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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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SECOND SESSION - THIRD MEETING

TUESDAY, 4 APRIL 2023



IN THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Official Report of the Proceedings of Parliament

SECOND SESSION - 22ND SITTING - THIRD MEETING

Tuesday, 4 April 2023

Parliament met at 2.13 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYERS

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

The House was called to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, we are excited to welcome back our two colleagues, Hon. Allan Ssewanyana and Hon. Ssegirinya Muhammad. *(Applause)* We are happy to see our colleagues being able to join us in deliberations in this House.

Colleagues, I do not want to waste time. You can see we have a very ambitious Order Paper. Therefore, I want us to go straight to business, but I will first allow a few matters of national importance, starting with Hon. Ruyonga Joseph.

2.16

DR JOSEPH RUYONGA (NRM, Hoima West Division, Hoima City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance regarding the stock out supplies used for collecting blood from the National Medical Stores (NMS).

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines, a country is considered to

be safe of blood, if it collects 1 per cent of its total population. In other words, for Uganda, with a population of 45.7 million, plus the population of refugees, is expected to collect 473,000 units of blood.

However, this financial year, the resources allocated for collecting blood are for only 300,000 units. It is less by about 273,000 units, according to the WHO standards.

When we reviewed the half-year performance, the target was 150,000 units, but Uganda Blood Transfusion Services (UBTS) collected 170,000 units of blood and used the resources for the subsequent quarters. Now, to cover the deficit of around 2,700 units, the Government had to look for resources.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prayers?

DR RUYONGA: My prayer is that the Government should allocate more resources to UBTS to the tune of around Shs 9 billion so that it collects more blood.

Mr Speaker, in May, there will be no supplies for collecting blood from people and we shall end up having stock outs in blood yet you cannot substitute blood with water. We need those funds so that we are able to collect more blood to save the lives of our people. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Minister of Health.

2.18

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE)

(Ms Margaret Muhanga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the honourable member for the question.

Mr Speaker, we are in dire need of blood in our blood bank. We also have regional blood banks. We sometimes drum up support for people to come and donate, but what they donate sometimes is not enough. Remember, we have people above 50, who cannot donate blood and those with comorbidities.

We are scaling up our collection and I will bring a full report of how we are scaling up this collection of blood to have our blood bank equipped with enough blood for everybody.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, the prayer was very clear. It was about allocating more money and we are in the budgeting process. Chairperson of the Committee on Health, take note of that. The Chairperson of the Committee on Budget and the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development are also here; it is not a matter we need to open up to have a much wider discussion when the prayer was clear *—(Members rose.) No*, colleagues. We are always guided by the prayers. Do you want to amend someone's prayers?

2.19

MR JOHN MAGOLO (NRM, Bungokho County North Mbale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On 9 February 2023, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives issued a communication to all Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) to forward the Parish Development Model (PDM) resolutions of bank signatories to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies at the ministry, for certification.

This communication disempowers and renders the work of commercial officers at the district redundant. Besides, this form of bureaucracy is self-defeating as it creates unnecessary delays for the beneficiaries to access the PDM funds on time.

We are aware that most of these beneficiaries are farmers and their activities are tied to the farming season.

Prayers

One, I pray that the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives withdraws that communication as it has created unnecessary delays in the disbursement of the PDM funds to the beneficiaries.

Secondly, the lead agency of the PDM should verify information that is issued about the PDM funds to ensure coordination. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Trade minister?

2.20

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES (INDUSTRY) (Mr David Bahati):

Thank you very much, Hon. Faith Magolo, for the point you have raised.

Colleagues, for SACCOs to function very well, they must be registered by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. So, the registration is okay and necessary. However, we take note that we should not use it to delay the release of funds to the SACCOs under the PDM. We will ensure that we do not stand in the way of the release of funds so that the beneficiaries, who have waited for so long, can start accessing. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, we shall expound this matter when handling the Parish Development Model, which I want to ensure we handle today.

2.21

MR GABRIEL OKUMU (NRM, Okoro County, Zombo):

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise on a matter of national importance about a highway robbery, which occurred along Paidha-Nebbi Road at a place called Kaya on 24 March 2023.

Grace Kijjambu, a driver of a vehicle registration number UBB 949L was allegedly robbed of Shs 30 million after shooting his car tires. The robbers trailed his car with a motorcycle. They put him at gunpoint, took the money, and rode away swiftly.

Our prayers

One, since the business community in Paidha is anxious, we request Government, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to give assurance to the business community about the security of the area.

Secondly, since Paidha is situated at the border of Congo and Uganda, we request a report on the border security status. Otherwise, this is not the only incident that has occurred in the recent past. I submit, Mr Speaker, and I thank you for the opportunity.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. On this matter, I will guide the Minister of Internal Affairs to visit Paidha. It is very important to meet the community and reassure them. This is not a matter where we need to come back and bring another statement on the Floor. We clog our Order Paper and that is why you find we have very many issues that are still pending for long. This is a matter where we need to deal with the community.

So, Government Chief Whip, link up with the minister; he goes to the community together with the Member of Parliament and other leaders of the area, and he reassures them so that the people feel safe in that area.

2.24

MR XAVIER KYOOMA (NRM, Ibanda County North, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. I am rising on a matter of national importance regarding the road in my constituency and in Ibanda District, that stretches from Bisheshe, Rwenkobwa, Nyansiimbu, Kasinga, Nyamarebe-Rushango and Kamwenge.

This road actually connects Ibanda to the rest of the country as well as other districts like Kamwenge and Kitagwenda. The contractor

started work on this road in early 2021. One part of the road was worked on and the other part was abandoned with open trenches, culverts were left just on the road surface and piled heaps of murram.

Now, because of the heavy rains, it has become totally impassable because all the motorists and road users are using one part of the road. Trucks are stuck and they cannot move any farther and all the economic activities have been negatively impacted on.

My prayers are two:

1. To request the Minister of Works and Transport to urgently attend to this road. I have really put it to his attention and that of the Executive Director, Uganda National Roads Authority and nothing has been done.
2. To identify this contractor and other similar contractors who breach their contracts with an aim of blacklisting them according to the provisions of the PPDA law.

I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government?

2.26

THE THIRD DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

(Ms Rukia Nakadama): Mr Speaker, we are aware of the abandoned work that is around the country. We are trying our best - even today, it was one of our items on the agenda - to look at the abandoned work. I am going to call the Ministry of Works and Transport to get in touch with the honourable Member of Parliament together with my ministry to see how that issue can be rectified.

I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. - Let us trust the word of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Colleagues, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have a delegation from Kasilo Town Council, Serere District. They are represented

by Hon. Elijah Okupa and Hon. Hellen Adoa. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)*

MR OKUPA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The delegation is led by Mr Odeke, the chairman of Kasilo Town Council. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Also, in the Public Gallery this afternoon, we have students and teachers of Malcolm X Academy from Makindye Division, Kampala District. They are represented in Parliament by Hon. Allan Ssewanyana and Hon. Shamim Malende. They have come to observe the proceedings of this House. Please join me in welcoming them. *(Applause)* You can stand up so that colleagues join in welcoming you.

Leader of the Opposition, do you have something to say?

2.28

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join you to welcome our two colleagues, Hon. Allan Ssewanyana and Hon. Muhammad Ssegirinya, who happen to be from our side of the political divide, back to the House. *(Applause)*

They have been a voice of the voiceless in their constituencies. For close to two years, their constituencies have actually missed out on that voice. I would also like to thank the wisdom they have exhibited in getting here and beating the Police Spokesperson, Mr Fred Enanga, at his own game, who was anticipating a procession and he had promised to clamp down on it.

Mr Speaker, I hold this view given that this would be the best time for them to be accorded an opportunity to make their maiden speeches. I am still of that view that this would be a golden opportunity for them and their constituencies and now that some of their own are here to hear from them. I request, Mr Speaker Sir. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, we have very clear rules, especially when you make statements of personal explanation that are clearly provided for under our rules. The procedure is very clear that you have to link up with the Speaker and you are given substantive time on the Order Paper to make that statement.

The honourable colleagues will get in touch with the Office of the Speaker because they have their full rights as honourable Members of Parliament, and we are all excited to have them back and we would want to see them speaking on the Floor. So, at the right time, it will be given.

Hon. Silwany had an announcement to make regarding the Anglican Chaplaincy. I feel he can communicate it better than how I would have.

2.31

MR SOLOMON SILWANY (NRM, Bukooli County Central, Bugiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity you have given us.

Mr Speaker, Members of Parliament - the Anglicans, Catholics, Muslims and all the other religions - tomorrow, we are going to host the Archbishop of Uganda, his Grace Kazimba Mugalu at Parliament. All honourable Members are invited. We shall be in the Conference Hall at 5.00 p.m.

Please come and we rejoice in the love of the Lord. We shall be celebrating Easter Carols tomorrow as the Anglican Chaplaincy, and you are most welcome. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next item. - Hon. Okupa, do not access the microphone without my permission. Colleagues, I want that to be made very clear. As long as I am chairing, if you pick and switch on a microphone, please know that I cannot give you audience. So, help us with the correction.

MR OKUPA: Thank you. Mr Speaker, Hon. Silwany in his communication just said that the “Archbishop of Uganda”, but there is no “Archbishop of Uganda”; it is the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda. You cannot say, “Kabaka of Uganda”, but “Kabaka of Buganda”. (*Laughter*) That must be corrected.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for the correction.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS ON

I) THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IN UGANDA

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister?

2.33

THE MINISTER, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (GENERAL DUTIES) (Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba): Mr Speaker, allow me to begin by laying on Table the following reports;

1. The Sustainable Development Goals progress report 2020/2021.
2. The Roadmap for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Uganda 2020/2021 – 2024/2025.
3. The Voluntary National Review Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The Uganda Annual Sustainable Development Conference Report 2022, themed, “*Building effective models to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals in the post-COVID-19 era*”.
5. The High-Level Political Forum 2022: A Synthesis of Key Highlights of the High-Level Political Forum 2022 Report.
6. Fast-tracking Uganda’s commitment to the 2030 Agenda: The National Secretariat Report.

Mr Speaker, I am only going to present a summary because the reports are many and you have given me 10 minutes, for which I am grateful.

Mr Speaker, the reports cover the achievements made, challenges and the way forward in the implementation of the new SDGs roadmap, which is aligned to the NRM Manifesto, National Development Plan (NDP) III, the other Government strategies and other international development commitments.

This report, therefore, highlights the efforts made in the coordination, monitoring and reporting of SDGs, the SDGs roadmap, the first national SDGs conference, the high-level political forum and the SDGs report of the conference that took place in July 2022.

In all of these key events and interventions, the reports point to the key observations and actions required to guide SDGs’ implementation.

The SDGs were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015. It was done as an annual call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all the people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Through the pledges of “Leave No One Behind” and “Serve the Farthest First”, countries committed to fast-tracking progress for these farthest people, who are left behind.

The 17 SDGs, with a total of 169 targets and 232 indicators, recognise that action in one area affects outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The SDGs are unique in that they cover issues that affect us all. They reaffirm our international commitment to ending poverty permanently everywhere. They involve us all to build a more sustainable, safer and more prosperous planet for all humanity.

Uganda recognised the importance of SDGs’ contribution to the country’s social development and long-term development planning framework. Consequently, in 2016, the

Government instituted a national coordination framework, under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister, which created an enabling environment for the State and non-State actors to achieve the implementation of SDGs. In Uganda, the SDGs are being implemented under the five-year national development plan, i.e., NDP II 2015/2016 – 2019/2020 and NDP III 2020/2021 – 2024/2025 and the long-term development agenda of Uganda Vision 2040.

The Office of the Prime Minister and other key stakeholders believe that with only seven years remaining to the end of the 2030 Agenda, there is need for Parliament to be apprised on the SDGs progress and share Cabinet's approved recommendations to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The objectives of this presentation are mainly to:

- i. Appraise Parliament on the progress of the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda.
- ii. Share the critical SDGs implementation challenges that have emerged during the implementation and coordination of SDGs, and;
- iii. Share Cabinet approved proposed measures to accelerate the attainment of SDGs targets within the framework of our national development plan, and Government's Last Mile Strategy – the Parish Development Model.

This paper and the issues raised therein have been developed during an analysis of trends and factors affecting SDGs implementations and stakeholders' consultations.

All these issues were further consulted on internally with the technical leadership and top management of the Office of the Prime Minister and all the MDAs of Government, the National Planning Authority, UBOS and the different ministries. We also did consultations with the United Nations country team, civil society organisations, SDGs Reference Group,

the private sector, academia, the Interreligious Council of Uganda, and non-governmental organisations.

During this reporting period, Uganda continues to register progress in SDGs implementation through;

- i. Development of the new roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs 2020/2021 – 2024/2025, which provides catalytic and strategic interventions for the acceleration of SDGs implementation. I have already laid the report on the Table.
- ii. Presentation of Uganda's Second Voluntary National Review in 2020 aimed at sharing experiences, successes, challenges and lessons in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This process has informed the roll-out of Voluntary Local Reviews at local governments, which enables reviews of SDGs progress at sub-national levels. I have also attached the report to that effect.
- iii. The Government conducted an annual assessment on progress of SDGs and developed an annual SDGs Progress Report 2021. This report highlights progress, bottlenecks and recommendations for each goal, within the context of the National Development Plan III. I have laid it on the Table.
- iv. The Government has also initiated a nation-wide forum that brings together all stakeholders with an interest in the SDGs implementation process called "Uganda Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference". The first annual conference was held in June 2022, preceded by regional forums. This year, the Government will host the second annual Sustainable Development Goals conference in June and it will be preceded by regional meetings. I have also attached a report.

What I want to report to you, Mr Speaker, is that we would go and make reports, as the

Executive, about the implementation of SDGs in this country, without involving Parliament and the Judiciary. However, in June 2022, we had consultations and discussions, where the Speaker of Parliament, the Rt Hon. Anita Among and the team, represented Parliament. The Chief Justice and the team were also part of the discussion.

- v. Uganda participated in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York, where the Government shared the experiences from the SDG Conference and key models and voluntary national reviews were presented. I have also attached the report that we presented in the UN.

Mr Speaker, although Uganda has registered significant progress in the attainment of SDGs, there are concerns about the likely negative impact of COVID-19 on the progress realised so far. The effects of COVID-19 will live with us and we have to devise measures on how to live with the effects of COVID-19.

There are also challenges related to limited financing of SDGs, data challenges, low levels of awareness of the local leaders to integrate SDGs within the local development initiatives and low levels of digitisation.

The Office of the Prime Minister presented a Cabinet Memorandum on the status of SDGs implementation to the Cabinet meeting, which was held on 10 October 2022. Under Minute 359 CT (2020) 130, the Cabinet approved the following recommendations to accelerate the attainment of the SDG targets within our National Development Framework.

1. The Ministry of Health to work with the Prime Minister and address the persistent malaria outbreaks in the country.
2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to follow up with Uganda's Ambassador to Abidjan on the pledge made by the Government of Abidjan to

give a grant to the Government of Uganda to support programmes directly benefiting persons with disabilities because we had identified that this was part of the team, where we had not paid a lot of attention as Government.

3. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to fast-track the implementation of the Integrated National Financing Framework as a means of mobilising resources globally and nationally to support sustainable development.
4. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to also revisit Uganda's Domestic Resource Mobilisation Strategy and associated policies that take into consideration these emerging realities of underfunding the different SDGs.
5. Cabinet also approved that the Office of the Prime Minister, together with the Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, localise and popularise the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to create investment in agriculture to foster food security and stabilise food supply chains through policy initiatives to encourage value addition, support the central role played by e-commerce and expand the digital information infrastructure in the country. This will ensure that data remains supreme in our planning and improve the sector of agriculture, and also take advantage of being a food basket in the region and make sure that our neighbours are not left hungry since we can – if we do what we are supposed to do in terms of prioritising data as a supreme actor in terms of planning, it will help us to even reach out to the neighbours.
7. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics to continue to expand on the SDG indicators that have

- data points in Uganda. The development of statistical plans by different entities should also be encouraged.
8. The Ministry of Public Service and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics to reinstate the position of statisticians in the structures of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and local governments for effective and efficient delivery of the quality data required at both national and local government levels for SDGs and other Government programmes, most importantly the Parish Development Model.
 9. The Ministry of Local Government to train local leaders to integrate the SDGs in the Parish Development Model implementation and all local development plans, including the new cities.
 10. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation to strengthen the engagement and mobilisation of the public and private stakeholders with digital innovations and support them to scale up.
 11. The Office of the Prime Minister, mostly the secretariat that falls under me, to conduct a comprehensive documentation to identify the people left behind – those at the risk of being left behind where they are found and in what areas of service delivery they have been left behind.
 12. The SDG Secretariat to also take on the additional role especially to coordinate and follow up on the African Union Agenda 2063. This is because the 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063 are both mutually reinforcing international and regional development strategies that support the national priorities of Uganda.
 13. The Office of the Prime Minister to always present a progress report both to Cabinet and to Parliament about the status of the implementation of SDGs.
 14. The Government of Uganda, coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to always present Uganda's voluntary national review report to the High-Level Political Forum in New York in the UN and also get ready to make a presentation for the High-Level Political Forum Report in New York 2024, where Uganda will be the hosting State.
- In conclusion, it is important to note that the successful implementation of Agenda 2030 requires an integrated approach, partnership and participation through inclusion and inclusive political processes and responses, effective and accountable institutions. It will require various stakeholders to identify solutions for planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring progress towards achieving SDGs as well as tracking where and how funds are spent and assessing the impact of these initiatives on the lives of the people we lead especially key interest groups.
- Mr Speaker, let us all work together to make the earth a better place to live for all, leaving nobody behind, and serving the furthest first. For God and my country. I thank you. *(Applause)*
- THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable minister. Clerk, capture the whole statement on the *Hansard*, for purposes of reference in future because she has read the executive summary. The statement is very detailed.
- (The Statement is hereby attached.)*
- THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Colleagues, such a statement – the minister has made it very clear – is for information purposes. So, it is for us to sit down and read. It helps us when we are processing business in the House and tracking the progress being made on SDGs.
- I will allow five Members. Honourable minister, is there something you needed to add?

MS LUMUMBA: Just one sentence, Mr Speaker. The reports I have laid on the Table - we have given every Member a hard copy and they are in their pigeonholes. I just wanted to communicate that. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will start with Hon. Ruhunda, Hon. Timuzigu, Hon. Kirabo - Hon. Byakatonda, I will pick you on the next topic. Then I will pick Hon. Namugga. Leader of the Opposition, you can guide me: who is the shadow minister – Kiboga, those are the five I am picking.

Colleagues, this is for information purposes, you will forgive me – when you look at our agenda, if we had a resolution to make, I would have allowed a very wide debate, but if it is for information purposes, the practice in the Commonwealth is like that. Two minutes each.

2.52

MR ALEX RUHUNDA (NRM, Fort Portal Central Division, Fort Portal City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the minister for giving this information. I hasten to add that these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as we speak, are very far from the local population including the local government structures.

When you go to the districts and the new cities including Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), you will find very scanty information on how they align their development plans with the SDGs yet this is well embedded in Vision 2040.

Mr Speaker, we have not made an effort of getting our technical officials, right from the local governments to the higher levels to realign and make this data user-friendly such that we can make use of it and guide the development process.

Good enough, the Minister of Local Government is here, so, it is my view that they mainstream the SDGs into every local development plan within the country. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

2.54

MR MICHAEL TIMUZIGU (NRM, Kajjira County, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the minister and the secretariat for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, I would like to request the ministry to understand that without fighting corruption as one of the goals in our SDGs, there is no way we are going to implement them effectively. Otherwise, whatever we shall try to do, corruption will undermine it.

Secondly, SDG No.13 is concerned with mitigating climate change, but the achievements are not clear in the book. Therefore, to improve the achievements or implementation, we need to remind this country that every day, we lose forest cover and wetlands yet it is not mentioned in the report.

Honourable minister, you need to mention that Uganda is losing wetlands and forest cover consistently and, therefore, it will undermine all the efforts in implementing Goal No. 13 of SDGs. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, when a colleague finishes speaking, at least recognise his or her submission. I might take it that you have not understood what he has said.

2.56

MS AGNES KIRABO (NRM, Youth Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to thank the minister for the statement about the SDGs. My concern is about SDG No.4, which is education.

I would like to thank the Government and the ministry for trying to preach the word of enrolling students or our young people down there for Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE). However, I want them to note that these Government schools have no space.

Back in the 1990s, they had space because we were very few, but now, we are very many; mostly the youth. We have given birth - our students are studying in a very unpleasant situation.

The second SDG I would like to comment about is No.1, which is about poverty. I would also like to comment about the PDM. Mr Speaker, I represent the young people of the entire Buganda region. Last week, Luweero District launched the Parish Development Model. I saw people testifying that they were receiving funds on their individual accounts. I did not agree with that policy; so, I would call upon Members to agree with me that this will put our funds at risk, a complicated accountability and a total loss of this -*(Member timed out.)*

2.58

MS GORRETH NAMUGGA (NUP, Mawogola County South, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the presentation and appreciating that maybe, Uganda needs to take a new direction on budgeting.

In relation to what you mentioned in the report, I think it is better we start looking at Uganda's economy by rethinking a new direction of the human rights approach to budgeting.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the implementation of the SDGs -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Colleagues, can we please listen to the Member?

MS NAMUGGA: This calls for a new reallocation strategy. Whatever they are looking at requires resources and you all know that we have a challenge with the resource envelope of this country.

Somebody spoke about corruption – it is true, there is a lot of corruption, but what does it take to fight corruption? I would like to appreciate the Opposition's side that launched its budget speech on 31st.

Mr Speaker, can the Government review the strategy of the Opposition with the theme of "Rethinking Uganda's economy", by rethinking the human rights approach to resource allocation? Otherwise, all these factors are being considered.

We are all here looking at final service delivery; ensuring that the common person's welfare is improved. So, I implore the honourable minister to borrow from the budget of the Opposition's side, that was read. I implore you to get this document so you can implement the SDGs rather than just talking about them. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, I would like to suggest that the alternative policy statement or alternative budget statement by the Opposition is not meant just for the minister - because the minister from the Government side presents and the shadow government presents. Then, it is we, the Members, who end up with a comprehensive and final document.

Therefore, I urge each one of us to read whatever document comes here; whether you like it or not, whether it is from your side or not, for information purposes, it will help you.

What Hon. Namugga Gorreth emphasised was that you should read the alternative budget proposals presented by the Leader of the Opposition because it is statutory and provided in rules. It is recognised and it is one of the documents we consider when processing the budget.

3.01

MS CHRISTINE KAYA (NUP, Woman Representative, Kiboga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also thank the minister for sharing with us. I belong to the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (UPFSDGs) and so, I would like to bring to the attention of the House that every year, we are provided with the voluntary national reviews. These reviews highlight the types of SDGs to be reviewed every year.

For 2023, we have been directed on the SDGs to be reviewed, which I thought would form part of our report here. This year's 2023 SDGs under review are Goal No.6, which is on clean water and sanitation; Goal No.7, affordable and clean energy; Goal No.9, on industry, innovation and infrastructure; Goal No.11, on

sustainable cities and communities, and SDG No. 17 on partnerships for the goals.

However, Mr Speaker, the last time I approached our Secretariat, I did not find any permanent and pensionable staff. They are contract staff that I felt are not accountable to us. Therefore, we need to know this with the secretariat that is responsible for following up the implementation so we are able to get a report from our minister every year.

Different countries register their participation in the political forum and Uganda has registered once, but our performance is measured based on the number of voluntary national reviews that we have participated in internationally. So, we request that even when we have not participated in the national reviews, let us get a periodic review of the line target –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, honourable shadow minister, I would advise that this is a very comprehensive statement, which the minister has presented, that would need at least an alternative in terms of your assessment on what is being achieved. And we can use Rule 53 of our Rules of Procedure, where the Leader of the Opposition is given leeway to present a statement on any matter, and that statement would be debated. Okay?

And in doing that, he can appoint any of the shadow ministers, or any of the people from the Opposition to make that statement on his or her behalf. I picked and loved your submission, but the space I have does not allow me. So, my guidance would be that you take the opportunity of rule 53 and then you give a comprehensive statement; we will give you more time to give us that information to share.

Now, LOP, you want to make a statement when I have just told your –(*Laughter*)

3.04

THE CHIEF OPPOSITION WHIP (Mr John Baptist Nambeshe): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would also like to thank the Prime Minister for this statement. However, the

fundamental question would be: When we shifted from the Millennium Development Goals, which were eight in the number, to the Sustainable Development Goals, which are 17 with 169 targets - and much earlier before the Millennium Development Goals, Africa had the three enemies: poverty, disease and ignorance, which graduated into eight Millennium Development Goals, then eventually into 17. What is all this about?

Is Africa and Uganda in particular part of the subjects for experiment? Are we guinea pigs? Because if you looked and dissected the eight Millennium Development Goals, they were actually skewed for the developing countries. Now later to look uniform, they brought 17 universal Sustainable Development Goals.

And if I was there pondering over the most difficult of the 17, number 13 - that is combating climate change and something there - the developed countries that are experimenting on us are the highly industrialised, the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases. And you know, the artificial boundaries we have in our countries do not have walls that would do block the carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide from polluting these ends where we are least industrialised.

Mr Speaker, the statement is hollow because it mentions that the Parish Development Model (PDM), which is devoid of implementation strategy -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, would you mind getting a more kind - because you started by appreciating; so, did you appreciate the hollow statement?

MR NAMBESHE: No, let me be fairer to the Prime Minister for the statement and for aggrandizing Government for coming up with the Parish Development Model, which is going to be the last mile strategy in attaining the 17 Sustainable Millennium Goals.

To be sincere in my fairness, this is a mirage; it is like chasing a mirage because we have seen many initiatives and interventions right from -

the best was actually the Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture, *Bonna Baggagawale*, *Entandikwa*, and recently *Emyooga*, which are mere tokens. Now we see the PDM - to be sincere, it is devoid of implementation strategy. Would it be the one that would raise our ray of hope that it will deliver us to the much "Promised Land", Canaan?

Mr Speaker, the whole Cabinet had to sit with the Ministry of Health to discuss how to combat malaria; malaria has been here for ages. Would it require a whole Cabinet to grapple with a two-day meeting, to discuss how to stop it when the countries by the way have already secured vaccines for malaria? And even they are in the advanced stages of destroying the mosquito, which is the cause of malaria. But here, meetings upon meetings, now we are awaiting PDM miracles to combat malaria. Honestly, Mr Speaker, I would differ.

However, let me conclude that this country, for years - I am concluding -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable LOP, if you had listened to me properly, you would have taken advantage of rule 53. You are making my work difficult.

MR NAMBESHE: That is where I was going. *(Laughter)* That is why I would like to come up with an alternative statement to this House. However, the challenge we have is that you hardly borrow a leaf from some of these good raft of proposals which we make.

As I conclude -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who?

MR NAMBESHE: Government, of course; the party in power.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because when you say, "...you hardly..." - *(Laughter)*-

MR NAMBESHE: The party in power. Recently, we came up with the brilliant ideas in that Alternative Budget Speech, but I highly doubt whether the powers that be have gone

through it or have something to borrow from it. And that is why a serious regime would want to nurture a very strong Opposition that is creative and innovative. However, the regime we have has issues.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, since 2014, we have never had a census. Now, here we are and the minister in her statement, on bended knees, is requesting for assistance for our persons with disabilities. The million-dollar question could have been: Have we prevailed over UBOS to conduct a census to know how many persons with disabilities we have, so as to be in the know whether this Government with the meagre resources we have, cannot take care of our own persons with disabilities - that we should be on bended knee to ask this country called Azerbaijan- I am getting a muscle pull pronouncing the name of this country? Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, LOP. I think what I got out principally, is that we must get solutions for Africa from Africa, not problems identified with, to go on graduating. And that is why we stood our ground in a bipartisan manner - all of us here - and supported, for example, the issue of developing our energy sector because of the energy poverty we face. The people who were stopping us, Europe constitutes 10 percent of the world population. Okay? But they pollute 25 percent of global gas emissions.

Now, Africa, we are 20 per cent of the world's population; we pollute only three per cent of the global gas emissions. I do not know and I ask myself: do they want us to go in a pollution competition for them to find-? And they say, "No, no, don't develop your oil and gas sector; you are going to pollute the environment." But they are burning coal every day.

Therefore, the solution is what I pick from Hon. Nambeshe; on top of other many things are lessons he has really brought on the Table, that as Africans, we have to look at solutions. However, we should remember that we are now in a multipolar world and, so, have to work within the global framework of countries

in tackling most of these challenging issues. Honourable minister, did you want to conclude?

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank the honourable members for the comments they have made. I also want to single out the shadow minister - the Woman MP for Kiboga - who took off time to go to the Secretariat to get details. I appreciate her for that. *(Applause)*

She also raised the issue that the people working at the Secretariat are on contract. Yes, they are, but are paid by development partners, not the Government of Uganda. That is a serious matter and we are still grappling with it.

In addition to that, the coordination work done by the Secretariat is still funded by development partners, not the Government of Uganda. As the Office of the Prime Minister and the Executive or Government, we must find a solution to it. It would also show our commitment.

She also brought out the issue of the annual reports. Yes, we make them. I pledge that as long as I am still the minister in charge of SDGs in the Office of the Prime Minister, I will make the annual reports. That is the only way we can bring it to the attention of Parliament and also use this forum to inform the country about what is happening. That is when we shall also be following the different SDGs that are of priority for that particular year.

Mr Speaker, allow me also to inform you that when it comes to water and sanitation - SDG No.6 - we have been to the UN to make our report and I will have to come here and make a report. Where it requires that we do not even have to wait for the annual one, Mr Speaker, I will put our prayer to you that we could be accorded some little time and we report on the progress as per the particular SDG, as time goes on.

On the issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition, yes, it is true we left the Millennium Development Goals and went for Sustainable Development Goals. When

we talk of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the indicators and the 232 targets, they do not apply everywhere. We only go for those that are applicable to us because these are for everything on earth, above the earth, on the ground and below the sea.

The Speaker has explained the issue of pollution. We are one continent that contributes less, yet we are the ones with the mitigation factors, especially the forests.

When you look at the forest coverage in the whole world, the biggest is in Africa. Therefore, we offer solutions, yet there is little that is accorded by those who cause the problem to those who offer the solution. Anyway, those are for discussions.

On the issue of the Parish Development Model as a Last Mile Strategy, I assure the Leader of the Opposition that we are in it together. We, as leaders in this country at this time, it is our responsibility to make it work. What we maybe have to improve on is the time, space and forum for discussion so that we appreciate the challenges and find solutions together to whatever challenge we are faced with.

It is a programme that covers all the SDGs. The only issue is that we have taken on and put forward the first pillar of financial inclusion. If you look at it, it will be able to cover the biggest issues to do with poverty and also provide the different facilities to the people.

The other issues raised by Members were pieces of advice. Hon Alex Ruhunda advised us to go and localise these SDGs and make them aligned to our development programmes. What I want to say is that our National Development Plan III is 96.6 per cent aligned to the SDGs. We just need to do a little more alignment, but most importantly, make sure that we work with everybody while implementing them.

Hon. Timuzigu raised the issue of corruption. It is a big thorn to all of us, but we cannot name it as an SDG because it cuts across. It is an issue we must deal with to make sure we achieve all of the 17 SDGs.

He also raised the concern that forest cover is not included. However, this issue is included in our high political-level report, from page 42 to page 45. When you look at it, we are losing our forest cover at 12 per cent, not six per cent as he stated.

On the issue to do with education, the Government had a programme of School Facilities Grant (SFG) that constructed primary schools. A lot more effort was also put in secondary schools. However, being that there is peace in this country, people are enjoying and producing and it is still under these discussions that we have to be – *(Interruption)*

MS CECILIA OGWAL: Thank you, for giving way. You have said that corruption should not be mentioned in this discussion because we are focusing on SDGs only. I thought you were talking off-shoot because corruption denies the country resources to target areas, which an SDG is pointing at. Therefore, it is very important that we plug that particular hole, which is taking a lot of resources. Let us not ignore the pandemic of corruption in the country. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, please, conclude.

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Honourable members, when I was talking about the issue of corruption raised by Hon. Timuzigu, I said - because he said: “Can you also name it as an SDG?” I said we cannot name it as an SDG, but it is something that we recognise as impacting the implementation of the 17 SDGs. We cannot name it as an SDG to stand on its own, but we must all work together to make sure we fight it.

Rethinking -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, let us stop there. Our time has gone. This was for information purposes, so, I do not really want us to prolong it.

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: Just a minute, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, conclude.

MS KASULE LUMUMBA: On the issue of rethinking our budgeting and looking at SDGs as human rights – they are human rights and that is why the NRM Government took them up. Water is a right and that is why we must have a source of safe water in every village. Education is a right and that is why we have it as “education for all” – at primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. Even health is for all.

What makes us not achieve them at 100 per cent are the issues that we must discuss. As leaders, we must find solutions. We recognise them as rights for all, but we have not been able to make it possible for everybody. Where is the problem? We must hold that discussion.

I thank you, honourable members, and all the members of the SDG forum. Let us keep working together. What we require to make us happy is what everybody else requires. As leaders, we must make sure that we serve the farthest first, leaving nobody behind and working with everybody. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Point of procedure, Hon. Okupa.

MR OKUPA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The procedural matter I am raising is in relation to always having a correct record of what is captured on the *Hansard*.

The Opposition Whip stated 169 targets needed to achieve the 17 SDGs. Hon. Lumumba talked of 213. I think we must correct the record. The correct figure is 169 targets that were adopted by the 191 UN Member States that were set to achieve the 17 SDGs. So, we must capture the correct record, which is 169, not 213.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. 169 targets and 232 indicators as per your own record.

MS LUMUMBA: Mr Speaker, it is 17 SDGs, 169 targets, and 232 indicators.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. The good thing is that the whole statement will also be captured for future reference purposes. Next statement.

STATEMENT ON THE NORTHERN
UGANDA SOCIAL ACTION FUND
(NUSAF-IV)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, you have 10 minutes.

3.24

THE MINISTER OF STATE, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (NORTHERN UGANDA) (Ms Grace Kwiucwiny): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I presented this statement last week; there is only some little information that I have added, and I am going to summarise it.

This is a brief to Parliament on the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF).

The Northern Uganda Social Action Fund is an affirmative action financed by the World Bank. It is committed to addressing high poverty levels and social economic disparities in greater Northern Uganda.

Northern Uganda Social Action Fund I and II, focused on infrastructure development while NUSAF III focused on support to households; it ended in June 2021.

Northern Uganda Social Action Fund was implemented and focused on a number of activities that included agriculture and animal husbandry, fish farming, environment conservation, trade and value addition, water and roads.

Having implemented it, a number of achievements were registered bearing in mind that this targeted the real grassroots households. This included increased household income and assets like livestock, poultry, bicycle, radio, mobile phones, beddings, kitchen facilities, solar lighting and roofing materials and increased household food security and household savings.

Despite Government intervention, the poverty indicators in Northern Uganda are still high. If you go to page three, you will see a table, which shows the trends of poverty prevalence; we have picked nine subregions.

The causes of high poverty in Northern Uganda are attributed to overreliance on subsistence farming, lack of perennial cash crops, dependency syndrome, limited skills, lack of value addition, low productivity, land fragmentation, limited employment opportunities, environmental degradation, low access to financial credit, and poor mindset.

Following the registered achievements, Cabinet, in January 2022, authorised the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), together with the Ministry of Finance to design NUSAF IV.

It is proposed that NUSAF IV will have a subregional focus and will support sustainable livelihood and shock-responsive interventions to build household resilience. The project will target 39 per cent of the poor households in the subsistence economy.

NUSAF IV is estimated to cost \$220 million as a loan and \$40 to \$50 million as a grant. It will cover West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, Bukedi, Elgon, Bunyoro and Busoga.

The components are:

- i. Sustainable livelihood support;
- ii. Strengthening safety net for enhanced resilience and human development; and
- iii. Transformational delivery system.

It is envisaged that these are going to complement the Parish Development Model, especially in the areas of production storage, processing and marketing, which is pillar one; enhancing financial inclusion is pillar three; enhancing mind-set change is pillar five and management information system, which is pillar six.

The progress so far made is that there has been established an inter-ministerial committee to

design the NUSAF IV, and we have a number of ministries involved.

The Office of the Prime Minister has since submitted the NUSAF IV Project concept profile and pre-feasibility study to the Development Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry wrote to the World Bank on the 3rd in preparation for external borrowing for NUSAF IV. The World Bank has facilitated four design missions for their technical team to jointly work with the Government in the design. A pre-appraisal mission ended last week.

Consultations were made with some district chairpersons, RDCs, Chief Administrative Officers and NRM chairpersons. We plan to have consultations with the Members of Parliament too.

Achievements so far made are that we have refined the project development objective and theory of change. We have outlined the key interventions by component. We have discussed the geographic and household targeting parameters. We have also discussed the national social registry, and we are going to review the aid memo and the proposed fund's flow.

The next steps will be to have further consultations with MPs and regional leaders. We have appraisal and negotiations between the Government of Uganda and the World Bank. We secured the World Bank Board approval, Cabinet approval, approval of Parliament and the full-scale implementation. All these are plans to take place between April and July when we will have full-scale implementation.

In conclusion, the NUSAF project design is on track despite the challenges of COVID-19. We should have actually designed NUSAF IV when NUSAF III was still running, but it was not possible.

The next challenge is about limited resources and reduction in the overall resource envelope

for affirmative action and this tremendously slowed down the consultative process.

Our prayer is that the NUSAF IV Project be supported and approved by Parliament, and included in the proposed budget for the Financial Year 2023/2024. Also, given the enthusiasm and eagerness of the people and their leaders for NUSAF IV, we pray the programme will be better implemented once we take off for the benefit of our people getting out of poverty. I beg to report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable minister. Colleagues, this is a clear update. Consultations are still ongoing, and so, there is no way we can start debating and submitting on the document still under development. Please bear with me.

And I can see all those standing up are Members of Parliament who are going to be consulted this April. Two - clarification is only sought when a Member is on the Floor. I do not have anyone on the Floor. Next statement. Yes, point of procedure, Hon. Aisha Kabanda.

MS AISHA KABANDA: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Wouldn't it be right for you to guide the honourable minister to first do an audit on NUSAF I, II and III before she brings in NUSAF IV? This is because we do not even know what was done previously. We have diverted from the original definition of NUSAF. Wouldn't it be wise of you to guide them to first do an audit?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I think that would not be for me to do at this stage. Why? NUSAF is coming here for approval and these are some of the questions you will raise. Please prepare to ask questions such as: did you carry out an audit? What is the basis of doing all these? Otherwise, rule 80 ties me down. I do not want to engage into anticipation because things are still being done.

MS ROSE OBIGAH: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. In the recent iron sheets distribution, it was reported in the newspapers that NUSAF gave out iron sheets. Wouldn't

it be procedurally right for the minister to put this as part of the achievements other than just rubbishing it? I am saying this because it came at the time “Karamoja iron sheets” developed “legs.” Were these NUSAF iron sheets? If they are, it should be part of the achievements. Wouldn't it be procedurally right, Mr Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Under Rule 80(2) of our Rules of Procedure, we gave this assignment to the Committee on Presidential Affairs and they have not brought a report. Therefore, there is no way I can start making comments by saying, do this and that.

Honourable minister, would you like to say something beyond what you have presented?

MS KWIYUCWINY: Just to confirm that NUSAF III had an evaluation report and I could not present it here. When we go to consult, all those details will be given. However, let me also make it clear that NUSAF does not give iron sheets.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Next statement. Colleagues, let me make it very easy: if you want our record to be clean as a Parliament, when a minister clearly puts it that consultations are ongoing - and they are just going to consult Members of Parliament from the areas that are going to benefit – now it becomes difficult - you have an avenue where you are going to raise all issues to do with that project.

I request that we move to another item. This came as an update because we wanted to know whether NUSAF had ended or something new was being designed. I think we have got very critical information.

I do not see the ministers for the next two statements here and, I had not yet received the statements. Colleagues, let us look at the Order Paper and handle a very critical item that has a budgetary implication. I wanted to give it enough time, but I think we can use 20 minutes for the Chairperson of the Select Committee on the Inquiry into the Operations of the National Council of Sports, to give her report and then I will guide further.

**MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE
REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE
OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF SPORTS**

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chairperson of the Select Committee, Hon. Laura Kanushu, you have 20 minutes and then we shall go to the Parish Development Model. I was informed that ramps for Persons with Disabilities were worked upon. I want to thank the Clerk because by the time a Member raised it, the Clerk and the team were already working. So, they expedited the process. The feedback taken is that they are very steep. However, since they were not meant for the complainants, I will wait to hear from the representatives of Persons with Disabilities.

3.37

THE CHAIRPERSON, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SPORTS (Ms Laura Kanushu): Mr Speaker, I do not want to give a comment on the ramps because there is an accessibility standard for this Parliament to make access for Members of Parliament with disabilities. I want to implore them to look at it.

Before I present, I would like to lay on the Table, the minutes of the meetings for the Select Committee on the Inquiry into the Operations of the National Council of Sports. I beg to lay.

I also beg to lay on the Table, the annexes that are referred to in the report.

Mr Speaker, I would like to request that we skip the first pages. The report has been uploaded and let me go straight to page 5 just to give a background on where we are coming from.

On 8 November 2022, the Rt Hon. Speaker, while congratulating the She Cranes Netball team for emerging No. 5 in the First Worldwide Netball Championships in New Zealand, raised a concern over funding of the sports subsector, despite Parliament appropriating funds for the same. The Rt Hon. Speaker thereafter,

directed the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to address the House the following day on the releases made to the sports subsector.

Subsequently, on the 9 November 2022, Hon. Evelyn Anite, the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Investment and Privatisation), presented a statement on the status of releases of the budget for the sports subsector for Financial Year 2022/2023.

She revealed that Parliament had appropriated a total of Shs 47.81 billion to the National Council of Sports, of which Shs 19.2 billion (40 per cent of the approved budget) had been released for the first quarter of the Financial Year 2022/2023.

Arising from the debate on the statement, Members raised concerns over variations in the figures presented by Hon. Anite and those presented by Hon. Peter Ogwang, the Minister of State for Sports.

In the plenary sitting of 10 November 2022, Hon. Asuman Basalirwa moved a motion to resolve that a select committee be constituted to thoroughly investigate the matter, pursuant to Rule 190 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Consequently, a select committee of seven Members was constituted to inquire into the operations of the National Council of Sports (NCS) in Quarter one and Quarter two of Financial Year 2022/23. The members included the following:

1. Hon. Laura Kanushu – Chairperson;
2. Hon. Solomon Silwany – Member;
3. Hon. Geoffrey Ssolo Kayemba – Member;
4. Hon. Iddi Isabirye – Member;
5. Hon. Donald Katalihwa – Member;
6. Hon. Agnes Acibu – Member; and
7. Hon. Margaret Makhoha.

Mr Speaker, I implore you to look at the terms of reference – I talked about them; and I think we can skip the methodology. I would also like

to skip the overview, which talks about the mandate of the National Council of Sports, the operations and governance and management of the National Council of Sports.

Let us straightaway go to term of reference one.

TOR 1: To ascertain the approved budget for the National Council of Sports for the Financial Year 2022/2023 and the budgetary amounts communicated by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

The committee established that on 20 May 2020, Parliament, in line with Section 14(1) of the Public Finance Management Act, appropriated Shs 47,812,199,000 for the National Council of Sports for the Financial Year 2022/2023.

The committee was informed that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development communicated their approved budget of Shs 47,812 199,000 to the National Council of Sports in the approved estimates of revenue and expenditure (recurrent and development) for Central Government votes for the year ending 30 June 2023, as indicated in the table below. Mr Speaker, I implore honourable members to look at the table. The committee confirmed from the submissions that the National Council of Sports had indeed a total of that amount.

The observation of the committee is that the budget of Shs 47,812,199,000 communicated by the Ministry of Finance to the National Council of Sports is in tandem with the total budget for the National Council of Sports appropriated by Parliament for this period. In this regard, the committee commends the Ministry of Finance for diligently executing its mandate.

TOR 2: To establish the actual budget releases to the National Council of Sports *vis-à-vis* the budget approved by Parliament for the Financial Year 2022/2023

The committee established that the Ministry of Finance had, as at 31 December 2022, released

a total of Shs 19,614,267,328 to the National Council of Sports for the first quarter one and quarter two for the Financial Year 2022/2023, to facilitate wages, gratuity, support the various sports federations and associations as indicated in the table.

The committee found out that in quarter one, the Ministry of Finance released Shs 9,365,010,657 to the National Council of Sports, representing 19.6 per cent release performance. The committee further found that the total release for quarter two by the Ministry of Finance to the National Council of Sports was Shs 10,157,749,062 representing 21.25 percent release performance.

The committee further found out that whereas the cash flow plan for the National Council of Sports for quarter one was Shs 7,808,953,878, the Ministry of Finance released a total of Shs 9,365,010,657, giving a surplus release amount of Shs 1,556,056,779.

However, in quarter two, the Ministry of Finance released a total of Shs 10,157,749,062 against the cash flow plan for the National Council of Sports, which was Shs 23,154,073,563, leaving a deficit of Shs 12,996,324,501.

The committee was informed that at times the National Council of Sports has received late releases from the Ministry of Finance, which affects the planned outputs of the council and national sports federations. For instance, the National Council of Sports revealed that the first release for quarter one was done on 15 July 2022, and an additional cash release on 25 September 2022, which affected the facilitation of the council's planned activities. Subsequently, the council and some federations had resorted to running their budgets on unauthorised credits from moneylenders and contributions from well-wishers.

The observation of the committee is that the budget performance in releases from the Ministry of Finance against the approved budget to the National Council of Sports was at 41 per cent by the end of quarter two.

The total releases by the Ministry of Finance, in quarter one, to the National Council of Sports exceeded the approved cash flow plan by Shs 1,556,056,779, under the non-wage component of the budget and Shs 10,157,749,062 was released contrary to the approved cash plan of Shs 23,154,073,563 leaving a shortfall of Shs 12,996,324,501 in quarter two. This affected the implementation of planned outputs for the National Council of Sports.

Late release of funds by the Ministry of Finance is contrary to Regulation 14 of the Public Finance Management Regulations 2016, which provides thus, "*The Accountant-General shall release funds to the votes every three months of a financial year and at any other time, as the Secretary to the Treasury may determine and these releases shall be by the 10th day of the first month of the period.*" This in turn affects the smooth implementation of activities of the council and the sports federations.

The recommendation is that the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should ensure timely releases of funds in order to enable smooth operations and the execution of planned outputs of the council and federations.

The council and federations should desist from illegal borrowing, since that contravenes Section 36 of the PFMA, 2015, and may expose them to unguaranteed liability risks.

The council and federations should explore possibilities of obtaining additional funding from partners and private sponsors to invest in the development of the sports subsector.

TOR 3: To examine the criteria used by the National Council of Sports to appropriate budgets to sports federations and associations

The committee established that Section 3(2)(h) of the National Council of Sports Act requires the National Council of Sports to approve expenditures of national sports federations. As such, the budgets for national sports federations are incorporated under the budget line - "*Transfer to other Government units*",

which falls under the subvention (recurrent) component of the National Council of Sports budget.

The committee was informed by the National Council of Sports that it apportions budgets to sports federations through council resolutions based on prioritisation of sports, which have a comparative advantage for Uganda as a country. However, the committee could not verify this assertion since there was no evidence of such resolution in the minutes of the board meetings of the council, which the committee reviewed. Accordingly, the committee did not find a documented criterion on apportioning funds to the national sports federations.

Indeed, most of the federations the committee interacted with stated that they were not aware of the criteria used by the National Council of Sports to apportion the budgets. They further informed the committee that the council only requested them to submit their annual budgets and work plans, but did not involve them any further in the budgeting process.

Most federations alleged that in order to receive funds, the General Secretary, who is also the accounting officer of the council, calls and requests them to first submit a requisition for a specific amount of money, which is then determined by him before the funds are transferred to them. For instance, the President of the Uganda Boxing Federation informed the committee that the General Secretary of the National Council of Sports called him to submit a budget of Shs 500 million for which he did not - he only received Shs 133 million for the federation.

He further stated that he did not know how the General Secretary came up with the figure of Shs 500 million and later on the Shs 133 million, which was transferred. Nonetheless, the committee was not provided with evidence to authenticate this allegation.

Observations of the committee:

- a) There are no policy guidelines that the National Council of Sports bases on

to apportion budgets to the national federations. The apportioning of budgets is left to the discretion of accounting officer. The lack of policy guidelines to inform budgetary appropriation to the sports bodies creates a policy vacuum that is prone to abuse by the accounting officer. This affects the prioritisation of activities that are critical to the development of the sports subsector.

The recommendations on this particular term of reference are:

- a) That the Ministry of Education and Sports should, with immediate effect, develop guidelines for apportioning funds to the national sports federations in order to ensure certainty in decision making, for transparency and accountability;
- b) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should disseminate releases to both the accounting officers and subventions to enhance transparency in the budget process;
- c) The Accounting Officer of the National Council of Sports should strictly adhere to the provisions under Section 45(4) of the PFMA and remit the subventions received, on behalf of the national sports federations, in accordance with the approved cash flow. Failure to do this, the accounting officer should be held personally liable for contravention of this specific legal provision; and
- d) The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should explore mechanisms of releasing funds directly to federations in order to eliminate the possibility of unfairness by the National Council of Sports in the process of apportioning funds to national federations and associations, as is the case with the Parish Development Model, upon building capacity of the federations and sports associations to be able to manage Government funds appropriately.

TOR 4: To inquire into the disbursement by the National Council of Sports to the various sports federations

As noted earlier, the committee established that budgets for the national sports federations are incorporated under the budget line “Transfer to other Government units”, which falls under the subvention (recurrent) component of the National Council of Sports budget. This budget line comprises funds for the following:

- i. Support to major international games from Team Uganda, which include Olympic/ Paralympic games, Commonwealth Games, All-Africa Games, East African Community Games and Islamic solidarity Games;
- ii. Facilitation of national sports federations and associations for qualifier games; and
- iii. Support to representative clubs in continental championships or tournaments.

Consequently, as required by Section 45(4) of the PFMA, the Accounting Officer of NCS is mandated by law to transfer the said funds to support the activities of the different sports federations and associations according to the annual cash flow plans issued by the Secretary to Treasury, as required by Section 15 of the PFMA.

Releases by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to the National Council of Sports to support activities

The committee established that out of the total approved budget of Shs 47 billion for Financial Year 2022/2023, Shs 38 billion was appropriated to federations under the budget line “Transfer to other Government units.”

Of this amount, Shs 7 billion was released by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in Quarter 1, while Shs 8 billion was released in Quarter 2, totalling Shs 15 billion – as you may see in the table there. The disbursements are in those two tables.

The committee noted that there were inconsistencies between the amounts released by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to National Council of Sports for federations and the amount disbursed by NCS to those federations.

Whereas a total of Shs 15.479 billion was released by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for federations in Quarters 1 and 2, a total of Shs 15,374,430,984 was disbursed to the federations for the same period, of which Shs 7,911,109,550 was for Quarter 1 and Shs 7,463,321,434 for Quarter 2, as indicated in the table.

From the above table, the NCS disbursed an additional Shs 757,627,749 above what was released in Quarter 1 and Shs 862,589,888 less than what was released in Quarter 2. However, the NCS did not provide an explanation for this variance.

The NCS provided the committee with a breakdown of the disbursements to the various federations and major international games as indicated in the table below. Mr Speaker, again, I would like to implore you to look at the table.

From the above table, the committee noted that NCS disbursed Shs 9,348,826,024 to 46 out of the 51 federations and associations in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2022/23. It further noted that the NCS disbursed a total of Shs 6 billion for major international games (Commonwealth Games and the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games).

The council informed the committee that during Quarter 1 of Financial Year 2022/2023, it disbursed Shs 4,865,000,000 and Shs 1,160,604,960 to facilitate the activities associated with Team Uganda’s participation in the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, England and to facilitate activities associated with Team Uganda’s participation in the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games 2022, held in Konya, Turkey.

The council further informed the committee that during Quarter 1, it disbursed a total of

Shs 7.463 billion to support national sports federations and associations.

The committee was informed that whereas the approved budgets for support to major international games (Commonwealth Games and the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games) was Shs 8,599,985,000 billion, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development released only Shs 7,153,481 billion only for the games in Quarter 1.

For Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, again, I to refer you to the table. It gives a clear picture. The one for the Islamic Solidarity Games is on page 23. Page 24 has a table on the disbursement to federations and associations for qualifier games. There is also a table for funds disbursed to federations in Quarter 2 – on pages 25, 26 and 27.

Findings of the committee on the disbursement to national federations

The committee established that whereas Section 45(4) of the PFMA that mandates an accounting officer, who receives a subvention on behalf of another entity, to remit the subvention to the entity in accordance with the approved cash flow plan for the subvention, the accounting officer acted contrary to this provision.

The committee established that most federations received less money than what had been approved and others did not receive any funding from the council, which has in turn affected the implementation of their planned output. For instance, representatives of FUFA, FUBA and UNF informed the committee of their withdrawal from participating in qualifier games and final tournaments due to lack of funds, despite having presented work plans to the National Council of Sports.

The committee noted severe implications on the country's performance in international games, which have, in some instances, attracted financial penalties and liability to the country. A case in point was when the She Cranes withdrew from the World Cup qualifiers that

were scheduled to take place in South Africa in August 2022 due to lack of funds, which caused the country's standing to drop from the sixth to seventh position at the World Netball Ranking and fined £5,000.

The committee found inconsistencies regarding funds disbursed to the Uganda Rugby Union during Quarter 1. Whereas the council informed the committee that it released a total of Shs 458 million to the union, the committee found that it had actually transferred an additional Shs 224,112,000 on 27 July 2022, which the NCS did not reveal in its submission to the committee.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable chairperson, I can see you would need about one-and-a-half hours to read the whole report and I am not going to open up debate today. I want us to have the debate on Wednesday next week. This will let Members have enough time to read through this report and make consultations because it is a big report.

If I may request, can you do a summary - because we shall capture the whole report verbatim on the *Hansard* - for ease of reference? And then Members will have time to read it in detail throughout this Easter period.

MS KANUSHU: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. I will go to the final recommendations -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are trying to clear off most of these things, you know, April and May are usually for the budget. I do not want us to interfere with the budgeting process, honourable colleagues, especially your attendance and participation in the sectoral committee meetings to scrutinise the budget deeply.

So, I would like us to finish the Parish Development Model. Tomorrow, we handle issues of the supplementary so that by the time we break off, we know we have cleared most of the issues on the Order Paper.

MS KANUSHU: Honourable members, let us go to page 37, which has the following recommendations:

- a) The committee recommends that the Ministry of Education and Sports should fast-track the sports policy and amend the sports law - and I am sure this has been overtaken by events - to provide a robust legal regime for better governance, management and development of the sports sector; and
- b) The committee also recommends that Parliament speeds up the passing of the Sports Bill, which it has done – again this has been over taken by events - streamlining interventions to improve the sports sector.

provide funds for the development of sports facilities and renovate existing ones that have been run down in order to ensure sports development in the country.

The Ministry of Education and Sports should ensure that its strategic plan emphasises the development of sports infrastructure, as highlighted in Government programmes, such as the NDP III. Again, this comes from the fact that most of the members who appeared before the committee from the federations expressed the fact that there are no facilities for them to do sports, to an extent that they do not even have where to train from. So, this is where this recommendation comes from.

And on page 39, the committee recommends that the National Council of Sports should ensure that there is capacity building of the national federations and associations in order to comply with the laws governing their existence and operations, as mandated under Section 3 of the National Council of Sports Act.

On page 47, the committee recommends that the National Council of Sports should put in place comprehensive and long-term strategies for a sustainable strategy for the management and development of sports disciplines in the country.

The committee also recommends that the Auditor-General should carry out a forensic audit on all associations and federations that have received Government funding for the last five years in a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of the adoption of this report.

The National Council of Sports should carry out its mandate of overseeing the management of federations and should take deliberate steps to ensure that they are staffed, trained and conduct capacity building.

The accounting officer of the National Council of Sports should be held accountable for disbursing funds to federations despite falling short of the minimum requirement, yet it is mandated to oversee and audit the federations.

The Ministry of Education and Sports should design an appraisal mechanism for the National Council to assess the performance of federations since they are mandated, under Section 3 of the National Council Sports Act, to facilitate their development.

Additionally, the council should halt the disbursement of funds to any federation that falls short of the requirements under the law.

The committee recommends that the Inspector General of Government conducts an in-depth investigation of allegations of corruption made against the Accounting Officer of the National Council sports.

Honourable members, because I did not read that specific term of reference, the committee realised that the council continued to disburse funds to federations and associations that had not accounted for specific amounts that they had received in the previous year. So, this is where this recommendation is coming from.

Mr Speaker, again, it is in the report that certain federations made allegations against the Secretary-General of the National Council of Sports. One of the allegations was that he gives them a specific amount of money, but asks them to account for more money than they received. While we did not get concrete evidence, these allegations came to the

On page 41, the committee recommends that Government should take deliberate steps to

attention of the committee, and that is why we are making this recommendation.

We made a study visit and there were good things to learn from South Africa and how they are running their sports sector and we wanted to borrow a leaf from there.

Mr Speaker, it should be noted that the operations of the National Council of Sports are pertinent to the development of sports in the country since it is mandated to develop, promote and oversee sports activities in Uganda, on behalf of the Government, in collaboration with the national sports federations and associations.

The committee applauds the Government of Uganda for its efforts towards the promotion of the sports sector, which can be evidenced by the country's achievement nationally, regionally and internationally. However, it notes that there is need to streamline its management, funding, legal and policy frameworks, putting into consideration emerging issues.

Whereas the subsector is guaranteed and the institutional framework is established under the National Council Act, the ambiguity of the council's funding structure, which trickles down to the national sports federations and associations, has raised matters of transparency and accountability, which are key performance indicators of good sports governance.

Despite the laws being in place, there are still challenges of poor sports governance that have brought negative effects on national sports teams and sportsmen.

The subsector has evolved from being merely a recreational and social activity to being impactful in terms of socio-economic revolution. Indeed, if well-structured and managed, it has the potential to boost local tourism, spread resources across the country, improve national branding internationally and build social cohesion, among others.

Therefore, the committee also calls upon Government to implement the recommendations above in order to ensure development of sports in the country.

Mr Speaker, before I take leave of the Floor, I want to say that this report has a recommendation for a forensic audit of the National Council of Sports and all federations to be carried out in not less than seven days after the adoption of this report.

Another important recommendation that this committee makes is that for all federations and the NCS, a forensic audit should take place and, but also, that the allegations that came to the attention of the committee should be investigated to a logical conclusion. I beg to report.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Chairpersons. Hon. Alex Ruhunda, do you have a procedural matter? I hope you are not going into the report.

MR RUHUNDA: No, I am not going into the report. Mr Speaker, the procedural point I would like to make is: we had a debate here concerning the lack of football training facilities for the Uganda Cranes and having our team have to go to Cairo. And I notice that this report is talking about the lack of development of sports infrastructure, and the minister was tasked to come up with a comprehensive report to that effect.

The current Government Chief Whip, when he was in that office, had made efforts to develop two stadiums for the country namely, Buhinga Stadium in Kabarole District and the Akii Bua Stadium.

Mr Speaker, wouldn't it be procedurally right that we combine these two because they are intertwined, such that we can fully exhaust the way forward, as far as the sports infrastructure and governance of sports is concerned in this country? I am saying this because I know that you have ruled that the presentation be done, but that the debate will take place on Wednesday next week.

Otherwise, I beg to lay some of the information I received from the minister at the time, Hon. Obua, such that it is part of this debate. This is the evidence on the feasibility studies that were done, with the figures and facts.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please lay. He has said the source is the former sports minister, who is the current Government Chief Whip. After laying them, I think he will be able to verify. We shall share them because these are our documents, colleagues.

MR RUHUNDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay a summary status of Akii Bua and Buhinga Olympic stadia given to me by Hon. Obua while he was the Minister of State for Sports.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable minister, is our statement ready? We need to work on it and make a decision.

4.13

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SPORTS (SPORTS) (Mr Peter Ogwang): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

To me, it is a question of the Order Paper; when you will give me time as the minister for the sports subsector to come and make a presentation on issues Members raised regarding the ongoing works at Namboole. The other one was a question of infrastructure across the country.

It is true and I want to confirm – and Hon. Hamson Obua is here - that the Government of the Republic of China did pledge to give a grant to Uganda to construct Buhinga and Akibua stadia. However, as I said the other time, the Government of China, again, confirmed to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development that they lost interest in funding the two projects, whose documents the Hon. Alex Ruhunda, Member of Parliament from Fort Portal City, has laid on the Floor.

Secondly, Mr Speaker -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable minister, are you submitting your statement?

MR OGWANG: No, before I submit, I need to first say one or two things because I want to confirm -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, then what will your statement contain?

MR OGWANG: Mr Speaker, can I comment on the report? First of all -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, honourable minister, let us move together. I want to propose – and let us agree – that if the debate is on Wednesday, you will comment on the report on Wednesday because we need you here on Wednesday. If I allow you to comment, then I also will allow the shadow minister to comment yet my projection was 4.00 p.m. So, honourable minister, bring your statement on Wednesday and we shall handle it together with - colleagues, when I am speaking, allow me to speak. Please, “I don’t finish quickly.” *(Laughter)* That is on a lighter note - some people get bored so, we need to –

Anyhow, honourable minister, as long as your statement is ready - and I want to guide the ministers that when a statement is ready, submit it to the Clerk so we are able to design the Order Paper. It is not that you first get our permission and then submit the statement. Kindly have it ready and then on Wednesday, we shall give you space to also comment on the report. We shall give it enough time.

Honourable members, when the Speaker has guided - I do not know why Hon. Sarah wants me to “finish” -*(Laughter)*- when I have guided properly, in terms of the next step on an item, then the procedure does not apply. Can we go to the next item? *[Member rose]* What is it and under which rule are you? Kindly refer to the rules.

MS KABAHEMBA: Mr Speaker, I am rising under rule 83. When you talk about Buhinga Stadium, you are talking about the Rwenzori Region where I come from. So, wouldn’t it be procedurally right that when the minister is bringing his statement, he gives justification - do you mean to say China did not give reasons, they simply lost interest?

Can we get justification why China had to lose interest? Maybe the Government was supposed

to do counterpart funding? After gaining interest, they then lost it; what happened? Can we even see a copy of the letter they wrote?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleague, I am looking at the rule you referred to; rule 83 - you referred us to a rule that talks about the behaviour of Members and you ended up violating rule 80. I already guided properly that the minister brings the statement on Wednesday. Now you want the minister to comment on issues which will be in the statement because that is when anticipation comes in. I request that we are patient. Let us hold our guns and wait for the minister on Wednesday.

Shadow Minister of Education and Sports, you were insisting on a procedural matter - under rule?

MS NABUKENYA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to inform the House that the Committee on Education and Sports produced a report on the issue of Buhinga and Akii Bua stadia. I will not leak the report details, but all those issues were raised, including the questions on the responsibility of the minister. So, it is very important - because it is in the Business to follow – to have the report presented because there are many answers to most of the questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that report also about sports?

MS NABUKENYA: Yes, and specifically on the two issues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me go back and review with the Clerk. We will see how best it can fit in.

Colleagues, rule 78(4) says when you rise on a point of procedure, you must state the rule. I have been lenient, but when I see you saying, “Procedure” repeatedly – now, I am going to strictly start applying the rule. *(Laughter)*
Hon. John Musila?

MR MUSILA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not speaking about anything -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule? If you stand up -

MR MUSILA: Under your own Chair, Mr Speaker - *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Musila -

MR MUSILA: Mr Speaker, you excited especially the honourable ladies here when you said that you do not finish quickly. Thank you. *(Laughter)*

4.20

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Paralympics team had their own winner, who should have gone to Birmingham. However, this small innocent girl from Moyo, with one hand, who won the Paralympics and was all over the newspapers, was unable to go because of funding. Wouldn't it be procedurally right for the report to capture this so that next time we are able to facilitate those under-18 to participate in games outside this country, to raise our flag? Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable Member, you have debated. So, on Wednesday, I do not expect you to debate because that is a submission on debate. Let us go to the next item. Honourable Member from Kiboga, you have a point of procedure?

MS KAAYA: I am sorry, Mr Speaker, for not quoting the rule, but last week, I formed part of the select committee to investigate the investment in the development of the stadia. However, the committee is composed of only four members; I think it was an oversight. We needed to be five members in order to bring out a quality report. So, I request that we reconstitute the committee to five members. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me go back, consult with the Clerk and first get the facts clearly before I commit myself on anything.

Let us go to the Parish Development Model. I have spoken to the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget about the next item on the supplementary budget and got to know that they were not yet ready. So, it is better we proceed to the next item. Hon. Aisha, you have a procedural point?

MS AISHA KABANDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise under rule 45. Two weeks back, I asked a question, rightly through the Clerk to Parliament. Some questions have been answered this time and there are also questions on the order of business to follow. My question is not reflected anywhere. My procedural point is whether I can be guided on what I should do next. Is it due for answer or not?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, kindly share it with me in the office. I will ensure that it goes on the Order Paper and it is answered.

MS AISHA KABANDA: Most obliged, Mr Speaker. However, we did not understand whether you were asking a question from us or asserting about the time to “finish.” Were you asking or asserting that you take long to “finish”? *(Laughter)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable member, I request you to avoid such issues, especially during the month of Ramadan. *(Laughter)*

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE SUB-REGIONAL OVERSIGHT REPORTS ON THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL (PDM)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I want to guide on this item. Last week, Lango Subregion made a comprehensive report on this matter. This programme is structured in a national manner and so, some issues are crosscutting. If we are to present all the 18 sub-regional reports, we may repeat ourselves here, day after day.

I am of the view that we use the report from Lango as a benchmark. I have even seen some of the reports, and in some regions, only two

Members have signed. So, a Member will present a report on behalf of Members who have not even signed it. Around 10 per cent, generally. Then, I have not received the report from Acholi Sub region - but most of the issues are crosscutting.

I propose that we open up the debate now then you pick out - if there are unique issues you found in your area that were not captured under for example, the Lango subregion report, bring such issues to the fore. Otherwise, we shall need more than a week of handling just the Parish Development Model reports.

4.25

MR BOSCO OKIROR (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance. However, I have a humble request: we did prepare these reports - if you would only allow that we just lay them on the Table so that they are captured. Otherwise, preparing and not laying them would be a bit of a challenge on our side.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Were they laid before?

MR OKIROR: Not for the remaining subregions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think what he is raising is very important. Leaders from the different sub regions can lay the documents on the Table. We can call subregion by subregion

West Nile Subregion

4.27

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay a report of the Parish Development Model oversight for West Nile Subregion, signed by the Members. I beg to lay.

Bukedi Subregion

4.27

MR RICHARD OSEKU (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay a report of the performance of the

PDM monitoring by the Bukedi Subregion Members of Parliament.

Busoga Subregion

4.28

MS AGNES TAAKA (NRM, Woman Representative, Bugiri): Mr Speaker, for Busoga Subregion, we had uploaded the report for all Members. The chairperson who has the copy is not around. I had only prepared to present. We will participate in the debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable Member, we are an e-Parliament. Since it is uploaded on Alfresco, lay it; we shall capture it.

MS TAAKA: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Bugisu Subregion

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request honourable colleagues who are laying to come to the frontbench so that we do not waste a lot of time moving around.

4.28

MR JOHN MAGOLO (NRM, Bungokho County North, Mbale): Mr Speaker, this is a report for Bugisu Subregion on the status of the Parish Development Model as per the terms given to us by the Speaker. I beg to lay.

Teso Subregion

4.29

MR BOSCO OKIROR (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi): Mr Speaker, this is the report of Teso Parliamentary Group on regional PDM implementation monitoring from 6 to 24 February 2023. I beg to lay the report and the annexures therein.

Karamoja Subregion

4.29

MR JOHN BOSCO NGOYA (NRM, Bokora County, Napak): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the PDM monitoring report for Karamoja Parliamentary Group for the nine districts.

Ankole Subregion

4.30

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the joint monitoring report on the Parish Development Model for Ankole Subregion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Rutahigwa is here. Come and lay the report. We even have the commissioner present.

Western (Kigezi Subregion)

4.30

DRE ELISA RUTAHIGWA (NRM, Rukungiri Municipality, Rukungiri): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Kigezi report is already uploaded. I beg to lay it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Western (Bunyoro Subregion)

4.31

MS JANEPHER MBABAZI (NRM, Woman Representative, Kagadi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Bunyoro subregion report is also uploaded. I beg to lay.

Western (Rwenzori Subregion)

4.31

MR RICHARD GAFABUSA (NRM, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay a joint monitoring report on the status of the implementation of the Parish Development Model for the Rwenzori subregion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Western (Tooro Subregion)

4.31

MR BRIGHT AMOOTI (NRM, Kyaka Central County, Kyegegwa): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay a report on the Parish Development Model implementation for Tooro subregion.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Central (Buganda Subregion)

4.32

MS BETTY NALUYIMA (NUP, Woman Representative, Wakiso): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the Parish Development Model for the central region - Buganda. It is already on the network. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Is someone from Sebei around?

MS OPENDI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have been checking through for these reports on my iPad, but I have not seen the Bunyoro report –(Interjection)– I beg to be guided.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Sarah Opendi, the report for Bunyoro was received in our office and it : was uploaded. We shall ensure that you receive it. (Applause)

Honourable colleagues, the question I put for debate is that this House adopts reports of subregional oversight visits – honourable colleagues, I made it clear that I have not received the report from Acholi in the office. Therefore, they cannot lay what they have not submitted to the Clerk and the Office of the Speaker. Oh! The youth also did their report – please, if there are interest groups, which have reports, I will give them a chance.

4.34

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Youth Representative, Northern): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay the report on the Parish Development Model, titled, “The Status Report on the Implementation of the Parish Development Model by the Youth Members of Parliament.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. This is a special interest group. Honourable colleagues, the question for debate is that Parliament adopts the subregion oversight reports on the Parish Development Model. Debate opens now, for 60 minutes.

Honourable colleagues, this is how we are going to do it: I will start from the back, then

to Hon. Koluo, Hon. Flavia, the Member for Makindye-Ssabagabo and then to the Member for PPP, Hon. Milton Muwuma and then I will come here. Honourable colleagues, you participated and have all these issues. Let us use two minutes so that other colleagues can also participate in the debate; let us be fair.

4.36

MR NELSON OKELLO (UPC, Maruzi North County, Apac): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity. I also want to thank your office for giving us leave to go down to the constituencies.

As far as the PDM is concerned, there are many issues, particularly in regard to allocations in parishes. For example, in Apac, one of the parishes - Abedi in Apac Subcounty, has 20 villages. Other parishes have 10, nine, three or even two villages. However, they are given a similar allocation.

Apac District has 33 SACCOs and Apac Municipality has 20 SACCOs, which gives a total of 53 SACCOs. So far, a total of Shs 32 million has been disbursed to the SACCOs’ accounts.

The big challenge, Mr Speaker, is that the community cannot access funds from the SACCOs’ accounts.

This is a planting season and we are getting the first rains – in the north, our first rains begin in March to April. The parishes that have selected agriculture as their enterprises cannot access those funds and they are in a dilemma.

The Office of the Prime Minister is coming up with guidelines after guidelines. Let them come with a single set of guidelines and allow our farmers to access these funds.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, I do not think those were two minutes. Please, in the interest of allowing more Members to participate, we need more time.

4.39

MR JOSEPH KOLUO (Independent, Toroma County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. I further thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving us the opportunity to do the monitoring of these funds.

Similar to what my brother has just raised, in Toroma County, we have about 30 SACCOs. According to the documents we have, the money is on the accounts in the selected banks. However, when these groups go to the bank to withdraw the money, there is no money. This is very bad because this is a planting season; these people need to buy seeds.

Finally, the support staff, who are supposed to sensitise the beneficiaries, do not have any facilitation. They even fear reaching out to these communities because the communities become wild, and this is hindering the running of the programme. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

4.40

MS FLAVIA NABAGABE (NUP, Woman Representative, Kassanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Kassanda District, I actually realised that most of the SACCOs have not yet received funds. Although the district claims to have received the money – we spoke to some district technocrats and they said they sent it - the SACCOs' records reflect there is no money on their bank accounts.

I think this is something we need to take into consideration and see that funds are disbursed as soon as possible.

I also realised, according to some of the SACCOs that we spoke with, that there is an element of non-inclusivity and bipartisanship within the SACCOs and how they are recruiting some of the members that are recipients of the funds.

Most of these SACCOs are occupied by NRM cadres. We do not know whether the Parish Development Model was brought up to only cater for NRM cadres because, they say, this is

their money and so, they are occupying every seat and they want all the funds for themselves. My recommendation is that the NRM party should not hijack the Parish Development Model because this is supposed to benefit everyone.

Finally, we also realised that there is lack of coordination regarding agricultural inputs for most of our farmers in the SACCOs. These were promised, but farmers do not have the right information.

Our recommendation is that information should be well coordinated. Who disperses information to these SACCOs? Who is in charge of giving them seeds and agricultural inputs that they need? The rainy season is here, but farmers have received nothing. These are some of the submissions and reports that I got from Kassanda District. Thank you very much.

4.42

MR DAVID SSERUKENYA (NUP, Mak-indye-Ssabagabo Municipality, Wakiso): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I want to appreciate the Government for coming up with this programme. However, I have three recommendations:

1. We need to come up with a monitoring and evaluation programme so that we can monitor this money. You cannot succeed with such a huge sum of money without monitoring and evaluation. So, we need to come up with some funding for that.
2. We have to come up with a Ward Development Model because we have very many people in the cities compared to villages. I will give you an example: in my constituency, I have a parish called Masajja Parish that has 150,000 people. If you are giving them Shs 100 million, this is very little money.

Therefore, we better leave the Parish Development Model for villages and come up with a Ward Developmental Model for the cities.

3. Lastly, I want to recommend that we skill the beneficiaries because we are targeting the most needy. These are people who know nothing; they cannot do any business and will just “eat” the money. Therefore, it is better we first skill them before we give them the money. Thank you very much.

4.44

MS AISHA KABANDA (NUP, Woman Representative, Butambala): Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is a disconnect between the Electoral Commission and Local Government. In 2019, new parishes were created and they became electoral areas and councillors were elected for those areas. However, while allocating money, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, together with the Ministry of Local Government, did not consider these parishes.

In my district, two parishes were created: Kakubo and Kamugombwa and they were left out. The old parish is saying they are not going to share with them because they are not part of them. Letters have been written and the Minister of Local Government is saying they have never gazetted those parishes and they do not know them. This disconnect between the Electoral Commission and the Minister of Local Government is causing a problem.

Secondly, the guideline that says that SACCO leaders should not get money is also self defeating. In all fairness, people who manage funds should also be given an opportunity to benefit; they are part of them. Guidelines have been released that they will not benefit or they will be the last to receive funds. They have lost morale to manage their own colleagues because of this. I beg that those issues be addressed. Thank you.

4.45

MS SANTA OKOT (PPP, Aruu North County, Pader): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The Parish Development Model is very good on paper, but delays will make people lose interest in it. Even if the Acholi Parliamentary Group has not laid their report on the Table, I have heard that individual

SACCO members are being told to open up accounts in banks. How many accounts shall we open in those banks? For example, if a local person opens an account in the bank and has borrowed maybe Shs 200,000 for maize seeds, and maize takes about three to four months to mature before the person starts getting money to service their loans, how many accounts will be closed? We need to streamline these issues.

The second issue that I want to report on is in line with what Hon. Aisha Kabanda reported. Two parishes in my constituency have not been included in the second batch of the purported Shs 25 million, which was sent to the account. These are Gorokon Parish and Omeda Parish in Aruu North Constituency. I wanted it to be on record because I already told the Minister of Local Government about this issue. These parishes have already been created and in the case of Omeda and Gorokon, they even registered with the cooperative society and they have the certificate.

Therefore, we do not know why they were left out of the Shs 25 million which was sent to the accounts. I personally sent three groups to check on their bank accounts. They went to the bank and the bank stopped them from checking the account, meaning that the money is not there. Everybody is saying the money is not there because I tasked our Chief Administrative Officer –*(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let *Mama* conclude.

MS SANTA OKOT: I want to conclude that on Women’s Day, I tasked the Chief Administrative Officer to give the women proof that that money is on the account. The CAO was tactful and said, “I am not a signatory to those accounts. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development sends money straight to the parish SACCOs.” He could not give us an update. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed Hon. Santa Okot an extra minute because she is the Chief Whip of the People’s Progressive Party. *(Laughter)*

4.48

MR MILTON MUWUMA (NRM, Kigulu County South, Iganga): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity. The discrepancies in disbursed amounts to different parishes is a key observation across all parishes in the country. I have a parish that got Shs 17 million, another got Shs 25 million and another one has got Shs 45 million, but we were flagging them off at the same time. When rating them, how will their performance be rated? These are issues that we want the minister to address.

Regarding facilitation and budgets for parish chiefs, these have been kept aside yet we are asking them to monitor what they have not been involved in. We appeal to the minister to look for something to facilitate the movement of the parish chiefs.

The issue of the ever-changing guidelines - Every morning, there are different guidelines for this programme and at midday, different guidelines come up. We may end up losing out totally if this is not addressed.

Finally, Mr Speaker, is the issue of the same beneficiaries in all Government programmes. Those that benefited from *Bonna Baggawale* are the ones benefiting from *Emyooga* and they are the same people in the PDM hence, we are not addressing what this programme envisaged. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I am picking another round. Let us use two minutes.

4.50

MS LAURA KANUSHU (NRM, PWD Representative): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My concern about the Parish Development Model is on the 10 per cent that is designated for persons with disabilities at every parish. We had a number of them in Kyankwanzi to consult on the Parish Development Model as well as other things and the problem has been exclusivity.

Mr Speaker, our understanding was that persons with disabilities in a particular parish would be allowed to constitute themselves into

a SACCO to be able to get their 10 per cent. For example, if Shs 500 million is going to a parish, 10 per cent of that money should go to persons with disabilities.

To our disappointment, as Members of Parliament representing people with disabilities, they have been refused to come up with their own SACCOs and are being told to join the other SACCOs. As Members of Parliament, how do we then monitor that the 10 per cent designated for persons with disabilities is actually being utilised by them?

We would like the minister to come out clearly and tell us whether the 10 per cent was a lie to persons with disabilities. Otherwise, they are not getting it. They are being told, "Go and join other groups". These are the most vulnerable people in the whole country - (*Interruption*)

MS AISHA KABANDA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. If you recommend that 10 per cent in a parish be given to the disabled persons in that parish - and that was a recommendation by the ministry - you presuppose that if Shs 500 million is given to a parish, 10 per cent goes to the disabled people. You may find a parish with one disabled person; so, do you suggest - (*Interjections*) - Can I pose my question? Do you suppose that the Shs 50 million would benefit that one person in that parish?

MS KANUSHU: Hon. Kabanda, first of all, there can never be one person with a disability in a parish since there is a whole executive. The leadership of persons with disabilities is from the village and there are at least five or six members.

When we went to monitor, they did not tell us that they had only found one person with a disability. The comment was, we have been refused to come up with our own SACCOs as persons with disabilities. Therefore, how do we access the 10 per cent?

Mr Speaker, there is a leadership structure of persons with disabilities at every level in this country, including the parish. So, it cannot be one person at a parish.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, this is very easy. What Hon. Aisha and Hon. Kanushu raised are for information purposes; for the minister to go and study further and find out whether there are parishes that have not formed SACCOs or where disabled persons are not benefiting.

As representatives, I think we would have done our part - For example, in a certain area, you may have disabled people who do not qualify for the PDM money since there are other qualifications needed to get that money. Both Members have valid arguments, but it is now the minister in charge to take the information and come back with very clear solutions.

The colleagues that I had picked – [*Member rose*] - Which part of your body is disabled? (*Laughter*)

4.55

MR BONIFACE OKOT (NRM, Youth Representative, Northern): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to start by stating that empowered youth are a very strategic resource for development. I have four core concerns.

One is that young people need clarity from the minister as to whether the 30 per cent that had been proposed in the implementation guidelines is for membership or funding. Just like the PWDs, many young people have been told they cannot form their SACCOs, but should instead join the other SACCOs.

My second point is on the timing of the interventions. The young people have been clear that this is an agricultural financing model and therefore, it must be cognisant of the planting seasons. In the past, we have had programmes where inputs or support is delivered at the wrong time and we waste a lot of taxpayers' money.

My third point is on inclusion of the youth in the guidelines. It is stated that the parish youth council chairperson will be part of the committee, but we have noted, Mr Speaker - (*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Conclude, because the youth are a huge constituency.

MR BONIFACE OKOT: *Asante* for the support, Mr Speaker. The young people are unhappy that in some areas, there has been nepotism and the elected youth parish chairpersons have been relegated or excluded from the guidelines yet they are supposed to be part of the committee. They want to deliberately and meaningfully be included in the SACCO leadership, if there is a quota for them.

My final point is on information. There is a lot of contradictory information about the Parish Development Model. Our prayer is that they harmonise these guidelines, but also that the guidelines be translated in the local languages because the majority of the people that we are attending to are illiterate. We need these guidelines to be simplified to them in the local languages. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Naigaga, hold on a little. Youth MPs are few; so, let them supplement what their colleague has said and we know that the youth are sorted.

4.58

MS AGNES KIRABO (NRM, Youth Representative, Central): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This PDM programme is very good for the young people, but this policy of dispersing money on individual accounts is not right. I thought what we agreed and passed was to wire money on group accounts for groups that have planned projects of implementation and not individual accounts.

These funds are exposed to the risk of complicated accountability or even failure to account for the money. Otherwise, we are going to make a total loss of this money, if they do not revise that policy. Thank you.

4.59

MS PHIONA NYAMUTORO (NRM, Youth Representative, Female): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to add a voice of emphasis on access of the PDM funds by young people in the country. The ministry had clearly ga-

zeted 30 per cent of the PDM funds for the youth, but there is a variation that on the parish committee, there is a select position of secretary for youth yet there is no representation on the SACCO leadership. Moreover, the SACCO is where the money goes. That is the biggest challenge; that young people cannot access the money from the SACCO.

Most importantly, Mr Speaker, we have faced lots of challenges from revolving funds such as these right from the times of the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) because of lack of capacity building. Our question is, when does the ministry intend to build the capacity of these young people before they can access the fund? Without financial discipline, we are worried that this money will go to waste.

We also request that since the amount is 30 per cent, it would be very important if the ministry could have guidelines for the young people to follow so that their groups are exact on what enterprises they can set up and how best they can benefit. Thank you. (*Applause*)

5.00

MR BERNARD ODOI (NRM, Youth Representative, Eastern): Thank you, Mr Speaker. One of the challenges that our people are facing is actually determination of the “poor among the poor”. Aware that most of our communities are generally poor, it is a huge problem that the leaders of SACCOs in our places have not determined who is “poor among the poor”. This leaves so many of our young people isolated from this project that would otherwise be beneficial to them. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Naigaga?

5.01

MS MARIAM NAIGAGA (NRM, Woman Representative, Namutumba): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have two issues to raise to the minister. One is the lack of staff in strategic positions at the lower local governments. As we speak, some parishes in some districts do not have parish chiefs, some subcounties do

not have agricultural extension workers and community development officers yet, as per the presidential directive, we did not have to beg the Ministry of Public Service to have these strategic positions filled.

I want to re-echo the issue of inequalities and inconsistencies in the release of funds. Mr Speaker, we received funds in two batches; the first batch was from the Ministry of Local Government, the mother ministry of the lower local governments. It is quite unfortunate that it released less money and as Namutumba District, out of the 111 parishes, only 53 received the first batch of Shs 17 million and the second batch from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was cross-cutting and it was very clear; each parish got Shs 25 million.

We want the Minister of Local Government to clarify this because they are the custodians and the mother of the lower local governments. I beg to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Sharts, Hon. Katenya and Hon. Amede.

5.03

MSSHARTSIMUSHERURE (Independent, Mawogoola North County, Ssembabule): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The challenges of the PDM are immense and just like *Emyooga*, we will continue to have challenges, but I wanted to inform you that Ssembabule District, and in particular my constituency of Mawogoola North, has 117 beneficiaries from three parishes. By the end of this week, beneficiaries from 65 parishes, which make up Ssembabule District, will have received their money.

As we vouch for community mobilisation, information and mindset change, there are good stories to tell. I am following up as the Member of Parliament, knowing that this is part of my role of oversight and I just want to emphasise that this is a Government programme which must work.

For those who are keen, just like *Emyooga*, I have good stories to tell. People have returned

funds and *Emyooga* is working. The PDM can also work, but we have a lot of work to do. However, there is a good story from Ssembabule. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

5.04

MR ISAAC KATENYA (Independent, Bulambuli County, Bulambuli): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am rising on two issues, especially on the first and second pillars. I wanted to ask the Minister of Local Government regarding the first pillar on production, storage, processing and marketing and the second pillar on infrastructure development and economic services.

Mr Speaker, some people will soon start producing crops from their gardens and other areas, but we do not have preparations for storage and the money, which has been provided, does not cater for food storage facilities.

On the issue of infrastructure development, after the disasters in the Elgon zone, we are facing problems of roads, especially feeder roads in parishes and subcounties. The money you provide is very little and people keep on asking us about the bad roads and yet the PDM programme provided for this infrastructure. When will you provide these funds and how much money did you budget in this Financial Year 2023/2024 for the development of infrastructure under the PDM so that we can be in position to tell our people? We have questions that we cannot answer.

Moreover when changing guidelines for the PDM, you do not inform us, as Members of Parliament. We go to the radios and people call us, but we do not have answers to some of the questions we normally face from the public.

Mr Speaker, I think the Minister of Local Government should be in position to make clarification on these three issues. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Okiror and then Hon. Lematia.

5.06

MR BOSCO OKIROR (NRM, Usuk County, Katakwi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have two observations to make. I associate myself with the able submissions of colleagues, but specifically from Katakwi, there is a challenge that can only be resolved by the Minister of Local Government. We have the funds, which have been sent to SACCO accounts, but the stakeholder training in respect of the Parish Development Model management information system and the financial inclusion system has not been done. The Ministry of Local Government has not trained the various stakeholders in the district. We cannot access or transfer any money until members have been trained in those two systems. This has incapacitated access to these resources.

All this speaks to one thing: the purpose for which we are having the PDM is to boost our agriculture sector, and the planting season is coming and it is moving at a very terrific speed. The rains are falling, but we are not sending staff to go and train people to access the money. You will give this money during the dry season and it will be used for solving other issues and not the intention of the PDM. At the end of the day, we are working in futility.

This brings me to my second point. I think it was an error for us, as the Parliament of Uganda, to allow the issue of seeds to be removed from – They used to give to Members of Parliament seeds to give to the constituency and they used to be delivered timely. We were guided that this money is going to be put in the PDM; so, when are we getting this money because this is the planting season? We are only creating havoc and contributing to famine in our own country because of our delays. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Lematia?

5.08

MS RUTH LEMATIA (NRM, Maracha East County, Maracha): Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I want to speak on the discrepancy in disbursing

this money. In Maracha, when Shs 7 million was given out, 15 parishes missed and when Shs 25 million was given, three parishes missed. I do not know when that is going to be corrected.

In addition, the money which has arrived there – Last week, when I asked my people whether they are using the money, I was told that people are not very familiar with the use of this money. They have only given funds to a few SACCOs to see whether it will work well. I think this is because training on how to use this money was not thoroughly done. Thank you very much.

5.09

MS STELLA ATYANG (NRM, Woman Representative, Moroto): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also associate myself with my colleagues. The Parish Development Model was supposed to reach the community by last year, but it is two years down the road and it has not yet started. Out of the Shs 100 million that was supposed to have been taken to the community, only Shs 17 million has surfaced on the groups' accounts in my district.

There was Shs 25 million, which was circulating and it was said to have been released and put on the groups' accounts, but that Shs 25 million has not yet reached the groups' accounts. I wonder what has happened to it.

Mr Speaker, what is also affecting us is non-allocation of funds to cater for the preparation of these groups. There is no money to facilitate mobilisation of groups by the respective office that is concerned at the district; that is the commercial office and that office is too understaffed to cater for the whole district. There is need to recruit more staff to help in terms of preparation as well as mobilising and monitoring of these groups.

Mr Speaker, the delay in the implementation of the Parish Development Model is as a result of changing guidelines. The concerned district officials have failed to do their work well because of the changing guidelines. They have been instructed to hold on and they cannot do anything without instruction from the respective –(Member timed out.)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, earlier on, I told you that we had not received the report from Acholi sub-region. The Chairman of the Acholi Parliamentary Group has submitted the report to the Clerk and we can use this opportunity to also lay it on the Table so that it forms part of reports. It was the only sub-region, which had not yet finished.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF SUB-REGIONAL OVERSIGHT REPORTS ON THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Northern (Acholi Subregion)

5.12

MR ANTHONY AKOL (FDC, Kilak North County, Amuru): Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. Allow me to submit the report on the Parish Development Model by the Acholi Parliamentary Group. I beg to lay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR AKOL: I also kindly request you to give me time.

5.12

MR SAMUEL OKWIR (NRM, Moroto County, Alebtong): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank you for giving me this chance. The Parish Development Model was an idea very well thought out. However, I have two or three issues to raise.

First, everybody is commenting about the change in the guidelines. By now, all parishes should have received about Shs 200 million. However, we are talking of Shs 37 million while others are talking of Shs 25 million. Could this be a delaying tactic? Moreover the guidelines are being changed time and again. Is it because we do not have the money?

Secondly, some parish chiefs who are supposed to handle these people are not receiving their salaries and some have spent three to four months without a salary. This brings the issue of extortion that we are hearing on the ground because somebody leaves their home

on an empty stomach to go and work yet in the evening, they have to present something for the family.

The third issue is that we are pumping a lot of money on this Parish Development Model and some of the key infrastructure is being left out, especially the roads. I do not know what we are going to use to carry the big output that we shall get from this Parish Development Model if we do not have infrastructure like roads to take produce to the markets. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will start with those who were here as we started plenary – Now some have started complaining. (*Laughter*) I can see that most of you were not here and the ones who were not here are the ones saying, “Yes.” I will pick the Member for Ibanda and then the Member for Vurra – Everyone who has spoken today, first take your seat.

After the Member for Vurra, I will pick Dr Kugonza, the Member for Ntungamo, Hon. Oseku, Hon. Aleper, Hon. Katalihwa, UWOPA chairperson – Oh, UWOPA has spoken. So, I will pick Hon. Balmoyi, Hon. Otimgiw, Hon. Ogwal, the Member for Mbarara, the Member for Rukiga and then I will come back.

Honourable colleagues, I am going to give you time.

5.17

MS JANE BAINOMUGISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Ibanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Parish Development Model can transform this country in terms of development. However, I would like to emphasise the need for monitoring and routine sensitisation of the beneficiaries of these SACCOs.

In my constituency, most SACCOs received the money, but there is a challenge of accessibility of these funds. We need to know when we are taking off to use this money.

The second issue is that the objective of this Parish Development Model is to benefit the poorest persons in the constituency. However, you realise that the banks are using only

one language. I request the ministry to put up guidelines so that these banks can use a friendly language, especially for the local people. They need a language that they can understand, especially when applying for these funds. I beg to submit.

5.18

MR YOVAN ADRIKO (NRM, Vurra County, Arua): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Vurra Constituency, we have 32 SACCOs. Out of those, 11 groups received their money. However, what I have seen on the ground is that the money never reached the true beneficiaries. They opened accounts, but when they go and check their accounts, they find that there is no money. What is the problem? If the money is there, why is it that when they go, they do not get it? This means there is something going on or maybe they have embezzled the money and are trying to dodge the beneficiaries.

I request the Minister of Local Government to be serious, particularly with the local governments because I have seen a challenge there. At the Central Government, we have tried our best to send money to the local governments, but those people are using tricks to embezzle this money. People are not benefiting from this programme. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.20

MS ZUMURA MANENO (NRM, Woman Representative, Obongi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Obongi District, we have 28 parishes meaning that we have 28 SACCOs that are supposed to benefit from the Parish Development Model funds. Funds are being given to the parishes, but the beneficiaries are not accessing these funds. I wonder why. We need to do something so that the beneficiaries are in position to access their funds.

Secondly, everyone in this House knows the amount of money that a parish chief gets as a salary. They do not have gadgets, transport and computers for keeping the data of the Parish Development Model. I request that the ministry provides computers and transport for the parish

chiefs for easy mobilisation of members and keeping the data of the Parish Development Model.

We also need capacity building for the parish chiefs instead of the heads of departments being trained on the Parish Development Model because it is the parish chiefs who are in touch with the communities. They should be trained and given capacity to empower the communities with whatever knowledge they get from that training.

Lastly, in Obongi, the Parish Development Model has not yet been activated. Now that the President is moving around talking about wealth creation, the technocrats are running up and down; they want to disperse the funds without training the beneficiaries. If these funds are given to the beneficiaries without them receiving the training, it is going to be the same story as that of *Emyooga* and the Youth Livelihood Programmes. Thank you so much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, allow me to make a general observation, which will help me in managing the House. This House is cosmopolitan, but people from the same region like sitting together. You want me to pick you yet you are from one region. We need to get ideas from the whole country. No, it is a general observation. You find Ankole seated together, Lango seated together and West Nile seated together. I have three MPs from West Nile seated together over there, I have three MPs from Ankole seated together - Allow me to advise you. I am advising you on why I will keep on skipping you.

I cannot pick three people who are seated together and are from the same region as if there are no people on the other side. So, colleagues, learn to distribute yourselves, mingle and be friends with people from other regions. Move around and mix, and not with the same agenda - you know. Do not be like Hon. Sarah Opendi who only sits with people from Rwenzori and yet she is from there. *(Laughter)* Let us move on to Hon. Emely Kugonza and Hon. Balmoyi.

5.23

DR EMELY KUGONZA (NRM, Buyanja East County, Kibale): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In Kibaale District, Buyanja East County, which I represent in this august House, we received the PDM funds. When we went there for assessment, the beneficiaries had not yet received the done so. However, this weekend, the first disbursement came and the people are very excited.

I would like to mention a few things about the Parish Development Model. The anchor of the PDM is actually the SACCOs; SACCOs are globally known to be member-formed, member-managed and member-used financial institutions. That gives the members who started them the power to run them.

What is happening right now is that the Government is actually empowering the communities. We must also realise that we are dealing with a very sensitive group; people that have not been in the money economy. These people have had fears about money and the bureaucracy that we have subjected them to has denied them access to the programme. They have developed even a greater fear for money.

In addition, in many cases, we are dealing with people who are illiterate yet all the forms that they get from the banks are in English; a language they do not understand. They are even asking us, the Members of Parliament, whether they will not be taken to jail after some time. These are some of the things that we need to address.

The implementing agency must come up with a programme that empowers SACCOs to work. That is why they are getting certificates from the Ministry of Trade, as per the SACCO Act, to be able to operate - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon. Balmoyi.

5.25

MS SHARON LAKER (NRM, Woman Representative, Gulu): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Gulu District has 47 parishes and so far, two parishes of Bungatira and Paicho have been enrolled to partake of the Parish Development Model funds. However, as I speak, Paicho only got Shs 25 million out of what they should have gotten.

About three weeks ago, the President was in Gulu visiting the Acholi subregion. He was calling the *wanainchi* to come and testify about the Parish Development Model. They said that money was being extorted from them by the commercial officers and other technical people.

This weekend, the State House Anti-Corruption team was in Gulu and they arrested the commercial officer of Gulu City. What the technical people are saying is that the ministry did not provide funds for the parish chiefs and commercial officers to move around, sensitise the people and carry out their other activities. That is the reason they were extorting money from members; Shs 5000, Shs 20,000 and so forth. If they do not go to the communities, they will be faulted for failure to perform their duties.

I would like the Ministry of Local Government to go back to the drawing board and restructure or craft a better method of how PDM can succeed otherwise, this is already looking like a failed project.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Clerk, are we still within the two minutes each? I doubt it. I am noting Members who speak and walk out after submitting. Next time, I will not pick you; you will stand up several times and I will just keep quiet because you want to speak and go. We are not here to just go on the *Hansard*; we are here to deliberate on serious issues and you can only deliberate well if you listen and learn from others. I have noted some of you. I had picked you, Hon. Aleper.

5.28

MR MOSES ALEPER (NRM, Chekwii County (Kadam), Nakapiripirit): Thank you, Mr Speaker. My first issue is on false reporting

by the Centre. The money that was supposed to have been released around February this year actually landed in the accounts just last week. This type of reporting actually is misleading the masses.

We go with the understanding that the money has gone to the districts and we go and start witch-hunting people at district level. This should stop. This actually is very characteristic of the money that is supposed to go for similar programmes in the country.

Secondly, in my district of Nakapiripirit, no parish received the money. Therefore, even the community facilitators from the commercial office did not carry out any training. They are just starting to train people now. The next disbursement of money will surely arrive very late and I am sure that nothing much will be done.

The SACCOs for the Parish Development Model were supposed to operate in such a way that one programme feeds into another. The seeds should have been there so that the crop is harvested and the enterprises that should have gotten the money to buy the products would have done exactly that. There is, however, a disruption that is going to affect the implementation and success of this programme.

I also want to bring it to the attention of the country that we should not just live on false hope. This year, this programme will not meet our expectations. I think we have to be realistic and face the truth squarely. I bid to submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, I am afraid we have reduced the whole parish model to one pillar. Even when you look at the reports, questions or comments, we have reduced it to only a pillar of financial inclusion; saying, "Where is the money?" Ugandans and their love for money *-(Laughter)-* But there are other pillars.

I am interested in hearing someone tracing beyond - and Hon. Apea has gone beyond. I am interested in us looking at other pillars and tracing their performance so that even in the budget, we can ask, how are we reporting?

Maybe you want us to have another session where we discuss the parish model minus the financial inclusion pillar.

Let us not make our work very easy. We have Hon. Agnes Apea and you can take advantage of her. Honourable member, stand up, I want Members to recognise you. She is among the people who designed this programme before becoming a Member of Parliament *-(Applause)* - She has played a very critical role. I am telling you so that you take advantage of a colleague in the House.

Honourable colleagues, let us not discuss the PDM in a light manner. We discussed the Budget Framework Paper; so, where are the other pillars in the paper? They have submitted ministerial policy statements. Where are the pillars?

The Leader of the Opposition submitted an alternative budget proposal. Where are all the pillars of the Parish Development Model? Only then will we have a more structured debate. Otherwise, when we talk about issues like, "We have not received money," everyone will fit into the debate.

We are not here for purposes of just fitting into the debate. Let us make serious recommendations for the Executive to go and consider. I just wanted to give that guidance.

5.33

MS JOSYLINE KAMATENETI (NRM, Woman Representative, Ntungamo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As a country, we have a lot of hope in the Parish Development Model. However, we have not considered Government organisations like NARO and NAGRC&DB, which are responsible for breeding.

This Parish Development Model is based on a four-acre model where you find half an acre for coffee, another half for poultry and piggy projects - However, when people get money, they get piglets or chicks, which are not of good quality.

As Parliament, we should put our priorities right by supporting the Ministry of Agricul-

ture, Animal Industry and Fisheries because NARO and NAGRC&DB all fall under agriculture. Let us task them to train our farmers and provide them with quality breeds such that we get quality output since in agriculture, we have three steps: input, production and output.

Two, we need to work hard as leaders. We should be the torchbearers, we must look for markets, we must encourage people to form unions, and we should register people according to their production lines. If you have 10 or 40 parishes in your constituency, first find out how many people are doing piggy or poultry projects such that we help them by, maybe, getting quality drugs because people buy fake drugs. You find that with all the money you have given them, they have bought fake drugs and all the chicks are dead. Therefore, as leaders, we really need to work very hard to support our people.

Lastly, exclusion of LC1 chairpersons *-(Member timed out.)*

5.35

MR RICHARD OSEKU (NRM, Kibale County, Pallisa): Mr Speaker, there is a problem to do with how the implementation of the Parish Development Model is going on. Just like you have mentioned, there are several pillars that are supposed to feed into each other so as to realise success in this programme.

However, Government's approach was to introduce the issue of financial inclusion. The target people are the poor. They needed a mind-set change before they could get into implementation or accessing this money. That is one of the biggest problems we have and we need to emphasise the issue of mind-set change.

Secondly, if the parish is the administrative unit where we implement this programme, the Ministry of Local Government must put its books right. Like it has been said, very many parishes are still missing; they are not captured. They have prepared their groups, but they are not going to get the money. Therefore, we need to hear from the minister on what they are going to do about these parishes.

In Pallisa, for example, we have a total of nine parishes that are not included. In Agule there are two; Ariet and Kachinga. In Kibaale - I have been to the minister's office for three years, but they have failed to correct this problem. One subcounty has only one parish yet they subdivided it into four parishes. They have a council, but the ministry has failed to address this problem.

The other thing is that we are crying about money in this country. The Government claims to have sent – (*Member timed out.*)

5.38

MS CAROLINE KAMUSIIME (NRM, Woman Representative, Rukiga): Thank you, Mr Speaker. The PDM is a good programme meant to help the poor, but the biggest challenge we have, especially in Rukiga, is that it was a rushed programme. People were not given enough time to study it and understand. When you go to the hard-to-reach areas, some people do not even know about the Parish Development Model.

Again, I will go to the issue of facilitation, especially of parish chiefs. They were not given funds to move around yet these are the people who reach our local people. They were neither given time nor funds. I am requesting that in future, such an important programme should be given ample time so our people can understand and benefit from it. Otherwise, as I moved through Rukiga, I noticed that majority never benefited because they were not sensitised.

The other issue is that in Rukiga, only 13 parishes have received funds and 17 are still lacking. Now that the minister is here, I would like to know when all these parishes are going to receive the money. Thank you.

5.39

MR MOSES OGWAL (NRM, Dokolo North County, Dokolo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I associate myself with the presentation of Lango, but there are a few areas that I would like to add. In our observations, the elders had a challenge because of the environment of the SACCO. They are taken up very fast. If you have defaulted, you have a big challenge.

The elders gave us information that they are not ready to go for a rushed process; they need to be taken in a different way. We should have some incentives, far more and above what we are providing, to bring the elders and the disabled on board.

The other issue we noted was that we need to have the youth and women on board, as we agreed. More importantly, we noted that if you are supposed to give somebody money, you must give it to them if the only problem is money. However, if the problem is money and other things, then you have a problem.

Therefore, we need to restructure ourselves in such a way that all those issues are cleared. That is why I would say, one, for agriculture to be promoted, you must look at breeds, skills and the market. That means you need to involve other stakeholders, especially the bigger private sector, to support.

If it is a market then you have to arrange - how many enterprises are you going to have? You need a few so that you combine most of the items.

As Dokolo District, we are preparing a solution paper with - (*Member timed out.*)

5.41

MS MARGARET AYEBARE (NRM, Woman Representative, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. All of us are rotating around money or financial inclusion because all the things require money. Mindset change, mobilisation - almost all pillars involve money.

Mbarara District has 43 parishes and almost all of them have received money save for one parish of Nyamiriro where my brother Hon. Basil comes from.

However, no one has accessed that money. One reason is that people have been told to open individual accounts. People have been calling me - some of us represent rural areas. Mbarara District is a rural area and people are told to go to Mbarara City where the banks are, to open accounts.

Some of these women do not have transport to travel, they do not even know how to read English to open the accounts. May I know whether these people can be allowed to open accounts in SACCOs that are everywhere? There are able SACCOs like Rwanyamahembe SACCO, Rubindi Farmers' SACCO which are near my people. I am asking the minister, kindly, let me know whether people can open accounts in SACCOs that are near them.

5.42

MR DONALD KATALIHWA (NRM, Mwenge County South, Kyenjojo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have three areas of concern. One of them, which is very serious, involves the dragging processes of the PDM. The energy that the PDM started with raised a lot of anxiety. However, I would not be lying to you if I said that people are getting disappointed these days. The energy was too high, anxiety was high, but nothing is coming out. People walked distances and had several meetings for over a year, but up to now, they have not received money.

Mr Speaker, can we have your guidance on this? When should we have a deadline to have all districts or all ready groups receive money on their accounts rather than keeping on with this dragging process?

The second issue is capacity building. Many Members here are talking about capacity building. My question is, how special is the PDM money that people have to be trained for over a year to manage Shs 1 million? Why should we assume that people cannot manage Shs 1 million to do agricultural production in their farms? Why can't we give people money to start their work? The planting season is passing, but they are not cultivated because they have to be trained on how to buy seedlings.

The last issue is information flow to our people regarding the PDM and previous programmes. We used to have coffee coming from UCDA, seedlings from NAADS and so on. However, today, all these are not being provided. We have questions from our communities; where is coffee? Where are the seeds? If you tell them

that all the money has gone to the PDM, they may think you are politicking. Can we have clear information for –(*Member timed out.*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

5.45

MR ISAAC OTIMGIW (NRM, Padyere County, Nebbi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Last time when you dispatched us to the constituencies for the PDM, we were supposed to receive the disbursements that had been sent to our districts. They were supposed to be put in our pigeonholes, but that was not availed by the relevant ministry.

Therefore, we went to the district without knowing what the amount was. To date, they have not availed us with how much money has been given to each district regarding the PDM. This makes it hard for us to do oversight.

Mr Speaker, whenever we come up with a project to uplift the livelihoods of our people, we come up with a blanket perspective. However, sometimes we need to look at the UBOS statistics. Yes, we talk of 39 per cent. For example, in West Nile, over 80 per cent of people fall below the 39 per cent. However, there are other districts where the number is less and they are receiving the same amount. Where is the equity in this aspect? Those are some of the things we need to look at.

Another aspect we found is that there is no sensitisation. Most of these people do not even know how or where they are supposed to start their repayment plan from. Are they supposed to take the money to the district? Are they supposed to take it to the parish? That issue has not been addressed.

In addition, the training is now done in reverse. We were supposed to have started with training. However, now the money is in the accounts, though not accessed. That is when they are doing training. I propose that we do things better next time.

With this, I move a motion that we end this debate. (*Laughter*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 77 does not allow me to debate, but I have a representative who debates on my behalf - she is the one who went through my constituency; so, please, welcome the Woman MP, Mitooma. *(Laughter)*

5.46

MS JULIET BASHIISHA (NRM, Woman Representative, Mitooma): Mr Speaker, I wish to report that by the time I did my oversight visit, Mitooma District had not received funds; it was among those districts that were missing. For that matter, some of the parishes, as my sister Hon. Kabanda has said, Bukiriro - I am forgetting another one from the Deputy Speaker's constituency. They were not considered because they were newly created.

Secondly, when we were ushering in the PDM, we were convinced that one of the pillars would be complete mind-set change. However, to my surprise, people still believe in dependence rather than productivity. The moment a Member of Parliament tries to visit a home to help them with knowledge, when you leave without giving something, they are on to you. We have a challenge; the moment you send us out, they know you are sending us with money. Even the leaders at the district are waiting. You call them for a discussion and they want you to give them transport and lunch.

I visited an office in the district and when I went to the production office, he sent me to the commercial office, and then all the councillors were following me because they see us as their messiah and they needed to have lunch that day.

I request that we have a secretariat at the district because when you go there, you find they are all uninformed about what is taking place. I request that as you have a secretariat at the national level, let there be a secretariat at the district.

Lastly, there is a problem of coordination at the parish level. Most of the parishes are actually briefcase parishes, including my own. They do not have offices, land and even the old parishes have run down headquarters. Therefore, you

cannot even follow up the parish chief because they do not have addresses.

I request that as you do whatever you do, make sure that the parishes have headquarters. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable colleagues, the issue of money and perceptions is an issue which will not go away; you are an MP in every aspect. That is why when you stand, even before being nominated, when you just announce that you are standing, they start calling you "honourable" because at that time, you have money. So, you are an MP meaning "Money Person". *(Laughter)*

When you get elected, to the people that you had running around and calling for meetings and yet you were not giving them money, you remain an MP - "Mean Person". *(Laughter)* After spending everything and you lose an election, you still remain an MP - "Miserable Person". *(Laughter)* So, whichever way, you are an MP. *(Laughter)* Therefore, remain MPs and be strong.

We allowed leaders to submit their views and we considered that they had spoken, which is wrong. Let us just do a very quick round and I will start with Karamoja. Honourable member, we are not speaking in terms of districts, but subregions and you clapped when Rwenzori represented you. *(Laughter)* However, I will allow you to speak for Tororo.

5.51

MR JOHN BOSCO NGOYA (NRM, Bokora County, Napak): Thank you, Mr Speaker. In the case of Karamoja, out of the 493 gazetted parishes across the subregion, only 393 were reported to have received funds on their accounts. Most of the districts have already done training, formed SACCOs and registered them under the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS). Unfortunately, they are still waiting for the money.

Again, we are talking about this region that is famous for the wrong reasons; iron sheets and goats. So, the PDM becomes a timely thing and everybody is actually yearning for it.

While the PDM committees have generated plans as a result of the training they have had, the rollout has not been very easy because the money for administration, which is supposed to go to the parish chiefs, has not been forthcoming. This is why in Karamoja we are really yearning for this PDM fund to be released - as well as the iron sheets and goats to be returned.

The other bit that we learnt when we were having consultations in Napak was that the Parish Development Model committees decried the lack of guidelines or circulars to accompany releases of the money. The commercial officer indicated that they had written severally to the ministry to ensure that they give them a circular instructing them on how they should utilise the money and it had not yet come.

Of course, there are fears on how you can spend funds without getting instructions - *(Member timed out.)*

5.53

MR RICHARD GAFABUSA (NRM, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo): Thank you, Mr Speaker. We shall continue talking about money under PDM because out of the seven pillars of the PDM, only two pillars have been talked about i.e. Financial Inclusion and the Parish-Based Information Management System. We are not seeing anything on the rest: social services, governance, administration, etc.

A Member raised the issue of the ever-changing guidelines. In our region, especially my district, there are complaints that in addition to the changing guidelines, there are also different instructions coming from different sources. The Ministry of Local Government says this, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development says that and the Office of the Prime Minister says the other and they do not know who to follow. Can we come together, as Government, and agree on what to communicate and when?

A colleague has already raised the issue of parish chiefs not having addresses where

people can find them. They sit at the subcounty and some parishes are very far away from the subcounty headquarters so, it is not easy to follow them up.

On the issue of disbursements, Mr Speaker, as we talk, we have entered the last quarter of the financial year. Ideally, every parish should have received - *(Member timed out.)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us have Ankole and then Hon. Aol.

5.55

MR BASIL BATARINGAYA (NRM, Kashari North County, Mbarara): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am the Chairperson, Ankole Parliamentary Group. There are seven pillars, as we agreed here. However, today, we only have the Minister of Local Government, particularly - I think - because of the financial inclusion pillar. *(Interjections)* Yes, because the money is disbursed through his ministry -

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is the overall ministry in charge of coordination of the Parish Development Model.

MR BATARINGAYA: Yes. However, this money is destined, first of all, to the agricultural sector for production, storage, processing and marketing. This, to me, is not being addressed at all.

Secondly, production, storage and processing needs electricity, water and good roads to transport the produce. When is this going to be addressed if we only focus on disbursing money to the people?

Thirdly, how will our people access quality seeds, seedlings and breeds, especially those in hard-to-reach areas in the rural districts?

Lastly, parish chiefs do not have offices where to operate from, but - *(Member timed out.)*

5.58

MS BETTY AOL (FDC, Woman Representative, Gulu City): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I worked previously as a rural

development worker and when I saw the formation of groups for the Parish Development Model, I just concluded that this programme was dead on arrival.

You cannot ask somebody who lives very far away to come together with a person who is near yet they have not been interacting with each other. We rejected very many groups in the villages and parishes and recommended the formation of new groups that had to include people with disabilities, the elderly, the youth and the women. This was a failure already.

Secondly, you may recall that in the Financial Year 2021/2022, we budgeted for Shs 17 million per parish. In Gulu City, they received about Shs 4 million or Shs 3 million. Where has the Shs 12 million or Shs 13 million gone? This is very bad.

We found that some officers like the Resident City Commissioners and Resident District Commissioners also decided to put their hands in that money. We said here that these funds should be for the poor. We can only plan for administration – *(Member timed out.)*

6.00

MS ROSE OBIGAH (NRM, Woman Representative, Terego): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am one person who listens to instructions and I have sat amongst colleagues who are not from West Nile. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, I still have a parish that has not received the PDM money. Terego has parishes that have up to 20 villages. Honestly, we will be cheating the other parishes that have 20 villages. I have another parish that has only four villages. It would be good if the ones that have more villages are catered for. Terego has never benefited from redesigning of villages and parishes. We are still in colonial times, meaning there is no village in Terego that has less than 300 able-bodied people. That is the least.

That aside, Mr Speaker, my proposal is that the PDM be treated as a project with project managers so that we focus and give them

terms and conditions other than burdening the already overburdened social workers, from community development officers to subcounty chiefs. Honestly, there are other things that are supposed to be done in the district apart from the PDM.

Lastly, my people are asking when the seeds are coming. Terego does not get rain like here at the centre. I would be grateful to get feedback today on when the seeds will be delivered. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Honourable colleagues, wait a bit. Honourable minister, I need you to get all the reports because the issues that Members are raising here have been considered in the reports.

Honourable minister, I need you to get these reports with their observations and recommendations. Comb through them because most of the issues are cross-cutting and give us a written response on issues that are crosscutting. Those that are not crosscutting; those that are unique to areas should be highlighted as unique to those areas.

Honourable minister, I have given you one week; on Thursday next week, I will give you space on the Order Paper to submit the responses based on the recommendations and observations from the reports of subregions because I do not want colleagues to feel that you picked their reports, read them and laid them on the Table, but nothing was done.

I want you to comb through them thoroughly and on Thursday, we shall handle only two items: the Parish Development Model where we shall start with the statement that will be giving responses on the reports, and then the Prime Minister's Time. House adjourned to tomorrow at 2 o'clock.

(The House rose at 6.03 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 5 April 2023 at 2.00 p.m.)



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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In any correspondence on this subject, please quote No GD/13/23

14th March, 2023

Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among
The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda
KAMPALA



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Rt. Hon,

PRESENTING THE REPORT ON UGANDA'S STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BEFORE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

In September 2021, the Government of Uganda launched the SDG Roadmap 2021/2025 which operationalizes Uganda's SDG Institutional Coordination Framework and provides priority actions to catalyse the implementation of SDGs during the NDP III period. The framework coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister recognizes the contribution of Ministries, Departments and Agencies and non- state actors including the United Nations, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector and other development partners. The SDG Roadmap also outlines implementation structures, a timeframe for the roadmap implementation and resource mobilization strategy. It also provides reviewing, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms.

In accordance to the new SDG Roadmap, Parliament and Members of Parliament have a significant role to play in mobilizing and allocating resources, providing oversight in the implementation of the SDGs, and playing different other roles as champions, advocates, mobilisers, and ambassadors for the SDGs due to their proximity to people in their Constituencies

This year, the Office of the Prime Minister presented a Cabinet Memorandum CT (2022) 130 on the Implementation Status and Progress of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda to a Cabinet meeting held on 10th October 2022. The aim of the Cabinet Paper was to; apprise Cabinet on the progress on the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda, share the critical SDGs implementation challenges that have emerged during the implementation and coordination of SDGs and seek Cabinet approval of the measures to accelerate the attainment of SDG targets within the framework of our National Development Plan and Government's Last Mile Strategy - the Parish Development Model. The Cabinet meeting approved the proposed measures to accelerate the attainment of SDG targets within the framework of the NDP III as highlighted in the Action Extract from Minute No. 359 (CT 2022)

Preparations for the Country Progress on SDGs implementation commenced in 2020. The issues raised therein have been developed following country wide consultations and an analysis of trends and factors affecting SDG implementation. For instance, the SDG progress report 2021 and the



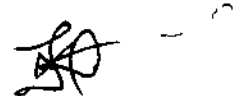
Voluntary National Review 2020 were developed through analysis of Government policies, programs and interventions. This analysis helped in identifying the gaps and recommendations for SDG implementation.

The issues were additionally developed following stakeholder consultations including the regional SDG dialogues where Local Government leaders were engaged and provided feedback on what Government needs to do to fast track SDG implementation. The regional SDG forums also provided an opportunity for the young people and children to raise key pertinent issues concerning their understanding and participation in the SDGs.

The National SDG conference of which you gave a key note address and the High-Level Political Forum further amplified the key concerns and issues affecting traction of SDGs. For instance, the issue of coordination monitoring and reporting on the African Union Agenda 2063 in both of the two events.

All these issues were further consulted on internally with the technical leadership and Top Management at the Office of the Prime Minister and externally with key Government Institutions (National Planning Authority, UBOS, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of ICT) that are core to the SDG Coordination framework.

The purpose of this communication, therefore, is to request you to present the Uganda's Progress in the Implementation Status of Sustainable Development Goals Report to Parliament for information.



Please receive assurances of my highest consideration.



Justine Kasule Lumumba - Rt.Hon.

**MINISTER FOR GENERAL DUTIES/FOCAL-POINT MINISTER FOR
SDGS, OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

Copy:

Rt. Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Rt. Hon Prime Minister of Uganda

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East Africa

Second Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government
Business in Parliament

Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio

Government Chief Whip

Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Head of Public Service/Secretary to Cabinet

Clerk to Parliament of Uganda

Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Senior Technical Adviser/ Head SDG Secretariat



**THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND PROGRESS
OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
AND THE 2030 AGENDA**

*(Parliament Paper by the Minister for General Duties/Focal -
Point Minister for the Sustainable Development Goals, Office
of the Prime Minister)*

March 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first.

The 17 SDGs, with a total of 169 targets and 232 indicators, recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The SDGs are unique in that they cover issues that affect us all. They reaffirm our international commitment to end poverty, permanently, everywhere. They involve us all to build a more sustainable, safer, more prosperous planet for all humanity.

Uganda recognized the importance of the SDGs' contribution to Uganda's social development and long-term development planning framework. Consequently, in 2016 the Government instituted a National Coordination Framework under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister that created an enabling environment for the state and non-state actors to achieve the implementation of the SDGs. In Uganda, the SDGs have been implemented under the five-year National Development Plans (NDP II 2015/16 - 2019/20 and NDP III 2020/21 - 2024/25) and in the long-term development agenda of Uganda Vision 2040.

The Office of the Prime Minister and other key stakeholders believe that with only seven (7) years remaining to the end of the 2030 Agenda, there is need for Parliament to be apprised on the SDG progress registered and share Cabinet approved recommendations to accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

This Parliament paper presents Uganda's progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda 2030. It also highlights achievements, challenges, and recommendations in the implementation of the new SDG roadmap, which is aligned to the Ruling Party Manifesto, the Third National Development Plan (NDP III) and other Government strategies and development frameworks.

The objectives of this paper are mainly to;

- i Apprise Parliament on the progress of the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda;
- ii Share the critical SDGs implementation challenges that have emerged during the implementation and coordination of SDGs, and,
- iii Share Cabinet approved proposed measures to accelerate the attainment of SDG targets within the framework of our National Development Plan and Government's Last Mile Strategy – the Parish Development Model.

This Parliament Paper and the issues raised therein have been developed following an analysis of trends and factors affecting SDG implementation, stakeholder consultations. All these issues were further consulted on internally with the technical leadership and Top Management at the

Office of the Prime Minister and externally with the key Government Institutions (National Planning Authority, UBOS, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of ICT) that are core to the SDG Coordination framework

This report indicates that progress has remained uneven and that the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has slowed down the gains made on some of the SDGs. However, with coordinated efforts, there is still hope that Uganda will make positive strides in achieving the SDGs by 2030.

During this reporting period, Uganda continues to register progress in SDG implementation through,

- i Development of the new Roadmap for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2020/21-2024/25 which provides catalytic and strategic interventions for the acceleration of SDGs implementation
- ii Presentation of Uganda's Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020 aimed at sharing of experiences, successes, challenges and lessons in order to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This process has informed the roll out of Voluntary Local Reviews at Local Governments which enables review of SDG progress at sub-national levels
- iii. The Government conducted an annual assessment on progress of SDGs and developed a National SDG Progress Report 2021. This report highlights progress, bottlenecks and recommendations for each goal within the context of NDP III
- iv The Government has also initiated a nationwide forum that brings

together all Stakeholders with an interest in the SDG implementation process called "Uganda Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference. The first annual conference was held in June 2022 preceded by regional forums

- v Uganda participated in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York where the Government shared experiences from the SDG Conference and key models and Voluntary National Reviews

Though, Uganda has registered significant progress in attainment of SDGs, there are concerns about the likely negative impact of COVID-19 on the progress realized over time. There also challenges related to limited financing for SDGs, data challenges, low levels of awareness of the Local Leaders to Integrate SDGs with Local Development Initiatives and low levels of digitization

Thus, I led the Office of the Prime Minister to present a Cabinet Memorandum on status of SDGs implementation to the Cabinet meeting held on 10th October 2022 under minute No 359 (CT 2022) 130 The Cabinet approved the following recommendations to accelerate the attainments of the SDG Targets within our national development frameworks

1. The Office of the Prime Minister Ministry of Health, led by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister to convene a meeting with the Minister of Health and concerned stakeholders to devise means to address the persistent outbreaks of malaria in the country.

- ii Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, should follow-up with Uganda's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Amb. Muhammad Tezikuba Kısamıra on the Pledge made by the Government of Azerbaijan to give a Grant to the Government of Uganda to support Programs directly benefiting Persons with Disabilities
- iii Ministry of Health, to submit a Paper to Cabinet explaining the increase of malaria cases in the Country
- iv Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development should, fast track the implementation of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) as a means of mobilizing resources globally and nationally to support sustainable development MoFPED needs to revisit Uganda's Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy and associated policies that take into consideration these emerging realities
- v The Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, to work with Office of the Prime Minister to popularize the Sustainable Development Goals.
- vi. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, to increase investment in agriculture to foster food security and stabilizing food supply chains through policy incentives to encourage value addition, support the central role played by e-commerce, and expand the

- digital information infrastructure in the country. This will ensure that data remains supreme and an important part of private sector growth
- vii Uganda Bureau of Statistics, should continue to expand the number of SDG indicators that have data points in Uganda. The development of statistical plans by different entities should also be encouraged
 - viii Ministry of Public Service and Uganda Bureau of Statistics, to reinstate the position of Statisticians in the structures for MDAs and HLGs for effective and efficient delivery on the quality data required at both national and local Government levels for SDGs and other Government programs like Parish Development Model
 - ix Ministry of Local Government, to train local leaders to integrate the SDGs in the PDM implementation and the all-local development plans - including the new cities.
 - x. Ministry of Science and Technology, to strengthen the engagement and mobilization of the public and private stakeholders with digital innovations and support them for scale up
 - xi The Office of the Prime Minister (SDG Secretariat), should conduct a comprehensive documentation to identify the people left behind, those at a risk of being left behind, where they are found and in what areas of service delivery they have been left behind

- xii The SDG Secretariat should take on an additional role of coordinating the follow-up on the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 since it has not been well coordinated since its adoption. This is because the 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063 are both mutually reinforcing international and regional development strategies that support the national priorities of Uganda.
- xiii. The Office of the Prime Minister should present the SDG progress report and status of implementation to Parliament as a means of mobilizing members of Parliament in localization of SDGs.
- xiv The Government of Uganda coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should present Uganda third Voluntary National Review (VNR) report to the High-Level Political Forum in New York in 2024 and this requires concerted efforts by all three arms of Government.

In conclusion Uganda has progressed in the implementation of SDGs, everyone is needed to reach the ambitious SDG targets. Achieving the SDGs requires partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

1.1.1 This report presents the progress made by the Government of Uganda in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030. The reports cover the achievements made, challenges and the way forward in implementation of the new SDG roadmap, which is aligned to the Ruling Party (NRM) Manifesto, the Third National Development Plan (NDP III) and other Government strategies and development frameworks.

1.1.2 This report therefore highlights the efforts made in the coordination, monitoring and reporting of SDGs, the SDGs roadmap 2021-2025, the first national SDG conference, the High-level political forum on SDGs. In all these key events and interventions, the report points to the key observations and actions required to guide implementation

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2015, Member States of the United Nations adopted the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development at the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly where Uganda held the UN Presidency through Hon Sam Kahamba Kutesa for that year

2.2 The 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected –the key to

success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another

2.3 Honorable Members of Parliament, Uganda has over the years been a frontrunner in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attendant 17 SDGs. This universal plan for all countries across the globe focuses on ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. The 2030 Agenda provides a focus for the international community's development efforts until 2030. The 17 goals and 169 targets provide a yardstick by which progress is measured.

2.4 On 10th October 2022, the Office of the Prime Minister, led by my office, under Cabinet Memorandum CT (2022) 130 presented a Cabinet Memorandum on how Government is progressing in the implementation of the SDGs, within the context of the 3rd National Development Plan.

2.5 Colleagues the Cabinet Action Extract from minute No. 359 (CT 2022) 130 of the meeting held on 10th October 2022.

2.5.1 Noted the progress and achievements made on the implementation of SDGs,

2.5.2 Noted the critical SDGs implementation challenges that have emerged during the implementation and coordination of SDGs, and;

2 5 3 Approved proposed measures to accelerate the attainment of SDG targets within the framework of our National Development Plan and Government's Last Mile Strategy - the Parish Development Model

2.6 PROBLEM STATEMENT

2 6 1 The Office of the Prime Minister and other key stakeholders believe that with only seven (7) years remaining to the end of the 2030 Agenda, there is need for Parliament to be apprised on the SDG progress registered and seek policy guidance and direction on how to accelerate the SDG implementation

2 6 2 The Office of the Prime Minister further believes that the SDGs are interlinked and hence require a multi-sectoral approach to implement interventions that can accelerate SDGs achievement All this requires Parliament blessing and guidance It is hoped that the guidance provided will further strengthen coordination, partnership building and inclusive in these remaining years of the decade of action

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STATUS REPORT

Honorable Members of Parliament, the objectives of this status report on implementation of sustainable development goals is to,

- 3.1 To apprise Parliament on the progress made in the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda,
- 3.2 Share the critical SDGs implementation challenges that have emerged during the implementation and coordination of SDGs, and,
- 3.3 Share the Cabinet approved recommendations to accelerate the attainment of SDG targets within the framework of our National Development Plan and Government's Last Mile Strategy - the Parish Development Model

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND PROGRESS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND THE 2030 AGENDA

4.1 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COORDINATION FRAMEWORK

- 4.1.1 Uganda's development journey has been guided by the SDG National Coordination Framework. It was a deliberate and well-planned effort to harmonize the contribution of Ministries, Departments and Agencies. It also recognizes the contribution of

the non-state actors including the United Nations, Civil Society Organizations, Private sector, and other development partners Since adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, Uganda has been steadfast in its efforts to realize the aspirations of her people (**Attached as Annex 1 is the National SDG Coordination Framework**)

4.1.2 The coordination framework is anchored on the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) under different Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), which are chaired by the respective oversight institutions with specific roles namely. (i) The National Planning Authority (NPA) which ensures that planning frameworks at all levels are well aligned with the SDGs, (ii) Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) which coordinates data production for SDGs, (iii) Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development which ensures resource mobilization and financing for SDGs, (iv) Ministry of Information, Communication, Technology and National Guidance which coordinates communication and popularization of SDGs (v) Office of the Prime Minister which is the overall coordinator of the implementation architecture

4.2 UGANDA'S NEW NATIONAL SDG ROADMAP 2020/2021 - 2024/2025

4.2.1 On 15 September 2021, the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Robinah Nabbanja launched Uganda's second national "Roadmap for the

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Uganda 2020/21 - 2024/25" (Attached as Annex 2 is Uganda's New National SDG Roadmap 2020/2021-2024/2025).

4.2.2 The new roadmap is focused on a vision to create "A Transformed and Prosperous Uganda in the Decade of Action" and is guided by the 5 objectives to (i) promote policy review mechanisms and coherence processes for the SDGs (ii) revitalize the SDG Technical/Programme Working Groups and make them more effective (iii) promote localization, popularization and mainstreaming of the SDGs into programmes, MDAs and Local Government plans (iv) enhance local resource mobilization efforts for SDGs and (v) map out new partnerships and promote the potential of existing ones in order to harness synergies of the whole Government.

4.2.3 Honorables, the SDG Roadmap outlines implementation structures, a timeframe for the roadmap implementation and a resource mobilization strategy. It also provides reviewing, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms, as well as risk mitigation measures. Finally, the roadmap presents a Results Framework and Cost Estimates for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25.

4.2.4 The implementation structure relates to the mechanisms that will facilitate the implementation of the SDG roadmap. In this, key stakeholders have specific roles they will have to play for the success of the roadmap. Stakeholders include actors from

Government, Development Partners, UN system, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia, and Media.

4.2.5 The SDG Secretariat continues to play a catalytic role and engage strategic stakeholders and to ensure coherence among all the Technical Working Groups

4.3 INTEGRATION AND LINKAGES OF SDGS TO BUDGETS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

4.3.1 Honorables, the UN Inter-Governmental negotiations on the SDGs in 2015 coincided with the preparation of Uganda's second National Development Plan (NDP II). Government used this opportunity to integrate the SDGs framework into the plan, resulting in a 69% integration level. During the development of NDP III (2020/21 - 2024/25), appropriate measures were undertaken to ensure that all sectors, agencies and local government levels include SDGs in their plans and strategies-- NDP III is at least 90% aligned to the goals

4.3.2 As such, the targets of SDGs are implemented through plans, strategies and projects by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and Local Governments (LGs) through their day-to-day activities, projects and programs

4.3.3 Given the importance of localization and popularization of the 2030 Agenda, SDG Secretariat is coordinating the development of

localization guidelines to guide the process coherently and comprehensively among partners and stakeholders across the Country.

4 3 4 Parliament and Members of Parliament play a significant role in mobilizing and allocating resources, providing oversight in the implementation of the SDGs, and playing different other roles as champions, advocates, mobilisers, and ambassadors for the SDGs due to their proximity to people in their Constituencies. To this end, the SDG Secretariat works in partnership with the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for SDGs to support the strengthening of legislators' understanding and actions in SDG implementation.

4 3 5 Non-state actors, who include Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, Religious Leaders and Private Sector, are represented at all levels of the SDG Coordination Framework. The work of non-state actors is complementary to government initiatives and are aligned to national development priorities. Some of the initiatives that the Government has undertaken to this end include the following;

i. Private Sector Platform for Sustainable Development Goals

The Private Sector SDG Platform is a nationally owned multi-stakeholder mechanism to address various aspects of private sector engagement in the SDGs. The Platform, which is managed by the Office of the Prime Minister with support from the Private

Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and the United Nations Country Team offers a national mechanism to engage with the private sector in the 2030 Agenda in a comprehensive and holistic manner. The Platform was officially launched by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Ruhakana Rugunda on May 4, 2021.

ii. Civil Society Organizations SDG Core Reference Group

The SDG Secretariat works closely with all Civil Society Organizations in Uganda through the SDG CSO Reference group that is coordinated by the Uganda National NGO Forum. The group launched a "Tondeka Mabega" Campaign as an effort to supplement Government efforts to leave no one behind. The various CSOs have also been instrumental in supporting specific consultative processes with vulnerable groups including Persons with Disabilities, Minority Ethnic Groups and Women Groups.

iii. The Youth Coalition for SDGs

The Youth Coalition for SDGs is an initiative composed of youth-led organizations/companies from around the Country working towards achieving the SDGs and working under the auspices of the SDG Secretariat. The youth participate in activities to raise awareness on the SDGs and lead by example in implementation.

4.4 PRESENTATION OF UGANDAS SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR) 2020

4 4 1 Honorable Members of Parliament, you may need to note that in July 2020, Uganda prepared her second Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report and presented it to the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are aimed at facilitating sharing of experiences, successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (Attached as Annex 3 is Uganda's 2nd Voluntary National Review Report).

4 4 2 It is also important to note that according to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and SDG Center for Africa, results indicate that Uganda was more than 50% on track to achieving SDGs by 2030. Among the 52 African countries, Uganda ranked 18th with an overall score of 54.88 (higher than the regional average of 52.7 in 2020) Also, the Global Sustainable Development report 2022 by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) places Uganda in the 5th position in Africa after (Benin, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Morocco) regarding Government's commitment in the coordination and implementation of SDGs

4 4 3 In addition to the VNRs, the Government of Uganda has also rolled out Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), a new approach adopted by UN member states to review progress at sub-national levels. The VLR process serves as a way for local governments to engage citizens in the SDG review process, which contributes to strengthening accountability and increases inclusive governance.

4 4 4 In 2020, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) piloted the VLR process in four selected countries including Uganda, where it was carried out in Ngora district. Results from the Ngora VLR indicate that the district has integrated the 2030 SDG Agenda and aspirations of Agenda 2063 in the district development processes, feasibility studies and budgets.

4.5 PRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTING THE SDGS 2021

4 5 1 In October 2021, the Government conducted an annual assessment on progress made on the implementation of the SDGs and developed a National SDG Progress Report 2021. The report outlines progress made under each goal, highlights bottlenecks per SDG and sets out recommendations within the context of the NDP III (Attached as Annex 4 is the SDG Progress report 2021). Below are the key highlights from the SDG Progress Report.

4.5.2 Honorables, you may wish to note that SDGs are monitored and evaluated by 232 global indicators of which 201 are applicable to Uganda. Currently Uganda has 119 indicators with data points (59%), 24 indicators are globally computed (12%) and 58 indicators without data points (29%).

4.5.3 **Goal 1; No Poverty,**

The level of poverty in Uganda reduced slightly (1.1%) from 21.4 percent in 2016/17 to 20.3 percent in 2020/21. Currently, there are about 3.5 million persons living below the poverty line and the proportion of population living below the national poverty line increased significantly in urban areas (2.2) i.e., from 9.5 percent in FY 2016/17 to 11.7 percent in FY2020/21 compared to rural areas (1.8) i.e., from 25.2 percent in FY 2016/17 to 23.4 percent in FY2020/21. The urban poor are more concentrated in other cities/towns in the country rather than urban greater Kampala (Kampala, Mukono and Wakiso).

Results show an improvement in housing conditions which is a critical factor in poverty reduction. For example, the percent of households with grass thatched roofs reduced to 23 percent 2019/2020 from 24 in 2016/2017. Additionally, total Government spending on essential services such as education, health and social protection increased from 22.40 percent in 2020 to 23.1 percent in 2021. However total Government spending on health reduced from 9.2 percent to 7.3 percent for the respective years.

This poses a huge threat to poverty eradication since health is a key determinant of labor productivity

In order to reduce further the poverty levels, GoU is scaling up efforts through expanding social protection programmes such as Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE), providing start-up capital for vulnerable persons such as “emyooga”, boosting investments in agriculture sector through the Agriculture Credit Facility (ACF) and low interest financing through the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and the recent established Parish Development Model Government should also appropriate more funds for the health sector to foster labour productivity

4.5 4 While Goal 2 Targets Zero hunger.

The proportion of food poor persons in Uganda increased by 2 percent (from 37 to 39 percent) between 2016 and 2020. This means that nearly 3 in every 10 households in Uganda do not consume sufficient quantity of food with the proper nutrient content. Rural households were twice as more likely to be food poor than the urban households (47% and 22% respectively) as at 2019/20. The Eastern and Northern regions consistently had the highest number of food poor households with 5 in every 10 households considered food poor between 2016 and 2020.

Additionally, there was a decline in the Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector from 72,353,784 in 2020 to 35,971,934 in 2021

The recommended action points to address the bottlenecks include,

- (i) Provision of good quality agricultural inputs such as drugs, seeds, pesticides to improve the quality of products on the market
- (ii) Ensure adequate food storage at all levels local, regional and national. The few available food reserves (e.g., those operated by the Grain Council of Uganda and those established with support from World Food Programme in specific districts) are small and they are mostly grain silos owned by Private Entities
- (iii) Provide food security facilities and or infrastructure at the household level and overall public health level e.g., granaries, farmer field schools, and school gardens to feed children while at school
- (iv) Ensure appropriation of adequate funds for the agriculture sector to support development interventions.

4.5.5 On Goal 3, about Good health and wellbeing,

The malaria Incidence per 1000 population rose to 340 in 2019 from 242 in 2018. In FY 2020/21, malaria was the commonest condition among admissions for all ages accounting for 39.5 percent (635,586 cases compared to 722,679 cases in FY 2019/20)

of all admissions. There was a notable increase in total immunizations from 1,864,074 in FY 2019/20 to 2,394,195 (28.4%) in 2020/21. In addition, the proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines (essential medicines and health supplies – basket of 40 commodities – such as anti-malarial, antibiotics, neonatal care medicines etc.) on a sustainable basis increased from 11.5 percent in 2016 to 35.8 percent in 2020, slightly higher than the 35 percent NDP III target by 2020/21.

Additionally, the number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population reduced from 1.6 in 2017 to 1.4 in 2018. The corresponding figures in 2019 and 2020 were 1.2 and 1 respectively. This shows a steady decline.

According to the Annual Crime Report, the death rate due to road traffic injuries rose from 76 percent in 2018 to 80 percent in 2020 among the males. The corresponding figure among females shows a steady decline from 24 percent in 2019 to 20 percent in 2020.

The following recommendations should therefore be adopted,

- Increase access to health services through construction and upgrading of more health facilities, equipping of health centers, and provision of medicines, continuous recruitment of health personnel and provision of a national health insurance scheme.

- Provide sex education to adolescents i.e. discuss health risks of unprotected sex, teenage pregnancies, HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
- Improve and continue to support the UPE and USE programmes to encourage 'Education for all'
- Stiffen and put more-strict penalties for traffic offenders.

4.5.6 Goal 4 on Quality Education.

As measured from proficiency levels in reading and in mathematics, the average proficiency in literacy for P3 reduced from 50 percent in FY 2018/19 to 49.9 percent in FY 2019/20, while that of P6 increased from 53 percent in FY 2018/19 to 53.1 percent in 2019/20.

There was also an increase in the completion rate among Primary students (P 7) from 63 percent in 2019 to 67 percent in 2020. There was a decline in completion rate among Lower Secondary students (S4) from 34 percent in 2019 to 32 percent in 2020.

According to the National Service Delivery Survey (NSDS) 2021 report, 45% of household respondents rated the quality of teaching at primary schools attended by household members as good. A higher percentage of respondents in urban areas (48 percent) rated the quality of teaching as good compared to those in rural areas (45 percent). The Ugandan Government should continue to scale up funding to the education sector and strengthen inspection, monitoring and reporting of interventions.

4.5.7 Goal 5 on Gender Equality.

Women representation in Parliament has been increasing over the years. For example, in 2016 General Elections 157 seats were won by women compared to 174 in 2021 general elections. Relatedly, the number of women in cabinet increased from 28 in 2016 to 35 in 2021 general elections. equality. At the local government level, the country is yet to attain gender parity in political representation.

To increase women's incomes, the Government has made effort to support women entrepreneurs by way of boosting their start-up capital and provide on-job skilling through interventions such as Youth Livelihoods Program, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program, among others. However, many women rely on agriculture or informal trade for their livelihood, both of which have been adversely affected by the lockdowns, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM) reduced from 1.4 percent in 2011 to 0.3 percent on 2016. However, the practice has continued because the community still believes it to be a necessary rite of passage for young girls. Now, FGM is often performed in a rush, in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, thus increasing the health risks. Therefore, Government should work

with the local Authorities to stiffen and implement strict measures against the practice.

4.5.8 **Goal 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation**

As at 2020/2021, 79 percent households had access to improved sources of drinking water, although this was below the NDP III target of 83 percent for 2020/2021. Ninety-one (91) percent of the households in urban areas had access to improved water sources compared to three quarters of the households in rural areas (75%). There has been increased access to hand washing with soap, in part, mainly as a result of advocacy protection campaigns against Covid-19.

The proportion of population using a safely managed toilet and hand-washing facility with soap and water rose to 20.7 percent and 7.6 percent respectively in 2020 from 17.9 percent and 6.2 percent respectively.

4.5.9 **Goal 7 on Affordable and clean energy**

Statistics indicate that the percentage of households with access to electricity (grid, solar home system and solar kit) was 56.7 percent which was higher than the NDP III target of 30 percent by 2021. Uganda's installed generation capacity was 1,252.4 MW, still below 1,884 MW NDP III target 2020/2021. While there is increased generation of power, the challenge remains with transmission, distribution and cost to further increase access and utilization. There was low access to modern and efficient energy.

sources and services such as solar home systems, liquefied petroleum gas, biogas and improved stoves for lighting, heating, and clean cooking

Additionally, the total number of electricity consumers increased by 3.7 percent, from 1,572,605 consumers in Calendar Year (CY) 2019 to 1,630,769 consumers in CY2020. This was due to an increase in the number of customers of UMEME Uganda Limited, Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL), Pader Abim Community Multipurpose Electric Cooperative Society Limited, Bundibugyo Energy Co-operative Society, Kilembe Investment Limited and Kyegegwa Rural Electricity Cooperative Society. The Government is enhancing efforts to expand the rural electrification programme and encourage electricity consumption with a target of bringing down the cost of electricity to US 5 cents per unit once all major generation, transmission, and distribution projects are completed. In addition, the government has also leveraged partnerships with civil society and private sector partners to attract investment in the manufacture and use of improved stoves, such as the rocket-lorena stoves, for households and institutions.

4.5.10 Goal 8 on decent work and economic Growth

Gross Domestic Product for the FY2020/21 indicates that the economy grew by 3.4 percent in 2021 from 3 percent in 2020. Agriculture, forestry and fishing sector activities grew by 3.8

percent in FY2020/21 which is one percentage point lower than the previous year's growth (4.8 %). The industry sector activities grew by 3.4 percent in FY2020/21 which was a 0.1 percentage point higher than the previous year's growth.

In terms of employment, the majority are employed in the informal sector, mainly in the agriculture sector. The overall unemployment rate was 8.8 percent in 2019/20, higher than the 8.5 percent NDP III target by 2020/21. The unemployment rate was higher in the rural (9.1%) compared to urban areas (8.2%) in 2019/20. Government should further strengthen poverty eradication programmes such as emyooga and the Parish Development Model especially in rural areas to foster inclusive growth and reduce income inequalities.

4.5.11 Goal 9 on Building a Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation.

Data indicates that the proportion of rural population living within 2 km of an all-weather road rose from 31 percent in 2017 to 57 percent in 2018 and 53 percent by 2020. According to the NSDS 2021 Report, majority of households (57%) had community roads as the nearest type of road. There was a decline in the percentage of households that reported community roads as the nearest type of road from 62 percent in 2015 to 57 percent in 2021. Disaggregation by residence and sub-region indicates that generally community roads were the nearest type of roads to

households Bukedi (88%) and Teso sub regions (83%) had the highest proportion of households that reported to be nearest to a community road while Tooro sub region had the lowest (42%) To increase access to all-weather roads, Government is implementing several projects to rehabilitate, upgrade and maintain roads across the country

The manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita was 15.3 and 142 respectively in 2019. This rose to 16 and 146 respectively in 2020. Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure also rose from 479,896,705 in 2020 to 648,388,662 in 2021. The Internet penetration rate (internet users per 100 people in Uganda) stood at 25 percent in 2019 which was still below 30 percent NDP III target 2020/21. Fifty-two (52) percent of adults (9.7 million) had mobile phones and 10 percent (1.9 million) had access to the internet.

4.5.12 Goal 10: Reduced Inequality:

The recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in Country of destination was constant at 16% in 2019/2020. Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g., official development assistance, foreign direct investment, and other flows) decreased from 2,354,012,959 in 2020 to 1,765,893,042 in 2021 (MoFPED). This implies that the decrease in official assistance, foreign direct

investment and others will cripple the government development programs

The mean per household monthly income increased from UGX 324,288 in 2016/17 to UGX 339,263 in 2019/20 representing an annualized growth rate of 1.4 percent. The growth is driven by rural areas with per household consumption expenditure of UGX 285,119 in 2019/20 from UGX 269,197 in 2016/17, translating into an annualized growth rate of 1.8 percent (UNHS, 2019/2020)

The per capita consumption expenditure stood at UGX 73,988 in 2019/20 from UGX 73,114 in 2016/17. This implies an annualized growth rate of 0.4 percent. The growth rate is higher for rural areas (0.9%) than for urban areas (-1.8%). In nominal terms, mean consumption expenditure per capita is estimated at UGX135,223 in 2019/20 from UGX121,931 in 2016/17. This presents a 10.9 percent nominal increase in consumption per capita (UNHS, 2019/2020).

The real mean consumption expenditure per capita in 2019/20 is 1.1 percent higher than the comparable figure estimated from 2016/17 – that is, from UGX 75,330 in 2016/17 to UGX.76,136 in 2019/20. This rise implies a very modest annualized growth rate of a 0.3 percent. Thus, between 2016/17 and 2019/20 there has been extremely limited growth in living standards. The observed low growth is driven largely by the urban areas from

UGX 119,730 to UGX 112,894 with an annualized growth of -1.9 percent, the corresponding estimate for rural areas is 0.9 percent.

Income inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient, Uganda has maintained medium level of inequality for some time. For instance, the national Gini coefficient ranged from 0.41 in 2005/6 to 0.42 in 2016/17 and now stands at 0.41 in 2019/20. Spatial inequalities remain a significant development challenge in Uganda whereby the urban population account for only 26.6 percent in 2019/20 of the total population, but accounts for 38.9 percent of the national total consumption expenditure.

Therefore, Government should ensure availability of adequate funds to support development programs that are inclusive in nature for Women, Youths, disabled and elderly in rural and urban areas.

4.5.13 Goal 11: Sustainable cities and Communities.

This goal provides targets and guidance for urban planning to support cities with its growing populations. According to Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife Authority, the total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding

(donations in kind, private non-profit sector, and sponsorship) decreased by 196 i e In 2020 it was 3,265 and decreased to 3,069 in 2021 This implies that there was a reduction in private funding and government expenditure Therefore, the government should encourage private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector, and sponsorship) to improve on the public/private expenditures.

4.5.14 Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

The goal is meant to ensure good use of resources improving energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and ensuring a better quality of life for all

The implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability increased from 4 in 2019 to 5 in 2020 This implies that there was an increase in the Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability in the country

4.5.15 Goal 13 on Climate action,

This goal calls for urgent action not only to combat climate change and its impacts, but also to build resilience in responding to climate-related hazards and natural disasters Under this goal,

there's only 1 indicator with data and 2 without. There is no indicator which is globally computed for this goal.

According to Office of the Prime Minister, the number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population decreased from 148 persons in 2017 to 103 persons in 2018. This implies that disasters reduced in the country. This was due to government interventions like relocating people from dangerous spots on the mountains to safer places and planting trees around rivers like river Nyamwamba in Kasese. Also, the government has implemented and formulated a National Climate Change Policy. This is a national sectoral policy of Uganda. Its main objective is to ensure that all stakeholders address climate change impacts and their causes through appropriate measures, while promoting sustainable development and a green economy.

4.5.16 Goal 14 on life below water.

The Oceans, seas and other marine resources are essential to human well-being and social and economic development worldwide. Their conservation and sustainable use are central to achieving the 2030 Agenda. This goal has only 1 indicator applicable to Uganda. However, it has no data points.

Relatedly, according to the state of environment report 2020, it was established that, Uganda's water resources cover about 16 percent of the country's total area. The biggest pressure on the

water resource is from the growing population and poor waste management practices of industries located near the water system. Uganda is on track to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals for access to improved water within the country of 100 percent by the year 2025.

Fisheries activities provide an important source of livelihoods to many Ugandans and foreign exchange to the country. Between 2018 and 2019 Uganda's fisheries export increased by 82.5 percent from US\$ 78.15 million to 142.69 million. Fish harvest increased from 249,000 metric tonnes in 2008 to 416,000 metric tonnes in 2019. 58 percent of Uganda's fish harvests come from Lake Victoria followed by 16 percent from Lake Kyoga and 26 percent from the remaining lakes and rivers.

4.5.17 Goal 15 life on land.

This goal has 11 indicators, 2 of which have data points.

Preserving diverse forms of life on land requires targeted efforts to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and other ecosystems. This goal has gotten only 2 indicators with data points, 6 indicators without any data available and 3 indicators computed globally.

The forest area as a proportion of total land area stayed at 9% between 2018 and 2019. It then, however, increased to 12.4 percent in 2019/20 as a result of growing and protecting of forests by the National Forest Authority. Furthermore, the proportion of

traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked increased from 0.32 in 2018 to 0.33 in 2019. This implies the life of wild animals were fully protected by the government through its auspice Uganda Wildlife Authority. This was possible by recruiting more Rangers to protect the boundaries of all game parks in the country.

4.5.18 Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions:

With this goal, there's need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies based on respect for human rights, the rule of law and transparent, effective, and accountable institutions.

The number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and per 100,000 population increased from 4922 in 2019 to 5183 in 2020. This is unlawful and Government should set new laws or stiffen the existing ones to reduce on these cases.

According to the Annual Criminal Report, the number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and form of exploitation increased from 455 in 2019 to 666 in 2020 and 1149 in 2021.

According to the Uganda Prison services statistical abstract, the un sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population increased from 48.10% in 2019 to 54.50% in 2020. This implies that many prisoners are held in detention without trial in

courts of laws. The government should therefore ensure that all detainees are sentenced to ensure equal access to justice for all.

According to the Judiciary, the proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism increased from 0.5073 in 2020 to 0.5098 in 2021 implying that the population has accessed formal or informal dispute resolution mechanisms.

Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions, among Judiciary officers decreased from 384 in 2020 to 375 in 2021. Public service officers decreased from 329,633 in 2020 to 342,039 in 2021. The Ugandan parliament has 529 officers with 352 males and 177 females.

4.5.19 Goal 17 on partnerships to achieve the goal:

Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system, and other actors, mobilizing all available resources. According to Uganda Revenue Authority, the total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source decreased from 11.99% in 2020 to 12.99% in 2021. Volume of remittances (in United States

dollars) as a proportion of total GDP decreased from 4.1 in 2019 to 2.8 in 2021 (BOU, MoFPED).

4.6 THE FIRST NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CONFERENCE 2022

4.6.1 Honorables, Uganda like all other countries acknowledges that solutions towards building back better from the Covid 19 pandemic will not come from outside our communities. Solutions to build the Uganda economy better will be informed by local models and approaches that will accelerate the pace of development, innovate new ways of working and unlocking the resilience of women and men across the country.

4.6.2 Against this background, the Government of Uganda has initiated a nationwide forum that brings together all Stakeholders with an interest in the SDGs implementation process. This Platform has been – code named - Uganda Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference (**Attached as Annex 5 is the first SDG Conference Report**). This was the first of its kind in Uganda. This forum facilitates sharing of ideas and good practices at the local and national level and catalyze actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

4.6.3 The Uganda first Annual Sustainable Development Goals Conference was preceded by regional forums attended by more

than 800 people, that comprised Local Government political leaders, technical officers, private sector leaders, cultural and traditional leaders, religious leaders, civil society organizations, youth and children. The national conference was attended by over 400 delegates who included the Vice President, Speaker of Parliament, the Chief Justice, Prime Minister, Government Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Diplomatic community, central and local government officials, private sector, civil society, religious and cultural leaders, youth and children.

4.6.4 The key issues that emerged from the conference include,

- (a) Underscored the centrality of financing agriculture and that solving problems of hunger in Uganda will have a clear multiplier effect on all the SDGs
- (b) The Conference underscored the central role of digital technologies in young people's businesses
- (c) It was also noted that since there are only eight years left to the year 2030 when the SDGs goals must have been realized, there is a need to mobilize citizens to identify what works at local level, increase collaborative work with citizen formations and groups and continue to find ways of making sure that citizens are at the center of the development processes
- (d) The Conference noted that whereas the Government and partners have tried in placing resources and dedicating

interventions to reducing vulnerabilities, a lot more needs to be done.

- (e) The participants in the Conference also noted that since the establishment of the SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister, there has been visible traction regarding coordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs
- (f) The Conference noted that while Uganda has made good efforts in coordinating SDGs, there is need to integrate this with other regional agendas such as the African Union 2063 Agenda whose implementation remains silent

4.7 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM IN NEWYORK JULY 2022

4.7.1 Honorables, Uganda participated in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals which was held in New York from 5th to 18th July 2020. The objective was to not only share experiences from the SDG Conference with the rest of the member states but also to learn from them especially on key models and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

4.7.2 Uganda also organized a side event at the Uganda Permanent Mission to the United Nations which attracted participation of different stakeholders and member states

4.7.3 The 2022 High Level Political Forum 2022 assessed the global situation regarding the SDGs and the impact of the COVID - 19 pandemic. The HLPF supported discussions and peer learning to identify policies, strategies and actions to overcome the pandemic and its impacts while triggering the deep changes and transition we need to accelerate the realization of the SDGs. It built momentum and inspired international solidarity and multilateral cooperation. **Attached as Annex 6 is a report on outcomes of the High-Level Political Forum held July 2022).**

5.0 CHALLENGES AFFECTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs IN UGANDA

5.1 Colleagues, the pertinent challenges affecting the implementation of SDGs in Uganda are.

(i) **Financing for SDGs, amidst other Competing Priorities,** Achieving the SDGs requires immense support from all stakeholders since they represent the globally agreed and most pressing environmental, social, and economic issues, resources allocated to SDG Coordination and popularization, monitoring and reporting.

(ii) **Data Challenges;** Standardized monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs is sometimes hampered by the fact that not all global indicators are applicable to Uganda or have sufficient national level data. Currently, we are able to

report on 119 SDG indicators with data points out of 201 applicable to Uganda

(iii) **Low Levels of Awareness of the Local Leaders to Integrate SDGs with Local Development Initiatives**, The Parish Development Model we rolled out at the local government level does not integrate the SDGs ,

(iv) **Low Levels of Digitization**; As a country moves from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is need to embrace digital transformation which presents significant opportunities.

5.2 Colleagues, it goes without saying, that achieving the SDGs requires immense support from all stakeholders. More political and high-level technical support is required if the Government of Uganda is to achieve the pledge it made to leave no one behind and reach the furthest first

6.0 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR THE SDGS

6.1 As a means of communicating and popularizing the SDGs, the Government through, Ministry of Information, Communication and National Guidance and Office of the Prime Minister will disseminate the implementation of SDGs Progress to all stakeholders aimed at ensuring that all stakeholders are informed about the country's progress in SDGs attainment. In the spirit of "leaving no one behind", the proposed media plan is intended to be robust and all-inclusive

6.2 Different media Platform will be used to engage stakeholders and citizens. Gaining this feedback will require utilizing various channels like TV and Radio talk-shows with call-in sessions and interactive online channels Websites and social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp among others)

7.0 CABINET APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACCELERATE THE ATTAINMENT OF SDG TARGETS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND- THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Honorable Members of Parliament, the Cabinet Meeting in October 2022 under minute No 359 (CT 2022) approved the following recommendations to accelerate the attainments of the SDG Targets within our national development frameworks

7.1 The Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Health, led by the Rt Hon Prime Minister should convene a meeting with the Minister of Health and concerned stakeholders to devise means to address the persistent outbreaks of malaria in the country

7.2 To follow-up with Uganda's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Amb Muhammad Tezikuba Kısamıra on the Pledge made by the Government of Azerbaijan to give a Grant to the Government of Uganda to support Programs directly benefiting Persons with Disabilities.

- 73 Ministry of Health, to submit a Paper to Cabinet explaining the increase of malaria cases in the Country
- 74 Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development should, fast track the implementation of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) as a means of mobilizing resources globally and nationally to support sustainable development MoFPED needs to revisit Uganda's Domestic Resource Mobilization Strategy and associated policies that take into consideration these emerging realities
- 75 The Ministry of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, to work with Office of the Prime Minister to popularize the Sustainable Development Goals
- 7.6 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, to increase investment in agriculture to foster food security and stabilizing food supply chains through policy incentives to encourage value addition, support the central role played by e-commerce, and expand the digital information infrastructure in the country. This will ensure that data remains supreme and an important part of private sector growth
- 77 Uganda Bureau of Statistics, should continue to expand the number of SDG indicators that have data points in Uganda The

development of statistical plans by different entities should also be encouraged

- 7.8 Ministry of Public Service and Uganda Bureau of Statistics, to re-instate the position of Statisticians in the structures for MDAs and HLGs for effective and efficient delivery on the quality data required at both national and local Government levels for SDGs and other Government programs like Parish Development Model
- 7.9 Ministry of Local Government, to train local leaders to integrate the SDGs in the PDM implementation and the all-local development plans - including the new cities
- 7.10 Ministry of Science and Technology, to strengthen the engagement and mobilization of the public and private stakeholders with digital innovations and support them for scale up
- 7.11 The Office of the Prime Minister (SDG Secretariat), should conduct a comprehensive documentation to identify the people left behind, those at a risk of being left behind, where they are found and in what areas of service delivery they have been left behind
- 7.12 The SDG Secretariat should take on an additional role of coordinating the follow-up on the Africa Union's Agenda 2063

since it has not been well coordinated since its adoption. This is because the 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063 are both mutually reinforcing international and regional development strategies that support the national priorities of Uganda.

7.13 The Office of the Prime Minister should present the SDG progress report and status of implementation to Parliament as a means of mobilizing members of Parliament in localization of SDGs.

7.14 The Government of Uganda, coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should present Uganda's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) report to the High-Level Political Forum in New York in 2024 and this requires concerted efforts by all three arms of Government.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The successful implementation of Agenda 2030 requires an integrated approach, partnerships and participation through inclusive political processes and responsive, effective, accountable institutions. It will require various stakeholders to identify solutions for planning, budgeting, implementing and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs, as well as tracking where and how funds are spent and assess the impact of these initiatives on the lives of people – especially key interest groups. We hope that this report will enlighten the thought

process of Honorable Members of Parliament in their efforts
towards a fuller realization of the 2030 Agenda

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