

URGENT: THE EXPENSES CANNOT WAIT FOR 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR

By John Odyek

Parliament has approved a sh1.1 trillion supplementary expenditure despite resistance from opposition MPs.

The funding will cater for key items, including additional funds for the swearing-in ceremony of President Yoweri Museveni next week, support to Atiak Sugar Ltd, LC1 and LC2 elections, women council polls and preparations for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON 2027).

State Minister for Finance Henry Musasizi yesterday moved the motion, urging the House to adopt Supplementary Schedule No. 5 for the 2025/26 financial year.

Musasizi said the expenditures are urgent and cannot wait for the 2026/27 financial year. He further told MPs that the schedule was submitted to the Office of the Speaker on April 30, and that part of the spending had already been incurred in line with the law, requiring retrospective approval.

To enable consideration of the request without referral to budget and sectoral committees, Fox Odoi (West Budama North East County, National Resistance Movement) moved a motion to suspend Rules 165 (4) and (5) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure.

Odoi argued that the schedule provides for critical expenditures, such as LC elections, AFCON 2027 preparations, the swearing-in ceremony and salary arrears. The motion was thus adopted.

WHY THE RUSH?

Some opposition MPs questioned both the urgency and procedure

SH1.1 TRILLION APPROVED FOR LC ELECTIONS, AFCON

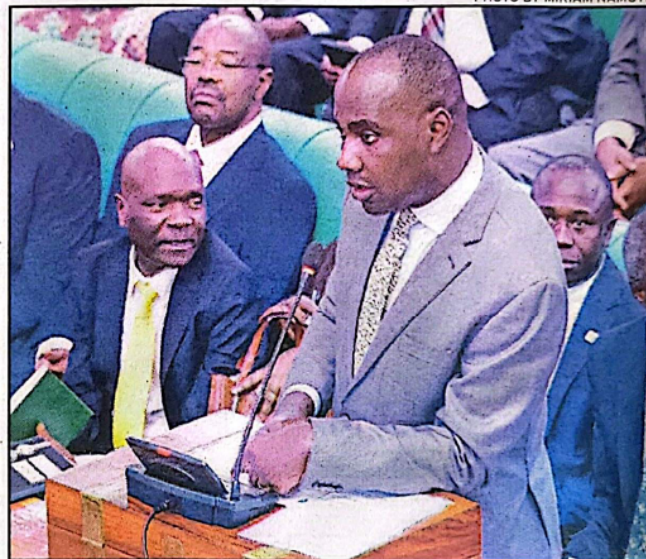
DISTRIBUTION

According to the approved schedule, allocations include:

- Sh6.25b for cities and district local governments
- Sh72.9b for women enterprises under the GROW Project
- Sh56.9b for LC1, LC2 and women council elections
- Sh29.57b for AFCON 2027 preparations
- Sh132.9b for the Uganda Police Force
- Sh23.21b as counterpart funding for wages for seed schools
- Sh107.2b for wages pensions and gratuity
- Sh110b for classified expenditure under State House
- Sh3b to cover a budget shortfall for the presidential swearing-in ceremony.

of the request.

Medard Lubega Sseggon (Busiro County East, National Unity Platform)



Musasizi (forefront) presenting the Supplementary Schedule No. 5 for the 2025/26 financial year at Parliament, yesterday

said while the items may appear reasonable, several issues remain unanswered, Sseggon argued that some expenditures were foreseeable

and should have been planned for. "Who did not know there would be a swearing-in? LC elections are long overdue, yet we are being rushed to

approve. How do you bring a request to pay salaries when the financial year is about to end? I oppose the motion," Sseggon stated.

Ibrahim Ssemujju (Kira Municipality Forum for Democratic Change, FDC) also said none of the items qualified as emergency expenditure. He cited Rule 160 and Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2013, which caps supplementary spending at 3% of the national budget without prior parliamentary approval, maintaining that the request did not meet this threshold.

State Minister for Industry David Bahati defended funding for Atiak Sugar, saying the factory is expected to begin production in September 2026. He said the investment is intended to spur economic activity in northern Uganda, including irrigation to mitigate weather changes.

Anthony Akol (Kilak North County, FDC) supported the allocation, noting that "Production started but stalled due to limited cane supply. Planting has resumed and we should allow time for production to pick up".

However, the Leader of the Opposition, Joel Ssenyonyi, called for disclosure of share certificates and proof of government equity in Atiak Sugar and other entities benefiting from public funds. Ssenyonyi said a valuation report is necessary to justify continued financial commitments, noting that the company has repeatedly promised to commence sugar production without delivering.

Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka assured the House that the Auditor General will audit all funds disbursed to Atiak Sugar and present a report to the Parliament.

By John Musenze

US boosts Uganda's humanitarian response with \$200M