



People in downtown Kampala. Parliament through different committees has come up with bills, policies and recommendations to boost the welfare of Ugandans . PHOTO/MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

Parliament committees lobby for welfare of Ugandans

Besides legislation, Parliament committees also serve as the platforms through which oversight and supervision roles are executed.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

The legislation processes as undertaken by lawmakers and resolutions of other concerns that plague Ugandans or address the concerns of the citizenry are largely handled by committees.

All Members of Parliament (MPs) are accorded equal powers and opportunities to have input on all bills, policies, and other matters that they are tasked to process on behalf of Ugandans.

Each of the 529 lawmakers that comprise the 11th Parliament is entitled, and or sit on at least two committees; sectoral and standing committees.

It is under various committees that legislators scrutinize draft policies, proposed laws, or other related forms of legislation before they are finally tabled or presented during plenary for all other MPs to make additional deliberations which may include extra complements or deletions to any of the proposals.

It is also at the committee stage that all key stakeholders, including ordinary persons, are given the chance to have input on any law being processed.

Once brought in plenary, other lawmakers scrutinize each of the clauses or sections of any Bill before it is finally passed and sent to the Head of State to assent to it.

Besides legislation, committees also serve as the platforms through which oversight and supervision roles are exe-

cuted. The 11th Parliament has, among others, delved into specific ailments plaguing Ugandans in various sectors at the committee stage and this was been evident on various issues registered in the country.

Trade committee

The Parliament's committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry has for instance expeditiously processed and tackled major economic issues manifested in the private and public sectors.

This has been done with a clear focus on the citizenry as the major stakeholders of the resolutions arrived at in the process.

Onsite visits are conducted to verify and collect first-hand proof and other information that the committee may find critical to the processes at hand.

Members of Trade committee chaired by the Mbarara City South County lawmaker Mr Mwine Mpaka have for instance resolved to draft and process the Consumer Protection law. The law is aiming at insulating Ugandans from the economic shocks and other commercial unfair dealings subjected to the citizenry.

"A consumer protection law is necessary to offer protection to consumers not only against fraud and dishonesty in commercial dealings but also oppressive bargains and qualitatively deficient goods and services," Mr Mpaka said recently.

He added: "The scattered provisions on consumer protection in different laws and different Ministries, Departments and Agencies have resulted in ineffective and insufficient protection of consumers."

The law, therefore, aims at providing a central form of legislation that requires law enforcement units of government tasked with the duty to protect consumers.

Legislators on the Trade committee are also highly displeased by the high

infiltration levels of substandard goods from foreign markets into Uganda and therefore hope to cure through the same Bill.

It is through the same Bill that legislators want to compel manufacturers within Uganda to produce high-quality products that can fairly compete and penetrate the international market.

Finance committee presses for answers on Lubowa hospital

The Parliament's committee on Finance chaired by the Kiboga East legislator Mr Keefa Kiwanuka took an interest to follow up on the progress made on the construction of the Lubowa International Specialised Hospital.

The legislators made an onsite inspection of the Lubowa hospital in April. It was through the onsite inspection that the lawmakers established that a number of irregularities were infested within the project.

The committee found it wise to further insist that government through the line ministries; Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance iron out the glaring glitches and have the project completed.

The project is meant to scale down the number of people that seek specialised treatment from abroad.

The hospital is also part of the government's commitment to avail specialised medical care to Ugandans and also strengthening research in Uganda's medical realms.

Health committee moves to stop illegal trade in human organs

Among the highly sensitive concerns affecting Uganda has been the illicit trade in human organs, something that the 11th Parliament's Committee on Health has quickly moved to address. This is covered in the Uganda Human Organ and Donation and Transplant Bill, 2021.

The committee as chaired by the Koboko Municipality MP Dr Charles

Ayume comprehensively drafted, processed with input from the relevant stakeholders, and later presented to Parliament. The Bill, among oth-

ers, contains tough and very stringent penalties that once implemented will heavily tackle or even immensely wipe the inhumane and yet growing vice in the country.

For instance, the Bill stipulates that all organisations or institutions found in the illegal trade of human organs would have to pay an Shs10b fine.

COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. The Business Committee
2. The Appointments Committee
3. The Budget Committee
4. The Committee on Climate Change
5. The Committee on National Economy
6. The Committee on Equal Opportunities
7. The Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline
8. The Committee on HIV/AIDS and Related Matters
9. The Committee on Human Rights
10. The Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation
11. The Committee on Public Accounts (Central Government)
12. The Committee on Public Accounts (Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises)
13. The Committee of Public Accounts (Local Government)
14. The Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation

SECTORAL COMMITTEES

1. The Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
2. The Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs
3. The Committee on East African Community Affairs
4. The Committee on Education and Sports
5. The Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development
6. The Committee on Foreign Affairs
7. The Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development
8. The Committee on Health
9. The Committee on Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance
10. The Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
11. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
12. The Committee on Physical Infrastructure
13. The Committee on Presidential Affairs
14. The Committee on Public Service and Local Government
15. The Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry

How legislation has shaped

The 11th Parliament, like preceding parliaments, has in several folds focused on bettering lives of the citizenry by pushing for accountability from persons in critical offices, appropriated funds necessary for implementation of government programmes as defined by law and exhibited through the annual budgets, **Monitor Reporter** writes.

Parliament has through years of the post-independence period played an indispensable role in shaping the pathway to the upward growth of Uganda.

This has been done by not only enacting the requisite laws to steer development but has also been at the forefront of effecting policies key in sustaining transparency among leaders to champion commendable leadership.

Currently, the 11th Parliament steered by Speaker Anita Annet Among, for instance, has in less than two years drafted, debated and enacted highly critical laws and also delivered on a string of demands in record speed. This is reflective of what she pledged after she took oath at the Kololo Independence Grounds, Kampala upon ascension to Speakership.

"As I promised you [at the] Kololo [Independence Grounds], we shall work together for the betterment of this country without segregation," Ms Among said in her maiden address to Parliament.

Uganda's legislative arm's leadership has since passed over 30 Bills, ploughed more cohesion even when Parliament operated under unprecedented times in which the national lockdown was effected as occasioned by the outbreak of the Covid-19.

This implies that Parliament is on course to fully process and pass at least 62 Bills as already tasked by President Museveni on June 7, 2022 as he delivered the State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Kololo Independence Grounds, Kampala.

Early last year, after the former Speaker Jacob Oulanyah passed away, Parliament led by Ms Among then the Deputy Speaker expeditiously processed the National Budget 2021/2022 budgets, which was consequently tabled and passed on time.

This settled fears that had been held that the legislative assembly would be delayed since a bulk of the activities at Parliament had been stalled by the passing and processes of official send-off of the former Speaker Jacob Oulanyah.

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L-R: Speaker of Parliament Ms Anita Among, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mr Thomas Tayebwa, Prime Minister Ms Robinah Nabbanja and Leader of the Opposition Mr Mathias Mpuuga. PHOTOS/DAVID LUBOWA

law and exhibited through the annual budgets.

This has been done through the major service delivery and work units of the August House at various levels which include roles executed by Members of Parliament both a committee stage and during plenary sessions.

NSSF mid-term access for savers

On November 23, 2021, the 11th Parliament passed the NSSF Amendment Act, 2021 which grants its savers to have mid-term access to their benefits, hence effected a clause that was first introduced in 2019.

Consequently, President Museveni assented to it on January 4, this year thereby enabling Ugandans under NSSF to gain access to funds that would among others enable them recover from the pressing effects of the two-year-long national lockdown and Covid-19.

On Friday 11th, leadership at the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) ably made the first pay-out of the long awaited mid-term access benefits as Shs3.2 Billion was paid to 402 claimants.

EACOP law and growth of oil sector

In August last year, Parliament passed the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Bill, which among others, is meant to domesticate the treaty signed between Uganda and Tanzania ahead of the construction of the 1,443KM long Pipeline, stretching from Hoima in Uganda to the Tanga Port in Tanzania.

The Bill stemmed from the 2008 National Oil and Gas Policy that was set out to provide direction on processes in Uganda's infant oil sector.

The pipeline is a highly critical infrastructure in processes meant to enable Uganda reap from its first oil, a project that is expected to cost not less than \$3.5 Billion.

The Bill also provides that priority be accorded to Ugandans to provide labour force and some of the requisite resources in the implementation of the oil project, hence promotion of the Buy Uganda, Build Uganda (BUBU) initiative.

A strong stand was also taken by Parliament opposing the recommendation by the European Union (EU) to

obstruct the construction the EACOP project. As he chaired plenary on September 15th, the Deputy Speaker Mr Thomas Tayebwa re-echoed government position stating the long awaited project would go on.

Mining sector beefed up

On February 17, 2022 plenary steered by Speaker Among passed the Mining and Bill, 2021, a

1962
THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT WAS ESTABLISHED AFTER THE COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE

key ingredient in ploughing sanity in Uganda's minerals and extractives sector and is purposed to steer Uganda to optimum utilization of its natural wealth.

The Bill, later signed by President Museveni in October 2022, repealed the Mining Act, 2003 and is expected to streamline operations within the mining sector. During legislation on the law, Parliament purposed to ensure that an accountable and transparent licensing regime is created and consequently promote in-country value addition so that Uganda maximum reaps optimum dividends from minerals and revenues nested within the country.

Official records show that there are not less than 27 minerals in Uganda

and these include copper, gold, tantalite, limestone, marble, nickel, Tin and gemstone, among others.

The chairperson on the Parliament's committee on National Resources, Mr Emmanuel Otaala, the chairperson of the committee that processed the Bill before it was tabled before Parliament for passing believes the law will enable Uganda generate more revenue from the sector and therefore improve on Uganda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Push for transparency in PDM and Emyooga

Parliament has also been key in the push towards the full implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) which is meant to drive Ugandans out of poverty, scale-up economy and also improve Ugandans way of life.

For instance, as she closed the last plenary session held on Thursday 29th November this year, Speaker Among urged all legislators to fast track the implementation and progress of the PDM in their respective constituencies.

Prior to this, Parliament had in mid-June this year held a three-day-long seminar in which legislators' knowledge on government programs were enhanced and key queries settled. In the seminar graced by Speaker Anita Among and Clerk to Parliament Mr Adolf Mwesigye, Members of Parliament were trained and later asked to popularise the Parish Development Model.

Similarly, Speaker Among has been

persistent push for transparency on other poverty eradication schemes as noted in push for proper implementation of the Emyooga.

Launched in July 2020, Emyooga programme targets Uganda's informal sector with persons clustered 18 groups which include tailors, carpenters, boda boda riders, vendors, salon operators, welders, fishermen among others.

In July last year, Ms Among sent the 529 lawmakers to a one-week-long recess to chiefly investigate irregularities that were allegedly infested or littered within systems and among authorities meant to implement and fast track its progress.

"Much as we approved funds for Emyooga in the last [10th] Parliament, this money was disbursed to different districts and constituencies. Unfortunately the monies have not been put in proper use. And because they have not been put in proper use, we have decided that we will give Members of Parliament a short recess of one week," Speaker Among said.

Premising on the clear guidelines issued by Ms Among, MPs made pronounced progress and have since moved to polish process of implementing the program and other poverty eradication schemes such as the PDM.

Fight on corruption

Cognizant of the fact that Uganda losses to corruption conduits manifested within the public and private sector, Ms Among has persistently beckoned collective efforts from government, private and entire citizenry to scale-up efforts in fight against corruption.

Since she ascended to speakership, Speaker Among has together with her administration undertaken specific interest in ensuring that government resources are rightly used.

Reports from the Auditor General (AG) and the Inspector General of Government (IGG) have been delivered to Speaker and the Clerk to Parliament Adolf Mwesigye.

As she received the Bi-Annual Inspectorate of Government Report to Parliament in October, 2022, Speaker pledged that Parliament would offer necessary support to ensure that the office of the IGG fully delivers on its mandate.

In the inaugural report on damage

PERFORMANCE

Speaker Anita Annet Among, has in less than two years drafted, debated and enacted highly critical laws and also delivered on a string of demands in record speed. This is reflective of what she pledged after she took oath at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, Kampala upon ascension to Speakership.

The 11th Parliament, like preceding parliaments, has in several folds focused on bettering lives of the citizenry by pushing for accountability from persons in critical offices, appropriated funds necessary for implementation of government programs as defined by law and exhibited through the annual budgets.

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Uganda

Corruption. Corruption is ravaging our country and if we are not careful, all the efforts that President Museveni has put into this country may go to waste because people indulge in graft with impunity. This vice affects development,” Mr Gerald Ibanda Rwemulikya, Ntoroko County MP.

occasioned by corruption titled: *‘The Cost of Corruption in Uganda’* at least Shs9.144 Trillion is lost to corruption annually both through public and private conduits, something IGG Beti Kamyia and Speaker Among feared would be worse.

“This is really absurd because when we do appropriation of money and we are giving government money, the government [then] says there is no money yet money is siphoned out at a tune of Shs9.14 trillion,” Ms Among said.

To this end, Ms Among tasked Ombudsman Ms Kamyia to intensify her efforts in tackling the vice. In so doing, the Speaker pledged support in enabling the office of the IGG extend its mandate to private sector to close gaps created in procurement channels through which deals colossal sums are said to be swindled.

“Unfortunately, the constitution limits you to the public sector and yet the money is taken to the private sector; the question is, who will determine the cost and hold the private sector accountable? That is why we need a constitutional amendment to that effect to broaden the mandate further,” Ms Among told Ms Kamyia during the handover of the report. The same call is supported by MPs in the 11th Parliament.

“Corruption is ravaging our country and if we are not careful, all the efforts that President Museveni has put into this country may go to waste because

people indulge in graft with impunity. This vice affects development,” Mr Gerald Ibanda Rwemulikya, the Ntoroko County MP said.

“So this should be a call to all of us to fight corruption with its ugly face because it is eating development. Government should be ready to punish corrupt officials. We should even have law to compel guilty persons to lose their assets to government for sale so that monies swindled can be recovered,” Mr Rwemulikya added.

He further insisted: “The issue of recovery should be a must. Whether they [government] goes for your personal house or businesses, it should be done so that we recover lost money as government.”

Accountability

Parliament’s Public Accountability Committees (PAC) have also been pivotal in the execution of this mandate. For instance, the Parliament’s Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) chaired by the Nakawa West MP Mr Joel Ssenyonyi has successfully processed three committee reports in less than two years, with the 4th in the offing.

The three have successfully been tabled, debated and unanimously adopted

IMPLEMENTATION

Parliament has been key in the push towards the full implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) which is meant to drive Ugandans out of poverty, scale-up economy and improve Ugandans way of life.

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State Minister for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, David Bahati (right), hands over motorcycles to sub-county chairpersons from Kigezi to be used in monitoring PDM in Kabale Town on July 2, 2022. PHOTO/FILE

ed by the House to among others crack whip on officials found to be guilty in corruption scandals and or other flaws that have costed government of taxpayers’ money. Similarly, Ms Among has tasked all Members of Parliament to ensure that there is adherence to their charged duties that are mostly executed both in Parliament and within their respective constituencies. In the same spirit, on 30th August Speaker Among warned all legislators to perform their duties professionally.

“We are using taxpayers money, the money that they are paying us is from taxpayers you aren’t in constituencies, you aren’t in the house, so where are you? And you are talking about accountability, so what are you account-

ing for? You aren’t anywhere, you aren’t helping or legislating for your people. We are going to give you warning letters, we are going to take an action,” Speaker Among warned.

She further warned that if the absenteeism persisted, far reaching implications could trickle-down to the citizenry that are meant to be represented by legislators.

“You can only be seen to be working if you are in the House and Constituency, but if you aren’t anywhere or the precepts of parliament, then where are you? Do you want me to fail because you are failing? I am not going to allow to fail, we will not allow to fail as presiding officers because you want to have that laxity in you,” Ms Among said.

BILL IN OFFING

The Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry recently revealed that it will move the protection law aimed at protecting consumers from false advertisement, predatory pricing and substandard products.

According to the Chairperson of the Committee, Mr Mwine Mpaka, although there are several laws in the country that protect consumers, they are scattered making it difficult to rely on. He pointed out section 3 of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act, section 10 of the Contracts Act 2010, section 13 of the Sale of Goods and Supply of Services Act, section 5 of the National Drug Policy and Authority Act and section 1, 2 and 3 of Food and Drug Act among others.

Mpaka said the committee will through a private member introduce the bill which will help protect consumers from exploitation in the business sector. He said several drugs and alcohol are currently being sold to minors and this is what will be curbed. The proposal will protect consumers from bad lenders who disguise to be giving easy credit, but have exorbitant repayment rates and hidden fees.



Mr Mwine Mpaka, Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry. PHOTO/COURTESY



Buhweju District officials during the launch of the PDM programme in June 2022. PHOTO/ZADOCK AMANYISA



Some members of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association after meeting the UN Women Country Representative in Uganda, Ms Paulina Chiwangu (seated right) recently. PHOTO/PARLIAMENT PRESS UNIT

Women's remarkable journey to Parliament

The story for the agitation female representation in the Parliament of Uganda started after World War II after the first three Ugandan men joined the Legislative Council (LEGCO) which was Uganda colonial Parliament established in 1921.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

The earliest campaign for women in Uganda to be members of the "National Assembly" started after 1945 when the first Ugandan men became Legislative Council (LEGCO) members.

After that, in the early 1950's Ugandan influential women in Kampala started a Non-Governmental Organisation called The Uganda Council of Women (UCW) which was criticized by members of LEGCO, Church leaders and others.

Women wanted a medium to voice their issues at the national level. But they were ignored by the Governor of Uganda. Although women wanted gender representation in the LEGCO after Ugandan men had been allowed to seat in the Council, women also wanted a voice that would advocate for their

affairs.

On the top was to establish a law that would check on pornography in Uganda which was affecting women negatively.

Background

Shortly after the Second World War, Journalist Paulo Muwanga who later turned politician and others started the first porn magazine, *Mukyala* in Uganda. *Mukyala* was a Luganda porn monthly magazine using pictures of Ugandan girls as well as vulgar language that demeaned women.

Incensed members of UCW held several public rallies in protest against the on and off the street publication but attracted no support from the colonial government claiming that there was no law to check on the porn magazine.

The UCW wanted a quick law made to ban the six-page porn magazine. But that was not forthcoming. Meanwhile the UCW decided to start a feminine magazine, *Nyabo* to counter *Mukyala* but in vain.

The *Nyabo* magazine editorial policy was to portray a true picture of a Ugandan woman. Meanwhile the monthly *Mukyala* became more popular.

The UCW members approached the clergies for a remedy. The Anglicans were hesitant to act. The leadership of the Catholic Church decided to take action against Kampala's most popular publication that had angered many elders and opinion leaders.

On Sunday, March 1, 1959 the catholic Bishop of Masaka Diocese told Catholics and non-Catholics to stop reading the porn magazine.



HISTORICAL

Mrs. Florence Alice Lubega was the first Ugandan female Member of Parliament. She joined LEGCO, four years before Uganda attained independence in 1962. She had been, in December 1957 nominated to represent Buganda Kingdom in the LEGCO; however, she took her seat in the LEGCO in March 1958 according to the *Hansard*.

The following Sunday, March 7, 1959 Arch-bishop Ludovic Joseph Cabana of Rubaga and Bishop Vincent Billington of Kampala using the Canon law C: 1399 issued a joint-press statement and banned Christians from reading *Mukyala* and the magazine "died" a natural death.

Unfortunately, the death of *Mukyala* did not give *Nyabo* any advantage. As it also died a slow death shortly thereafter.

The three reports carried almost similar important thoughts that would propel political progress in Uganda.

But the most common of the three was the one conducted a British, Claud Wallis, who was hired by the administrative systems in Uganda including Local governments and district councils. The "Wallis Report" was debated in August 1953 and adopted.

Some of the recommendations adopted from all the three Reports included a new composition and membership of LEGCO as well as its life span.

It was in 1953 that LEGCO was given a four-year term for the first time since its establishment in 1921.

Announcing the new changes to the Council, the Speaker who solely had the powers to appoint and nominate members to the Council insinuated about women coming to the Council.

Of course as the appointing authority, he was aware of who would the following year be in LEGCO after the new

changes.

From the "Proceedings of the Legislative Council" of August 11, 1953: Communication from the Chair, President of the Council, and Governor Andrew Cohen to the Council members, he said, "... The scheme which is announced today will carry the country a stage further in political advance".

He added: "The new Council will bring in new men and I hope women; but I trust that the experience and wisdom of many of you who are here today will be available also to the Legislative which will be established next year".

First female Members of Parliament

The first women to join LEGCO were Europeans. They were Mrs. Barbara Dorothy Saben and Mrs. Arthur Boase.

Although Mrs. Saben, a British born in India is the most popular and often mistakenly thought to be the first woman to join the Council, there was the less known Welsh Mrs. Boase.

The two were sworn-in on February 5, 1954 with 27 other members by the President of the LEGCO, Governor Andrew Cohen.

The function took place at the Town Hall, Kampala which served as the Parliament until 1960 when members moved to the current building.

From the "Proceedings of the Legislative Council" recordings of February 5, 1954, the President of the Council, Cohen after he had opened the new Council, he also welcomed new members including the first women.

He said: "I welcome our new lady members and we all look forward to the benefit of their special experience". Worth to mention, is that while the Governor had nominated the women to the Council, Mrs. Boase sat on the Crossbench (vaguely put, independent side) while Mrs. Saben sat on the Representative side who sat opposite the government.

At the time, there was no opposition side.

The Crossbench was introduced in 1953. Also important to note is that members of LEGCO were not always referred to as Honourable on the Floor of the House but Mr or Mrs.

In 1954, LEGCO had a total of 56 members. The following year, on June 15, 1955, Mrs. Mariam Mitha the third woman, was sworn-in with four other members.

The oath was administered by the Acting President of LEGCO and Governor C.H Thornley at Kampala Town Hall according to the "Proceedings of the Legislative Council records of the day.

However, Mrs. Mitha was in LEGCO briefly that year but she was again nominated to the LEGCO from 1958 to 1961.

The fourth woman and first African to join the LEGCO was Mrs. Ellen Pumla Kisosonkole. She was a South African born in 1911 and married to a Ugandan Christopher Kisosonkole an official of the Buganda kingdom.

Ms Kisosonkole was nominated to the LEGCO by Buganda Lukiiko. She was sworn-in on September 22, 1955 with 21 other male representatives.

Ms Florence Alice Lubega was the first Ugandan female Member of Parliament. She joined LEGCO, four years before Uganda attained independence in 1962. She had been, in December 1957 nominated to represent Buganda Kingdom in the LEGCO; however, she took her seat in the LEGCO in March 1958, according to the *Hansard*.

1921
LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL WHICH WAS
UGANDA COLONIAL
PARLIAMENT
ESTABLISHED

The 92 members of the first Parliament

BY MONITOR REPORTER

Uganda's post independence period has seen tremendous growth registered in the economically, politically and socially.

The processes that lead to and guide development and such growth heavily hinged to policies frameworks, legislation and also parameters through which accountability among leaders entrusted with the responsibility to steer Uganda to the desired destiny deliver on their mandate is

largely undertaken Parliament. Therefore as Uganda marked the 60th anniversary since the attainment of self rule, the *Daily Monitor* journeyed through the major ways through which the legislative arm is championing the drive to propel Uganda into the middle-income status.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	CONSTITUENCY
1-Hon. Abdala-Anyuru	LANGO NORTH-WEST
2-Hon. J.O Anyoti	LANGO WEST
3-Hon. S. Arain	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-1
4-Hon. Zakaria Babukika	KIGEZI SOUTH
5-Hon. Emmanuel Babumba	MASAKA NORTH-WEST
6-Hon. A.K Balinda	TORO CENTRAL
7-Hon. D.B Barisigara	KIGEZI WEST
8-Hon. Basil Bataringaya	ANKOLE NORTH-WEST
9-Hon. A.G Bazanyamaso	KIGEZI SOUTH-WEST
10-Hon. Godfrey Binaisa	ATTORNEY GENERAL
11-Hon. E.N Bisamunyu	KIGEZI EAST
12-Hon.E.B Bwambale	TORO SOUTH
13-Hon. Boniface Byanyima	ANKOLE NORTH-EAST
14-Hon. Y.M Chemonges	SEBEI AND BUGISU NORTH
15-Hon.L.M Choudhry	KARAMOJA NORTH
16-Hon. J Ekaju	TESO NORTH
17-Hon. Grace Ibingira	ANKOLE WEST
18-Hon. S.E Isiagi	TESO SOUTH-EAST
19-Hon. S.B Jaffer	KAMPALA WEST
20-Hon. William Kalema	KOME
21-Hon. Lawrence Kalule Settala	MENGO SOUTH-EAST
22-Hon. John Kangahho	ANKOLE SOUTH-WEST
23-Hon. F.J.I Kangwamu	ANKOLE SOUTH-EAST
24-Hon. K.K.K Karegyesa	KIGEZI NORTH
25-Hon. A. Kasakya	BUKEDI SOUTH-CENTRAL
26-Hon. P Kasujja	MUBENDE AND GOMBA
27-Hon. Christopher Katiti	ANKOLE CENTRAL
28-Hon. P Kigundu	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-2
29-Hon. D.M Kimaswa	BUGISU SOUTH-EAST
30-Hon. Balaki Kirya	BUKEDI NORTH-CENTRAL
31-Hon. Y. M Kirya	BUSOGA EAST
32-Hon. A Kisekka	MENGO SOUTH
33-Hon. J.W Kiwanuka	MUBENDE NORTH
34-Hon. M.H Kuhikya	BUNYORO NORTH-EAST
35-Hon. Hon. Serwano Kulubya	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-3
36-Hon. G.A Kassim Lahka	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-4
37-Hon. E.Y Lakidi	ACHOLI NORTH
38-Hon. Alexander Latim	ACHOLI NORTH EAST
39-Hon. Alexander Lobidra	WEST NILE AND MADI NORTH-WEST
40-Hon. D.D Lobunei	KARAMOJA CENTRAL
41-Hon. J.P Loruk	KARAMOJA CENTRAL
42-Hon. H.M Luande	KAMPALA EAST
43-Hon. Florence Allen Lubega	SINGO NORTH-EAST
44-Hon. Lawrence Lubowa	BULEMEZI SOUTH
45-Hon. B. Lukyamuzi	MASAKA NORTH
46-Hon. Emmanuel Lumu	KYADONDO NORTH
47-Hon. John Rwamafa	KIGEZI SOUTH-EAST
48-Hon. C.J.M Magara	BUNYORO SOUTH-EAST
49-Hon. George Magezi	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-5
50-Hon. S.K Masembe Kabali	MITYANA
51-Hon. Joash Mayanja Nkangi	MASAKA EAST
52-Hon. M.N Mehta	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-6
53-Hon. T.C.K Mudhungu	BUSOGA NORTH-EAST
54-Hon. S.G Muduku	BUGISU NORTH-WEST
55-Hon. F.X.B Mugeni	BUKEDI NORTH
56-Hon. E.M.K Mulira	MENGO NORTH
57-Hon. Z. Munaba	BUSOGA CENTRAL
58-Hon. P. Munyagwa Nsibirwa	BUGERERE
59-Hon. Y.K Musitwa	MENGO CENTRAL
60-Hon. Paulo Muwanga	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-7
61-Hon. William Nadioppe	BUSOGA WEST
62-Hon. Adoko Nekyon	LANGO SOUTH-WEST
63-Hon. K.M Ngirisi	TORO NORTH-WEST
64-Hon. Mathias Ngobi	BUSOGA SOUTH

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT	CONSTITUENCY
65-Hon. Shaban Nkutu	BUSOGA SOUTH-EAST
67-Hon. Adonia Nume	BUSOGA NORTH-WEST
68-Hon. J.H Obonyo	ACHOLI SOUTH-EAST
69-Hon. Apollo Milton Obote	LANGO NORTH-EAST
70-Hon. Cuthbert Obwangor	TESO EAST
71-Hon. Hon. J.S.M Ochola	BUKEDI SOUTH-EAST
72-Hon. Gasper Oda	WEST NILE AND MADI WEST
73-Hon. Sam Odaka	JINJA NORTH
74-Hon. Alexander Ojera	ACHOLI SOUTH-WEST
75-Hon. J.M Okae	LANGO CENTRAL
76-Hon. M.A Okelo	WEST NILE AND MADI CENTRAL
77-Hon. Stanislaus Okulut	TESO SOUTH
78-Hon. M.O.K Omadi	BUKEDI NORTH
79-Hon. D.A Patel	KAMPALA SOUTH
80-Hon. M.K Patel	JINJA SOUTH
81-Hon. N.M Patel	MBALE
82-Hon. Vincent Rwamwaro	TORO EAST
83-Hon. F.G Sembeguya	SPECIALLY ELECTED MEMBER-8
84-Hon. Amos Sempa	SEZIBWA WEST
85-Hon. Paul N Serumaga	MASAKA SOUTH-WEST
86-Hon. J.T Simpson	KYAGWE NORTH-EAST
87-Hon. I Sebuya	MENGO SOUTH-WEST
88-Hon. S.W Uringi	WEST NILE AND MADI SOUTH
89-Hon. Sugra H.A Visram	KIBUGA
90-Hon. Joshua Wakholi	BUGISU SOUTH-WEST
91-Hon. J.S Luyimbazi Zake	MASAKA CENTRAL
92. Hon. FK Onama	WEST NILE AND MADI NORTH EAST



The first Parliament of Uganda had its first session chaired by Speaker John Bowes Griffins at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, 10 October 1962 PHOTO/COURTESY

First Parliament had 75 former teachers

BY MONITOR REPORTER

On October 10, 2022 the Parliament of Independent Uganda turned 60 years old. With 92 members, the first Parliament of Uganda is regarded by many authors as perhaps the best Parliament of Uganda.

Since Independence, Uganda has had 11 Parliaments. Interesting to acknowledge is that three-quarter of the members of the first Parliament also referred to as the "Independence parliament" were former secondary school teachers.

That therefore means that 75 members of the 92 members had been in the teaching profession before joining the parliament.

The first Parliament of Uganda was officially inaugurated on Wednesday, October 10, 1962 a day after Uganda had attained independence. It was opened by Queen Elisabeth's cousin, the Duke of Kent Captain Edward George Paul Nicolas Patrick. The Duke represented the Queen of England.

However, it is important to remember that on September 19, 1960, members of the Legislative Council (LEGCO) which was the colonial National Assembly left the former Council Hall which also housed the Kampala Municipal headquarters left for the adjacent newly finished and current Parliament building.

In procession, members led by the sergeant-at-Arms, followed by the Clerk to Council and then Hon Speaker John Bowes Griffin, walked to the new building. The official opening of the new parliament building was later presided over



The first Parliament of Uganda in session . PHOTO/COURTESY

by Mr. Iain Macleod, the Secretary of State for Colonies. The parliament chamber was built to comfortably sit 100 members only.

How former teachers influenced first Parliament

Because the first Parliament was dominated by former secondary teachers, they were able to sway the opinion in policy making especially on issues concerning education in the country.

They agitated for a better remuneration of teachers including better housing at every school. The impact of the 75 former teachers turned Member of Parliament are also remembered for their input in the drafting of the first post-independence National Budget.

While passing the 1962/63 National

Budget because of the majority and influence of members who were former teachers, dedicated 27 percent of the government expenditure to the Ministry of Education which was the lion's share of the budget.

The top five budget allocation for the FY 1961/62 in million British Pounds was as follows Ministry of Education 5,282,175, ministry of Law, Order and Defence 2,863,556, Ministry of development of natural resources 2,687,049, Ministry of Public Service 2,615,350, Ministry of Medical Services 2,388,406.

Some of the prominent members of the first parliament who were former teachers include Boniface Byanyima, John Rwamafa, Basil Bataringaya, Abdulla Anyulu, William Wilberforce Kalema and Mrs. Florence Allen Lubega.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

On September 8th this year, Parliament endorsed and passed the Computer Misuse (Amendment) Bill, 2022 that consequently became law after President Museveni assented to last month.

The Computer Misuse Act introduces punitive measures against Internet users who send malicious and unsolicited information as well as share information about children without the consent of their parents or guardians.

Users who share information about children without the authorisation of parents or guardians face five years in jail and or a fine of Shs15m.

Voice or video recording an individual without authorisation attracts a 10-year sentence or Shs15m fine.

The Bill which was introduced by the Kampala Central Division Member of Parliament Mr Muhammad Nsereko aimed at taming the persistently growing hate speech largely littered on different social media platforms.

Processed by Parliament's Committee on Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance (ICT) chaired by Mr Moses Magogo, the law is meant to close possibilities of cybercrime in Uganda.

The law, which is an amendment to the Computer Misuse Act, will not only begotten address the extreme changes occasioned by new technologies but to also strengthen the evolving dynamics of media technologies, tools, and spaces. Statistics from the Uganda Police Force Annual Crime and Road Safety Report, 2012 at least 62 cases were recorded at various police stations in the country and consequently investigated.

Police detailed that through the aforementioned cases, a tune of

New law to curb cybercrime



Kampala Central Division MP, Mr Muhammad Nsereko, tabled the Computer Misuse Amendment Bill 2022.
PHOTOS/PARLIAMENT PRESS

Shs 1.5 Billion was lost through the hacking of people's emails in addition to other means employed by the digital hackers. Therefore, the key among the remedies mooted by Parliament in this regard is the push for the legislation enacted in the aforementioned Act.

Additionally, the law aims at further shielding people's privacy from ill-intentioned persons who may otherwise encroach on other people's privacy, especially by exploiting the changes in ever-evolving technologies.

As a firewall to hate speech and pushing for more observation of people's rights, the Computer Misuse Act guards the citizenry from the social media platforms which are used illegally to access, share unsolicited hateful, malicious and unwarranted information.

Speaker of Parliament Anita Among welcomed the President's approval of the new law and applauded members of the 11th par-

LEGISLATORS ON THE ICT COMMITTEE



Ms Susan Abeja, Woman MP Otuke (INDP)



Ms Esther Afoyochan, Woman MP Zombo (NRM)



Ms Joyce Bagala, Woman MP Mityana (NUP)



Mr Moses Magogo, Budiope East County Buyende (NRM)



Mr Andrew Ojok, Omoro County (NRM)



Mr Nathan Nabeta, Jinja South Division East County (NRM)



Ms Florence Kabugho, Woman MP Kasese (FDC)



Ms Caroline Kamusiime, Woman MP Rukiga (NRM)



Phyllis Chemutai, Woman MP Kapchorwa (NRM)



Mr Alex Ndeezi, PWD MP (NRM)



Mr Barnabas Tinkasiimire, Buyaga West County Kagi (NRM)



Mr Herbert Kinobere, Kibuku County (NRM)

Bills passed between May 2021 and November 2022

SN	BILL	DATE
1	The Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2021	05/10/2021
2	The National Social Security Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2021	24/11/2021
3	The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) (Special Provisions) Bill, 2021	09/12/2021
4	The Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2021	14/12/2021
5	The Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill, 2021	14/12/2021
6	The Landlord and Tenant Bill, 2021	01/02/2022
7	The Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2021	08/02/2022
8	The Markets Bill, 2021	15/02/2022
9	The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022	13/04/2022
10	The Physical Planners Registration Bill, 2021	21/04/2022
11	The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.2), 2021	17/05/2022
12	The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.3), 2021	17/05/2022
13	The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (No.4), 2021	17/05/2022
14	The Traffic and Road Safety (Amendment) Bill, 2022	17/05/2022
15	The Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022	17/05/2022
16	The Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2022	17/05/2022
17	The Tax Appeals Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 2022	17/05/2022
18	The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022	18/05/2022
19	The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2022	18/05/2022
20	The Tax Procedures Code (Amendment) Bill, 2022	18/05/2022
21	The Appropriation Bill, 2022	20/05/2022

SN	BILL	DATE
22	The Mining and Minerals Bill, 2022	03/08/2022
23	The Kampala Capital City (Amendment) Bill, 2022	03/08/2022
24	The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
25	The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
26	The Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
27	The Anti-Money Laundering (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
28	The Trustees Incorporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
29	The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
30	The Insolvency (Amendment) Bill, 2022	30/08/2022
31	The Partnerships (Amendment) Bill, 2022	06/09/2022
32	The National Local Content Bill, 2022	06/09/2022
33	The Computer Misuse (Amendment) Bill, 2022	08/09/2022
34	The Museums and Monuments Bill, 2022	14/09/2022
35	The Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2022	28/09/2022
36	The Uganda Human Organ Donation and Transplant Bill, 2021	29/09/2022
37	The Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 2022	02/11/2022
38	The Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Bill, 2022	02/11/2022



Parliament passed the Landlord and Tenant Bill, 2021 to harmonise relations between landlords and tenants. PHOTO/MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

Voters at the centre of the 11th Parliament

BY MONITOR REPORTER

The leadership of the 11th Parliament has prioritised the need to address the concerns of their constituent members in addition to other roles bestowed upon the MPs as per the Constitution of Uganda.

This is evident in the style of admin-

istration employed by the current that constantly devises applicable remedies to enable MPs and staff at Parliament execute their mandates.

For instance, the Speaker of Parliament Anita Among took to her Twitter handle @AnitaAmong and asked the public to air out their queries and concerns that they would like Parliament

to address after the month-long recess.

After House resumed on November 1st, Ms Among told Members of Parliament during plenary that Parliament would commit specific time to address the concerns that garnered after the call was made to the public.

"Hon members, during, I sought public opinion on the areas they would

want to see prioritised during the second meeting of the second session and the following areas stood out saliently," Speaker Among told MPs during plenary on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 before listing the majors ones.

The sound out came with feedback that showed that there is need for Parliament to look at Affordable housing

to curb the housing deficit, the cost and quality of education, Sanitary Pads for children from low income Homes to help keep the girl-child in School.

Citizens also want Parliament to look at regularisation of labour exportation, universal Health Insurance and harmonisation of remuneration of public officers. Critical attention is also expected on the human Rights, equity and fairness in taxation, as we embark on the budget process, I urge you to engender some of these areas in resource allocation.

Human rights observance takes centre stage in House

Recently, the Chief Opposition Whip, Mr John Baptist Nambeshe recommended transformation of the Human Rights Committee into an accountability committee chaired by the Opposition.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

The leadership of the 11th Parliament has on several fronts stood tall in pushing for observation of human rights.

The institution has also on several occasions demanded that all persons believed to be held in unknown detention facilities be released and or be formally presented in the courts of law.

For instance, following the incarceration of the Makindye West Member of Parliament (MP) Mr Allan Ssewanyana, and the Kawempe North legislator Mr Muhammad Ssegirinya last year, Parliament has continuously taken a strong stand in pressing for their speedy trial.

"As the Head of the institution, all Members of Parliament here belong to the Speaker. My two members of Parliament make one year in Prison today [Wednesday]," Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among stated during a plenary session in September this year.

She added, "I request that the government for speedy trial on these members so that they represent their constituencies because today it is them [and] tomorrow it is somebody else. Let's see how we can have their case concluded."

In the same vein, the Leader of Opposition demanded that the Judiciary considers quickening the trial and faster hearing of the cases of the two legislators that are currently detained at the Kigo Prison.

On 03 February 2022, Opposition Members of Parliament led by the Leader of the Opposition, Mathias Mpuuga walked out of Parliament protesting what they termed as the continued violation of rights of Ugandans by security operatives.

The same call has persistently been made by legislators during committee sessions.

Key among the committees that have pressed the government for full adherence to human rights and respect for

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE



Brig. Gen Charity Bainababo, UPDF Representative



Ms Naome Kabasharira, Rushenyi County Ntungamo (INDP)



Mr Robert Kasolo, Iki-Iki County Budaka (NRM)



Mr Jennifer Mbabazi, Woman MP Kagadi (NRM)



Mr Fox Odoi Oywelowo, West Budama North East County Tororo (NRM)



Mr Norbert Mao, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs



Attorney General, Mr Kiryowa Kiwanuka

rule of law is the Parliament's Committee on Human Rights chaired by the MP for West Budama County North Mr Fox Odoi Oywelowo.

In the course of executing its duties, the committee has interacted with various line Ministries, Departments and Agencies charged with the responsibility of implementing the call to respect persons and uphold human rights in the country.

Considering that there is a pressing need for the government to quickly reign in on the persistent incidents of human rights violations, the legislators on human rights were quick to task the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs Mr Norbert Mao to consider it as a priority to be addressed.

In his first ever meeting with legislators on the human rights committee held on August 3rd, this year, Mr Mao

outlined a string of plans to tackle the pronounced but dismaying concern in the country.

"It is our duty to insist on the Constitution he signed in 1995 and which he swore to protect. I urge all Ugandans to condemn human rights abuses," Mr Mao said then before adding, "There is no way we can accept a citizen of Uganda to just disappear. I am more concerned about the disappearances."

Mr Mao pledged that a constitutional review would be done among other things. He promised to engage relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to heed the demands of the law and recommendations by Parliament.

Legislators were also promised that the government institutions would be pushed to respect the positions of institutions such as court rulings.

Besides the pledge to serve as a neutral minister in the said capacity, Mr Mao told lawmakers that his office would directly interface with security agencies to ensure that human rights of Ugandans are strictly observed.

Parliament tackles Ebola

BY MONITOR REPORTER

Cognisant of the danger that Ebola presses on Ugandans, Parliament like in other cases, has taken the forefront to tackle the fast spreading and deadly disease.

At the forefront of this fight is Speaker Anita Among who has since taken a string of precautionary measures to not only insulate legislators but also ensure that the government takes requisite measures to safety of citizens.

As House resumed from the month-long recess on November 1st, Ms Among issued a litany of directives that staff, legislators and visitors would follow ably enable Uganda's legislative arm to deliver on their mandate without fail.

"In the interest of safety and wellbeing of members, in exercise of responsible leadership I did write to the Minister of Health asking her to guide us on how we should behave and how the House should be resumed because of the outbreak of Ebola," she said.

The health precautionary measures largely meant smoothen and quicken work of the legislators.

This means that the outbreak and surge of the Ebola in Uganda has not obstructed the work of MPs. Administration at the August House exploits the advantages already nested in use of iPads and virtual platforms.

In so doing, all legislators are furnished with documents and report prior to plenary sessions or ahead of committee sessions so that they can be in position to debate soundly on topics at hand. Such means also enable MPs to participate to debates virtually.

Early this month, MS Among directed that the Information Technology department to activate all virtual platforms so that legislators can duly perform their roles. The virtual platforms largely exploit the technologies of zoom, a platform through which legislators can remotely participate in the sessions.

Ms Among also advised all persons with signs and symptoms similar to those of Ebola to seek medical attention.

Speaker Among also tasked the Minister of Health officials to frequently update Parliament on the Ebola situation in the country.

Parliament's Directorate of Communication and Public Affairs has devised means to exploit the technologies on both social media and main stream spaces. This is evident with the constant updates of the proceedings of plenary sessions relayed live through the Parliament YouTube channel.

The majority of the policies Opposition suggested and brought by the Opposition were largely focused on insulating Ugandans that struggle to secure a living and comprise the majority in Uganda.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

The Office of the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) steered by the Nyendo-Mukungwe legislator Mr Mathias Mpuuga has been commended for championing the drive to press for accountability and mooted alternative policies for the government.

Throughout the Financial Year (FY) 2021/2022, Mr Mpuuga's wing drafted and presented a litany of alternative policies that were said to be plausible enough to ease the tough economic times that Ugandans were plunged into at the time.

The policies fronted through the shadow cabinet that convenes every Tuesday were aimed at tackling the increasing commodity prices for essential goods such as fuel, soap, and food items.

In the lead-up to the final stages and eventually the passing of the 2022/2023 Financial Year Budget, the Opposition suggested that government reduce the taxes imposed on fuel.

Contained also in the proposals presented before the Parliament's Committees on Budget and Finance, Shadow Minister for Finance who also doubles as the Member of Parliament for Butambala County, Mr Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi backed by other colleagues proposed that government provides for a budget to facilitate the storage of fuel in the country.

"The issue of high commodity prices affects all of us whether you are in the Opposition or not. I would urge everyone to genuinely think about all Ugandans and the pain that they are currently going through. For instance, why doesn't the government do away with fuel marking yet the majority of the countries that previously had this policy have scrapped it," Shadow minister for information, Ms Joyce Bagala said.

The majority of the policies opposition suggested and brought before, Ms Bagala says, were largely focused on insulating Ugandans that struggle to secure a living and comprise the majority in Uganda.

"I would challenge anyone to genuinely tell Ugandans the fault in implementing cross-cutting policies as those we have always come up with," Ms Bagala stated in an interview.

A common thread in the policies from Mr Mpuuga's camp heavily pointed to the need to tame wasteful expenditure insulate the Ugandans from adverse economic shocks while availing vital or frequently accessed commodities at subsidised rates.

In September last year, the Opposition notified Parliament of the need to tighten the accountability measures that would be relevant in punishing officials guilty of mismanaging government funds meant to resuscitate the economy. These measures included the call to prosecute all persons liable for abuse of funds in the much-hyped *Emyooga* scheme. The same proposal got support from a section of policy experts. These include the Executive Director of the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade In-

Opposition offers alternatives to deal with economic shocks



Food vendors in Nateete, Kampala go about their business. The Opposition proposed that the government transform the Agricultural Credit Facility into Agricultural Bank to shield farmers from tough conditions issued by commercial banks each time they attempt to get loans.
PHOTO/MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI



Chief Opposition Whip and MP for Manjiya County, Mr John Baptist Nambeshe



Shadow Finance Minister and Butambala County MP, Mr Muhammad Muwanga Kivumbi

formation and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI), Ms Jane Nalunga who equally advised that action be taken on specific individuals found to be guilty.

In November last year, the Opposition proposed that the government transform the Agricultural Credit Facility into agricultural bank to shield farmers from tough conditions issued by commercial banks each time they attempt to get loans.

Last March, in the alternative ministerial policy statement on Finance FY2022'2023, Opposition advised the government to kick-start processes to check on the dominance of foreign-owned commercial banks in the country.

"Interventions such as Microfinance Support Centre and Pride Microfinance Limited Should be combined to reestablish a domestic cooperative bank. This will contribute to the increase in the number of domestic banks, reduction of the dominance of foreign-owned banks and reduce the cost of credit," a statement reads in part.

At the height of the debate calling for the cancellation of the coffee deal awarded to Italian investor, Enrica Pinetti, Shadow Minister for Trade Mr Fran-

cis Mwijukye suggested that the government enacts a competition law.

PROPOSALS

In September last year, the Opposition notified Parliament of the need to tighten the accountability measures that would be relevant in punishing officials guilty of mismanaging government funds meant to resuscitate the economy. These measures included the call to prosecute all persons liable for abuse of funds in the much-hyped *Emyooga* scheme.

In November last year, the Opposition proposed that the government transform the Agricultural Credit Facility into agricultural bank to shield farmers from tough conditions issued by commercial banks each time they attempt to get loans.

He said this would cushion local businesses from 'unfair' policies awarded to foreign investors such as Italian Enrica Pinetti.

"Create a competition law to address unfair competition between traders and ring fence small scale businesses for local traders," Mr Mwijukye said.

After the demise of the former Speaker Jacob Oulanyah fresh debates from Opposition came were reawakened on the stalled Lubowa Specialised Hospital Project demanding that a detailed forensic audit be conducted into the matter. This was followed by Parliament's refusal to approve an extra Shs319 billion for the same project.

The Shadow Minister for Agriculture Minister Mr Abed Bwanika backed

by Ms Bagala later joined by other rallied counterparts to press proper scrutiny of the coffee deal signed between the government and Uganda Vinci Coffee Company Limited (UVCL). And indeed this later canceled by Parliament but government corridors are have growing echoes of attempts to revive the deal.

This is after Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa on 23rd May tweeted saying: "What I can confirm to you is that nobody is going to take away your coffee. We had a meeting with the president and agreed to change a few things in that controversial coffee agreement. The president shall soon give the nation an update regarding the same matter."



Members of the Opposition proposed that government should reduce on fuel tax as one of the measures to curb inflation. PHOTO/ISAAC KASAMANI