



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION - FIRST MEETING

TUESDAY, 2 JULY 2024



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

FOURTH SESSION - 4TH SITTING - 1ST MEETING

Tuesday, 2 July 2024

Parliament met at 1.59 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we can have free sitting. Honourable members, first I want to apologise for calling you for this special session because I know you have been bonding with your voters. We are truly sorry for calling you at short notice. I want to welcome you to this afternoon's sitting.

As per the notice that was issued by the Clerk on the 26th June 2024, the purpose of this sitting is the reconsideration of the Appropriation Bill, 2024, which was initially passed by this House on the 16th May 2024 and transmitted to the President on the 31st May 2024, but it was returned by His Excellency, the President on the 22nd June 2024, pursuant to Article 91(3)(c) of the Constitution of Republic of Uganda. Also, the return of the Bill was within the 30 days prescribed by Article 91(3) of the Constitution.

Honourable members, Article 91(6) of the Constitution enjoins the House to reconsider a Bill, which His Excellency returns. I want to inform this House that this Bill is just like any other Bills that have always been returned.

Therefore, pursuant to Rule 143(1) of the Rules of Procedure, I will read the President's letter, which returned the Bill, verbatim - do you have something? I thought I was reading the letter?

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, Rule 9 of our Rules of Procedure is on the sitting arrangement in the House. Specifically, Rule -

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of order -

MR SSEMUJJU: Against procedure? Maybe from a new MP. *(Laughter)* Madam Speaker, Rule 9(3) is couched in mandatory terms. *"The seats to the left hand of the Speaker shall be reserved for the Leader of the Opposition and members of the Opposition party or parties in the House."*

Madam Speaker, this rule is couched in mandatory terms. These NRM people who are squeezing us, let them stand there because the rule says so.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member -

MR SSEMUJJU: I am drawing the attention of the Speaker to the rule - it cannot be Parliament chorusing in ruling, otherwise that will be a market.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I respect Rule 9 that you have just read, but as a Speaker of the House, when you read Rule 9(5), you will notice that it says thus: *"The Speaker shall ensure that each Member of Parliament is comfortable in the House"*. That is why I said "free sitting".

Honourable members, when we are in this House, we are brothers and sisters. Let us just make sure we are comfortable and let us sit wherever we can - it is free sitting. Please!

MR SSEWUNGU: Madam Speaker, I agree with you on the rules you have quoted, but what is painful is Members sitting next to us, but then turning against us on serious matters. So, keep on our side. The way I want UPDF - we should share their votes whenever we are voting; five UPDF Members on the Opposition side and five UPDF Members on the NRM side, and then we move on.

THE SPEAKER: You are already debating in anticipation.

MR SSEWUNGU: But they turn against us and they go per incuriam. *(Laughter)*

THE SPEAKER: You are debating in anticipation. Honourable members, as I said, I am going to read the President's letter.

The letter is addressed to the Right Honourable Speaker, Parliament of Uganda, Kampala. It is dated 22 June 2024. The Reference is: "Budget Reallocation by Parliament."

The letter reads: "*The recent case of the Members of Parliament that were arrested for some alleged offences has again highlighted the mistake of Members of Parliament interfering with the constitutional mandate of the President of budgeting for the Country by reallocating monies budgeted for the core sectors of the economy.*

In the last four financial years, the Members of Parliament have reallocated a total of Shs 3.71 trillion. This is real sabotage.

When we reconstructed the Kampala-Masaka Road, we used Shs 440 billion. Therefore, diverting Shs 3.71 trillion in four years is equivalent to aborting nine big roads of the Kampala-Masaka type, or a much larger number of smaller roads. You know very well the important roads that we have been struggling with.

You have seen how much the Tirinyi-Pallisa-Kumi Road has helped the people of the area by avoiding the need to pass through Mbale City when they are travelling to Soroti.

You have seen how the Musita-Mayuge-Namayingo-Busia Road has helped the people of that area. You have seen how the Mukono-Katosi-Nkokonjeru-Nyenga Road has helped the people of that area. Yet, for the Tirinyi-Palisa-Kumi Road, we used Shs 443.42 billion only.

How much happier would Ugandans be, if we had tarmacked the Kumi-Ngora-Serere-Bugondo Road; the Soroti-Amuria-Acan Pii-Patongo-Abim Road; the Kanoni-Mityana Road; the Myanzi-Kassanda-Bukuya Kiboga Road; the Ssembabule-Lyantonde-Rakai Road; the Luwero-Butalaangwa-Ngoma-Masindi Road; the Bwizibweera-Nsiika-Nyakabirizi Road; the Nakivaale-Rakai Road; the Fort Portal-Kijura Road, etc.?

I have written on this issue - see my letter dated 28th April 2020. The Attorney-General has guided on the matter. The courts have guided, yet the practice goes on. There are three mistakes involved here and these are:

- (i) Indiscipline in budgeting;*
- (ii) Sabotaging national priorities;*
- (iii) And now the suspicion of massive corruption.*

I am, therefore, writing to request that this practice stops. As per Article 91(3)(c) of the Constitution of 1995, I decline to assent to the Appropriation Bill, 2024 and return it to Parliament, and request that no reshuffling of the Budget should ever happen again without the input of the Executive.

Apart from the legality and constitutionality of the issues involved, there is common sense. Sprinkling money by MPs to get cheap popularity in constituencies will make us lose to focus on core items. How can patriots be part of this mistake?

Signed by the President, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni."

Honourable members, that is the letter that returned the Bill. Honourable members, Hon. Alioni! Honourable members, as you are aware, Rule 143(2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament requires that I refer the returned Bill to the relevant committee, which in this case is the Committee on Budget.

However, the Committee on Budget is not yet fully constituted because not all sectoral committees have their leadership in place. As you may recall, the sectoral committee chairpersons are ex-officio members of the Committee on Budget, as provided for under Rule 173(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

Yes, point of procedure?

THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF WHIP (Mr Hamson Obua): Madam Speaker, and colleagues, given the statement you have just made and the letter on the return of the Bill that you have read, I wish to seek your guidance, as the custodian of the Rules of Procedure. While seeking this guidance, I wish to read Rule 143 (2) together with Rule 2 under the interpretation that defines a committee.

Madam Speaker, Rule 143(2) reads: *“The Speaker shall refer the Bill to the relevant committee, and the committee shall consider the request of the President and report to the House within two weeks.”*

Under Rule 2, a committee means a committee of the whole House, a standing committee, or a sectoral committee - (Interruption)

THE SPEAKER: He is on a point of procedure.

MR HAMSON OBUA: ...A select committee, an ad-hoc committee, or any other committee of Parliament.

Madam Speaker, you have stated that under Rule 143(2) you may be under obligation to refer it to the Committee on Budget, yet under Rule 2, the scope, in terms of the definition of a committee is wider, indicating that it means a committee of the whole House, a standing committee, a sectoral committee or a select committee.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, would it not be procedurally right for you to invoke your powers and have this House constitute itself into a Committee of the whole House, under Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure of this Parliament?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I was still communicating. Honourable members! Counsel, you have nowhere to sit? Honourable members, please give counsel where to sit.

Honourable members, can we have some silence? Hon. Pius, please get out of there; you are not a minister. Honourable members, can I have some silence?

As I said earlier, I was still communicating that under the rules, I am supposed to send the returned Bill to the committee and that the relevant committee in this case is the Committee on Budget. However, as I said before, the Committee on Budget is not yet well constituted because we do not have other chairpersons; about 18 chairpersons. We do not have all the committee chairpersons and I think that is the spirit that the Government Chief Whip came up with; that, instead of going to the committee, we can handle it as the Committee of the whole House. Yes, Hon. Odur?

2.20

MR JONATHAN ODUR (UPC, Erute County South, Lira): Madam Speaker, you are right, but I must add that the strongest justification for not sending this Bill to the Committee on Budget is that there is a very serious allegation of grave corruption against the Members of the Committee on Budget.

The wording of that letter by the President specifically mentions allegations of corruption - and he is not doing it for the first time - when he came to pay tribute to the late Hon. Cecilia Ogwal, he accused Parliament - in your presence - that Parliament is corrupt. When we went for the State of the Nation Address, he said it again. On Budget Reading Day, he said that.

In that letter, the accusation is against all members of the Committee on Budget. I would feel extremely uncomfortable if this reference is made to the Committee on Budget. I support that the Committee of the whole House, and we are here seated, can actually process the matter. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Is that seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Okwalinga, by “Arrow Boy”, by Hon. Alioni Odria, by the Vice President of Uganda, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, and by the whole Frontbench. Thank you.

Honourable members, I now put the question that the Appropriation Bill, as returned by His Excellency, the President, be referred to the Committee of the whole House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, I have two procedural issues. The first is that the Government Chief Whip did not move a motion. He actually rose on a point of procedure and was seeking guidance. That is the first procedural issue I am seeking for your intervention.

The second is that I disagree with the Shadow Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, that the entire Committee on Budget is actually accused of corruption. I sit on that Committee on Budget, but I have never asked or even signed the majority report that -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, can I reread the letter?

MR SSEMUJJU: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: First of all on the issue of moving a motion, I want to say that a motion is basically a prayer that somebody places to the House to take a decision on. And he had his prayer, which has been put to a vote and accepted. So, it passes. Do you still want the letter to be re-read?

First of all, honourable members, we cannot say that our Members are corrupt. Even if some of our Members have been arrested and are in prison, there is a presumption of innocence – Honourable members, can you shut up? Please! There is a presumption of innocence. You cannot say that somebody is a thief. How many Members are attached to the Committee on Budget? How many are you, chairman? There are 65 members attached to the Committee on Budget. No, we want clarification from the –

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, this is a House of record. I want to clarify as follows: I was present when the Head of State came to pay tribute to the late Hon. Cecilia Ogwal. And in his speech, he said - Madam Speaker, you were there - the President accused this Parliament of being corrupt. When we were at the Kololo Independence Grounds, it was mentioned. In this letter, the President has written the word “corruption” and said “with allegation.” It is in this letter. It is also factual.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, let us give people time.

MR ODUR: The justification that I had supporting the fact that the Committee of the whole House handles this matter, was based on the reasoning that the reallocations being contested by the President were done by the Committee on Budget and brought to this House, and the House adopted that. What this means is that the Committee on Budget already did its part; this House can then sit and therefore, make a decision on a case-by-case basis on the matters raised by the President.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Atwijukire?

2.27

MR DAN ATWIJUKIRE (NRM, Kazo County, Kazo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a proposal

–

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, if the statement on corruption hurt anybody, we are sorry about it. But, honourable members,

nobody is corrupt, if that is what you want to hear. *(Laughter)*

MR ATWIJUKIRE: Thank you. Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, this matter is before us. Whether we do ping-pong on who is corrupt and who is not, the matter is before us. When the Committee on Budget brings its report, it is approved by the whole House. Whether you want to pretend that you are touched or not, you remain part of this Parliament.

It is my view, therefore, Madam Speaker, that we restrict ourselves to either reconsideration or rejection of this matter, and we pass that and move. The rest is the grasshopper mentality; you are in one bottle, just biting each other for no reason. That is my view. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Ssasaga?

2.28

MR ISAIAS SSASAGA (FDC, Budairi County East, Sironko): Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Appropriation Bill was brought to this House. The Committee on Budget did its work and this Parliament passed it. It could work out, Madam Speaker, if we compared what we passed in this House and what was sent to the President for assent.

As long as we first know what we passed, maybe you never know along the way – *(Laughter)* – that is why we need to first look at what we passed and what was sent to the President before we can proceed, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, when a Bill is passed in this House, it goes to the legal team to be refined before it is sent for assent. The Bill that was sent to the President is the same Bill that was passed by this House. We want to get confirmation from the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: was the Bill, which was passed by this House, the very one that was received by the President?

2.30

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I wish to confirm that the Bill, which Parliament passed on 16 May 2024, is the same Bill that was sent to the President for assent. And here with me is the copy, which I can lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Hon. Aisha Kabanda?

MS AISHA KABANDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have two procedural issues. First, Madam Speaker, you earlier ruled that the Frontbench will always be designated for the ministers. On our side, people do not have where to sit because it is full of NRM Members and they are seated very uncomfortably, one sitting on another. I request that you ask the NRM backbenchers to leave the frontbench of the Opposition.

Two, listening to the President's letter, I notice that he actually blames corruption on the whole House. I even doubt whether, at this time, we have the moral authority to discuss what the President sent back to us after he accused all of us of corruption.

When you listen to the President's letter, you notice that there are serious legal issues he speaks to. In a way, he wants his Bill, the statutory Bill that came to us, to pass as he has brought it. Does Parliament have any mandate to appropriate, according to him?

According to that letter, the President says that we do not have the mandate to tamper with his Budget the way he brings it to us.

We honestly need legal interpretation on whether this House has the mandate to appropriate and if the House has the mandate to appropriate, then what form of appropriation should Parliament do? Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, Parliament's main role is appropriation and nobody will take that away from us.

2.33

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, I would like to – *(Interjections)*- I need your protection, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Prime Minister?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Speaker, I would like to request honourable members to appreciate the fact that the President respects this House. That is why he sent back this Bill for reconsideration. If he was disrespecting us, he had other options; he could warrant, but he decided to send back this Bill because he respects this House.

Can I request, Madam Speaker, that you allow the Attorney-General to come in at this time to guide us?

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Hon. Odria?

MR ALIONI: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank you for the opportunity.

The issue of corruption in this Parliament has gone beyond borders. *(Laughter)* We have lost trust in the Committee on Budget. That is why I think the President has written to you; so that this House can be given the opportunity to scrutinise the Budget in relation to his rejection for reallocation.

Madam Speaker, the procedural matter I would like to raise is: you already ruled on this matter that let the House debate and go for the reallocation. Are we moving well procedurally on a matter that you have ruled on?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, Rule 222 is on reconsideration of the decision of the House. The House has already made a decision. Can I now have the minister move a motion?

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024, AS RETURNED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 91(3)(c) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND RULE 143 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable – Hon. Dr Batuwa, please wait. Let him move a motion and then you will bring all that when we are at Committee of the whole House.

MR SSEKIKUBO: Madam Speaker, I thank you for correcting the anomaly, where you have now referred for a formal motion to be moved by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development since this is an appropriation Bill. It could not have been moved by the Government Chief Whip when the minister was here. On that one, thank you.

Two, Madam Speaker –

THE SPEAKER: The other one was very different.

MR SSEKIKUBO: My implication is for you to pick the cue from that. I was just tickling you to pick a cue from that; I was giving you the –

THE SPEAKER: *Gwe*, Hon. Ssekikubo, stop tickling me. *(Laughter)*

MR SSEKIKUBO: Madam Speaker, this is not a normal reconsideration of a Bill. For almost a quarter of a century, I have been in this House; I am going to make a quarter of a century. This has never happened; this is quite unprecedented.

Therefore, I would like to request, Madam Speaker, to allow the House to interrogate the circumstances under which the Budget speech already made to the Ugandans –*(Applause)*– well received by the country and now, the President is referring back the Bill to this Parliament for reconsideration? Does it mean that the President reads the Budget without

assigning or assenting to it? That is one dilemma.

The second dilemma that I have is: as Parliament, we look bad. Who caused this? We want to know. Do not blame all of us for this. Who caused all this? Let us know; let us interrogate who tampered, for selfish reasons, with the Budget of the country. *(Applause)*

If you talk about Shs 3.71 trillion in four years, these are huge amounts of money. It is not a normal reconsideration. Bad motives have been imputed on this House and the President cannot speak in vain. It means he has evidence.

THE SPEAKER: Can we first constitute the House into a Committee of the whole House then you talk?

MR SSEKIKUBO: Madam Speaker, let us first exhaust this then go back knowing the reasons; what we are moving from and where we are moving next. Where is the problem? Who did this? We must know who the thieves are, if there are thieves of Shs 3.71 trillion - *(Interjection)*- yes, this is getting out of hand.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable member, you do not have to raise your voice for me to hear you. Hon. Alioni brought up a very good suggestion - Hon. Avur, please sit down.

Honourable members, we are saying that we are going to have a Committee of the whole House and in that committee - can I have silence? Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, can you first move a motion before we go into a debate?

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, before the motion, I request the Executive - we passed the Appropriation Bill and it should have taken effect on 1 July 2024. We are now into the financial year. So, before we even move to consider, would the Executive address us under what legal regime and what will happen now that we do not have a law in place so that - *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Attorney-General?

2.41

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As you have clearly stated, the President has returned the Appropriations Bill under Article 91(3)(c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995.

We are all aware that the financial year in Uganda starts on the 1st of July of every subsequent year. Before I direct myself exactly on the provisions of the law, I would like to state that it is indeed the constitutional mandate of Parliament to appropriate money against the proposals that have been made by the President in the budget estimates in accordance with Article 156.

However, while we exercise this mandate, the approval of the budget must be done in comparison to the budget that is presented by the Executive. That means that this is a shared responsibility of both the Executive and the Parliament. Hon. Kimosho did mention here that we were all in the House when this Bill was passed and this Parliament constitutes a front bench and a back bench. Therefore, we are collectively responsible for the decisions that were made in this House on that day. *(Applause)*

The decision of the President to return the Bill to this House is also founded in law and it is backed by both the Constitution and our Rules of Procedure and as such we are not operating outside any provisions of the law.

While we do this appropriation, we need to consider the priorities of both the Government and also the available resources. So, when the Bill is brought back to Parliament, it should not be taken as an offensive act by the Executive.

Madam Speaker, the framers of this Constitution were alive to the fact that there would come a day when the 1st of July comes to pass before the Appropriations Act is passed. In Article 154(4), the exercise of the executive authority by the President to issue a warrant can be done before the 1st of July or after.

We do not have a crisis; there are sufficient legal mechanisms to ensure that the Government continues running. I want to implore you colleagues to let us all sit down and reconsider

THE SPEAKER: Attorney-General, do you mean that a warrant has been issued?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: No, the warrant has not been issued, but what Hon. Odur asked was: what happens? And we are saying that we are well within our rights because the Constitution anticipated that we could deal with the Appropriations Act even after the 1st of July; there is no warrant carried.

THE SPEAKER: Yes, Leader of the Opposition?

MR NAMBESHE: Madam Speaker, both print and electronic media are awash with what the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST) opined about especially when he raised this same issue of the warrant.

I seek clarification from the Attorney-General, on whether the President, as of now, now that we do not have any Appropriation Act in operation, has already written or issued a warrant to issue funds from the Consolidated Fund until the expiry of four months as stipulated in Article 154, which you have ably quoted.

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Speaker, I can state with no fear of contradiction that the President has not issued a warrant under Article 154(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995. He has chosen to take the path of coming back to the House so we can go through this budget and do this exercise.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, when you look at Article 154(4), you will notice that it says thus: *“If the President is satisfied that the Appropriations Act in respect of any financial year will not or has not come into operation by the beginning of the financial year; the*

President may, subject to the provisions of this Article, authorise the issue of monies from the Consolidated Fund Account...” and that is the warrant.

Now in the circumstance, today is the 2nd of July and that is the reason we say that because of the time, let us have this passed so that we do not bring in the issue of the warrant; we have the Bill passed and then have the Act bide. Okay, there is a motion -

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Speaker, the Government must find a smarter way of answering this; even this particular sitting of Parliament is costing money. That is why when we decided that the budget would be processed in May and read in June, the idea was that on day one, under Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act, you issue authority to begin spending. I have seen ministers coming here; who has fuelled their vehicles? Under whose authority are they spending? That is what you need to deal with practically.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, can I have the motion?

DR BATUWA: Point of procedure before the motion.

THE SPEAKER: I will give you time to speak; first wait. You will speak. *(Laughter)*

2.49

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Matia

Kasaija): Thank you, Madam Speaker – *(Interruption)*

MR OGUZU: I rise on a procedural point relating to the motion you are about to move. The motion for the Appropriation Bill we passed was moved by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, who was acting on the delegated powers of the President, but it has now turned out, in the President’s letter, that the Executive had not been consulted.

So, as you move the motion, can you guarantee this House that you are now moving – *(Laughter)*- after consulting the Executive and that what you are going to speak here represents the position of the Executive, so that we do not do the same thing. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda is in the House, representing the President of Uganda, the Prime Minister is here. They can confirm that the delegated powers -

2.50

THE VICE-PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Madam Speaker and colleagues, I rise to make a clarification on the issue that the Member of Parliament, who has just spoken on that microphone –

THE SPEAKER: He is called Hon. Oguzu Lee.

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for clarifying to me his correct name and constituency. But the idea here is that the matter before us is for all of us because all of us are Members of Parliament.

I would like to state that, the way we are proceeding is extremely satisfactory, save for the threats, which I am receiving from Hon. Mugema Peter.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable, we just want an assurance.

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: In short, the motion, which the minister is going to present - Hon. Nganda - the motion, which the Minister of Finance is going to present is coming to this House in full view of the knowledge and satisfaction of His Excellency, the President. Thank you.

DR BATUWA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The procedural matter -*(Interjection)* - no, she allowed me to speak after the Vice President.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Dr Batuwa, I did not allow you to speak. Please, switch off the

microphone. Hon. James, please sit down. Let us receive the motion.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – (Mr Matia Kasaija): Let me now proceed. This is a motion for resolution of Parliament to reconsider the annual budget estimates for the financial year –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish you could listen so that you are able to ask him what you want. Hon. Amero, I am going to let you speak next.

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Let me start afresh. This is a Motion of a Resolution of Parliament to reconsider the Annual Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025. I am moving under Article 91(3)(c), and Article 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Amendment Act, Cap. 171, and rules 143, 149(4) and 151 of the Rules of Procedure of this august House. The motion reads thus:

“WHEREAS on 28 March 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, laid before Parliament for approval the proposed annual budget estimates and work plans for the Financial Year 2024/2025;

AND WHEREAS on 16 May 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development laid before Parliament, for approval, a Corrigenda to the annual budget estimates;

AWARE that in accordance with Section 13(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, and Rule 149(4) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda, Parliament on 16 May 2024, considered and approved the annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025;

NOTING that on 16 May 2024, following the approval of the annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025, amounting to Shs 72,136,504,253,000, Parliament, under Article 152 and Article 156, considered the

Appropriation Bill, 2024, authorising the Treasury to issue out from the Consolidated Fund and apply towards the supply granted to the Government for the service of the year ending 30 June 2025, the sum being, Shs 34,756,338,622,000;

RECOGNISING that the Appropriation Bill, 2024, was in accordance with Article 91(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, presented to His Excellency, the President for assent, and the President, in accordance with Article 91(3)(c), refused to assent to the Appropriation Bill, 2024, and returned the Bill to this August House;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in his letter returning the Bill, His Excellency, the President, expressed concern over reallocations made in the national budget estimates over the years and the effect of such a reallocation on altering Government priorities, consequently causing a shift in Government priorities...” Can I be protected, Madam Speaker?

THE SPEAKER: Please go ahead.

MR KASAIJA: “...*CONSIDERING that, where the President refuses to assent to a Bill and returns it under Article 91(3)(c) of the Constitution, Parliament may, in accordance with Article 91(6) of the Constitution, reconsider the Bill and return it to the President for assent;*

FURTHER considering that the national budget estimates contain both statutory expenditure and nonstatutory expenditure, which then inform the contents of the Appropriation Bill, and that the reallocation in the national budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/25 affected some votes under the statutory expenditure and some votes in the Appropriation Bill, 2024;

AWARE that according to Article 156(1) of our Constitution and Rule 152(1) of the Rules of Procedure of our Parliament, the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill must contain the allocations as appropriated by the Committee of Supply.

CONVINCED that before reconsidering the Appropriations Bill 2024, as returned by His Excellency, the President, Parliament should first reconsider the annual budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 to ensure that Votes under statutory expenditures affected by the reallocation are considered in the Committee of Supply and the allocations appropriated by the Committee of Supply are reflected in the Schedule to the Appropriation Bill during its reconsideration;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this august House that the House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to reconsider the schedule of the annual estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 as attached to this motion, to address the concerns raised by His Excellency, the President.” I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? Okay, it is seconded by Hon. Dr Aceng, Hon. Hellen, *Arrow Boy*, by the whole frontbench, Hon. Max, Hon. Isaac, and Hon. Kavuma and by the whole House on the right-hand side. Honourable minister, can you justify your motion?

MRSSEWUNGU: Point of procedure, Madam Speaker. We do not want to be challenged. Once a motion is moved and you ask for the seconders, names must be mentioned.

THE SPEAKER: I did that.

MR SSEWUNGU: If an ex officio member stands to support the motion, it becomes null and void because they have no right to vote here. We have a lot of challenges - we must fight but this one, let us not allow it. So, names must be mentioned. If I am not seconding the motion I remain seated - I am not supporting the motion.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded?

HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE SPEAKER: Can those who are seconding the motion stand up? Okay, I have Hon. Kimosho, Hon. Orone, Hon. Isiagi, Hon. Ikojo,

Hon. Sauda, Hon. Stephen, Hon. Kangwaje, Hon. Tom, Hon. Opolot, Hon. Ocwa, Hon. Rukaari, Hon. Kinyamatama, Hon. Magogo, Hon. Sarah, Hon. Dr Ayume, Hon. Ssentayi, Hon. Margaret, Hon. Isaac, *Muzeeyi*, Hon. Alioni, Hon. Komakech, Hon. Mpindi, Hon. Emmanuel, the whole frontbench, and all the army representatives. Honourable members, can we have a justification? Honourable members, can we have some silence?

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Madam Speaker and colleagues, I am begging for your ears so that we do our business very seriously. The justification has been read within the motion, and it is that His Excellency, the President returned the budget to Parliament. As a Parliament, we must pass the budget, otherwise –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, first wait. Honourable members, can I have some silence? The Bill has been returned to the House for reconsideration and what the House is asking Hon. Musasizi and the Attorney-General is to give the justification as to why they are bringing this motion.

MR MATIA KASAIJA: Madam Speaker and colleagues - do not forget that I am also a Member of Parliament - the justification is within the motion.

MR SSEWUNGU: Point of order. Madam Speaker, it is painful to raise a point of order against a senior man like the Hon. Matia Kasaija. Our rules are very clear. Once someone reads their motion, they seek those supporting the motion, and the justification is within his own words. So, the minister cannot come before this House and say that his justification is within the same motion. Someone who has been in the Parliament for over 40 years and running Finance! So, is he in order? It would be prudent since the AttorneyGeneral is there -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, let me simplify your work. The justification for the return of this Bill is already contained in the letter. Honourable members, I want us

to debate the motion. I am going to put the question. I now put the question that the House resolves itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider the motion.

(Question put and agreed to.)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, we are having a debate on the motion. Honourable members, first sit.

MR SSEKIKUBO: Madam Chairperson, we can only debate when you are in the Chair as Speaker –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, this is a Committee of the whole House, to debate the motion.

MR ODUR: Madam Chairperson, I would like to give clarification. When the Bill is returned –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, after this, we shall go to the Committee of Supply. I do not want you to imagine that we are in the Committee of Supply. We are having a Committee of the whole House to debate the motion. Where you do not understand, please, ask.

MR ODUR: Madam Chairperson, what I wanted to say is just to help the House move forward.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Listen to the Shadow Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

MR ODUR: Madam Speaker, and the House had the opportunity to refer this returned Bill to the Committee on Budget but decided that it should be referred to the Committee of the whole House. What we are doing now is as if the Committee on Budget is sitting to receive from the minister detailed justification -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Chaired by the Speaker.

MR ODUR: Chaired by the Speaker and report -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Who is the Chairperson now?

MRODUR: Yes, the Speaker is the Chairperson and there is no contradiction. The Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should now come as if he is presenting to the Committee on Budget and start telling us details of the reallocations; one by one. The House will interrogate, ask for documents and take a decision. Then, we will come back.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, because what we are –

THE CHAIRPERSON: You are the shadow minister. Can you first hear from the main minister then you come and respond. What are you going to debate before the minister presents? Honourable minister, can you present to the House - honourable members, please, listen.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I beg the indulgence of the House since I am now presenting the same way we normally do in the Committee on Budget.

On 16 May 2024 when Parliament considered the Appropriations Bill, we made a number of adjustments but the President was not satisfied by these. As a result of that, he returned the Bill for reconsideration and requested that the reallocated amounts by Parliament be reinstated. I wish to take Parliament through the details of these numbers. *(Interjections)*

Under Vote –*(Interruption)*

MR KABERUKA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The minister is referring to a document, which he is reading, but we are not privy to it as Members of Parliament going to make a decision.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Where is your iPad?

MR KABERUKA: I have it here. It is not there.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Give it to the IT people to help you operate it.

MR KABERUKA: Madam Chairperson, can they project it as we always do?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Use your iPad – *(Laughter)* – IT people, help. Honourable minister, please, proceed.

DR BATUWA: Procedure, Madam Chairperson.

THE CHAIRPERSON: IT Department, can you help. Yes, Hon. Xavier -

MR KYOOMA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson for the opportunity. I have listened to the minister's preamble that the appropriation we did was not okay with the President in some areas. However, I want to remember that while at Kololo during the Budget Speech Day, the President from his words, praised you a lot, as the Speaker, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and Parliament for the appropriation we did, which he was very happy with.

The President said that for the first time, we made the budget, which was pro-people. All his statements are on the *Hansard* – *(Interjections)* – so, now, where does the minister get the audacity to say that the President was not happy with what we did yet he praised us a lot? What happened? What went wrong? Can we go ahead when we have this record on the *Hansard* without it being expunged?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, there is no addition in this budget. It is basically realignment in some sectors.

DR BATUWA: On a procedural note, Madam Chairperson –

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, my point of order is; the colleague from the NRM side knows that we are dealing with a

President who is 80 years old. *(Interjections)*
Is he in order not to know that old people keep forgetting? *(Laughter)*

DR BATUWA: On a procedural note, Madam Chairperson, I move to inform this House that the matter before us borders criminality. It is a matter that is unprecedented all over the African continent.

Madam Chairperson, we are proceeding in a manner that convinces me as though we are covering up some of the people for the wrongs they did in this. It would be convenient if we were to move this business –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Doctor, do you want to say that returning a Bill is criminal?

DR BATUWA: Madam Chairperson, as we speak, the Committee on Budget is a crime scene. Members have been –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Listen. Can you sit down. I want to refer you to Article 91(3) - open your Constitution. That is Article 91(3).

DR BWANIKA: Madam Chairperson, we were moving very well- and the minister for finance was reading specifics.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

DR BWANIKA: I pray that we allow the minister to read the specifics - we want to know where the problems are.

DR BATUWA: Dr Bwanika, you will not - let Dr Bwanika give you space. I am reading to you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me. I do not want you to read to me- Please. Article 91(3), “*the President shall, within 30 days after a Bill is presented to him or her;*

- a) *Assent to the Bill*
- b) *Return the Bill to Parliament requesting for the Bill to be reconsidered*
- c) *Notify the Speaker in writing that he or she refuses to assent to the Bill.”*, which he has done.

When you start talking and castigating a committee that the Budget was not passed by the Committee on Budget alone, it was passed by this House. Please, sit down.

DR BATUWA: Madam Chairperson, on the procedural matter-

THE CHAIRPERSON: I said, sit down.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Honourable colleagues, I would like us to get clear and fair to each other. When you call the Committee on Budget a scene of crime and corrupt, let us come out clear on who does what in the process of budgeting.

A budget comes to the House - *(Interjections)* - allow me to speak because you were speaking and I did not interfere with you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: First allow him - sit.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: I have come through Madam Chairperson. Therefore, colleagues, the issue is simple. Let us remind ourselves of the process of budgeting so that we point a finger and identify an enemy correctly.

Let us remind ourselves that when a Budget comes to the Floor, it is referred to sectoral committees, which interrogate it seriously with the entities responsible. The sectoral committees make reports on the Floor, which debates the sectoral reports and recommendations, then refer all of them to the Committee on Budget for harmonisation, reconciliation and make recommendations.

Honourable colleagues, we must all get informed that any recommendations made by the Committee on Budget are part of the reports from the sectoral committees.

For your information, we started with the National Budget Framework Paper, whose recommendations were up to 20. *(Interjections)*- Why don't you want me to bring this out and come clear? I am not debating. I have not gone to the Bill. I have a right to talk as a Member. *(Hon. Alioni rose_)* I will not sit down on your orders.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, Hon. Alioni, allow the Chairperson to finish. We are -

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: We are all Members. Why is it becoming bitter when we are bringing the issues clearly? Now, colleagues, we started with the National Budget Framework Paper and the process of recommendations. We capture recommendations for unfunded priorities.

The unfunded priorities are presented by ministers. The ministers present a Budget Framework Paper with the recommendations to the sectoral committees - (*Interruptions*)

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members -

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Madam Chairperson, let us get it clear. And the total for recommendations was about Shs 23 trillion for unfunded priorities. By the time the Budget estimates came, again the same process and the recommendations - (*Interjections*) - we shall come to that. First hold on. You wait for that.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Chairperson, first allow him to present. (*Dr Batuwa rose*)

Honourable minister, can you give us justification? - check your iPads.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members -

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, I present the justification for reinstating the funds that were reallocated by Parliament on the Budget for Financial Year 2024/2025. Specifically, under Vote 008, there was transfer to other Government units; Specifically, the capitalisation of Uganda Development Bank (UDB)- Shs 30 billion.

Justification

To reinstate this is that UDB is still under-capitalised. By the end of December 2023, UDB's pipeline of approved projects was worth Shs 1 trillion to be invested in the key priorities of wealth creation, agroprocessing, value addition, manufacturing, tourism and mineral beneficiation. It will also support youth-led enterprises, manufacturers and provide working capital for exporters and those involved in import substitution.

Another area of reduction was transfer to other Government units, capitalisation of agricultural credit facilities, Shs 20 billion.

Justification for the reinstatement is that the agricultural credit facility is under-capitalised and yet it is supporting the agro-industrialisation programme. The funds required to finance the approved pipeline loans at Bank of Uganda amounting to Shs 154 billion against the cash of Shs 79 billion.

The Agricultural Credit Facility extra account in the BoU is, therefore, in a deficit of Shs 74 billion. The Agricultural Credit Facility supports agricultural projects to access patient capital for commercial, on-farm investment, post-harvest management, agro-processing and trade in agricultural produce.

Under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, there was an amount cut from Liquefied Petroleum Gas supply and infrastructure intervention of Shs 25 billion. These funds are required to meet ongoing contractual obligations for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) promotion, service providers, and other LPG interventions such as Hoima LPG storage terminal land.

There is also Shs 6.8 billion, under Namanve Thermal Power, and these funds are required for capacity payments for the operations of Namanve Thermal Power plant for energy security.

There is also Shs 4 billion, reduced from the Mineral Regulation Infrastructure Project,

and these are funds required to commence establishment of mineral regulations, revenue collection infrastructure and implementation of the minerals law. These include weighbridges and Government regulated markets for precious stones et cetera.

Under the same vote - Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, there was a reduction of Shs 15 billion from rural electrification and connectivity projects. These funds are required to kick-start works on the seven major construction roads, which include the following:

1. Under Batch 1; the Eastern Service Territory, including West Budama South, Tororo South and Tororo Municipality in Tororo District, Pallisa County, and Gogonyo in Pallisa District;
2. Under Batch 2; still in the Eastern Service Territory, it covers areas of Busiki in Namutumba, Bukooli South in Bugiri, Kamuli District, Kachumbala in Bukedea District, Mbale Northern Division, Bungokho in Mbale and Serere District;
3. Lot 3; Northwest Service Territory for Buyanja East in Kibaale District, Bugangaizi South in Kakumiro District, Buhaguzi in Hoima, Hoima City, Kikuube and Buyaga East in Kagadi District;
4. Under lot 4 of West Nile, Central North and North Service Territory for Ora area in Zombo, Gulu; Aringa South in Yumbe, Dokolo District and Lira East in Lira District.
5. West, South and South Western Service Territory for Sheema, Ruhinda in Mitooma, Isingiro, Rubanda, Ibanda, and Kisoro Districts;
6. Western, Central, and Rwenzori Service Territory for Busongora North in Kasese, Fort Portal Central in Kabarole, Kyankwanzi and Bunyangabo Districts;

7. Central Service Territory for Bbale in Kayunga, Mukono South in Mukono, Butambala, Bukoto East in Masaka and Kiboga Districts.

Madam Chairperson, in addition, these funds are required to commence works of enhancing the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) framework priority interventions for small factories and cottage industries across the country. *(Interjections)*

The SMEs framework intervention is aimed at reducing the turnaround time for electricity connection to SMEs.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, can you, please, listen so that you will be able to debate?

MR MUSASIZI: We have the subvention under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development called Atomic Council for Council Expenses and Administrative Expenses. This was reduced by Shs 10 billion and these funds are required to meet staff and operational costs including salaries, gratuity, rent for office premises, utilities such as water, electricity, security and cleaning services.

We have another subvention called Distribution and Land Acquisition. This was reduced by Shs 10 billion and the justification for reinstatement is that energy transmission and distribution is a top priority of the Government and these are funds to undertake projects aimed at transmitting energy from Karuma and substations.

These funds are also required for compensation of project-affected persons for a number of projects as well as to undertake critical feasibility studies aimed at increasing electricity transmission and distribution.

The major projects include the 345 kilometres of Karuma-Tororo 400 KV transmission line and Ntinda substation for Namanve, residual compensation works for Karuma and Isimba HPPs, Itanda and Karagara special conservation areas and other projects for feasibility studies in generation, transmission, nuclear and minerals.

Under the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity, Vote 112, on a sub-programme called Ethics and Integrity, General Administration and Support, Shs 5 billion was taken away and our justification for returning it was that the funds were allocated to strengthen the adjudication of the Leadership Code Act.

In addition, the funds are needed to publish the National Anti-Corruption Survey report on the perception and prevalence of corruption. The report affects the country's credit rating score internationally, which is a benchmark for our multilateral partners.

Vote 130, Treasury Operations - Under commitment fees, Shs 25 billion was taken away, and our justification to return it or reinstate it is that these are contractual obligations for the loans we have acquired for the implementation of key projects where we have not fully absorbed the funds.

Therefore, the projections for the Financial Year 2024/2025 are based on existing loan stock plus agreements that will be entered in, in the Financial Year 2024/2025.

Under Code 242003, an item called "Others", Shs 300 billion was taken away, and these are funds for the Government obligations under the share subscription agreement in servicing Roko bills of exchange and payment of Electronic Financial Transfer (EFT) bank charges to Bank of Uganda, among others.

Under item 242002, Interest on Treasury Bonds, an amount of Shs 100 billion was taken away, and the justification for reinstatement was that we increased Government borrowing to cater for the priorities in the corrigenda and an increase in domestic debt refinancing, which led to the increase in the interest on Treasury bond issuances.

In the Financial Year 2024/2025 budget interest costs increased due to the increase in debt refinancing from Shs 8.36 trillion in Financial Year 2023/2024 to Shs 12.02 trillion in Financial Year 2024/2025, and an increase in net domestic borrowing from Shs 6.67 trillion

in Financial Year 2023/2024 to Shs 8.97 trillion in Financial Year 2024/2025.

Under the item of Contingency Transfers, an amount of Shs 22.74 billion was taken away and our justification for reinstatement is that Section 26 of the Public Finance Management Act (Amended), 2015, requires the Contingency Fund to be allocated an amount equivalent to 0.5 per cent of the appropriated annual budget of Government of the previous financial year. As such, Shs 169 billion was provided for the Financial Year 2024/2025 reducing the provision by Shs 22.74 billion, implying a breach of the above PFMA requirement.

Under Vote 019, Ministry of Water and Environment, on a project called Integrated Water Resources, Shs 4 billion was reallocated and our justification to return it was the Government of Uganda's counterpart funding for World Bank to finance various urban water supply and sanitation systems in the towns of Busia, Mbale and surrounding towns, Butaleja, Busolwe, Budaka, Kadama, Tirinyi, Kibuku, Namungalwe, Kaliro, Namasale, Koboko, Rukungiri, Kyegegwa, Mpara, Ruyonza, Kumi, among others.

On a project called "Support to Rural Water Supply and Sanitation", Shs 10 billion was taken away and the justification for returning it is that this is funding for the Government interventions to increase access to safe and clean water through "a source per village" in rural areas.

The specific interventions include the construction and rehabilitation of point water sources in the communities, expansion of dilapidated piped water supply systems, motorising and upgrading of high-yield boreholes and solar-powered systems to expand and improve service coverage in various districts of Yumbe, Kyankwanzi, Kakumiro, Mubende, Mityana, Isingiro, Buliisa, Kasese, Amudat, Agago, Kaabong, among others.

Under a project called "Building Resilient Communities, Wetlands, Ecosystems and Associated Catchments in Uganda", an amount of Shs 2 billion was reallocated.

Our justification for returning it is that the funds are to facilitate ongoing interventions for the restoration of degraded ecosystems, including wetlands, riverbanks and hillsides in the areas of Kigezi, Kyoga, Albertine and Central Uganda, including the promotion of alternative livelihoods to the communities.

Under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, on a project called “Improving Access to use of Agricultural Equipment and Mechanisation through the use of Labour-Saving Technologies”, Shs 9 billion was taken away.

The justification for reinstatement is that all the funds on earth-moving equipment of Shs 23 billion in the Financial Year 2023/2024 were spent. The reason for taking it away was under-absorption.

The annual requirement for funding this key intervention is Shs 40 billion and this will create a shortfall. The funds are for the procurement of heavy earth-moving equipment, tractors and matching implements to support agro-processing and value addition.

On a sub-programme called “Animal Resources Entomology”, Shs 5 billion was reallocated and this reduction leaves only Shs 2 billion for this intervention, which is not sufficient. The funds are meant for the procurement of acaricides and operations of subvention for the control of Trypanosomiasis and sleeping sickness. The budget cut will significantly affect the control of the tsetse flies, which will affect animal productivity and tourism, especially in the areas of Lake Mburo, Queen Elizabeth, since tsetse reduction activities are taking place in parks.

Under a project called “Development of Market-Oriented and Environmentally Sustainable Beef Industry”, Shs 10 billion was taken away and the cut leaves no funds for this intervention. Failure to control animal diseases will affect the export volumes due to reduced production and quality.

Under the Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, under recurrent spending, Shs 5 billion was taken away, and these are funds for development, upgrade and maintenance of Government systems, including business registration, record systems etcetera.

Under the Ministry of Local Government, under workshops and seminars, Shs 4 billion was taken away and this resource is funding for the Parish Development Model (PDM) monitoring and sensitisation activities. Monitoring of PDM activities will not be fully undertaken if this resource is not reinstated.

Under advertising and publications, Shs 4 billion was removed.

Under consultancy services, Shs 3 billion and Shs 6 billion. Our justification for reinstatement is that as part of the fiscal consolidation strategy, the Government is undertaking deliberate efforts to enhance domestic revenue collection, both at central and local Government levels.

Part of the strategy is to improve revenue administration and specifically the automation of collection and reconciliation processes in local governments to reduce leakages and enable real-time monitoring. This is funding for contractual obligations under the local revenue collection systems. The planned rollout to 32 additional sites across the country will not be undertaken without this resource. Additionally, there is a possibility of litigation against the Government if this resource is not provided.

Vote 015, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, under a subvention called “UDC”, Shs 20 billion was taken away. Our justification for the reinstatement is that UDC is the Government’s key intervention agency for industrialisation. The requirement for capitalisation is Shs 407.33 billion for the Financial Year 2024/2025, and it is for investment in projects including National Marketing Company, Cassava Processing Factory and Sanga Vet Chemical, among others.

Under Vote 118, Uganda Road Fund, under transfer to other Government units, Shs 40 billion was reallocated and our justification for reinstatement is that the Government is faced with funding requirements of Shs 900 billion to address the road maintenance backlog.

This cut will affect district and urban roads, including Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), therefore, worsening existing road conditions. It will also affect the following interventions:

- a) Settlement of road maintenance debts carried forward from the Financial Year 2023/2024;
- b) Reduction in the much-needed periodic maintenance of the paved national road network, and
- c) Cut back on the maintenance of bridges and culvert installations across the various rivers, streams and swamps.

Under Vote 104 - Parliamentary Commission, Transfer from Development to Recurrent, Shs 8.93 billion. Our justification is that this is agreeable to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development as the reallocation was within the Vote. In other words, it had no effect.

Under Vote 143 - Uganda Bureau of Statistics, under the item of travel inland, Shs 10 billion was reallocated. Our justification for reinstatement is that these are funds for UBOS's key fieldwork activities specifically for:

1. Post-census activities. After the census, the bureau will update the population numbers up to the smallest administrative unit, for example a village. It must also undertake the post-enumeration survey, which is an international requirement to validate the coverage and accuracy of the census results.
2. Production of labour market statistics as high-frequency indicators to produce-

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, note down a Vote that you want clarification on. We will get it vote by vote.

MR MUSASIZI: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, under UBOS - I am reading No. 2: production of labour market statistics as high frequency indicators produced on a quarterly basis. This intervention was a response to the demand by Government and in line with the NDP III target for UBOS to update the national employment indicators on a quarterly basis to advise policy action and employment and under employment levels across the sector. The cut will, therefore, affect UBOS's capacity to undertake labour market surveys and production of required statistics.

Under Vote 405 - Gulu Regional Referral Hospital; under a line item called "Pension and Gratuity", Shs 1.0 billion was reallocated and our justification for reinstatement is that the Vote had excess or unutilised pension worth Shs 1.0 billion in Financial Year 2023/2024. The Vote, therefore, requested that these excess funds be reallocated to wage. This corrigenda request was approved in that regard and to have pension funds reduced.

Madam Chairperson, in total, all these figures I have read, both recurrent and development, totals to Shs 750.47 billion, which we seek this Committee of the Whole House to consider for reinstatement to where it was budgeted for originally. I beg to submit.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much. Members, when you stand up, tell me the specific Vote and clarification that you need. Hon. Susan -

MS AMERO: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. First, my observation is not going to be on the Votes. The Minister has given us where the money was cut from. However, he has not come out to show where the committee reallocated it. This leaves room for us to think that as Members of Parliament and representatives of the people, we are only reviewing what they have presented to us. So, to remove that money from where we have put it as Parliament means that we are useless.

The budget should have not been brought; it should have been brought here for reading and

we should not have had any input as Parliament. It is very disturbing.

Madam Chairperson, I think when the budget is brought here, it is sent to the committees for scrutiny, and it calls for our input as Members of Parliament because we represent the people. However, if they are going to refuse what we have put as our input, why doesn't Cabinet then read the Budget without taking us into committees? We put a lot of effort and energy in this. In the meantime, the corrigenda came in the morning. We did not look at it.

Whatever the minister is presenting here, there are very many new things. We did not have the opportunity, as Parliament, to look at it. So, it brings a problem of suspicion that they are smuggling in things, and we need this to be rectified here.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, the budgeting process is a consultative process - Can I hear from you? - We want to know where the money is coming from and where is it going?

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, our understanding was that since -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I hope you all have the budget report and in that report - it is there, you have it. I want you to check table A and table B of the budget. Table A has where the money was removed, and Table B has where the money went. Where there is a debit, there must be a corresponding credit.

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, with that guidance, I have nothing useful to add.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, I want to thank you very much. The minister has presented a list that was affected with the reallocation. Debating this with the letter of the President - and you need to go back to that letter - the letter is that you are tampering with priorities, as Parliament.

He listed examples of roads. I want to speak a lot but it would be fair to give the Committee on Budget Chairperson an opportunity. For example, from the way the minister was reading here, many of my colleagues may not have picked.

They are reinstating Shs 300 billion to Roko, which is a private company. Remember this Government gave Roko Shs 270 billion. This is a private company. When you look at the priorities, Madam Chairperson, I may not have - because we wrote a minority report, and I hope you will give us time to make some reference to it - but the Budget Committee needs to refresh their mind, and this needs to go on record. Everybody must hear.

The priority of the President is that you move money from ambulances. I do not care which constituencies are benefiting. Mine is not but I do not care. However, the President is moving money from ambulances, money from regional hospitals, to create Shs 300 billion for Roko, a private company. In his earlier submission on Roko, he said the justification is that Roko was helping them when they were fighting in Luweero. This is the priority of the President. So, I request that before I make my formal submission as a Shadow Minister-

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, I have not seen any justification written by the President on the Luweero issues. That is just from you.

MR SSEMUJJU: I am just lending Parliament my memory.

THE CHAIRPERSON: It is hearsay.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chair, you have given me the opportunity. I want to-

THE CHAIRPERSON: Let the Shadow Minister speak-

MR SSEMUJJU: I want to cede this opportunity to the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget to tell us where they have taken the money and what the President

classifies as priorities, then we can begin the debate from there.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes, honourable chairperson - First of all, I hope you have your Schedule A and B.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The sources, as indicated by the minister – he has given the justification, which I personally have no problem with -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Ebwalu, you are giving the chairperson one hour. When did you become the Speaker? *(Laughter)*

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Madam Chairperson, the first item, as I was explaining that the submissions of the critical unfunded priorities, which, of course, the Budget committee which we are all aware is constituted of about 66 full members and all chairpersons and vice chairpersons of the sectoral committees – they all form the Committee on Budget. We know that; but this is a reminder.

The first Vote we picked as priority was Vote 001 – Office of the President, Shs 5 billion for maintenance of National Leadership Institute, Kyankwanzi. Next was operational funds, Shs 3.5 billion to facilitate the project monitoring team of Intelligence Transport Monitoring System (ITMS) under Vote 001.

Vote 003 – Office of the Prime Minister. I am going through all of them. It gives Ministry of Karamoja Affairs Shs 8.0 billion for iron sheets, maize seed, ox ploughs, and oxen; Ministry of Luweero Triangle – Shs 2 billion to support families with income-generating projects; the SDG monitoring – Shs 3 billion for SDG.

Vote 004 – Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs – Shs 50 billion, arrears to National Housing and Construction Corporation.

Vote 007 – Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs – Shs 0.45 billion for house rent for the Principal Judge and Chief Justice.

Vote 008 – Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, subvention –

THE CHAIRPERSON: It was the Principal Judge and the Deputy Chief Justice, not the Chief Justice.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Okay. Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development – Shs 3 billion as a subvention for Enterprise Uganda.

MS AISHA KABANDA: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. There is confusion. *(Interjections)* Can I be protected, Madam Chairperson?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Allow Hon. Aisha Kabanda to –

MS AISHA KABANDA: I have been given way. There is confusion amongst us here. Some think that is where money went. Some think that is where money was cut from. Can you clarify? Is that where you cut money to reallocate elsewhere or that is where you put money? That is the clarification we seek.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Honourable colleagues, what the minister was reading is where we cut money from. That is where the minister had prayed we return it to. That is what the minister was submitting. *(Interjections)* I think it is self-explanatory, colleagues. I repeat, what the minister was submitting is where, in our report and allocation, money was cut from. What I am now reading is where we put the money. It is where we reinforced. That is what I am now reading.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, it is where money was put in the budget and now, from the Committee on Budget, it came to the House. It was approved and that is where it is being removed from. Not so?

MR SSEMUJJU: Yes. But you see, Madam Chairperson, what Hon. Aisha Kabanda is asking, and the Chairperson needs to clarify this - before these reallocations are done, they first identify where money is, make a total –

whether it is Shs 1 trillion, or Shs 2 trillion, and then begin reallocating. It is not automatic that money moved from coffee automatically goes to a road. You first make a total and then you –
(*Interruption*)

DR BATUWA: Honourable Chairperson budget, another clarification that you should make - your report and the Bill that has been returned are not the same, which is the concern that was raised by an honourable member. When you look at your report, the Recurrent Budget, that is Annex A, Vote 001 – Office of the President, it is allocating Shs 259 billion.

However, in the Appropriation Bill that was returned, it is Shs 225 billion. These two figures are not the same, and the same mistake is consistent with all these votes. Where some are low, others are high. For example, Vote 143 – Uganda Bureau of Statistics; it got an adjustment of Shs 10 billion as you rightly stated and as the minister rightly stated. According to the report, it was to receive Shs 134 billion, according to what we passed. But what is in the Appropriation Bill is not Shs 134 billion to UBOS, instead it is Shs 144 billion. Therefore, there is a difference between these two instruments. We need to clarify.

DR BWANIKA: Madam Chairperson, I want to ask the honourable Member to look at the recurrent and development. What he is talking about now, when you add the figures, it brings out the total.

DR BATUWA: I am showing the inconsistency in the recurrent and the recurrent. The recurrent in the Appropriation Bill does not match the recurrent in the report of the Budget Committee. That is the clarification that we need.

THE CHAIRPERSON: You know –

DR BATUWA: Honourable chairperson, with me are two documents. The report of the Committee on Budget and the Appropriations Bill –

THE CHAIRPERSON: This is the last time you are speaking. How do you grab a

microphone? There are so many people who want to speak.

DR BATUWA: I thought I was on the Floor.

THE CHAIRPERSON: No, no. Hon. Katusabe -

MR KATUSABE: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In Rule 86 of the Rules of Procedure, when you are in that Chair, everybody in this House is supposed to listen to you in silence.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, listen to the Member. If you do not understand the English, Hon. Amero, please, translate from that side.

MR KATUSABE: Rule 86 commands everybody in this House that the Chairperson, while in that seat, is supposed to be listened to in silence. I am asking all colleagues in this House to, please, pay attention to that rule.

Having said that, Madam Chair, no one in this House has the power and authority to challenge your ruling. You have already ruled and given permission to the honourable colleague. At this point in time, I ask everybody to allow the honourable chairperson to proceed, and when he is done with his submission, we will be in position to submit. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Hon. Atkins Katusabe.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will proceed. Colleagues - Okay, the agriculture ministry added Shs 50 billion for procurement of four-wheel tractors, planters, hullers, harrow, and trailers.

The House must note that the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries' budget had been reduced under the mechanisation, from Shs 145 billion to Shs 80 billion. We thought that we should give an additional Shs 50 billion for the procurement of tractors.

Under the Ministry of Local Government, there was an allocation of Shs 8 billion for the construction of 140 sub county offices. *(Applause)* Colleagues, the idea was that it needed about Shs 16 billion, as presented by the committee. However, we thought that they should do it over two financial years, construct them halfway and complete them the following financial year.

Under the Ministry of Education and Sports; grant-aiding primary schools Shs 2.5 billion, for 38 primary schools as per the annex submitted by the Committee on Education and Sports. We have it written in the report. When you check the report, it is there on the list. Hon. Achia, in case you have the report – grantaiding secondary schools, Shs 16.50 billion, for 66 secondary schools as per the annex that was attached, all over the country. If you check the report, there is an annex – *(Interjection)* - I do not have it here.

The next one was for secondary schools -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, the annex was in the report. Remember, this is a report of the previous committee. It was uploaded on the intranet. Can you finish?

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Shs 10 billion was allocated to construct 13 seed schools under the Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers project (UGIFT) – *(Members rose)*

THE CHAIRPERSON: You cannot seek clarification on what the House already adopted. They are in your village.

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: They are on your intranet. Okay. There is a subvention of Shs 900 million, to cater for salaries and other employee costs, for the Uganda Allied Health Examination Board.

Uganda Nurses Midwives Examination Board got Shs 2 billion for monitoring nurses and midwives.

Under the Ministry of Health, we realised that a number of constituencies did not have ambulances and others had been given

ambulances. Therefore, there was a need for 154 ambulances. *(Applauses)* The committee, due to a few resources, said that they should buy half of them - 77 ambulances - and allocated Shs 27 billion to procure ambulances through the Ministry of Health.

Colleagues, on ambulances, much as they are allocated to constituencies, there is a challenge of fuel and maintenance costs. The ministry indicated that they needed money to operate a card system, where each ambulance would be allocated funds monthly, to operate them. *(Applause)* Therefore, we had allocated Shs 17 billion for fuel and maintenance of ambulances.

The Uganda Red Cross was allocated Shs 2 billion. Madam Chair, we were informed that there are a number of health centres the Government started to construct, and they are not yet complete and operationalised. The committee thought that for this coming financial year, let those health centres be completed and operationalised. *(Applause)* We had allocated Shs 26 billion for that, which is supposed - of course, you know who is supposed to construct them. The construction is done by the Uganda Peoples' Defence Force (UPDF) Brigade.

The Ministry of Works and Transport – *(Interjections)* - force account had been increased and allocated an additional Shs 15 billion only, for District, Urban and Community Access roads.

Colleagues, you realise that road safety, licensing and revenue collection from licensing vehicles is under the Ministry of Works and Transport, which will collect the revenue and transfer it from Uganda Revenue Authority. Therefore, we allocated Shs 2 billion for licensing, sensitisation and registration of vehicles; Shs 15 billion to have a one-stop centre to offer general services like driving licences and registration of vehicles; and Shs 2 billion for these people to recruit staff. They took over work from a private company; so, they must have staff to do the work.

Colleagues, Shs 2 billion had been allocated for the Ministry of Works and Transport to give services at the ports of Mombasa and

Dar-es-salaam, to deploy staff there for easy registration of vehicles, and Shs 3 billion for the operationalisation of inspection services, which were placed under the SGS company.

The National Building Review Board was allocated Shs 10 billion, low-cost seal roads were allocated Shs 20 billion, and bridges were allocated Shs 3 billion, community roads improvement - what they call interconnectivity - Shs 33 billion, and Mount Elgon Labour-based Infrastructure Development, Shs 5 billion.

Under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the National Women's Council was added Shs 3 billion to support the youth, construction equipment for youth, Shs 1.2 billion; rehabilitation of ministry institutions like child rehabilitation centres, Shs 2 billion; Ateker Cultural Gala, which is going to take place in Kidepo, Shs 400 million; JAMAFEST 2024 in South Sudan, Shs 400 million.

Funding to support the GROW Project, Shs 500 million.

Withdraw, rehabilitate and settle street children was added Shs 500 million.

Special Enterprise Grant for older persons, Shs 2 billion.

Jua Kali Enterprises, Shs 5 billion.

Kireka Rehabilitation Centre (the refurbishment), Shs 460 million.

The Ministry of Water and Environment (the support to rural water projects source per village) was added Shs 14.5 billion—(Applause)

Strategic Towns Water Supply and Sanitation, Shs 3 billion.

Investing in forest and protected areas for climate-smart development (Project 1613), additional Shs 2 billion.

Service Coverage Accelerated Project (SCAP-100 Umbrella), Shs 15 billion.

Project 1524, Water and Sanitation Development Facility - East (WSDF), Shs 6 billion.

Subvention to National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Shs 1 billion.

Ministry of Tourism

Subvention to Wildlife Authority, Shs 900 million to construct 15 kilometres of electric fence.

Subvention to Uganda Wildlife Authority, Shs 9 billion for compensation for damages due to human-wildlife conflicts and park accidents.

Subvention to Uganda Wildlife Research Training Institute to construct a girls' hostel, Shs 4 billion.

IGG was added Shs 6.60 billion of which Shs 1.7 billion is for digitalisation, Shs 4.8 billion for recruitment of staff and Shs 1 billion for staff training.

Parliamentary Commission

The Shs 8.97 billion was reallocated from capital to recurrent to cater for medical insurance for MPs.

Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA)

Feasibility studies for Kyabakuzi-Nambaale road, Shs 1 billion, feasibility studies for Isingiro-Ekityasa, Shs 1 billion.

Kampala Capital City Authority, Shs 10 billion for mechanised drainage and de-silting of channels.

Ministry of Kampala Capital City Authority and Metropolitan Affairs, Shs 5 billion as counterpart-funding for the restoration of affected properties.

Equal Opportunities Commission, Shs 1 billion.

National Information Technology Authority, Shs 20 billion to offset domestic arrears

owed to Soliton Telmec for management and commercialisation of the National Backbone Infrastructure.

Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), Shs 6.5 billion for assessing the new lower secondary school curriculum and continuous assessment. You are aware that the curriculum was changed but no additional funding for them to –

More money was given to UNEB for conducting transitional examinations. You are aware that some students are going to repeat; they have to take another exam but no funds are allocated.

Shs 6.5 billion for securing accommodation for the markers.

To conduct field activities of examinations, Shs 8.5 billion and retrain examiners. Colleagues, get to know that UNEB - According to what we got from the sector, after the change of the curriculum, the teachers were not retooled properly and UNEB had to take up that task and they are moving around trying to train teachers so that they prepare the candidates to meet the task of the coming exams.

Financial Intelligence Authority was allocated Shs 4 billion.

The Office of Auditor-General to recruit staff, Shs 3 billion, operational fund shortfall; their money was cut by Shs 30 billion and that would make the work of the Auditor-General very difficult and perception survey - The Auditor-General is supposed to perform the role of an independent administrator for EITI and to audit missions abroad, Shs 1.7 billion.

DPP

Recurrent budget to cover wages to recruit staff; the attorneys to support the justice system.

Witness preparation and protection, Shs 3 billion.

Procurement of motor vehicles, Shs 2 billion.

Uganda Police Force, CIID - You recall, colleagues, on this Floor, there was a resolution made here to support the CIID and there was even a resolution here that they must have their own Vote and I want to confirm to you that I visited the CIID recently *-(Laughter)* - on witness summons. I would like to confirm, colleagues, that there is a high degree of professionalism now in the CIID's Office - Shs 8 billion to CIID.

Uganda Prisons Service

Shs 4 billion for extension of Kitwe Prison Facility in Gomba.

Public Service Commission

Shs 130 million to procure some devices for PWDs.

PPDA, Shs 3 billion to expand the scope of the procurement audits from 40 per cent to at least 60 per cent. As of today, with the funds available, they managed to do only 40 per cent procurement audit. If this money is added, they can rise at least to 60 per cent.

Uganda National Bureau of Standards

Field activities for certification, testing standard development, verification of equipment, and enforcement of standards, Shs 4 billion. Wage shortfall for Uganda Bureau of Standards, Shs 2 billion.

ISO to facilitate internal intelligence collection Shs 20 billion. ESO, Shs 7 billion. ESO again to construct ESO headquarters because it is believed where they are located is not secure enough, Shs 31 billion.

National Council of Sports

Shs 10 billion to support sports associations and Shs 2.5 billion to support the design and redevelopment of the Uganda Golf Club at Kitante.

Makerere University gender equality project, Shs 1.2 billion.

Uganda Tourism Board was given Shs 1.8 billion.

National Citizenship and Immigration Control

Shs 10 billion for border posts, technology and so on.

National Animal Genetic Resource Centre and Data Bank (NAGRIC&DB), an additional Shs 10 billion, to kick start a demonstration farm in Bukedea District - *(Interjection)* - That one, yes. I also come from there, that is my district, honourable colleagues.

Vote 410 - Mbale Regional Referral Hospital. It has been struggling to construct a surgical complex for about five years. It is not going far and they need Shs 5 billion to complete it. Mbale region covers a big area; that is Pallisa, Bukedea -

Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB), Shs 4 billion.

Uganda Microfinance Regulation Authority, Shs 3 billion.

Uganda Export Promotions Board in order to participate in Expo 2025, Osaka, Shs 4 billion.

Kisoro District was allocated Shs 1.3 billion for construction of Kanyamatekye Bridge, and rehabilitation of Buhoozi Health Centre III, Shs 350 million, Nyarusiza Health Centre III Shs 350 million.

Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital. Ever since that hospital was upgraded from a district hospital to a regional referral hospital, the budget stayed constant. We had allocated an additional Shs 3 billion to Entebbe regional referral hospital.

Uganda consulate in Mombasa, Kenya. They are supposed to host the Uganda-Kenya Coast Tourism Conference Centre in Kampala,

November 2024. We had allocated Shs 1 billion.

Vote 609 - Mbarara City, Shs 5.2 billion had been allocated for construction of Katete Bridge in Mbarara City that is going to connect to Isingiro and others.

1. St Helen Primary School refurbishment, Shs 100 million,
2. Kakoba Muslim Primary School, Shs 100 million,
3. Kagaga Primary School, Shs 100 million,
4. Nyamitanga Secondary School Shs 100 million,
5. Nyamityobora Health Centre II Shs 400 million.

Sheema Municipal Council -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Ssekikubo -

MR ISIAGI: Colleagues, I am about to complete.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Ssekikubo, leave my Hon. Mpaka.

MR ISIAGI: Sheema Municipal Council, Shs 1.60 billion was added for completion of the rehabilitation of Kabwohe Health Centre IV, that is, Shs 600 million, the market development infrastructure of Shs 400 million, and the Sheema Municipal Council headquarters, Shs 600 million.

Buhweju District: Completion of St Anthony Kakade Seed School, Shs 500 million.

Bulambuli District: Construction of climbing ladders for school-going children. Colleagues, you have seen on *WhatsApp*, children in Bulambuli, in a place called Sotti have to access school through ladders to reach the higher level but they have been using eucalyptus to make ladders.

We are informed that if we do not reinforce and put proper ladders, one day the eucalyptus ladders will break and the children will die. So Shs 1.5 billion -

Then to improve, Buluganya Health Centre IV, Shs 1.5 billion; Bulago Senior Secondary, Shs 300 million; St Peter Claver Muyembe, Shs 700 million.

Bushenyi District: for construction of a playground at Bumbaire subcounty to be utilised for various school activities, for talent identification and growth of child, Shs 450 million.

Lwengo District: Shs 1.16 billion for health centre III maternity ward completion at Busibo and Kaboyo Primary School, Shs 200 million, Katuulo, Rwembogo Health Centre III, Kyazanga Town Council Market.

Mitooma District: Mitooma District Shs 6.2 billion for the completion of an ongoing project by the UPDF at Rwoburunga Seed School Shs 600 million, Bitereko Skills Development Centre Shs 1.6 billion, Kigyende Health Centre III Shs 1.5 billion, Bitereko Health Centre IV Shs 600 million, Kigyende Seed School Shs 600 million and Rutookye Health Centre IV Shs 1.6 billion.

Mubende District: Rehabilitation of a school, Kasambya DAS Primary School, Shs 500 million.

Nabilatuk District: St Kizito Secondary School roofing and fencing Shs 480 million, construction of a classroom block at Lokapel Junction Primary School Shs 400 million, maternity ward at Sakale Health Centre II Shs 300 million. Colleagues, that is where we allocated those funds, which were picked from there. I beg to move.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, can we listen? Hon. Ssemujju, you gave away your power to the chairperson. Honourable chairperson, now that you have told us where the money was proposed to be, what is your opinion on re-allocation, on the President's letter and request for national interest?

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Allow me to say that we did all of this for the good of the country, and in good

faith. Now that the Bill has been returned with a lot of language whereby if you listened to the presentation by the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PS/ST) recently, he made it clear that Parliament tampered with the budget and that tampering is going to affect service delivery and leading to supplementary budgets. Sincerely, in the interest of our country, none of us is happy to see figures and supplementary budgets.

With that commitment given and His Excellency saying that there are priorities, which the Government is interested in and given that they commit to stick to the budget -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Listen -

MR OPOLOT ISIAGI: I, therefore, concede to the re-allocations. *(Applause)*

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. [*Hon. Ssekikubo rose*] Honourable Members, let him conclude.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, I want to thank you very much. Members, if you can give me -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members -

MR SSEMUJJU: The reason I wanted the Parliament to listen to the chairperson -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, can you first listen to the shadow Finance Minister. First of all, I am also happy that the statement that has been given clears people that they have not stolen the money. That clears everybody; that the money has not been stolen, it was allocated to different areas. That is why the President is saying, "in the interest of national priorities and equity". But, that actually has helped us a lot with what Hon. Opolot was reading. It does not show that the money was allocated and "eaten" by Members of Parliament here. It shows that it was allocated to different areas, only that now we are looking at national interest.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, I want to thank you very much. I am happy that -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Are you all standing to speak when Hon. Ssemujju is speaking? I am going to ask my Clerk to give all of you the Rules of Procedure because it seems the ones we gave you at first have gotten lost.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, I am very happy that the chairperson - You see, the trouble in this Parliament is, we may want to speak, but we need information. That is why I conceded. I had been asked to speak. It is not that I do not have something to say, but I thought we would benefit from the chairperson of the committee explaining where the money went.

Now that it has been done, you know we did a minority - We disagreed with the Chairman of Committee on Budget, but I do not want to participate in lynching him for no crime committed.

Madam Chairperson, if you go to the law on the Public Finance Management Act, specifically Section 13, it outlines the number of documents that are supposed to accompany the Budget. Unfortunately, we may not have paid attention to all of them. For example, if you allow me, Madam Chair, the Shs 750 billion, the Shs 300 billion - and let the ministers come here and deny that you are removing from the items that the chairperson has read - that money is going to ROKO Construction Company. It is entirely - *(Interruption)*

MR SSEWUNGU: The information I want to give, Madam Chairperson, is that ROKO Construction Company - I am giving simple information in support of what Hon. Ssemujju is saying. ROKO came here after the Pope had visited Uganda in 1969 to construct that Catholic church at Namugongo. Ever since that time, it has been doing business.

So, the moment you look at the challenges of our hospitals and our schools, there is no way you can bail out ROKO, which has been here since 1969 with assets at Kawempe doing

business and you use my funds from Kalungu West Constituency to bail it out. Even the Catholic Church, after doing its work, if it failed, it did its work and it is *functus officio* on our side.

MR SSEMUJJU: Madam Chairperson, I will be done in three minutes -

THE CHAIRPERSON: There is information here.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Madam Chairperson, on 21 July 2022, this august House passed a resolution for the Government to take out shares in ROKO and therefore - *(Interruptions)*-

THE CHAIRPERSON: Why don't you listen?

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: I am just providing information that the Parliament, on 21 July 2022, passed a resolution to take out shares in ROKO.

MR MUSINGUZI: What has Uganda benefited from ROKO? What have we benefited from ROKO?

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Musinguzi -

MR KIRYOWA KIWANUKA: Madam Chairperson, I am just reminding us that as we make these decisions, we made the decision earlier and this is now an obligation.

MR KABERUKA: Madam Chairperson, I am informing the Attorney-General that we should not have these things of rubbing and castigating Parliament. We took shares indeed, but we took preferential shares. What are those shares? Can you define those shares, whether they mean anything to Ugandans?

THE CHAIRPERSON: But who approved it?

MR KABERUKA: Madam Chairperson, the concern of ROKO is the business of individuals in the Executive and the Speaker then passed it alone without Parliament.

So, when they are castigating Parliament, we should be - No, no, - Because we have been denied a chance to speak. It is on record that the Speaker passed it alone without Parliament.

THE CHAIRPERSON: You sit. Please sit. Anybody who wants to talk will start talking when the House is quiet. Let us first sit. Can I have silence?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Chairperson, the Budget is a document that reflects the priorities of the Government as headed by the President. In 2006, the Government of Uganda, together with Parliament - All of us were not here.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Musinguzi, it is just out of respect that when an elder is speaking, you show respect. Do you want me to speak of the businesses that you are also doing?

MS NABBANJA: Thank you so much. Brothers and sisters, we are here for a reason -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Can we have silence?

MS NABBANJA: Madam Chairperson, like I said earlier, the Budget is a document that reflects the priorities -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Mariam, I will chase you out.

MS NABBANJA: ...the priorities of Government, as headed by the Head of State.

In 2005/2006, Parliament of Uganda decided to increase the budget to work on roads and also provide electricity. That did not mean that we did not want to work on health centres. That did not mean that we did not want to work on water. We decided to work on roads and Shs 14 trillion – *(Interjections)* - Honourable colleagues, I have been quiet when other Members were talking. Give me an opportunity to also say something.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, listen to the Prime Minister.

MS NABBANJA: Honourable members, sometimes we need to consolidate our efforts so that we can work for the common good. If we had not consolidated our budgets then, the roads we are now talking about would not have been worked on.

Let me give an example. The Budget Committee reallocated money worth Shs 8 billion to purchase iron sheets in my office for Karamoja. We are now saying that in Karamoja, we need to work on water for production so that those people can produce their own food.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, let the Prime Minister conclude.

MS NABBANJA: We want to dig dams so that those people can work and that is in the Budget. Honourable colleagues, I would like you to – *(Interruption)*

MS AMERO: Madam Chairperson, in the Ninth Parliament, we were here with the Rt Hon. Prime Minister. She had issues that were disturbing the people of Kakumiro. She was busy jumping outside, speaking English that I did not understand very well. *(Laughter)*

Now that she has become a Prime Minister, she has forgotten the people of Kakumiro and is now beginning to defend foreigners who are investing here. Is she in order to forget where she comes from? *(Applause)*

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable Prime Minister, continue.

MS NABBANJA: Honourable members, everybody is aware that I have been there for the common person and this is on record. So, you are not in order. *(Laughter)*

Madam Chair, I would like to appreciate the applause I have got from Members. I am now a Prime Minister of the whole country, not Kakumiro. *(Applause)* I have to give support to all districts, irrespective of where people come from. *(Applause)*

I would like you, Madam Chairperson, to allow the Attorney-General to come here and articulate Article 93 of our Constitution. What does it say?

So, honourable colleagues, we must all move in unison. If you have issues that you want to take to your constituency, why don't we harmonise? Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Odur? Honourable members, can we have some silence?

MR ODUR: Madam Chairperson –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Wait. Can we have silence? Hon. Odur?

MR ODUR: Madam Chairperson, we are still in the Committee of the whole House, meaning that at the end of this process, we have to report back to Parliament. The items we are considering were read by the minister to us.

What we should now be doing is to look at Vote 008, talk about the Shs 10 billion, take a decision on that and then move to the next items. If at the end – *(Interjections)* - yes, debate it and –

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, first wait. Why don't we have respect for Members? Listen. Since we are not ready to listen to each other - can you sit down - we are now going to put the question for reconsideration. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, I put the question that the Appropriation Bill, 2024, as returned by His Excellency the President, in accordance with Article 91(3)(c) of the Constitution, be reconsidered by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

4.55

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that the House resumes and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House do resume and the Committee of the whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

4.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered the motion for reconsideration of the Appropriation Bill, 2024 and passed it.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want you to know that you came to this Parliament alone; nobody brought you.

4.56

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES)

(Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report from the Committee of the whole House be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, can I have your attention? You will recall that on 16 May 2024, this House supplied Budget estimates for Financial Year 2024/2025. The supply culminated into the Appropriation Bill, 2024.

However, as I said earlier on, this was returned by the President and communicated to this House. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 151 of the Rules of Procedure, the House will resupply the harmonised budgetary provisions taking into consideration His Excellency's request.

Pursuant to Rule 151(2) of the Rules of Procedure, I now invite the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to move a motion for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of Supply for the purpose of resupplying the Budget estimates for Financial Year 2024/2025. Honourable Minister - there is no procedure.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO
RESOLVE ITSELF INTO A COMMITTEE
OF SUPPLY FOR THE CONSIDERATION
AND APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES
OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

4.59

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that this House resolves itself into a Committee of Supply to reconsider the Appropriations Bill, 2024. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is the motion seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Koluo, Hon. Mutiwa, Hon. Ayume, Hon. Kyinyamatama, Hon. Alioni, Hon. Ongiertho, Hon. Joan, Hon. Apolot, Hon. Komakech, Hon. Kankunda, Hon. Ndyomugenyi, Hon. Ronald, Hon. Alanyo, Hon. Pius, Hon. Okiror, Hon. Shartis, *Afande*, all the ministers and the whole of this side. Can you speak to your motion?

MR CHEMASWET: Madam Speaker, I saw Hon. Omona standing to be counted -

THE SPEAKER: I did not see him and that is the reason I did not call his name. Maybe you saw somebody else. *(Laughter)* Yes -

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Speaker, on 28 March 2024 -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, can you listen?

MR MUSASIZI: On 28 March 2024, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development tabled before Parliament the Appropriations Bill, 2024.

The Appropriations Bill, 2024 sought to provide for authorisation of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund to meet the expenditure for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

On 16 May 2024, the House considered the Appropriations Bill, 2024 authorising the Treasury to issue out of the Consolidated Fund and apply towards the supply granted to the Government for the service of the year ending 30 June 2025 the sum of Shs 34,756,338,622,000 only and passed it.

Consequently, the Appropriations Bill was forwarded to His Excellency the President for assent in accordance with Article 91(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995. The President, in accordance with Article 91(3) (c) of the Constitution, refused to assent to the Bill and returned it to Parliament.

As you are aware, Parliament has, as a consequence of the return of the Appropriations Bill by His Excellency the President, reconsidered the annual Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and approved the new estimates of Shs 72,136,540,253,000, with the recurrent and development expenditure totalling to the sum of Shs 34,318,998,622,000.

I, therefore, move that Parliament, in accordance with Article 91(3)(c) and 6(a) of the Constitution, reconsider the Appropriations

Bill, 2024 as returned by His Excellency the President and make amendments to reflect the estimates as appropriated by the Committee of Supply. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Yes, Leader of the Opposition.

5.04

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have come to register discontent and displeasure on our side of the political aisle and even as we talk - As I provide leadership, a number of our Members are not with us.

I would like to say this, Madam Speaker. Before the enactment-

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, please listen.

MR NAMBESHE: Please extend me courtesy.

THE SPEAKER: Please listen; this is a gentleman.

MR NAMBESHE: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the compliment. I want to take us down memory lane. Before the enactment of the Budget Act and its successor, the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, the Parliament, including the Sixth Parliament, faced a dilemma where the Executive would arm-twist the Parliament to rubber-stamp the approval of the Appropriations Bill.

You will allow me to read verbatim a statement that was made by the mover of the motion, who sponsored and introduced a private Member's Bill entitled, the Budget Bill.

The then Member of Buzaaya - and I salute him; Hon. Isaac Musumba - had this to say when he was moving the motion on Wednesday, 17 November 1999, *"The budgeting process must, by its nature, involve all early consensus between the Executive and the Legislature. In the present situation..."* - and that was 1999 - *"...the budgeting process is basically a preserve of the Executive, leaving the legislature as*

a mere rubber stamp of what the Executive presents. Allocation of the national resources is made between alternatives and priorities, as seen and determined by the Executive only but the Constitution imposes a timeframe within which the process of budgeting and the appropriation of funds must be completed. Time and again, this House has been forced to hurriedly pass Appropriation Bills, lest we have a constitutional crisis." Madam Speaker, it is 25 years down the road and the Executive is taking Uganda back to where it was in the Sixth Parliament. The import of the Public Finance Management Act was to involve Parliament in the budgeting process beyond mere rubber stamping the Executive's proposals.

Madam Speaker, that is why when it talks of "approval", there is another verb; "consideration". That is where I salute the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget when he talked of harmonisation, consolidation, and the other word - reconciliation. But we are not here merely when they bring a proposal and the proposals are brought like this one, that the House must only be subjected to approval. Far from it, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I thank you and still want to go on record to say that you have conducted and presided over the House in a very prudent way, but I highly doubt whether the process that we are being subjected to will have legitimacy. History may, actually, harshly pass judgment against us, Madam Speaker.

5.09

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (SECURITY) (Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Jim Muhwezi): Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank Hon. Nambeshe for bringing the House to order because when he was talking, we gave him time to talk and listened. This is what it should be.

I wanted to say that having listened to all the discussions, what Hon. Nambeshe has just said has taken place because when the Executive brings its proposals of a budget, the process, as was explained by the chairman, I think of the budget committee, through the sectoral

committees, through the budget committee, through Parliament - That is where dialogue between the Executive and the Legislature takes place - which took place.

When? *-(Interjection)-* here in this House it took place, but later on, when the Bill went to His Excellency the President, he was not satisfied with parts of the Budget. He communicated to this House through you, Madam Speaker, and he explained the reasons why. I do not have a copy, but he said that some allocations were made without the knowledge of the Executive - *(Interjection)* - Yes. Therefore, Madam Speaker, I think let us move forward not backwards. In the future when the other - *(Interjection)* - give me a chance to give my views.

In future, when this debate is going on, and Parliament feels very strongly, like all the proposals they had made which are good because there are so many things we need in our constituencies, let there be a dialogue so that there is no need to return the Bill. Let us move forward.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, first of all, I thank Hon. John Baptist for the leadership. In a very special way, I thank Hon. Jonathan Odur; he has been guiding the process - Whether you want to hear it or not, he has done it.

I assure this House that there is no problem between the Executive and the Legislature. We have been involved - and listen to this - Hon. Alum - the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary have been involved in the meetings of the budget- plus Finance.

In the last two financial years, we have been having meetings before the Budget comes to the Floor. Today, we had an informal meeting. We agreed that we should have a meeting with His Excellency and agree on the working methods so that before the Budget comes to the House, we should be able to scrutinise the Budget together with His Excellency so that we make sure that the national priorities are catered for. We want to do that with the Executive.

I do not want you to say this Budget was made- the corrigenda, for instance, if we are to talk about tobacco, it is us who brought it as a priority. When you talk about Akii Bua Stadium, it is Parliament that brought it in the meeting. When you talk about - ROKO, we do not know. *(Laughter)*

When you talk about Hoima Stadium, it was the Parliament that raised it. All those other things that have been coming on the Floor whenever Members are raising issues -

One thing I also want to assure you is that - and I thank the chairman that at least you cleared the perception that the money was taken by Members. You cleared that wrong perception. Honourable Members - yes.

MR ODUR: I am not going to go backwards, but I just want to set the record straight as well. It is true, and I thank Madam Speaker for the compliments. We have been consulting and guiding but let the record also show that the last bit of how the matter was handled was not actually what I guided - *(Laughter)* - because that is an indictment.

The point I had made was that this House cannot refuse to entertain anything proposed by the Executive. That is my position. But whatever is brought by the Executive must be processed on a case-by-case basis and at that time, I had expected -

THE SPEAKER: Actually, it is Members who refused. It was not -

MR ODUR: Yes, Madam Speaker. I would like the record to show that the custodian of the rules is you, Madam Speaker. You can interpret it, and you did that, and the record has captured that, but the last bit and the declaration of the results was not from me.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, I gave everybody a chance, and Members refused. Yes, Hon. Alioni - Honourable members, sit. When Hon. Alioni speaks, you have spoken.

MR ALIONI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also want to be on record. First of all, I thank the President for having an extra eye that made him identify items that were not properly allocated in the budget.

Number two, this House erred. The Budget was presented on the 16th of May and that was the same day it was passed. This House did not have enough time to go through the Budget and identify those errors which the President identified.

We have already ruled over and the reallocation has been passed. Are we procedurally right to continue debating?

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I am not giving Hon. James -

MR KABERUKA: Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the process that we have gone through. One, you are a Member of Parliament from Bukedea and all these are members of Parliament apart from the ex-officio members and we have been -

THE SPEAKER: Who are they? They are Members of Parliament.

MR KABERUKA: They are Members of Parliament but are not representatives of the people in the constituencies, but what I would like to say on the record is that the President's letter portrays a bad picture of Members of Parliament and it seems that it has just gone un-talked of.

The Vice-President here has listened to items where Parliament had put the money. Whether it tantamounts to theft, that the President means, I do not know. Going forward, one man called King Macbeth said, "*I do not know the way to success, but the way to failure is when you want to appease everybody*".

The appeasement that we are seeking is going to dupe this Parliament and bring it down if we cannot stand. The health centres we are talking about are in a dilapidated state and if the President is free to see the dilapidated

schools and health centres where we have put the money, let it be.

I am a Member of Parliament from the NRM side but I think I have moved forward to make sure we move resources to where we are canvassing votes for the NRM.

Continuing to castigate Parliament in the name of theft is wrong; he should withdraw this statement. His letter is castigating Parliament that we are thieves and yet we have indicated, in good faith, where we are to put the money.

THE SPEAKER: What is your procedural matter?

MR KABERUKA: I would like to applaud you, but also request that in future, we need to bring the President to appreciate that what the Members of Parliament are doing is in good faith. Thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, can I hear from Dr Omona, Hon. Onzima, Hon. Fox - Let us move faster.

5.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Dr Kenneth Omona): Honourable colleagues, on either sides of the aisle, I pray that we listen to each other. We are here either as elected Members of Parliament or who are not elected for only one big thing: legislating and speaking for the country.

Having heard from Hon. Nambeshe, Hon. Odur and yourself, I have risen here to add my voice to those who have said that it is important that we listen to each other.

I can assure you on either side of the aisle that we are all concerned about the return of the Bill to Parliament and there is no disagreement about that. I think the matter here that we need to listen to each other about is why this came about and find a way forward and these are the proposals. Shouting at each other, honourable colleagues, will never help us.

THE SPEAKER: There is a motion.

5.23

MR DENIS OGUZU (FDC, Maracha County, Maracha): Madam Speaker, having listened to the various parties make their case, I would like to move that we move to the Committee of Supply so that we specifically look at what we can be able to supply, based on the President's proposal.

There are areas where we may disagree, there are areas where we may buy into his proposal and this is where I invite Members to keenly follow those issues. I beg to move.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? There is a motion. You second the motion.

5.24

MS FAITH NAKUT (NRM, Woman Representative, Napak): Madam Speaker, two wrongs must be put right here.

THE SPEAKER: Are you seconding the motion?

MS NAKUT: I will second but let me speak. One of the mistakes, which we must not repeat is the imagination that this Parliament made a mistake by identifying the priorities of the citizens of Uganda.

We have removed that money, which we are saying is to give access to clean drinking water to Ugandans, and we are saying that it is not a priority. That is mistake number one.

Mistake number two is the impression that those priorities of citizens are not the priorities of the President. It is a big political mistake. I want this House to get it right. If the problem is money, we have a budget of Shs 72 trillion. We are only talking about Shs 750 billion, Shs 0.75 trillion out of a Shs 72 trillion. I have agreed, we will proceed just because it is normal to proceed for the sake of peace but these wrongs will haunt us. I second.

THE SPEAKER: What do you second?

MS NAKUT: The motion; that we proceed for the sake of harmony and peace. I will remind you -

THE SPEAKER: Stop pointing at me.

MS NAKUT: Okay, the problem is the hands. The hands speak louder than the voice. I need your attention, Madam Speaker. I sat here and listened when the Prime Minister was speaking. In fact, I do not even want to mention the *mabaati*, which she talked about. She said that money is not necessary. I have said it is okay. It can go but these two wrongs must be corrected.

This House made the right thing as read by my chairperson of the Committee on Budget. He made a clear statement.

THE SPEAKER: Seconding the motion?

MS NAKUT: Madam Speaker, the motion can proceed, in the interest of harmony.

5.27

THE PRIME MINISTER AND LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (Ms Robinah Nabbanja): Madam Speaker, I second the motion – (*Interjections*) - allow me to have an opportunity. I am the Leader of Government Business in this House.

Madam Speaker, in 2021, the NRM Government presented a manifesto and the people of Uganda voted against that manifesto as brought by the President – (*Interjections*) – Madam Speaker, the President brought that manifesto and Ugandans supported it. Therefore, I want Members to also appreciate that the President has got a role in decision-making and making priorities of where we should put the money, and where the budget should be seen.

In this regard, Madam Speaker, I second the motion. Let us now start supplying the budget.

5.28

MR GODFREY ONZIMA (NRM, Aringa North County, Yumbe): Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is an issue that has not come out clearly as I second this motion. Members

have been talking, but if we do not solve this issue once and for all, next time, we shall have the same problem.

I have been a chairperson of a committee and there has been one practice by ministries, which problem is what has caused this. The Government has a particular amount of money to implement Government projects every year. Once the budget comes, the expectation is that the President, with the ministers, must sit down and agree on the priorities of a particular year. Once they agree on these, there is supposed to be nothing like an “unfunded priority.”

Once the President sits with these ministers, when ministerial policy statements are presented in the committees, the emphasis by ministries is unfunded priorities. If they are talking about unfunded priorities, what were the priorities they agreed upon with the President?

When we are talking here, I think we are accepting wrongdoing, which is not a wrong of the Parliament. No particular committee sat down, got items and allocated. Some of these allocations –

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Onzima, so the wrong starts from the ministry to Finance, to Cabinet.

MR ONZIMA: Can I explain? Madam Speaker – (*Interjections*) - I do not want information. All of you have spoken, let me speak. Madam Speaker, what happens here is that when these items come, the various ministries will begin to agitate for other issues, which are not those they agreed on with the President. Members of the various committees may think that indeed, these are the issues, which the President also is concerned about. They begin to allocate money to these areas.

Therefore, the mistake is not Parliament’s, but these various ministries that do not represent what the President wants. From today onwards, in this House, we must sit and agree on one thing. There should be nothing of terms like “unfunded priority” presented in any budgeting

process. If we do not discontinue this, let us expect the same problem because this is where the issue comes from.

Secondly, Government is implementing Programme-Based Budgeting. When you scrutinise all budgets of Government, there is a lot of duplication. If a particular ministry is supposed to play a role for a programme to go ahead, why don’t there be specific activities by these specific ministries?

Talking about roads, the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, it talks about roads. The Committee on Public Service and Local Government, talks about roads. The Committee on Physical Infrastructure talks about roads. Where is the programme-based budgeting we are talking about?

This challenge originated from Cabinet itself. They came with their confusion to Parliament and put Parliament into confusion. This must be sorted. (*Applause*)

Madam Speaker, therefore, these arguments we are raising here, if you were to ask the Chairperson of the Budget Committee to outline some of these areas he has talked about, you will find that these are areas that come from specific ministries. They are not thinking of Parliament, that Members of Parliament thought about these things and put them in the budget process. No. These issues were presented by the various ministries.

We should, therefore, sort this once and for all because the impression outside there is as if we have “eaten” money. I, therefore, second the motion that let us go to the Committee of Supply and look at these items specifically.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

THE SPEAKER: Ministry for Finance, the programme budgeting system should start with activities so that they match. Hon. Frank?

5.33

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES (Mr Frank Tumwebaze): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am always silent because when you are silent, you listen. Allow me to share my experience of 10 years ago when I chaired the Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development with Hon. Ekanya and team.

We have all agreed that legislation, budgeting and appropriation are a shared responsibility. There is the role of the Executive and there is the role of Parliament. What we used to do burning the midnight candle, whenever the committees would even have their reports or even before presenting them, there were always discussions between the entities. I remember that we would be seated here and a minister would say, "I concede" and a chairperson of the Budget Committee would say, "I concede;" after you have consulted and exhausted. However, sometimes a report is presented before you have gone through it.

Therefore, my proposal, colleagues, is that you are right. Parliament cannot rubberstamp, but also the Executive has priorities put in the budget and in the National Development Plan that it must finance. The budget is the only tool of execution and governance.

Going forward, Madam Speaker, I pray that committees and ministries always harmonise in time so that nobody ambushes the other as if it is a win-lose game.

THE SPEAKER: Honourable minister, Frank, it is also unfortunate that whenever we need the ministers, they are not there. When we are passing the National Budget, you will find only the poor Hon. Musasizi in the House with the Attorney-General, suffering here. *(Laughter)*

5.35

MR FOX ODOI-OYWELowo (NRM, West Budama North East County, Tororo): Thank you, Madam Speaker. During the course of the Financial Year 2023/2024, the Chairperson of the Budget Committee –

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, we need to move faster. I need this Bill signed tonight. Tomorrow, we want our salary and fuel. Honourable members, people want their salaries.

5.37

MR MUHAMMAD MUWANGAKIVUMBI (NUP, Butambala County, Butambala): Madam Speaker, I have had the benefit of being a member of the Budget Committee for the last seven and a half years and I have had the benefit, for the last few months, of being the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. As we grapple with this issue, there is a big elephant in this House and once we do not address it, we will be back to square one.

As the honourable chairperson has put it, the Government is doing a shoddy job. Government ministers are letting this Parliament down. They are abusing your courtesy, and I will elaborate.

Honourable minister, for as long as the Government does not stick to its budget - we have today passed this budget, but amidst all this crisis, do not be so surprised that next week, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will sit and repurpose this budget again, and will come up with a supplementary under the 3 per cent.

Therefore, as we do all this with embarrassment, can we get a commitment from the minister that whatever we do, come the next two months, you are not going to sit down and repurpose and reallocate the money that we have passed? Give us a commitment that you are not going to do it. As you crucify Parliament for reallocation every single year, for as long as I have been around, the first thing to do in the budget is to go for a 3 per cent. You even disregard things Parliament has totally rejected.

The second issue I would like the minister to know is that as we pass the budget, we normally give you a ceiling - let us go back to that principle. The law requires us, as we pass the Budget Framework Paper, to give them

a ceiling, which ceiling they cannot deviate from. However, this is the Government that brings addendums to the budget up to the last day. Can they commit that never again will they bring an addendum to the budget at the final hour of appropriation? For heaven's sake, how do you consider Shs 14 trillion in one night? Even if you are magical - these are fundamental things.

The last thing you want to do - last year, they blackmailed you; passing money under Treasury operations. I have seen the audit report. You gave them a budget of Shs 1.4 trillion, saying these are statutory obligations. Shs 770 billion out of Shs 1.4 trillion was unspent; they just left it out there and they blackmailed Parliament; that it had touched statutory obligations -

THE SPEAKER: Gen. Kavuma, what is happening there?

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Madam Speaker, I invite this Parliament - because I have come with it - but we can even sort it now. We need to interrogate the statutory budget - Treasury operations, that Vote 130 has a lot of loopholes. Trillions of money are piled there unspent. I have discovered Shs 400 billion, which they cannot account for -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, I am going to ask the Auditor-General to do a forensic audit on Vote 130.

MR MUWANGA KIVUMBI: Madam Speaker, I want the minister to commit here - the big elephant in the room - whether he will not repurpose this budget under 3 per cent because that is the big elephant in the room. Let him commit, as he has taken us through, that come this or next month, we are not going to reallocate money that has been done in this budget.

5.41

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka): Madam Speaker, first of all, I can assure you that the Ministry of

Finance, Planning and Economic Development will not repurpose the budget because there is no provision in the law that allows them to repurpose the budget. We can assure you, Madam Speaker, and honourable colleagues, that we shall operate within the budget and in accordance within the law.

It may be unfair for us to stand here and promise the House that we will not come back to ask for your consideration of any other matters because that means we will be playing God. We do not know what is going to happen tomorrow, what the needs of this country will be, but we shall not do anything outside the law.

MR RUHUNDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like this House to be extremely careful because what I have seen, and I have even seen it before, is the deliberate attempt by the Executive and the top technocrats to spoil the image of Parliament and render our efforts helpless. They are trying to weaken us so that we do not play our oversight role.

You can see that every time you look at the media, they are simply targeting Parliament. Why? Because recently, we have become very vigilant. We are scrutinising even - you can imagine, the time we sleep - the Budget Committee - we are concentrating. What they do not want is to see a Member of Parliament who is extremely eager to play their role. Now what they are simply doing is to just turn us into - I cannot even believe how you go and mislead the President.

I do not know who advised the President to write that Parliament is corrupt. How can you get the Head of State to mess up like this to the entire world because whatever we see here goes out to the world. How can the Head of State, the Fountain of Honour, be misled to write such bad letters that are giving a negative image to this country?

Madam Speaker, we need you to be very mindful because I have been seeing you being attacked. I have been watching what is going on against you, and from you, they are going to the Members and then next they will say

we do not need Parliament in this country. So, this is why we must protect Ugandans; the power of Ugandans through their members of Parliament -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, first listen. When I was being attacked, everybody was quiet. Now everybody is attacked, they are talking. Why can't we be each other's keeper?

We need to learn to be each other's keeper. When they attack your own, you must respond. The theft does not start from Parliament; it is from the accounting officers.

5.46

MR REMIGIO ACHIA (NRM, Pian County, Nabilatuk): Madam Speaker, I really want to take it up from there because I have been standing up to make a contribution. Please, let me also make a contribution. I want to know -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members-

MR ACHIA: Madam Speaker, I am making a contribution. I was also a deputy chairperson of that committee that is accused of being corrupt and that committee never originated any request.

THE SPEAKER: Hon. Achia, the honourable Chairperson talked and that issue has been cleared.

MR ACHIA: I have some pain that I need to let out and you cannot make me - *(Interjections)* - my "ocenio" is my "ocenio" I am also - *(Laughter)*

One, how did this reallocation come about? Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act enjoins us to interrogate the different sector committees to find out their costed work plan and why they need the money. We asked them and they could not explain. Therefore, they could not even explain why they needed the money.

Number two, they did not use the money of the previous three years. They were not spending

even up to 50 per cent and there was under absorption.

Number three, the President guided that focus on agro-industrialisation, tourism, mineral economy, ICT and in the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). The chairman guided by asking: "Is this a priority according to what the President said?" If we said yes, then we would focus on that for capital development.

We put money into health - ambulances, and primary schools. Who misguided the President that we are taking money away from his priorities? We were putting money into the priorities of the President.

Now, I wonder whoever misguided the President; that person is his enemy; he does not want money to go to ambulances, schools, health centres, and we cannot accept that; that is a lie. Those are the enemies of this Government -

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of procedure here -

5.49

MS NANCY ACORA (Independent, Woman Representative, Lamwo): Madam Speaker, the independents are also here.

THE SPEAKER: There is a point of procedure.

MS ACORA: The independents, Madam Speaker, have not spoken. Please, the independents are in the House. We need a voice on this - *(Interjection)* - Hon. Sarah Opendi, please, the independents have not yet spoken; I am speaking on their behalf - *(Interjections)* - [Mr Asuman Basalirwa rose_] - Madam Speaker and colleagues, we need to straighten out this matter. I would like to give and complement what the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Budget, Hon. Remigio, has said.

Whoever has blackmailed Members of Parliament to His Excellency the President, has done the worst thing to the ordinary Ugandans, especially my people from Lamwo District.

We have prioritised health because it is wealth. We know when somebody is educated, somebody already has a brighter future.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) manifesto is “To secure the future of the ordinary Ugandans.” How can somebody go and blackmail Members of Parliament that we have hijacked and misallocated money yet we know the priority of Ugandans: they need health, education, and water. And water is life. We cannot give Shs 300 billion to ROKO Construction Company. Who is this ROKO? What is the other name for this ROKO?

We cannot sit here and bury our heads in the sand and think we are doing things right. We are not doing the right thing. I am a Member of Parliament; much as I came under the independent ticket, I am an NRM person 3-1-1. We should stop deceiving Ugandans; people are going to start walking in protest here that Members of Parliament are “eating” money, but where is the money?

They are going to say, Hon. Anita has buried money in her house. Where is the money? Have you carried money in your bags? The money cannot go to ROKO. This money has to go to the health ministry; Padibe Health Centre IV needs to be elevated to a hospital. We cannot bury our heads here. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.51

MR STEPHEN MUGOLE (NRM, Kabweri County, Kibuku): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Considering that we are going into such a discussion, I have three proposals to put this to rest.

Number one is that the learned Attorney-General said that there was a resolution of Parliament to fund ROKO, but we have heard resolutions here and some of those budget allocations were resolutions of Parliament that went to sectors. For example, the two schools that are grant-aided in my constituency was a matter that was raised here on the Floor. It was given to the Prime Minister’s Office,

and the Prime Minister’s Office involved the Committee on Education and Sports and went to the Committee on Budget.

It cannot be a non-priority. Therefore, I would like to say that, as a senior trade unionist who knows negotiations, considering that this Budget is supplied by almost 70 per cent - not all of the entire Budget is given, money is reallocated to the sectors.

Why don’t we add this Shs 750 billion to the Shs 72 trillion and it becomes 750 *-(Interjection)-* so that the areas that have been considered -

THE SPEAKER: Can I hear from the Vice President?

5.53

THE VICE PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): Madam Speaker and honourable colleagues, we have been seated here from 2.00 p.m. up to now and it is 5.00 p.m. I have stood up, first and foremost, to make two clarifications, but also to appreciate the way we have been moving from 2.00 p.m. up to now, regardless of the challenges. That is Parliament, that is the freedom of Parliament and we are all enjoying it.

We are now moving towards a motion so that we can commence on a case-by-case basis, handling items, which are to be reconsidered.

However, I would like - I do not know if Hon. John Baptist Nambeshe is still around. I thank you for the statement that you made.

When you spoke, the true culture of Parliament manifested, of listening to each other. I beg that I am also given that courtesy which the Hon. Nambeshe received when he was speaking.

However, among the very many good points that you made, you alluded to the fact that what we are handling now may not be legitimate. That is a very strong statement because we are all lawmakers here. You stated that history will judge us wrong and you quoted what happened here 19 years ago.

Madam Speaker, the clarification I would like to make is that what we are handling here is taken care of by the provisions of the Constitution.

The second one was from Hon. James Kaberuka, who alluded to the fact that what we are handling here is to appease one person. I thought that was a strong word, especially “appease”. My view is that what we are handling here is our role and responsibility as Members of Parliament, who were freely elected in the general elections.

The correction I would like to make is that Members of Parliament, members of the Cabinet, and the members of the Judiciary are part of one government, constitutionally. Therefore, I would like us to return to the statement that the Attorney-General gave us in the beginning, that the idea of playing the blame game while handling this very important Bill will not help any of us.

Madam Speaker, I would like to call upon all of us, again, to draw our attention to the strategic and specific reason we are here. We were all elected because the people saw us fit to come and speak here.

We can all speak until the cows come home, but Madam Speaker, I would like to persuade the Members of this august House to accept that what we have said is sufficient; because one of the reasons that was highlighted by Hon. Ssemujju Nganda before he went out is that we are now in a new financial year. Therefore, all the Arms of Government require resources to continue their operations in their different sectors. We also need to draw our attention to that direction.

Then on the issues of the Budget Act, and the Public Finance Management Act, in case some areas need amendment, that is again our role.

On the issue of moving in uncoordinated movements, we also have the chance to cure it because we still come to this House together, and members of the Cabinet come to committees with their policy statements. I have witnessed members of the Cabinet leaving the

Cabinet to come to the committee of Parliament to discuss the policy statement, and that is part of the budgeting process.

The members of the Cabinet receive call circulars from the Minister of Finance, not one, not two, but sometimes even up to the fourth and they engage members of the committees of their respective sectors.

So, I would like to state once again that let us accept to move as one family, correct the errors that were raised and look in the direction of owning this challenge, this responsibility, which His Excellency, the President has returned to us, so that -

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, let us listen.

MAJ.(RTD) ALUPO: Madam Speaker, finally, I know that I respect the Member of Parliament who raised the issue of “Who is that who is misguiding the President to write such a letter?” A senior member said, “Who is that who is misguiding His Excellency the President to say that Parliament is corrupt?” So, Madam Speaker, I think that the Office of the President has so many channels of communicating with the whole of Uganda, including communicating with the Parliament itself and all of us.

I did not want us to leave that open, because it would look like we have some suspects who are misleading the President. Madam Speaker, if there is anyone who is known by members of this august House for having that habit of misguiding or misleading His Excellency the President, I think this is not the correct forum to discuss that.

I would pledge that if there is that case, we can have a conversation after the House and then we see how to cure that. However, I know for a fact that His Excellency the President cannot be misguided and cannot be misled. I thank you.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable members, I put the question that the House

resolves itself into a Committee of Supply for budget estimates for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MR OKUPA: Madam Chairperson, as we go to supply, I need to be guided on how to move, given what the Budget Committee and especially what the committee chairperson stated, because they gave justifications as the minister was reading. When I look at it from Vote 005 up to Vote 143, the justification they are giving is overprovision of the money and failure to absorb money. So, Madam Chairperson, are we going to take this money back to where they had over provided? I need guidance.

Secondly, I also need guidance on where they provided money to secure this country through intelligence - ISO and ESO. Are we going to ignore that?

Finally, Madam Chairperson, when I look at the totals, we are talking about priorities and money going to our people. Of the Shs 750 billion that the minister - Hon. Musasizi - has provided, Shs 631 billion is recurrent. What the President always talks about as -

THE CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Elijah, we are in Committee of Supply. We are going to supply recurrent expenditure, and that is Central Government, Vote 001-Vote 402.

Recurrent Expenditure Vote 001-Vote 402

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the sum of Shs 13,509,231,851,000 be provided for as total recurrent expenditure for the Central Government, Vote 001-Vote 402, for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Regional referral hospitals Vote 403-Vote 422

MR OGUZU: Madam Chairperson, there is a statutory-

THE CHAIRPERSON: We shall include that one too. I put the question that a total sum of Shs 290,789,423,000 be provided for as a total recurrent expenditure for referral hospitals Vote 403-Vote 422 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Missions abroad, Vote 501-Vote 538

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 263,336,145,000 be provided for as total recurrent expenditure for Ugandan missions abroad, Vote 501-Vote 538 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 *(Question put and agreed to.)*

Local Governments Vote 601-Vote 935

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 4,678,357,676,000 be provided as total recurrent expenditure for Local Government Vote 601-Vote 935 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Total recurrent expenditure

MR OGUZU: Madam Chairperson, there is a statutory provision we have not catered.

THE CHAIRPERSON: We are going to do it.

MR OGUZU: But the Vote is passing.

THE CHAIRPERSON: No. The statutory is different. I put the question that the total sum of Shs 18,741,715,094,000 be provided for as total recurrent expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Development Expenditure- Central Government: Vote 001-Vote 402

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the total sum of Shs 14,746,575,870,000 be provided for as total development expenditure

for the Central Government, Vote 001-Vote 402 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MR OGUZU: Madam Chairperson, there is a risk that in future we are going to be accused of because you are just saying “Aye” but you do not know what you are saying “Aye” for. That is the summation of things; we need to know the details.

THE CHAIRPERSON: It is there. Look -

MR OGUZU: We are dealing with development expenditure. No, I have seen, but what is in those things?

Regional referral hospitals, Vote 403-Vote 422

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that a total sum of Shs 6,703,784,000 be provided for as a total development expenditure for the regional referral hospitals Vote 403-Vote 422 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Missions abroad, Vote 501-Vote 538.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the total sum of Shs 63,389,068,000 be provided for as total development expenditure for Uganda missions abroad. Vote 501-Vote 538 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Local Governments Vote 601-Vote 935

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the total sum of Shs 759,714,806,000 be provided for as development expenditure for Local Government Vote 601-Vote 935 for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Total development expenditure

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the total development expenditure of Shs 15,576,383,527,000 be provided for as total development expenditure for the Financial Year 2024/2025

(Question put and agreed to.)

Grand total appropriation

THE CHAIRPERSON: [Hon. Muzaale rose_] Don't you have an iPad? - Can I give you my spectacles to use? Honourable, let me get the grand total and then I can give you.

I put the question that the grand total of Shs 34,318,098,622,000 be provided for as a grand total appropriation for the Financial Year 2024/2025.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MR MUZAAL: Honourable Chairperson, the money for hospitals has been cut to half. Even if Government wants to be bad, we cannot leave it to be this bad. I believe we are not proceeding very well. Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Honourable members, you are aware that statutory votes are a direct charge on the Consolidated Fund, therefore, they do not require to be appropriated by the House.

However, for the avoidance of doubt, because Hon. Oguzu Lee is really in it, I would like to state that the total budgetary allocation for the statutory votes and specified officers for the Financial Year 2024/2025 is Shs 36,688,316,627,000. You can get the summary. Please show the summary.

In addition, the total of the Pension and Gratuity and Non-Statutory Vote is Shs 1,130,089,004,000. That is the total. The grand total of the statutory on the Consolidated Fund for the Financial Year 2024/2025 and the pension is Shs 37,818,405,632,000.

I put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

6.16

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume and the Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

6.17

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has reconsidered the Appropriation Bill, 2024 as returned by the President and passed it.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

6.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the report from the Committee of Supply be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of Supply be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024 AS RETURNED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

6.21

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Rt Hon. Speaker, I beg to move a motion that the Appropriation Bill, 2024 as returned by the President, be read for the second time.

THE SPEAKER: Is it seconded? It is seconded by Hon. Orone, Hon. Ayeko, Hon. Musherure, Hon. Kavuma, Hon. Nekesa, Hon. Alayo, Hon. Dr Aceng, by the Prime Minister, H.E. the Vice President; by everybody.

I put the question that the Appropriation Bill, 2024 be read for the second time.

(Question put and agreed to.)

BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that clause 1 stands part of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Clause 1, agreed to.

Clause 2, agreed to.

Clause 3, agreed to.

Clause 4, agreed to.

The Schedule

MR MUSASIZI: Madam Chairperson, we propose to replace or substitute the Schedule in the Bill with the Annex 1 Appropriation Bill, 2024 Recurrent Expenditure, Annex 2 Appropriation Bill, 2024 Development Expenditure and Annex 3. I beg to move.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the Schedule to the Bill be substituted as proposed.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

The Title, agreed to.

THE CHAIRPERSON: The *Hansard* should capture the Schedule.

(The Schedule is hereto attached.)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

6.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Chairperson, I beg to move a motion that the House do resume and the Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I put the question that the House resumes and the Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed, the Speaker presiding.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE HOUSE

6.23

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of the whole House has considered, The Appropriation Bill, 2024 as returned by the President”, and passed it with amendments.

We amended the Schedule.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF
THE WHOLE HOUSE

6.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): I beg to move a motion that the report from the Committee of the whole House be adopted.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the report of the Committee of the whole House be adopted by this House.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report adopted.

BILLS THIRD READING

THE APPROPRIATION BILL, 2024 AS
RETURNED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, the quorum is 242. Honourable minister.

6.25

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DUTIES) (Mr Henry Musasizi): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill entitled, “The Appropriation Bill, 2024,” as returned by His Excellency the President, be read for the third time and do pass.

THE SPEAKER: I put the question that the Appropriations Bill, 2024, as returned by His Excellency the President, be read for the third time and do pass.

(Question put and agreed to.)

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, “THE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024”

THE SPEAKER: The title is settled and the Bill passed. Congratulations.

Honourable members, since we are going into a long recess, I will amend the Order Paper for a loan request.

6.26

MR THEODORE SSEKIKUBO (NRM, Lwemiyaga County, Ssembabule): Madam Speaker, there is a small thing before we move away from -

THE SPEAKER: Let him first finish that.

6.27

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Mr Matia Kasaija): Madam Speaker, I lay before Parliament a proposal to borrow up to Euros 126,440,168 equivalent to \$136.95 million, as at 5 December 2023, from Citibank, to finance the design and building of Lusali-ra-Nkongge-Lumegere-Ssembabule Road up-grading project of 97 kilometres. I beg to lay.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you. The loan is referred to the Committee on National Economy for perusal.

Honourable members, before the Vice President speaks, on a sad note, I announce that one of our colleagues, Hon. Richard Lumu, lost a mother. Let us keep him in our prayers. Losing a mother is not an easy thing. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

6.30

THE VICE PRESIDENT (Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo): I am sorry about that, Madam Speaker. May her soul rest in eternal peace and may we stand up for a moment of silence in honour of that mother who is the equivalent of all our mothers. *(Laughter)* The Speaker can sit.

(Members rose and observed a moment of silence.)

THE SPEAKER: I gave the Vice President power to say that.

MAJ. (RTD) ALUPO: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In light of the practice in

Parliament, it was an error. I should have said all of us, except the Speaker.

Thank you very much for the way you have steered the House from 2.00 p.m. up to now. I would like all of us Members of Parliament to thank the Speaker sincerely. *(Applause)*

Secondly, let me thank all Members of Parliament because the challenge we have just managed has demonstrated the fact that when we work together, work closely, and speak one language, we can do many things together - *(Interjections)* - I pray, Madam Speaker, that as Parliament, we continue moving in this direction because we are here to cure the challenges faced by all the people in villages, town councils or in cities.

In short, Madam Speaker, on behalf of His Excellency the President who gave us this role which we have just finished, I thank the whole House once again and promise that as the Executive, we shall continue working very closely with Members of Parliament and the leadership of Parliament. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER: Honourable members, as I said before, I apologise for calling you while you were in recess because I want you to bond with your members. We are going to make sure that you bond better.

Understand when I say you need to bond better.

The House is adjourned to 23 July 2024.

(The House rose at 6.33 p.m. and adjourned until 23 July 2024, at 2.00 p.m.)