

Unfinished business of the 11th Parliament

BY ELIZABETH KAMURUNGI

Key parliamentary business, including legislation, motions, and reports left unfinished by the 11th Parliament, may be lost or have to start afresh if the new House doesn't act swiftly to save them.

According to the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, a Bill, petition, motion, or other business pending before the House or a committee during the term of Parliament lapses upon the dissolution of Parliament.

While the 11th Parliament has been hailed for passing several laws, considering reports, and motions, a raft of Bills remained incomplete.

Among them are both privately sponsored and government Bills, which have been at the committee stage for more than the stipulated 45 days.

They include the National Legal Aid Bill, 2022, that seeks to make provision for the grant of legal aid services to indigent, marginalised, and vulnerable persons; and the Human Resource Management Professional Bill, 2025, that seeks to curb quack human resource practitioners and enforce standards in the profession. The Private Member's Bill seeks to regulate the HR profession through strict registration, licensing, and disciplinary measures. It was moved by Workers' MP Margaret Rwabushaija.

The Bill proposes a maximum fine of Shs10 million and or six months in jail for persons convicted of practicing without a valid certificate and upto Shs20 million or a two-year jail term for indi-



Ms Emma Lokubal, the Woman MP of Nabilatuk (second left) celebrates with her supporters at National Theatre, Kampala, yesterday. PHOTO/IBRAHIM KAVUMA

viduals who forge documents or pretend to be registered HR professionals.

"Last week, we lost a mother because she went to a fake doctor. Today, I read of another mother who has died at the hands of an unqualified doctor. Even in HR, we have fake practitioners who have no clue about managing people. This Bill is going to save organisations from such quacks," MP Rwabushaija said during a joint meeting between State minister for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations Esther Anyakun, and MPs from the Committees on Gender, Labour and Social Development and Public Service and Local Government, on October

7, 2025.

Some controversial Bills, like the Marriage Bill 2024 and the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2023, were also not completed despite attracting animated debate and interest from sections of the public. The Marriage Bill, sponsored by former Tororo Woman MP Sarah Opendi, seeks to, among others, provide for recognised marriages in Uganda, the registration of marriages, marital rights and obligations, conversion from one form of marriage to another, property rights, separation, and the dissolution of marriage.

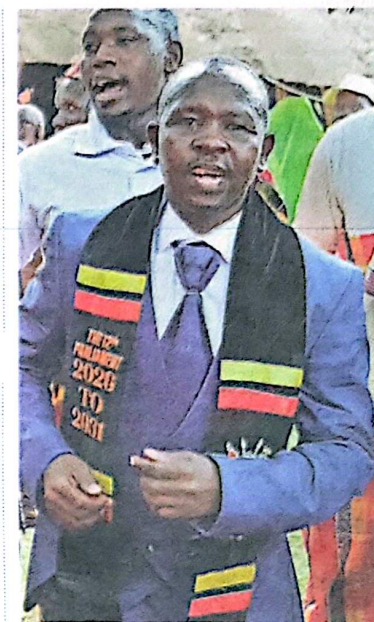
Some sections of the public have ac-

SAVING UNFINISHED WORK

According to the rules of procedure of Parliament, all business lapses upon the dissolution of Parliament. A case in point is at the beginning of the 11th parliament, when then Speaker Jacob Oulanyah directed that all Bills, reports, and motions that had lapsed with the 10th parliament had to be introduced afresh. This ruling also affected Bills that had been passed but were not assented to by the President. The ruling was informed by the fact that the 11th Parliament had not saved this unfinished business.

According to rule 245(2), the 12th Parliament must act swiftly to avoid a repeat of the same. The rule provides that the same can be reinstated in the next Parliament, subject to strict procedures.

The 12th Parliament will have to pass a resolution to save the business left unfinished by the previous House. This must be done within the first 14 sittings of the first session.



Mr Hillary Lokwang, the MP for Ik County in Kabong District celebrates with his supporters after he was sworn in. PHOTO / ABUBAKER LUBOWA

cused the 11th Parliament of prioritising politically motivated legislation, while other Bills remained at the committee stage for years. For example, the Protection of the Sovereignty Bill, 2026, was tabled, processed, and passed in twenty days, while the UPDF Amendment Act was handled in a record seven days.