



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2024





**IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

**Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament**

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

**Thursday, 6 June 2024**

*Parliament met at 1.56 p.m., at the Kololo  
Independence Grounds Kampala.*

*The National Anthem*

*The East African Community Anthem*

**PRAYERS**

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

*The House was called to order.*

**PROCLAMATION**

**THE SPEAKER:** *“WHEREAS Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda requires that His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda is mandated, at the beginning of each session of Parliament, to deliver to Parliament an address on the state of the nation;*

*AWARE THAT His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda has, in accordance with Article 101(1), indicated to the Speaker of Parliament his intention to address Parliament on the state of the nation on Thursday, 6 June 2024;*

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

1) *Parliament sits at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on Thursday, 6 June 2024 at 14.00 hours, to receive the address of His*

*Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, on the state of the nation; and*  
2) *The Kololo Ceremonial Grounds to be the precincts of Parliament for the above-mentioned purpose.*

*Given under my hand at Parliament House, Kampala, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.*

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

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**THE SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, accompanied by the First Lady, *Mama Janet Kataaha Museveni*, who also doubles as the Minister of Education and Sports, Her Excellency, the Vice President, Maj. (Rtd) Alupo Jessica Epel; His Lordship, Hon. Chief Justice, Chigamoy Alfonse Owiny-Dollo, represented by the Principal Judge, Hon. Justice Dr Flavian Zeija; the Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, the Rt Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, the Prime Minister of Uganda plus all your deputies, the Rt Hon. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, who is watching virtually; Cabinet ministers and ministers of state, your excellencies, the High Commissioners, the Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps, honourable Members of Parliament of Uganda and Members of Parliament of the East African Legislative Assembly, guest Speakers and Presiding Officers and their representatives, who include: Rt Hon. Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of the Transitional/National Legislative Assembly of South

Sudan; Rt Hon. Catherine Hara, Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi. You are most welcome. We have gone beyond East Africa; we are now in the African Union; Rt Hon. Lukas Muha, Chairperson of the National Council of the Parliament of Namibia; Rt Hon. Chisangano Attractor, First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia; Hon. Andre Clifford, MP, representing the Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles; and Senator Veronica, representing the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya; you are most welcome; traditional, cultural and religious leaders present, the heads of Public Service and agencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I welcome you all to this inaugural sitting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda.

As you may be aware, it is a command of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda in accordance with Article 101(1) that “*The President shall, at the beginning of each session of Parliament, deliver to Parliament an address on the state of the nation.*”

Therefore, during today’s sitting, the House and nation by extension, will receive the presidential address on the state of the nation.

The State-of-the-Nation Address is an opportunity to reflect on our country’s achievements in the previous year, the inherent challenges and the Government’s legislative agenda for the subsequent session.

The sitting is also a reminder us that the five-year tenure of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament is now in its second last year. This is a kind reminder. It is, therefore, a moment of reflection on the gains you have made, the lessons you have learnt and the milestones ahead of you.

As we gather here today, I urge you, honourable members, to deeply reflect upon the parliamentary prayer, which re-affirms the objective of our roles towards ensuring the welfare of society and the just governance of humanity. Let us renew our solemn commitment to the creation of a society that works for the good and dignity of all our people.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the honourable members of Parliament for the successful completion of a remarkable Third Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament beyond the physical performance in terms of legislation, oversight, appropriation and representation. I am pleased to report that indeed, Parliament and the Government of Uganda have made significant gains in the protection of our national values and furtherance of the aspirations of our people.

As I will later on enumerate, the achievements the Legislature registered in the Third Session would not have been possible without the consistent, reliable and remarkable support of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda. Honourable members, please clap for the President. (*Applause*) The President, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, has done a lot for Parliament.

Aware of leadership as the fulcrum of the performance of Government and societal growth and development, the remarkable performance of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament is indeed testimony to the President’s inspirational leadership and unwavering support towards the Legislature and Judiciary. Your Excellency, we appreciate you as leaders of the House.

Your Excellency, as leaders, we affirm our unwavering commitment to the realisation of your vision for our beloved country, without fear or favour. We are aware that the call to leadership sometimes comes with the risk of being misunderstood, criticised, opposed, accused, sanctioned or even rejected. However, we owe it to our society to stand firm - and the good Lord will always be with us on that - on the right side of history and people will remember what we have done as a country in the time we are here. Our motto says: “For God and My Country”.

In such times, we are reminded of the Biblical verse in Psalms 107:28-31 where “*The Lord... stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves at the sea were hushed. The people were glad when it grew calm, and He guided them to their desired haven.*”

Your Excellency, the road to the Uganda we desire may be long and sometimes challenging, but we will get there. We require consistency, commitment to our national values and aspirations, unity and hard work. Being united alone without hard work will not get us what we want. Do not be discouraged by the noise around, the actions of detractors and enemies of our progress.

Your Excellency, during the Third Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament, in pursuit of its vision of “A transformed, independent and people-centred Parliament”, Parliament firmly executed its core functions of legislation, oversight, representation and appropriation. Guided by the performance principles of responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness, the Parliament significantly reduced the turn-around time of House business through timely consideration of Bills, motions, reports and presidential appointees’ approval, among others. In addition, there has been tremendous improvement in the quality of legislative output.

To this end, Parliament held 87 sittings during which, five oaths were administered to new Members, 47 Bills were passed where 23 Bills were in furtherance to the government programme on the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX), 42 resolutions were passed and 62 reports were adopted.

Like I said, out of the 47 Bills passed, 23 Bills were in furtherance of the Government policy on the Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX). The 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament supports the effort of the Executive in streamlining Government operations, enhancing efficiency, and ensuring that public resources are efficiently and effectively used.

In cases where Parliament has discerned a mismatch between the objective of rationalisation and the stated intention of the Bill, the House resolved that the Bills be withdrawn by the relevant sector ministers to enable further review by Cabinet before they are reintroduced, and that is as per the law.

Your Excellency, this is a complementary working relationship that the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament has inculcated with the Arms of Government. At the end of the day, efficient, effective and responsive service delivery requires intra-governmental coordination and complementarity. The 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament is fully cognizant of this precondition.

Your Excellency, in order to ensure adequate financing of Government’s expenditure priorities for the Financial Year 2024/2025, the Legislature passed tax and revenue Bills, pursuant to Article 152(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 8 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

Your Excellency, in furtherance to the rights of Members to introduce Private Member’s Bills, and pursuant to Article 94(4)(b) of the 1995 Constitution and Rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure, the House granted leave to five Members to introduce Private Member’s Bills, thereby fostering inclusive and participatory governance.

In pursuit of effective representation and oversight, Members raised and received responses to 195 urgent questions from the Prime Minister – Prime Minister, thank you. The Rt Hon. Prime Minister responded to 323 written questions from the Members, in addition to that. The House considered 60 ministerial statements and five statements from the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Your Excellency, the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament, as a people-centred Parliament, receives and considers various concerns from the public to this end. During the Third Session, the House considered eight petitions from the public.

Furthermore, Your Excellency, the Parliamentary Commission successfully organised a validation workshop for a Mid-Term Review Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2020/2021, 2024/2025, during which workshop, honourable members and parliamentary staff, and other stakeholders shared valuable ideas and insights. This reaffirms our commitment to good governance and sustainable development.

Your Excellency and Members of Parliament, despite the remarkable performance registered during the Third Session, it was not all rosy. We regrettably lost one sitting legislator and other eminent sons and daughters of this country:

- (i) Your Excellency, on Thursday, 18 January 2024, this country woke up to the devastating news of the demise of *Atat*, Hon. Cecilia Atim Ogwal, the then woman MP for Dokolo District. She was a legendary legislator, inspirational leader, mentor and stateswoman of unrivalled pedigree.
- (ii) In addition, on 18 November 2023, the country lost Hon. Joyce Mpanga, a trailblazer of women's rights, an eminent educationist, a former Member of Parliament and minister. She was a key pillar in the democratisation process.
- (iii) On 22 July 2023, the nation also lost another eminent former legislator, Hon. Hussein Kyanjo, the former Member of Parliament for Makindye West Constituency. He was a vowed defender of human rights.
- (iv) Still, during the same period, the country lost Hon. Henry Kyemba Kisadha Magumba, a renowned politician, a civil servant, and a former minister. We also lost Dr Martin Aliker, a renowned businessman, a diplomat, and the first dental surgeon in Uganda.

Honourable members, may we please rise to observe a moment of silence to honour all those departed, in recognition of their enormous contribution to the growth and development of this country, Uganda.

*(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, during the Third Session, the Parliament of Uganda proudly hosted two major conferences - the Conference of the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) and the 86<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of the

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, that is the CPA Africa Region, and we have the Chairman of CPA Africa Region right here, Rt Hon. Lukas Muha; you are most welcome. *(Applause)*

In addition, Uganda also hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the Group of 77 (G77) plus China, and the Third South-to-South Summit.

Your Excellency, I take this opportunity to formally congratulate you upon ascending to the Chairmanship of NAM and G77. Congratulations! It is a reminder that the leadership is up to 2027.

On behalf of the Legislature, we express our utmost faith and delight that your tenure as Chair will witness remarkable strides in cementing the co-operation among members of NAM and G77 plus China.

Relatedly, Your Excellency, the Parliament of Uganda continues to play crucial leadership roles in various inter-parliamentary bodies through which our national interests are ably articulated.

The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, who previously chaired the Standing Committee of the Conference of the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth up to 2024 - is currently deputised by India.

In addition, CSPOC - a position which will be held up to 2027 - just a correction: the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda is the Chairperson of CSPOC and the Deputy Speaker is the first Vice Chairperson of CSPOC and this also goes up to 2027. That is a sign that we are still there.

Your Excellency, this conference was significant in enhancing the global stature of Uganda among the international community of nations as far as international co-operation and collaboration is concerned.

The conference underscored the imperative of co-existence and respect for the values, cultures and traditions of other states. It also reaffirmed

that while differences in perspectives are inevitable, they should always be approached within a framework of friendship, co-operation, co-existence and mutual understanding.

Your Excellency, Uganda's position in this important conference was not just as a host, but also as a guide, a mediator and a friend to all nations represented. Our efforts in organising such meaningful and successful conferences were not in vain, as they had a significant multiple effect on the local economy and left a lasting impression on the hearts and minds of all the participants, Uganda being the Pearl of Africa.

Your Excellency, we thank you for gracing that conference and sharing the words of wisdom with all the speakers and delegates who came to Uganda. We thank you very much; we do not take this for granted. Your invaluable support was very instrumental in ensuring the success of all these conferences; we do not take that for granted. All the finances came from you and we cannot thank you any more than that.

As we embark on the Fourth Session of the 11th Parliament, we will continue to count on you, on your inspiration and guidance, which at the same time is bettering efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness of the Legislature. I love your saying; you always say, "These are young people, they are all learning." Indeed, we are all learning.

Pursuant to Article 94(4)(a) of the Constitution of Uganda and Rule 25(1) of the Rules of Procedure, priority will be accorded to Government business. This will require the timely introduction of Government business for Parliament's scrutiny, by the Prime Minister.

Your Excellency, the Parliament of Uganda is a people-centred legislature. This implies that the common Ugandan is at the centre of the parliamentary processes and decisions. In furtherance to this, therefore, and in furtherance to Article 95(2) of the Constitution of Uganda and Rule 17(1) of the Rules of Procedure, during the Fourth Session, Parliament will hold regional outreach sittings that will cover four

traditional regions in Uganda - North, East, West and Central.

Your Excellency, we take this opportunity, first to thank you for accepting Parliament to have those regional sittings and secondly, we want to take this opportunity to invite you to grace the first sitting that will be held in Gulu. The inaugural outreach sitting will be from 29 to 30 August 2024 at Kaunda Grounds in Gulu City, northern Uganda. That is where we are requesting you to come to and open the sitting in Gulu.

I take this singular honour to sincerely invite you for and on behalf of Parliament and the people of northern Uganda. We will have a sitting there so that we can be able to address various matters of public importance, especially those affecting that particular region.

Honourable members, allow me in a special way to appreciate His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and the First Lady, *Mama Janet Museveni*, who is also the Minister of Education and Sports, for the enormous support they have given to sports. We thank you so much. This support is demonstrated in various ways; for the first time, our national team, Uganda Cranes, is going to play in Namboole tomorrow and that is because of the support that you have given to Namboole National Stadium.

We also thank you, Your Excellency, for ensuring that Uganda wins the hosting of AFCON. Uganda will be hosting AFCON and we thank you for providing money for all the infrastructure development that is required by AFCON. I invite all of you to go and support our national team, the Uganda Cranes, which will be playing tomorrow. I have been informed by the State Minister for Sports that the chief guest will be my brother, Gen. M.K. Please join him in supporting our young people while they play.

Your Excellency, the return of these home games to Namboole would not have been possible if you did not have passion and love for your country and if *Mama*, did not have



passion and love for these young people with talents.

In a special way, on top of thanking His Excellency, I thank the Cabinet for approving all those payments. I thank Parliament of Uganda and the UPDF Engineering Brigade, for doing a good job. I also thank the football association, FUFA.

Your Excellency, I take this opportunity to ask Members to create a niche in sports. We need to encourage our sports people. We need to encourage our talented children to ensure they get what they need.

As I conclude, Your Excellency, I know *Mama* is a prayerful person. *Mama*, as our children go to play tomorrow, kindly pray for them. Thank you. (*Applause*)

INVITATION BY THE RT HON. SPEAKER  
TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT  
TO DELIVER TO PARLIAMENT AN  
ADDRESS ON THE STATE OF THE  
NATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
ARTICLE 101(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION

**THE SPEAKER:** Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, it is your mandate, under Article 101(1) of the Constitution that at the beginning of each session, to deliver to Parliament an address on the State of the Nation.

Honourable members, as we welcome the President to deliver his address on the State of Nation, I draw to your attention and urge you to abide by Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, which provides, in sub-rule 4 that while the President makes a statement in Parliament, "*He shall be heard in silence and his statement shall not be followed by any comment or question.*"

Pursuant to Rule 10(4)(a) of the Rules of Procedure, I now take this singular honour and privilege to invite you, Your Excellency to address this august House and by extension the Nation. You are most welcome, Mr President.

2.37

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA (H.E. GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI):** Her Excellency, the Vice President, Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament, His Lordship, the Chief Justice, Rt. Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament, His Lordship, the Deputy Chief Justice, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers, honourable members of Parliament, members of the Diplomatic Corps, cultural and religious leaders, the *wanainchi*, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

In fulfilment of the Constitutional requirement under Article 101(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, I am here to deliver the State of the Nation Address, 2024.

On this occasion of the Address on the State of the Nation, I would like to remind Ugandans of the three historical missions, and the four principles of the NRM and, therefore, determine what distance has been covered in executing those goals, what remains to be done and the main obstacle on that transformational road.

Our Movement came on the scene, initially, as a Student Movement, getting elements from the old political parties of Uganda People's Congress, Democratic Party and Kabaka Yekka, which had sectarian platforms, misusing the politics of identity (religious, tribal and gender chauvinism).

After careful analysis, we established that Africa needed us to pursue three historical missions, if Africa was to survive and thrive. We looked at it as a matter of survival. If Africa is to survive, we thought it had to do the following:

The three historical missions are:

1. Prosperity for the African people, including the people of Uganda - are the people of Africa entitled to prosperity or not?
2. Strategic security for the African people; do the African people need to be secure



from all threats from wherever, and taking advantage of the brotherhood of the African people, to achieve the first two missions - these Africans, you are talking about; do you know that they are either similar people or they are linked?

How was the prosperity of the African people to be achieved? Could it be achieved through begging for foreign aid as some were emphasising? Could foreign aid give us the prosperity we are talking about? The answer, according to us, was “No”.

Our conclusion was that prosperity could only come from each adult person engaging in producing a good or a service, sustainably and selling it. Each adult person must produce a good or a service and sell it. If he or she does so with *ekibaro* – *ekibaro*, in our local language means maximising profit and making sure that what you are doing will give you what you want - he or she will be prosperous.

Since individuals cannot effectively work alone, the different zones of the country are always encouraged to specialise in given clusters of products or services.

It is this realisation, that led us to distill our first NRM principle, Patriotism; Love Uganda. Why love Uganda? It is because you need it for your prosperity in the form of the market. Whether you like other Ugandans or you do not like them, you need them for your prosperity because they need to buy what you produce so that you can be prosperous.

When you produce a good or service, the next question is: “Who will buy the good or service in sufficient quantities to guarantee the prosperity of the wealth creator?”

One of the factors we realised was that, normally, people of the same tribe or same locality, produce similar products. Hence, they do not easily buy from one another. It is the people from other parts of the country that produce different products that buy the wealth creators’ products. Therefore, the opportunists that promote sectarianism and parochialism are

enemies of wealth creators, starting with their relatives. They are pseudo prophets (*ba nabbi b’ebishuba*).

The historical mission of prosperity pushed us to discover the second NRM ideological principle - that of Pan-Africanism: Love East Africa, Love Africa. The guests – those who are not from East Africa – heard us playing two anthems. One anthem is for Uganda and the other is for East Africa. We insist on that – that in order for us to get out of poverty, we need Uganda; we need East Africa; and we need Africa. This is because if they buy what we produce, we are going to be prosperous and if we also buy what they produce - why? It is because you need them. You need East Africa, you need Africa for your prosperity, other issues aside.

When wealth creators get serious with production, when they increase the production of goods and services, the internal market is no longer enough. When you see people talking about tribes and religions, it is because they are not serious. If you are a serious wealth creator, there is no way you can talk of a tribe or religion – because you need the pockets of so many people to support your prosperity.

When wealth creators get serious with production; when they increase the production of goods and services, the internal market is no longer enough - we need the East African market, we need the African market, and we need the global market. Since the recovery of the economy of Uganda, we have seen this. It is not a theory; we have seen it. We saw it before it was implemented, but we have now seen it in reality.

Our production of sugar is now 600,000 metric tonnes. However, the internal market is only 380,000 metric tonnes. Who is to buy the surplus sugar of 220,000 metric tonnes? The milk production is now 5.3 billion litres. Who is to buy the extra 4.5 billion litres, since the internal demand is only 800 million litres? The cement production is now 6.4 million metric tonnes, yet the internal demand is only 2.4 million tonnes. Who is buying the surplus?

How about the steel products? The internal demand is 1.5 million metric tonnes, yet the annual production of steel products (*mitayimbwa*), although still at 610,000 metric tonnes, leaving a deficit of 890,000 metric tonnes. It will soon be about three million metric tonnes with the new vertically integrated steel industries using the high-grade *obutare* – *obutare* is our indigenous word for “iron ore” – of Muko in the Rubanda area.

So, soon, our production will be three million metric tonnes of steel, yet the internal demand is 1.5 million. Who will buy the surplus steel? The products of the new vertically integrated factories will completely wipe out the need for importing high-quality steel for hydropower dams, railways, high-rise buildings, et cetera, which need very strong steel, different from the steel of the recycled steel products from scrap metal.

Up to now, we have been using scrap metal – the old tanks of Idi Amin – to make steel, but now we are going to use our iron ore – our *obutare* – the best in the world. There is no other iron ore which is richer than this one; it is 70 per cent pure. Even now, we also import steel ingots and add value. Some of this steel is re-exported to the region. The answer to all these questions is that it is mainly East and Central Africa that are buying the surplus. The COMESA area is buying goods and services worth \$2.157 billion from Uganda.

Therefore, the NRM was right to distil the principles of patriotism and Pan-Africanism and to oppose groups that were pushing for parochialism in Uganda and Euro-centrism globally.

You know, when we were about to come into Government, I went to Europe and the Europeans asked me – because our old political parties here - the Democratic Party, was allied to the Christian Democratic Party of Germany; they were actually being supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The UPC was being supported by the Social Democrats. They are the ones who helped them to start building

Uganda House, and then the Government built it using Government money. When we came, some people wanted me to take back the building. I said: “No, *wacha wachukue hiyo kitu.*”

So, these fellows expected us to side with the European parties: Social Democrats versus Christian Democrats. I said: “Sorry, I am not part of that crowd. I am an Afro-centric person. I start with Africa; I do not start with Europe. I am not a European.” So, we refused to join those groups. They had Christian International and Socialist International. We have never gone there. And, we told our people clearly that our focus is Africa – and here, I am giving you facts now. I am not talking about stories here. I am talking about cement - the list is too long. I could not finish it. I did not talk about maize, bananas or beef – you know what is happening. It is Africa that is supporting us and we are also supporting them.

Therefore, the NRM was right to distil the principles of patriotism and Pan-Africanism, and to oppose groups that were pushing for parochialism in Uganda and euro-centrism globally.

After careful analysis, we realised that our prosperity, first and foremost, needed patriotism, that is, to love Uganda and Pan-Africanism; to love Africa.

We access other markets in addition, but let us secure these two levels first. This is why we worked so hard to revive the East African Community and consolidate COMESA. I salute the *wazee*, the late Daniel Arap Moi, the late Ali Hassan Mwinyi and the late Benjamin Mkapa for helping us in this effort. On the COMESA battle, I remember leaders like His Excellency, Jean-Baptiste Bagaza of Burundi, Dr Peter Mutharika of Malawi, Bax Nomvete - he was our Secretary-General; he was from South Africa of COMESA, and others.

The third principle of the NRM ideology is socio-economic transformation through education for all (*bonna basome*), and wealth creation for all (*bonna bagaggawale*), by all

the families joining the money economy and getting out of the pre-capitalist subsistence economy - *okukolera ekidda kyoonka*.

The fourth NRM ideological principle is democracy; real democracy for empowering the people to grow and not cheap popularity that the neo-colonial agents use to manipulate the people.

The correct philosophy, ideology and strategy of the NRM - mark those three words, my friends. The world has got a lot of problems. Africa has got a lot of problems because they make mistakes on philosophy, make mistakes on ideology and make mistakes on strategy.

The correct philosophy, ideology and strategy of the NRM have enabled the economy and society of Uganda to go through five phases since 1986. These phases are:

- i. The minimum economic recovery phase of restoring aspects of the small colonial enclave money economy of the three Cs and three Ts. Our small colonial economy was characterised by the economy of the three Cs and the three Ts. The three Cs were Coffee, Copper and Cotton, and the three Ts were Tobacco, Tourism and Tea. It was a small economy, but when Amin came, he destroyed it. I did not have time to explain that. So, when we came in, we had to restore that small island. That is why we are calling it “enclave” because it means an island; an island of modernity surrounded by a sea of backwardness. That is the situation we had here in the 1960s. That small island comprised the three Ts and the three Cs, but Amin destroyed it. So, when we came, we had to bring it back. This is the first phase we call “the minimum economic recovery”.
- ii. Expanding that enclave with more production of coffee, tea, etc. That small island was producing coffee of two million bags. We are now producing nine million bags. That small island was producing 23 million kilogrammes of tea before Amin came in. By the time we came, tea production had declined to three million kilogrammes. We are now producing 60 million kilogrammes of tea. So, number one is minimum recovery; two, expansion of the small island economy.
- iii. The diversification of the enclave economy by commercialising the production of bananas, cassava, milk, fruits, palm oil, cocoa, fish, beef, etc. During the time of the British, they would say that coffee was the cash crop. Milk, maize and so on were not cash crops; they were just for home consumption, but we said, “No; all these are cash products.” That is why, therefore, phase three has been diversification.
- iv. Adding value to some of these raw materials such as cotton, fruits, milk, tea, timber, sugar, etc. The other day in my speech in Nairobi, I was able to castigate the African practice of exporting raw materials. This is very dangerous for this continent. Here, I have banned the export of unprocessed minerals. If a mineral is not fully processed, I do not allow it to be exported. However, we are struggling to add value to other products, even coffee.
- v. The knowledge economy through the production of vaccines, automobiles and so on. So, we are also now entering the fifth phase where we use the science of our young people to produce products.

These measures have enabled the economy to grow from US \$1.5 billion in 1986 to now US \$55 billion by the foreign exchange method and US \$180.29 billion by the Purchasing Power Parity method. With US \$1,182 per capita, Uganda has now entered the lower middle income status. We have just entered the ground floor of middle-income. It is just the first floor; we are down there now. *Mwebale okuyingira mu goloofa esooka. Temwagala kwekubira mu ngalo banange? (Applause) Apwoyo Lubanga.*

There are, however, still some trade barriers in the East African Community. These are really

roadblocks to our prosperity. All East Africans should work to remove these bottlenecks by fully implementing the Common Market Protocol and the Customs Union Protocols so that the fragmented markets of Africa become one market.

With a more united African market, we can then be able to negotiate with other countries in the European Union, the United States of America (USA), China, Russia, the Gulf countries, India, et cetera, for access to their markets.

Internally, we have guided our people that socio-economic transformation can be realised through *bonna basome* (education for all) and *bonna baggagawale* (prosperity for all) by joining the four money-making sectors of commercial agriculture, manufacturing, services, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The Government has provided grants or soft loans for wealth creators to use in joining these sectors, in case they do not have their own capital. These funds are well known: Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Performance Monitoring for Action (PMA), *Entandikwa*, Parish Development Model, *Emyooga*, the Youth Fund, the Women Fund, the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW money), et cetera. Some of these have been merged to become fewer funds, but doing the same work.

These funds are mainly for low-income people. The actors that are more empowered should borrow from the Uganda Development Bank (UDB) for agriculture, manufacturing and some of the services such as tourism; we do not give loans to importers of perfumes and dead people's clothes.

You know, I was having a big discussion with them here; those importers. I cannot give a loan to somebody - soft money for somebody to import dead people's clothes and perfumes, whisky and so on, no. The Uganda Development Bank money is for manufacturing, agriculture

and some services. If you want to import perfumes, go to the commercial banks.

All we have said above is targeted to enable us to create prosperity for ourselves through wealth creation. The second historical mission is strategic security for Africa.

African countries or, indeed, other countries in the world, maybe prosperous economically. Strategically speaking, however, they may still be vulnerable *vis-a-vis* other global actors. In the Second World War, the first victims of German aggression were the developed countries of Denmark, Holland, Belgium, et cetera - even France was conquered by Germany.

Therefore, there is something about size. Indeed, the smaller countries of Europe were rescued by the mighty Soviet Union that defeated Hitler's army at Moscow, Byelorussia, Stalingrad, Kursk, et cetera, and were later on, in 1944, joined by the Americans and the British.

As we speak, only four countries have been able to land on the moon and these are the USA, China, India, and Russia. Why? Size and development matter. Uganda, even when it becomes a developed country, cannot have an over-ambitious space programme. We are working on implementing a limited space programme for overhead observation and communication (broadcasting and telephone communication).

We shall have an overhead imaging satellite at an altitude of 600-700 kms in space and another one for communication and Internet at 36,000 kilometres in space - that one, we shall share with the other East African countries.

These are, however, not enough to defeat greedy and aggressive parasites who seek four-dimensional superiority on land (land forces), superiority in the air (Air Force), superiority at sea (Navy) and superiority in space (space forces).

It is partly for this reason, but also to make the economic integration of the markets easier that

we, the African revolutionaries, our departed elders such as Kwame Nkrumah, *Mwalimu Nyerere*, Sekou Toure, *Mzee* Kenneth Kaunda and we, their young followers, put forward the principle of political integration as another element of the Pan-Africanism principle.

While we always aim at creating a continental common market for the whole of Africa, we also aim at creating a regional political federation where possible. While it is possible and desirable to create a continental common market, a political federation, which represents a maximum form of integration, should only be for people who are either similar or compatible and, preferably, with a common language.

This is how East Africa has always been the best candidate for political integration. The peoples of the area are the Bantus, the Nilotics, the Nilo-Hamitics and the Cushitics whose dialects are either similar or linked. Your visitors from Malawi and Zambia - I am sure I can speak with them and when we finish the ceremony here; I will greet them. I will say, "*Muli Bwanji, Tuli Bwino, Uli Shani* -" I will be talking to them.

However, on top of all that, we have the good fortune of having the neutral dialect of Swahili which would easily be the official language of the potentially very powerful federation of East and Central Africa.

This East African Federation, with one army and common citizenship in addition to the wider common market already talked about in this speech, will provide perpetual insurance for the freedom of the black race and other freedom-loving people in the world. It will have a defence capacity to be present in the four dimensions: Land, Air, Sea and Space.

How can you insure cars, houses, and individual people's health, but forget to provide insurance for the African race? People have got insurance policies - I do not have an insurance policy for anything - if Uganda succeeds, I am insured.

*Mama* is here; I have never bought any insurance policy. Never. My insurance is

for Uganda to succeed; if Uganda succeeds, I succeed, but how can you have insurance for cars and buildings, but you do not insure the African race for them to be secure from threats? This was a mistake in the past. How can we repeat the same mistake?

In 1963, our leaders were about to achieve this goal. I want to give the Rt Hon. Speaker a historical picture of the pages of the Uganda Argus. It is there on the screen, that picture there. That was 1963. I will give you a copy, Right Honourable. I will give to the Right Honourable Speaker a historical picture of the pages - that is clear. Show it to the other people, not just me. Is the audience seeing it? That was the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 1963 like today, a historical picture of the pages of the Uganda Argus newspaper, that captured that moment.

You can see - bring the picture of our leaders - move it up, we want to see the leaders, that picture there. The picture below, yes, you can see our elders, *Mzee* Jomo Kenyatta, *Mwalimu Nyerere*, *Mzee* Milton Obote, with others, including a delegation from Somalia, declaring the intention to achieve the federation that year, 1963.

All the subsequent calamities that befell this part of Africa would never have happened if we had achieved that goal at that time. The calamities I am talking about were the seizing of power by Idi Amin in Uganda, the massacres in Burundi in 1972, the genocide in Rwanda, the collapse of the state authority in Somalia, the prolonged civil war in Sudan, or even the RENAMO war in Mozambique, et cetera.

There was no way Idi Amin could have seized power here if we had an East African Government. It could not happen, but the fragmentation, the pseudo-sovereignty, you can imagine when Amin grabbed power here, Africans who wanted to oppose him could not do it easily because they were being told, "Uganda is independent." And even when Amin was killing us, when we would try to get support from other people, we would be told, "No, it is Amin's right to kill you because you are his subjects". Therefore, that missed opportunity was a big setback.



A United East African state with one army would never have allowed these tragedies to happen. Indeed, it is the East African Cooperation that eventually enabled us to solve these problems. However, coordinating multiple sovereign units is less efficient and less prompt in terms of action compared to a united East Africa.

The third historic mission is to simply recognise the brotherhood and linkages among the African people and use them to achieve historical missions: number one, prosperity, as well as number two, strategic security. As we have pointed out several times, the African race is only comprised of four groups of linguistic classification. These are the Niger-Congo, which includes the Bantu and the Kwa languages of West Africa; the Nilo-Saharan, which includes our languages, the Nilotic languages and the Nilo-Hamitic, the Afro-Asiatic; which includes the languages of Northern Ethiopia; and the Khoisan; they are called the Bushmen in South Africa.

These groups have linguistic similarities within each cluster and linkages between them. In other speeches, I have demonstrated this. You can check on those explanations. The NRM line has been that the people we are trying to unite for the sake of their prosperity and strategic security are either similar or linked.

It is, therefore, a betrayal for the African political classes to fail to grasp this and instead preach sectarianism, parochialism, *et cetera*. I, therefore, call on the Ugandans, especially the *Bazzukulu*, to audit what has been achieved *vis-à-vis* the three historical tasks and the four ideological principles of the NRM, and see what has been achieved and what remains to be done. Then you should do your part to do what is not yet done.

With patriotism, we have been able to unite the majority of Ugandans. That is why the NRM always wins with a majority in the first round when we go for elections.

On the side of Pan-Africanism, we have revived the East African Community, together with

*Wazee* Daniel Arap Moi, Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Benjamin Mkapa. Later, our brothers from Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, South Sudan, and recently Somalia joined the East African Community. This has helped cross-border trade. Uganda exports goods and services worth \$2.140 billion to East African countries, and goods and services worth \$2.157 billion to COMESA countries.

There are, however, still non-tariff barriers. With His Excellency William Ruto, recently we agreed to remove all these barriers against sugar, milk, eggs, fruit juices, *et cetera*. Saying that country X has got good rains this year and harvested a lot of maize, and therefore, country X will either give quotas for maize from Y - Imagine there are two African countries, X and Y. They should be trading together, but one year, X says, "This year I got a lot of rain and I harvested a lot of maize so I do not allow the maize of Y to come or I will allow a quota; a certain amount. Either give quotas for maize from Y or we will not allow any maize imports from Y this year." This is wrong.

Why is it wrong? What happens to the maize growers in Y that year? Since the maize in Y will *kudiba* (have no buyers). *Kudiba* is our local word here, meaning that if you produce something and nobody buys, it is *kudiba*. Therefore, if the maize from Y this year *kudibas* because this year, X has got their maize, what happens to the maize growers in Y that year? Since the maize in Y will *kudiba* (have no buyers), the farmers will migrate to coffee, a product that depends on the global market and does not have those hurdles.

Then next year, there is a shortage of rain in country X and they want maize from country Y. Sorry, the farmers were betrayed and they migrated to other products. This is the problem.

The correct approach should be that maize from country Y should not be blocked even if there is a bumper crop in country X. Let the market determine the maize that will be preferred by the consumers. If it is found that the maize producers in country Y are consistently cheaper then let East Africa allow them to specialise



and feed all of us. This is what I said about Tanzanian and rice. If Tanzania produces rice more cheaply, let us all buy from them.

Stopping Tanzanian rice makes us commit several sins. Sin number one, you sabotage the Tanzanian rice grower by denying him market. Sin number two, you rob the Ugandan consumer by forcing him to buy rice from the inefficient Ugandan rice grower at a higher price. You are punishing Ugandans to buy more expensive rice because it is from Uganda.

Sin number three; you invite Tanzania to counter block our products. Sin number four, you *kulemesa* our own rice growers to remain inefficient and, therefore, not competitive. "*Okulemesa*" is to cripple. If you do not allow your child to run and compete, how will he develop capacity?

Therefore, let all the East Africans insist on full free trade in the East African Community area and eventually, in the whole Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). This is the second task of the Ugandan wealth creators; struggle for complete free trade in the Common Market of the East African Community and Africa.

The first task of the Ugandan wealth creators is to ensure that all the adults engage in wealth creation in the four sectors of commercial agriculture with *ekibaro* (*cura, otita, aimar*, profitability assessment), manufacturing and artisanship, services and ICT using the provided funds of PDM, *Emyooga*, GROW UDB loans, et cetera.

The third task, after we have fully recovered from the adverse effects of Corona virus and other negative global phenomena, ensure that we provide completely free education for the Ugandan children in Government primary, secondary and tertiary institutions so that we achieve our target of *bonna basome* (education for all).

The fourth task is for the Ugandans, and other East Africans that have got the right spectacles, to see how the black race can survive as a free people or even survive at all, to struggle and

bring about the creation of the East African Federation. We have long proposed the movement of the willing.

When *Mwalimu* Nyerere was let down by his contemporaries on this issue, he moved with *Mzee* Karume to unite Tanganyika and Zanzibar to form Tanzania. It has been a great success. If we all can move together, it will be good. If we cannot, let the willing move.

The crucial point that needs to be done is for the Pan-Africanists to be more active in pushing for the struggle for the Political Federation of East Africa, and the full economic integration of the common market of Africa. You should aggressively expose those who work for foreign interests and are always diverting our people through the media to the interests of the foreigners.

If you read the papers, nobody is talking about African integration. Pick the papers or social media! What is your future if you do not know that integration of our market is our salvation? How can you be in leadership? What are you leading? Are you a leader unto darkness and death? Read the papers! Nobody! Football, music and cinema - okay, you can do those things, but you must survive first.

You should aggressively expose those who work for foreign interests and are always diverting people through the media, to the interests of the foreign parasites. The African race will enjoy football and music better - I am a footballer myself, remember? (*Laughter*)

However, from 1966 - somebody asked me what European football club I support. I do not even know those clubs. I was a footballer, but from 1966, when we started our struggles here, my mind was on the future of Africa. I like football, but you cannot enjoy football if you are a slave.

The African race will enjoy football and music better if you also contribute to the creation of an African centre of gravity in the form of the East African Federation.

Task five, eliminate corruption in the public service and from among the political leaders. I have been getting good information about corrupt actors among the public servants, but also among the political actors. With firm evidence, we shall crush these traitors. Corruption is – are you hearing me? I think the corrupt have brought rain. *(Laughter)* They work with our rainmakers.

This is not in the speech here, but I can mention it to you. I have been hearing that people, even in my office, take bribes from people to bring them to see me. Can you imagine? Fortunately, recently, we arrested one of them. According to the rules, I should not be accused of saying something *sub judice*, which is in the court. He is alleged to have extorted shares and money from an investor who was coming from somewhere. He is now in court so we are moving. We are going to get them.

I have been hearing stories that there is a racket from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to Parliament, but now I have proof. *(Applause)* *N'olwekyo, ababbi bafudde banange.*

I have been hearing that from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, they arrange with the accounting officers of ministries to come to Parliament, working with some people there, to provide certain funds, provided you take a share. I did not believe this, but now I have proof. Therefore, the corrupt are like the foreigners. You know, some of these foreigners do not know Uganda, they do not know us.

When you see them doing what they are doing and those who support them, I am very sorry for them because they do not know how strong we are. We are patient, we do not overuse our strength, but if you make a mistake, you will see.

I do not know how those who threaten us, this one - Please, you are wasting your time. We are not going to move because we are sure that we are people of here - this is our land,

we want nothing from anybody, so you are wasting your time. Do not come with threats, you are wasting your time. Uganda is a land of martyrs, not only martyrs, but also heroes; we are celebrating the National Heroes Day in two days' time. The martyrs do not shoot back. We are both martyrs and heroes.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, we were celebrating Uganda Martyrs' Day. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, we shall be celebrating Heroes' Day; we are fighters, nobody can play around here. So I feel really amazed that some of our people can join this corruption knowing that we have the capacity to crush this group.

Now I have got proof that what I have been hearing as a rumour is actually true. I do not know how we can arrange - what do you call it - amnesty – *(Interjection)* - No amnesty? Very good. So you want blood? *Mwagala musaayi? Kale, katugende mumaaso.*

Public servants and political leaders that steal Government money are corrupt and will be crushed. There are however other actors that get bribes from foreigners to work for foreign interests. These are both corrupt and traitors and we are monitoring their activities. If they do not stop, and with evidence, we shall deal with them also.

As part of fighting corruption, it is crucial to save the amateurish political actors who come into politics without knowing that leading people does not mean carrying them on your head. It means that you show them the way.

The situation of inexperienced, careerist-minded leaders who do not listen to the advice of the NRM is further complicated by the blood-thirsty parasites in the form of the unregulated moneylenders who charge extortionate interest rates from these desperate political actors, when they come to borrow money for unuseful expenditures.

I have already directed the finance ministry to cap the interest rates chargeable by moneylenders. The inflation rate in Uganda is three per cent. Why should the commercial banks charge 20 per cent interest?

How about the moneylenders charging 36 per cent or more? This is pure extortion. The PDM and the *Emyooga* funds are going to become the poor people's banks, able to lend at 12 per cent or less after 24 months.

People were trying to sabotage this PDM money, but I hear it is beginning to penetrate; people are beginning to understand it now. The villagers are beginning to appreciate it; that is what I hear.

I have already directed the Attorney-General to guide the finance ministry as to how he can criminalise this extortion by the moneylenders.

The other source of corruption has been the fundraising that is borne mainly by opportunistic politicians, over anxious to please parts of their electorate by pledging money for the fundraisings that they do not have. We are due to meet to resolve this diversion. I agree that we should meet and discuss the issue of fundraising because it is part of the pressure that makes leaders make mistakes.

Uganda's economy and society are moving forward, the mistakes by some actors notwithstanding. I was reading some comments, especially in the *Daily Monitor* - You know, the *Daily Monitor* is the mouthpiece of foreign interests here; the *Daily Monitor* newspaper, talking about this, talking about that.

There is one of them who was writing today - I glanced through. He was saying that Uganda has low inflation by fortune - that it is by fortune. Imagine! He did not want to say that the NRM has managed the economy well so that is why inflation is low. That it is *mikisa* - it was "fortune". It is not fortune, it is planning. *Daily Monitor, bambi mbasaaside.*

The other time, I saw a cow talking. When you see a cow talking then you know that Jesus is about to come back. Show me that picture of the *Daily Monitor*. Bring it properly - *naye abalabe balina omulimu wano, ba-sabotaging; "Now, Ugandans turn to local products to combat the high costs of living."* You remember our war with the importers. This was - hold it there. This was the *Daily Monitor* newspaper.

A cow talking, saying that because we put a tax on the imported products - imported dead people's clothes and that rubbish from outside - that now Ugandans turn to local products. Which date was this? 30<sup>th</sup> of May - you people, get - in *Daily Monitor ente entandise okwogera* (a cow is talking) because that is what we said. Why don't you buy the local textiles, which are made here? So, *Katonda gyaali, ayise muba Daily Monitor kati bogeera ebyamazima*. But otherwise, they were trying to - thank you very much, you can move on.

You listen carefully and I will conclude with this. Uganda's economy and society, are moving forward, the mistakes by some actors notwithstanding. The foreigners interfering in our internal affairs are not a threat at all. There is no foreigner who can threaten us. I have written a piece on that and I will share it with the Ugandans.

The real threats to Africa's progress have been internal weaknesses such as undermining the private sector, for example, Amin, in 1972, when he expelled the Asians and *Mzee Obote* in 1970 when he made the Nakivubo announcements interfering with the private sector, wrong concept of army building, sectarianism, corruption, etcetera.

Otherwise, Africa's ability to defeat the imperialists had been demonstrated by Samora Machel defeating the entire Portuguese Army in Mozambique in 1974, Robert Mugabe and ZANU defeating the Ian Smith regime in 1980 in Zimbabwe, the Cuban Army comprised mainly of black soldiers defeating the white Boer Army at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola in 1988, et cetera. Our armies defeated European armies in the 1970s. It is our internal weaknesses that have, since that time, given the impression that Africa is weak.

NRM has correct philosophical (private-sector led efforts), ideological (the politics of interests and not identity - anti-sectarianism) and strategic (wealth creators and integration to create a market for their products) positions. That is why the economy is growing in spite of the betrayal by the parasites.

With the crushing of corruption, Uganda, given our overall correct positions, is unstoppable. Everything else is in place. The problem now is corruption. In the Budget speech, I will add more information on this light saying that everything else is in place and it is only corruption and a few other mistakes that can sabotage what we are doing.

Therefore, the Rt Hon. Speaker, I thank the Parliament for the following laws that you passed since my State-of-the-Nation Address of 2023. These I put in Annex I of this speech.

In the coming year, the Executive will present the following Bills to Parliament for enactment into law: I attached them as Annex II.

Finally, I want to salute the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the NRM MPs. In the past, there was a risky and shallow tendency by some actors that would try to use Parliament to undermine the Ugandan revolution, which is part of the African revolution. This, of course, was a miscalculation that was provocative, but we managed to handle it peacefully.

Rt Hon. Speaker and your team, I congratulate you for working harmoniously with the Executive. I am told some of the foreigners are saying that Rt Hon. Anita Among is not a good Speaker because she does not undermine the Executive – she should *okulemesa* (fail) the Government – a very risky miscalculation. In the recent budgeting process, Madam Speaker, I congratulate you for working closely with the Executive.

I would also like to salute the Judiciary. In the recent budgeting process, you came together and you were able to synthesise a rational and transparent budget for the country. I called these people – you know, these are like school children. There is the Executive somewhere, the Parliament somewhere else and then the Judiciary somewhere else and they do not meet. This one budgets, and then brings and the other one – I said: “Why don’t you first agree? You are all here in Uganda. Your address is here. Why can’t you meet and look at the whole budget?” They came and looked at it

and brought a harmonised budget by the three Arms of Government. They were able to see that we need this and that. Therefore, I would like to thank the Parliament and the Judiciary because in the recent budgeting process, you came together and were able to synthesise a rational and transparent budget for the country.

On the issue of corruption, my advice is that you should make a distinction between mistake-makers and dishonest people. Dishonesty is the worst, but making mistakes, especially for many people who have not listened carefully - I would not be surprised. That is why many times I try to help out groups that make mistakes.

However, what I cannot tolerate is the question of saying that we allocate money to this ministry, but we take a percentage of it as individuals. This is dishonesty. It is not a mistake; it is a crime; it is a betrayal. Or the ones who go abroad – these foreigners have been approaching our people. They all bring reports – “You go and make a bad report against the Government of Uganda and we shall give an award which will have so much money attached to it in Europe.” I wish them good luck. We are following up on that money of betrayal. They think that we are fools. I do not know why they think so, but we are following all that.

Those two: the dishonest and the traitor are the ones we are targeting. We can counsel the mistake-makers and show them how to do things because if we are to punish them, we shall have nobody to work with. They do not know what to do and they do not listen. There are so many languages; this one is saying this and another that. Therefore, the dishonest, foreign agents and the mistake-makers are the three people who need to be handled differently. In the recent budgeting process, you came together and were able to synthesise a rational and transparent budget for the country.

I want to end by congratulating the UPDF, the Uganda Police Force, the Intelligence Services and the Prison Services for guarding the 3,061,110 million pilgrims that were at Namugongo, recently. (*Applause*) I salute all the Ugandans for the good work you are doing.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to declare the Fourth Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament open. I thank you very much and hope that the coming Session will be fruitful. God bless Uganda; God bless Africa. *Apwoyo matek. (Applause)*

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Your Excellency, for a clear and concise exposition of Government policy in your address to the nation and for fulfilling your constitutional obligation under Article 101 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Thank you so much for the fatherly advice that you have given to us. I take cognisance of the Government legislative agenda for the Fourth Session, and we pledge our utmost commitment towards prioritising Government business and making sure that we exhaust it within the time that is required.

Honourable members, His Excellency will be back on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 to deliver the Budget speech. By next year at this time, we will only be left with three months to the nominations; we want to thank you for all the support you have given us. Before I conclude, I want to recognise our colleagues, the former Speakers, who are around:

1. His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, former Speaker of the National Resistance Council (NRC) 1989-1996. *(Applause)* Thank you so much;
2. The Rt Hon. Prof. Edward Rugumayo, the Speaker of the National Consultative Council (1979-1980);
3. The Rt Hon. Edward Ssekandi, the Speaker of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament (2001-2011); and
4. The Rt Hon. Alhaji Moses Kigongo who was Vice Chairperson to His Excellency in 1986-1996. *(Applause)*

I would like to once more, thank you, former Rt Hon. Speaker and the current President of Uganda. We are very grateful for your address, we do not take it for granted that you and *Mama* created time to come and open the Fourth Session. We also want to thank the Members

of Parliament who were able to make it here to be with the President.

We thank the Executive, Cabinet for being here; and in a very special way, we thank our visiting Speakers and Ambassadors that are here. *(Applause)* After this, we invite all our guests for an evening session at the Parliament Conference Hall. You are all most welcome.

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Honourable Members of Parliament, we are adjourning the House to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

*The East African Community Anthem*

*The National Anthem*

*(The House rose at 3.59 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 13 June 2024 at 2.00 p.m.)*