

ENGAGEMENT

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION JOEL SSENKYONYI CALLED FOR ONE FULL PLENARY SITTING EACH MONTH DEDICATED TO PMT, IN ADDITION TO THE WEEKLY SLOT, TO ALLOW MPS TO RAISE CONSTITUENCY CONCERNS MORE EFFECTIVELY

one issue to foster interactive debate. Hon. Aisha Kabanda, the Butambala District Woman MP advocated for PMT to focus solely on oral questions, with written responses handled by responsible ministers – aligning with Commonwealth norms.

PRIME MINISTER'S PERFORMANCE

Nabbanja described her role as highly productive: "As Prime Minister, I have answered 665 questions during PMT, a record unmatched by any previous prime minister." Lawmakers focused on infrastructure, health, security and public service delivery – priority areas for citizens nationwide.

QUESTIONS DRIVING ACTION

MPs used the platform to demand progress on pending government commitments. Nakaseke South MP, Hon. Luttamaguzi Semakula cited unfulfilled presidential pledges, including electricity roll-out, school renovations and road works. Nabbanja assured him that projects such as the Luwero-Butalangu Road and Luweero Hospital rehabilitation were advancing, and electricity expansion was ongoing.

Hon. Okupa raised concerns about a police aircraft reportedly being disposed of at a loss. The Prime Minister clarified that no disposal was under consideration and that any decision would ensure value for money.

On water access, Oyam North MP, Hon. Apio Otuko Eunice questioned exclusion from National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) projects. Nabbanja explained that while current upgrades serve the highway corridor, Oyam North would be catered for under separate budget planning.

Older persons' rights were spotlighted by Hon. Joy Waako, the national Woman MP for Elderly Persons who reported inaccessible sanitation facilities. The Prime Minister said accessibility standards are enforced through the National Building Review Board. Hon Agnes Kirabo the MP for Youth, raised concerns about the cost of kidney transplants at Mulago Hospital. Nabbanja confirmed pricing was still under review following the country's first successful transplant in December 2023.

A STRONGER OVERSIGHT CULTURE

The Fourth Session showcased a Parliament more assertive in holding the Executive to account. With strengthened procedures, broader participation and sharper focus on service delivery, PMT continues to reinforce Parliament's constitutional watchdog role.

As the Fifth Session begins, expectations remain high for more responsive governance and improved outcomes for citizens across Uganda.



Delegates in a group photo after the Women's Parliament Sitting in March 2025

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND WELFARE TAKE CENTRE STAGE

By Vision Reporter

As the Fourth Session of the 11th Parliament progressed, the House repeatedly prioritised women's economic empowerment, legal rights, protection from violence and visibility in national leadership.

Through policy scrutiny, legislative proposals and recognition of women's leadership achievements, Parliament demonstrated a commitment to advancing women's welfare – a focus that now provides momentum for the Fifth and final session.

Across the Fourth Session, Parliament considered financial pledges to women's programmes, statutory reforms and proposals to restructure gender-focused institutions.

The underlying theme was clear: women must be included in law, public procurement, property ownership and economic growth. A significant milestone came in April 2024, when Parliament passed rationalisation bills tabled by the Minister for Public Service, Hon. Wilson Muruli Mukasa. Among them was the Rationalisation of Government Agencies (Gender and Special Interest Groups) Bill, which restructured the National Women's Council and the Equal Opportunities Commission to reduce duplication and strengthen delivery under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development. The reform reaffirmed Government's attention to women's issues at institutional level.

Economic inclusion formed a major element of debate. On September 18, 2024, Minister of State for Finance (General Duties) Hon. Henry Musasizi, also MP for Rubanda East, informed MPs that the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises (GROW) project operated through loans rather than grants and required collateral such as land titles. This followed concerns raised by the Committee on Gender that a World Bank grant worth sh803b was benefiting women directly through only sh133b, with the remainder directed to infrastructure and mindset-change projects. MPs warned that



Hon. Sarah Opendi - Tororo District Woman MP

such requirements risk excluding rural women and defeating the purpose of empowerment programmes.

LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

On October 1, 2024, Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja was commended after receiving a Global Power Women award in New York. The recognition was praised as proof of Ugandan women's growing influence internationally. Empowerment messaging continued at the Ninth Women's Forum in early October, where Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among urged women to challenge norms that restrict access to education, property, employment and healthcare. "We have managed to raise our heads above the choking waters and weathered the storm," she said. A week later, she pledged sh100m towards construction of the Imara Women's Centre to benefit rural women and girls.

LEGAL REFORMS - MARRIAGE BILL

On October 4, 2024, Hon. Sarah Opendi, the Tororo District Woman MP and the Chairperson of the Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association introduced the Marriage Bill, 2024, seeking to strengthen women's property rights, protect children and clarify marital arrangements. In March 2025, the Speaker called for the Succession (Amendment) Act, 2022 to be popularised so that families would better understand their rights to inheritance and estate distribution.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The tragic death of Olympian Rebecca

Cheptegei, who was set alight by a former partner in Kenya, sparked nationwide outrage. MPs condemned rising cases of violence against women and called for urgent action.

During the 16 Days of Activism in November 2024, the State Minister for Gender and Culture, Hon. Peace Mutuuzo cited progress under existing laws, but acknowledged persistent gaps in prevention and enforcement. Speaker Among also reminded Parliament that while the primary focus remained women and girls, protections must include men and boys who can also be victims.

Women's economic participation returned to the forefront in early 2025. On February 25, women MPs asserted their right to commemorate International Women's Day in their constituencies – a move the Speaker upheld to ensure visibility and engagement with local communities.

That same week, the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs, Hon. Balaam Barugahara admitted that political interference and mismanagement were undermining schemes like the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), slowing economic progress for women and young people.

At the Second Women's Parliament in March 2025, over 500 women leaders called for a bold policy shift: ring-fence 30% of local government procurement contracts for women-owned businesses. The proposal was backed by evidence showing that women are breadwinners in 55% of Ugandan households yet remain constrained by lack of collateral, limited credit access and low representation in formal economic opportunities. Parliamentarians emphasised the contradiction: women uphold much of the economy, but are still excluded from its most lucrative avenues.

If the commitments made in the Fourth Session are effectively implemented, Ugandan women could benefit from stronger legal protections, fairer access to public contracting, more inclusive economic interventions and improved safety from violence.