you take my district of Zombo - we have Arabica coffee, and Uganda is the second largest coffee producer in Africa after Ethiopia.

However, we need to prioritise those crops or enterprises where we have priority; I mean, comparative advantage, and when we are known for that, we create a niche. It does not stop us from growing other crops. I have experience working in many communities around the world where they have one village and one product. In this case, we are talking about a regional priority niche where we can get a lot of income because we have a comparative advantage. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Songa, as leaders of the region, have you done a mindset change on the people of the area?

MR BIYIKA: Yes, that is a continuous process, Madam Speaker -

THE SPEAKER: Because if you know that yourself - have you educated your people on what they should do, and that this is what they can get when we do it?

MR BIYIKA: Very good, Madam Speaker. In my district of Zombo, we have been saying, "Arabica coffee from Zombo is highly needed in the world." And we needed the Government to give us seedlings for Arabica coffee and tea but up to now, we have not received those seedlings. Otherwise, we are sensitising our people on how to create these priorities. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Let us hear from the minister. The minister has something.

MR BIYIKA: Honourable minister, just one minute - (*Hon. Olanya rose*)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am the Chair. Just one minute. Can I hear from the minister before we come back to Gilbert?

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will give way for the Member to give the point of information; let me finish. Otherwise, I might screw up my points here.

Madam Speaker, what I was saying is exactly what you have been debating in this region and you can see what it is generating in the debate.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, we are thinking about livestock though this has also been a very long debate. This place, where we are, has vast land. I think Acholi alone has about 20,000 square kilometres of land with a population of, I think, not more than two million people in Acholi. This land can be used for livestock production.

Madam Speaker, we are already having this discussion with the Government. Among the things we are talking about is the revamping of Aswa Ranch. And from the loan that we have already got, the Climate Smart Funds - actually in a few days now, the total revamping of Aswa Ranch will begin with the provision of breeding stock to the people of this area; either

freely under some programme or at subsidised prices so that people here can also begin to do livestock. There is no question about this.

THE SPEAKER: But you are not revamping Aswa Ranch. We passed a loan to revamp Aswa Ranch. However, one of you has gone to court. You cannot do anything on the ranch when there is a court matter.

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since the courts of law give justice to everybody, I hope that matter will be disposed of. But the point is: Aswa Ranch, as we speak, has the potential of revamping the cattle economy in this entire region.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, what we have also gathered from this committee is that people here want the facilities for the mechanisation of agriculture. The vast lands here, Madam Speaker - open land with the primitive tools - hand holes, and at best the ox-ploughs cannot meet the economic demand of production that we are talking about.

Therefore, these are the areas that we want to discuss with the population so that the Government can invest in mechanisation by providing tractors. All the regions I have met, including those in the hills of Mount Elgon, want tractors to mechanise and produce massively. And these are the things that I want us to begin talking about.

The other thing, Madam Speaker, is about facilities for value addition. Many areas are beginning to produce dairy, beef and other crop products that need value addition. We see maize and wheat in some places. There is also milk. Milk production is also increasing in this region. However, there are still very few facilities for value addition. This is what we want the Government to be doing. We want, as the Government, to begin thinking about giving facilities to the population to add value to what they are doing.

Madam Speaker, it is true there are still areas in Northern Uganda here that have got poor access. These roads you hear being talked about,

especially in West Nile - I am sure everybody here who has been sitting in Parliament now knows that there is a road called Goli Road. Indeed, when you go to this place, the trucks and movement of money that takes place across these borders, Uganda and DRC, is huge. So, we should listen to the people and plan to facilitate the upgrading of this road to make it motorable and good for the people.

Madam Speaker, another big issue that I found in this area is the question of animal-human conflict in the frontline areas to the national parks, in Nwoya and the surrounding areas –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want you to clap for the minister because this is what we expected at the beginning. *(Applause)* Honourable minister, this is what we wanted from you. Now you are just bringing it in. *(Laughter)*

DR OMONA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. These conflicts are causing the loss of both lives and property in terms of crops, among others. People growing crops around the parks suffer great losses every time. I think we, as the Government, have also been very slow in compensating people who have lost property and lives. We have just mentioned here that a child was killed a few days ago.

So, Madam Speaker, these things should be taken very seriously, and I am happy that the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities is here. I am sure he will also give us an update on the plan of the Government in fencing these areas. Part of Kitgum, which had rested from this for a long time and had not been experiencing this, has also started experiencing damages due to migrant elephants from Kidepo National Park.

Another big issue that I got in this area was the issue of governance and accountability in local governments. The question of monitoring of government activities has been very poor and in fact, there are rampant cases of corruption and poor service delivery in many of these local governments.

I want to call upon colleagues to join the effort in monitoring government services to the population.

Madam Speaker, I have personally taken the trouble to sit with colleagues and identify the best method by which honourable colleagues can begin to monitor services in their areas. We have done this time and again, and I want to continue urging colleagues to continue doing this because the losses incurred here are due to poor monitoring of services.

Madam Speaker, we have, in this region, found out that the best way to improve communication and encourage accountability in the population is to encourage barazas. The barazas we have been conducting, as the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), were very huge and costly barazas, where a minister would come from the OPM or the Prime Minister herself and then organise a baraza. These are so costly.

We have now agreed to devise and indeed my office has written to the local governments to direct all Chief Administrative Officers, to instruct all parish chiefs to begin barazas in their areas quarterly. In every parish, there must be a baraza and these must be attended to by all public servants, people who work for the Government, to account to the population so that people are also able to share, within those barazas, the challenges they have in those communities, the challenges do they have with service delivery, and the challenges they also have in relation to accessing what they need.

Madam Speaker, we have got some areas where people have received money for the Parish Development Model (PDM), but they are lost on what to do with the money. They do not know what to buy, either an animal or seeds, and at what time. Therefore, we have also directed that in those barazas, all the extension workers in those subcounties must be in attendance to sensitise the people on what they can breed or what crops they can grow.

From all those barazas, reports must be generated, which must be escalated upwards to the subcounties, counties and finally to the

Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs). The CAOs have to aggregate these reports and give the Government to see how best they can serve the population. I think this is what may help us see clearly, the challenges of the people here.

Madam Speaker, in this community again we have a lot of water bodies and the fish industry in this region - there has been mixed information about fishing and what type of fish to trade in, what size, and where. As a result of this, there has been a big conflict between the fishermen, fishmongers, and the Fisheries Protection Unit. This cuts across Lake Kyoga, River Nile, and other water bodies where people fish freely.

We have agreed, as you may remember, in Cabinet, that we are going to have a meeting with the native fishermen in all these areas so that we have a conversation with them to see how best all of us can become custodians of these water bodies and the fish to ensure that fishing is safe, economical and beneficial to all of us. This is what we are doing very soon. Since the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries is here, she can give the details.

Madam Speaker, you could have heard that in addition to what we think can be done to improve the welfare of the people in Northern Uganda, is the continuation in investment in some of these projects and programmes to the people of Northern Uganda.

I have heard people say, "We have invested a lot in Northern Uganda, why haven't they changed?" I really wonder whether these people read history or if they are alive to our history, as Northern Uganda.

Just for the information of honourable colleagues to appreciate this, for 62 years, till independence, Northern Uganda was the most unfunded region in this country.

Right from the colonial time, Northern Uganda used to receive only 10 per cent of the national budget. Much of the investment was in the central because many of the services were

there. The schools were there; affluence was also in the central. Many people would move away from here and so, there was a lot of labour migration to the central. Therefore, the Government invested a lot there.

The people there learned - other than simply producing to consume - to use resources to build more wealth, which was not the case here until after independence.

Also, our own circumstances here never made it better. After 1962, all the insurgencies and insecurities of Uganda were experienced in Northern Uganda. This makes Northern Uganda unique and different from other parts of the country. *(Applause)* Many of these investments that are so lucrative and have that high value were not introduced here.

For those who know, coffee in Buganda is also called "Kiboko." Kiboko is Swahili for *Fimbo*, meaning a whip. Since they knew the value of coffee; coffee was introduced there with kiboko. If even in the central where people knew money, coffee was forced onto the people with a whip, how about here in Northern Uganda where people have not known about wealth? So, it is important to realise that we have a long way to go. That is why, Madam Speaker, I appreciate that you emphasised the matter of mindset change, which is very important.

We think that the investment of the Government in terms of programmes and projects should continue in Northern Uganda. I have just said that guns have gone silent here, but the poverty here is still very high. We are thinking that a programme like the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF IV), that will substitute the NUSAF III, should still continue in Northern Uganda.

We have had this debate over and over with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the National Planning Authority, but I can now report that I think colleagues in the Cabinet and Finance have appreciated, and also the colleagues – *[Mr Olanya: "Information"]* – I will give you time, honourable -

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Gilbert, as one of the senior members of Parliament, do not ask for information when the microphone is on.

DR OMONA: Madam Speaker, I would like to inform Northern Uganda that our discussion and conversation about NUSAF IV have progressed very well. I am very hopeful that within a few weeks, we will have approval from the National Planning Authority. We will now engage the Minister of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to proceed with the debates, conversation, and discussions about NUSAF IV, so that this is approved to help the people of Northern Uganda.

Madam Speaker, I also want to inform you that this time, unlike the other previous NUSAFs, we are going to devote much of the monies into production; supporting production in the micro-projects, supporting youth projects to ensure they have money to put into their skills to have money. This is among other projects that we think we should be able to engage in.

Finally, Madam Speaker, allow me to say, just for emphasis, that all this infrastructure we are talking about and what we have been debating since morning, bring about development. However, I do not think development without improving people's households is sustainable. That is why I really emphasise that we must look at ways by which we can help the people in Northern Uganda to put money in their pockets so that their livelihoods can change, so that they can have proper nutrition, better housing, can afford education for their children, proper health care and live like any other person in Uganda that has not experienced what they have experienced.

Honourable, let me allow you to give information.

MR OLANYA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to appreciate the honourable minister. It is true that in Northern Uganda, we had so many programmes. We had the Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), Project for Restoration of Northern Uganda (PRENO), NUSAF, National Peace,

Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP), National Agricultural Advisory Services Programme (NAADS), among others.

However, all these programmes are normally imposed on the people of Northern Uganda; people tell them what they are supposed to do. For example, NAADS normally dictates to our people that please, you have to grow oranges. You have to grow trees; lemons. There are other projects that our people cannot afford to keep.

The Government injected billions of shillings into NAADS. In the end, we normally see mango seedlings being taken to subcounties. People are forced to collect those mangoes and plant, yet they have no value to our people. Let the programme come from the ground. Let people tell what they want to do, but not to impose the programme on the people of Northern Uganda.

Finally, Madam Speaker, the Government normally advises our people, for example, to grow soya beans. They tell them that there is a very high market for soya beans. The moment soya beans perform well in Northern Uganda, the prices drop drastically. People are making losses.

So, please, honourable minister, let people tell the Government what they want to do. The Government should stop imposing programmes on the people. The value of all this money is not seen by the people of Northern Uganda because they are being imposed onto our people. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon. Gilbert Olanya. That is the participatory approach where you have the down-to-top approach on identification of people's needs. Yes, minister, have you finished?

DR OMONA: Madam Speaker, let me allow Dr Abed Bwanika to give information.

DR BWANIKA: Thank you. Honourable minister, I want to agree with you on the point that Northern Uganda should get cash

crops and projects that will help to alleviate poverty. Capital for Northern Uganda, is the land and the people. In agriculture, you begin with the market. Northern Uganda must select enterprises and products that have demand.

Recently, people here were involved in cultivating cassava and they had not ascertained the market for that cassava. People spent a lot on that project. I would like to ask the leaders here that is important we ascertain the market. Who wants that product? How much? What is the pricing so that we can lead our people into projects that can alleviate poverty?

I want to close with this. There is no single project of agriculture that cannot be done in Northern Uganda; it is not there. Coffee can be grown here and I am surprised - why doesn't Northern Uganda demand coffee seedlings? We need coffee seedlings everywhere here. We need animals here, and not only just dairy. We also need beef. The countryside is full of grass but no single animal. Let Members of Parliament from Northern Uganda demand for animals for this area because that can be productive so that our people alleviate poverty. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR OMONA: Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Do you want to take over my seat?

DR OMONA: No, just one more, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: I am adjourning the House to tomorrow at 9.00 a.m.

(The House rose at 4.53 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 29 August 2024 at 9.00 a.m.)