

National News

Anita Among's retirement benefits

The retirement perks that have been criticised by some legislators and labelled "one of the terrible mistakes" of the 8th Parliament, consolidate the benefits from her time as both Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

BY YASIN MUGERWA

Outgoing Speaker Anita Among, currently facing serious corruption allegations, is poised to receive a lucrative retirement package worth millions of shillings. Like predecessors, Ms Among is entitled to a monthly pension equal to 60 percent of the salary of the sitting Speaker, a lump sum payment on retirement (calculated as a sum equal to one year's salary paid for each term served in office).

She will also receive two luxurious four-wheel chauffeur-driven vehicles (3500-4000cc) worth more than Shs600 million. The two vehicles will be changed every five years. She will be entitled to four security guards, four domestic servants, free medical care for a retired Speaker and spouse(s), and a doubled monthly allowance for utilities of more than Shs1.3 million.

The retirement perks that have been criticised by some legislators and labelled "one of the terrible mistakes" of the 8th Parliament chaired by Mr Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, consolidate the benefits from her time as both Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The Speaker and the Deputy are paid a salary and other statutory allowances as an MP to a tune of Shs30 million. There are other special allowances for the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker approved by the Parliamentary Commission.

The Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) (No.2) Act 2011, updated in 2022, details the benefits for those who retire, resign, or pass away while serving as Speaker or Deputy Speaker. However, under the law, individuals can still receive benefits for all positions they held, even while currently serving in government.

In the 9th Parliament, the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee raised concerns about former Speaker Edward Ssekandi's demand for more than Shs400 million in benefits, despite his position as Vice President. The committee cited double payment and threw the matter to Speaker Rebecca Kadaga, who would also receive more than 400 million as a former Deputy Speaker.

Mr Ssekandi would seek legal opinion from the former Attorney General Peter Nyombi, who cleared the double payment of retired benefits, the lawmakers have called "ambiguous", and asked the 12th Parliament to stop the "recurrent conflict of interest" in the law and restore "sanity".

Former VP Ssekandi gets pensions for being Vice President, Deputy Speaker, and Speaker. He earns millions of shillings monthly, plus other entitlements

BENEFICIARIES

Benefits of a Speaker ceasing to hold office by retirement

- A monthly allowance equivalent to sixty percent of the monthly salary of the sitting Speaker.
- One four-wheel chauffeur-driven car with a cubic capacity of 3500 to 4000.
- Two security guards.
- Two domestic staff.
- Medical care for the retired Speaker and the spouse or spouses
- An allowance equivalent to thirty-three currency points (Shs660m) per month for utilities.

Benefits of a Speaker who ceases to hold office by resignation

- A monthly allowance equivalent to sixty percent of the monthly salary of the sitting Speaker of Parliament.
- One four-wheel chauffeur-driven car with a cubic capacity of 3500 to 4000.
- Two security guards.
- Two domestic staff.
- Medical care for the Speaker and the spouse or spouses.

Benefits of a spouse or spouses of a Speaker who ceases to hold office upon death

- A monthly allowance equivalent to sixty percent of the monthly allowance payable to the deceased Speaker.
- One four-wheel chauffeur-driven car with a cubic capacity of 3500 to 4000
- Two security guards.
- Two domestic staff.
- A health insurance policy of up to fourteen currency points (Shs280,000) per month.

Benefits of a Deputy Speaker ceasing to hold office by retirement

- A monthly allowance equivalent to sixty percent of the monthly salary of the sitting Deputy Speaker.
- One four-wheel chauffeur-driven car with a cubic capacity of 3500 to 4000.
- One security guard.
- One domestic staff.
- Medical care for the former Deputy Speaker and the spouse (s).
- An allowance equivalent to thirty-three currency points per month for utilities.



specified in the Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act 2022.

He also earns other related benefits under The Emoluments and Benefits of the President, Vice President, and Prime Minister Act 2010.

Before serving as Speaker, Ms Kadaga served as the Deputy Speaker of the 7th Parliament (2001-2006) and Deputy Speaker of the 8th Parliament (2006-2011). She was appointed in June 2021 as the 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs. She is also entitled to a cocktail of retirement benefits for all the positions held.

Sources told *Daily Monitor* last evening that outgoing Speaker Among, who held the position as Jacob Oulanyah's deputy from May 2021 to March 2022, is currently reaping the rewards of retirement benefits for a former Deputy Speaker. Additionally, she will be entitled to the privileges associated with being a former Speaker once her term concludes on May 24, 2026.

Outgoing Commissioner of Parliament and Nyendo-Mukungwe MP Mathias Mpuuga has highlighted the uncertainties in the current legislation and called for immediate amendments.

"The law is ambiguous! It needs to be amended to clarify the position; for one to take benefit from the last higher position! Mr Mpuuga told *Daily Monitor* yesterday, adding that it's important that the amendments in the law "clarify the position of benefits where one is still in active public service, like Kadaga is still MP and minister!"

Former Kira Municipality MP Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda and other former legislators who talked to *Daily Monitor* sought to put an end to what Mr. Narinda Mafabi, the former Forum for Democratic Change Presidential candidate and a former Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee chairperson, referred to as "the greed of retiring leaders".

"We noticed the conflict of interest in

the law and brought the matters to the attention of the government, but they decided to ignore our concerns," Mr Mafabi said, calling for self-control and asking the Speaker and the deputy to correct "the terrible mistake" of the previous Parliaments.

Mr Mafabi urged the ruling party majority in the 12th Parliament to wipe the record clean and start afresh without the burden of past mistakes, regrets, or habits. He explained that this would stop the "hemorrhage of public resources".

"The new Parliament has all the required tools to dismantle the impulsive, short-sighted nature of greed," Mr Mafabi said, adding that: "We cannot talk of fighting corruption when we still have leaders taking advantage of the law to take away resources needed in critical areas of our economy."

While Ms Among and other beneficiaries were not readily available to explain the accusations of unforgiving self-indulgence, a malaise that points to an absurdity where one's inability to show themselves grace fuels a cycle of coping through temporary, unrestrained pleasures, Mr Ssemujju however, talked of confusion in the current retirement benefits law for the House leadership and requested the government to put an end to what he described as "40 years of lip-service in the fight against corruption".

"There is confusion over the Speaker and Deputy Speaker's retirement benefits matter," Mr Ssemujju observed before he provided details on how "Ssekandi claimed and was/is given retirement benefits of Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Vice President, and he is also paid a salary as senior presidential advisor."

He added, "I raised it in Parliament and was asked to bring a Bill. At the moment, you are given benefits for all the offices."

Mr Ssemujju, however, didn't explain what became of the planned private members' bill that would have stopped

the continued wastage of public funds and depletion of the essential resources needed for critical public service infrastructure, and development projects.

Former Tororo County MP Geoffrey Ekanyia explained that the law contradicts the Public Service Standing Orders (2021), which bars the same person from drawing payment from two offices at the same time.

"If payment is from the Consolidated Fund or the government, a holder of office in public services shall not draw a salary or be paid for more than one office in public service," Mr Ekanyia told this publication last evening.

"It means a retired civil servant must choose one office to receive his or her pension. There is a clear conflict of interest in this case, and this must be corrected. It's unfortunate that in Parliament, we passed a law which is unconstitutional and constitutionally defective."

While the law had only catered for the 2007 Speakers and the Deputy Speakers, in 2022, Mr Akol Anthony, the Member of Parliament for Kilak North, tabled a private Members' Bill that amended the 2011 law and allowed all the previous Speakers to receive retirement benefits.

Among weighs in

On December 18, 2023, Ms Among invited all the former Speakers and gave them vehicles. She reiterated that the Parliament of Uganda in 2007 passed the Parliamentary Pensions Act, which conferred some retirement benefits to retired Speakers effective from the date of assent of the Act in 2007.

"The retired Speakers were entitled to [a] pension, gratuity, a chauffeur-driven car, medical care, security, and domestic staff," she explained on her official X-handle, adding that it was an oversight to leave out the Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliaments before 2007.

"This was unfair to other Speakers who had served the country prior to 2007. In my view, the government



Ms Anita Among (centre) is welcomed on arrival at Parliament to take oath as Bukedea Woman MP last Wednesday.

Left: Then House Speaker Anita Among chairs the plenary. PHOTOS/ PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA



Parliamentary Pensions Act 2022 to extend pension benefits to all our retired Speakers effective the year 1980. I want to thank the Hon Akol Anthony, Member of Parliament for Kilak North, who, through a private Members' Bill, moved a motion for this amendment."

Shs660m
FOR UTILITIES
EVERY MONTH

Speakers who served the country after 1979 and 1986 Liberation wars worked under the most difficult circumstances. In spite of those circumstances, they succeeded in building a foundation for the thriving democracy which we all enjoy today," Ms Among said.

She added: "This explains why the Parliamentary Commission, which I am honoured to chair, took a bold decision to initiate an amendment to the

AMONG'S STATEMENT IN FULL (REGARDING BENEFITS)

In a special way, I want to thank H.E the President for assenting to the Bill in a timely manner to ensure that his distinguished colleagues are taken care of. By this amendment, we were able to recognise the contribution of the following Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament from 1980 - 2007: H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President and Chairman of NRC from 1986 -1996, Rt. Hon. Prof Edward Rugumayo, Speaker/Chairman NCC from 1979 -1980 Rt. Hon Francis Butagira, Speaker of Parliament from 1980 - 1985, Rt. Hon. Alhaji Moses Kigongo, Vice Chairman of NRC from 1986 -1996, Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi, Deputy Speaker of the Sixth Parliament from 1998 - 2001, as well as Speaker of the 7th and 8th Parliaments, the families of the Late Rt. Hon. Wapakhabulo, Rt. Hon. Francis Ayume, and Rt. Hon. Alexander Waibale, who died before the enactment of the Parliamentary Pensions Act of 2007.

For avoidance of doubt, the Parliamentary Pensions Act, as amended, now entitles them to both monetary and non-monetary benefits as provided for in the Parliamentary Pensions Act, 2022.

The Parliamentary Commission is also extending the same benefits, but only in monetary terms, to the Spouses and dependents of former Speakers and Deputy Speakers who either died in office or in retirement. I

know that all of you, the living retired Speakers and Deputy Speakers, are already getting your monetary benefits from the Parliamentary Commission. What was missing was the provision of a four-wheel chauffeur-driven car, which the Parliamentary Commission has now procured, and I am ready to hand over to you today. These vehicles will remain the property of the Government.

The Parliamentary Commission will be responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles and payment of allowances to your drivers who will be enrolled on our pay list as employees of the Parliamentary Commission. The vehicles will be boarded off and replaced every five years in accordance with the Government Transport Policy.

I wish to state that the Parliament has extended full pension benefits to all the families of our Speakers who died in retirement and in office. Late Rt. Hon. Alexander Waibale, Chairman of the National Consultative Council, The Late Rt. Hon. Francis Ayume, Speaker of the Sixth Parliament, The Late Rt. Hon. James Wapakhabulo, Speaker of the Sixth Parliament, The Late Rt. Hon. Betty Okwir, Deputy Speaker of the Sixth Parliament, and The Late Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah, Deputy Speaker of the 9th and 10th Parliament and Speaker of the 11th Parliament. I request that we stand and observe a moment of silence in their memory.

They say...

Medard Saeg-gons Lubega, Former Busiro East MP

The law is immoral. We attempted in PAC to amend the law, but we are opposed.

Wilfred Niwagaga, Former Ndorwa West MP

I have never addressed my mind on that particular matter, but I believe a good law wouldn't give benefits to one person who held two different offices. I believe the office with more benefits than the other would be invoked on retirement.

Theodore Ssekikubo, Former Lwemiyaga MP

Among or any other former Speaker and Deputy should be reminded that the benefits are drawn from the consolidated fund. You cannot draw more than once for the same person (Public Finance and Management Act). When you serve in a pensionable office, your file is created. It then gets forwarded to the next office once you shift to a continuous service. The essence is to streamline and harmonise pension.



PUBLIC NOTICE

MANDATORY UPDATE OF TAXPAYERS' REGISTRATION DETAILS IN URA

Effective July 01, 2025, Section 4 of the Tax Procedures Code Act requires a replacement of Tax Identification Number (TIN) with National Identification Number (NIN) or Business Registration Number (BRN).

Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) therefore informs all registered taxpayers to update their tax registration details with the NIN for individuals or BRN for non-individuals, their active or current telephone number(s), physical address, and nature of business, among others.

Taxpayers whose registration details are not up-to date, will be prompted by the system to first update their information upon logging into their TIN account before proceeding with any transaction in the URA web portal.

To update your registration details, registrationlog into your TIN account on the URA portal at www.ura.go.ug or visit the nearest URA tax office for assistance.

For more information, contact us at services@ura.go.ug or call our toll-free line 0800217000, or our toll lines 0323-444602/0323-444603, or WhatsApp 0772140000.

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For more information, please contact us on our toll-free numbers 0800117000/0800217000 or 0417444602 (not toll free) or 0772140000 or email us via services@ura.go.ug or visit the nearest URA office. Contact us on our social media channels: [f URAPage](#) [t @URAUGANDA](#)