

THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY OF 11TH PARLIAMENT

BY MARY KARUGABA

After five years of legislation, the 11th Parliament has folded, with 290 MPs not making it back to the House for the 2026-2031 term.

The term ended on Tuesday during the session which passed the Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026.

Speaking to *The Weekend Vision*, Clerk to Parliament Adolf Mwesige said: "We have formally closed the business of Parliament. There's no more work in committees and plenary."

The swearing-in ceremony, according to Mwesige, will run from Wednesday, May 13, to Friday, May 15, 2026, in alphabetical order.

According to the Gazette, over 290 MPs (70%) of the 11th Parliament will not return to the House.

Out of the 290 MPs who lost their seats, 188 are from the National Resistance Movement, 30 from the

National Unity Party, while 42 are independents. In the Forum for Democratic Change, 20 MPs will not be coming back, while in the Democratic Party and Uganda People's Congress, the number of those who lost their seats is at eight and five, respectively.

The Justice Forum party failed to secure any parliamentary seat after their party chairperson, Asuman Basalirwa, lost the Bugiri Municipality seat.

PERFORMANCE

Spearheaded by the current Speaker, Anita Among since March 25, 2022, following the death of Jacob Oulanyah on March 19, 2022, the 11th Parliament has registered many wins, but also suffered a lot of negative publicity.

Among described the first session as one marked by resilience despite the tragedy, noting that

FIST FIGHTS

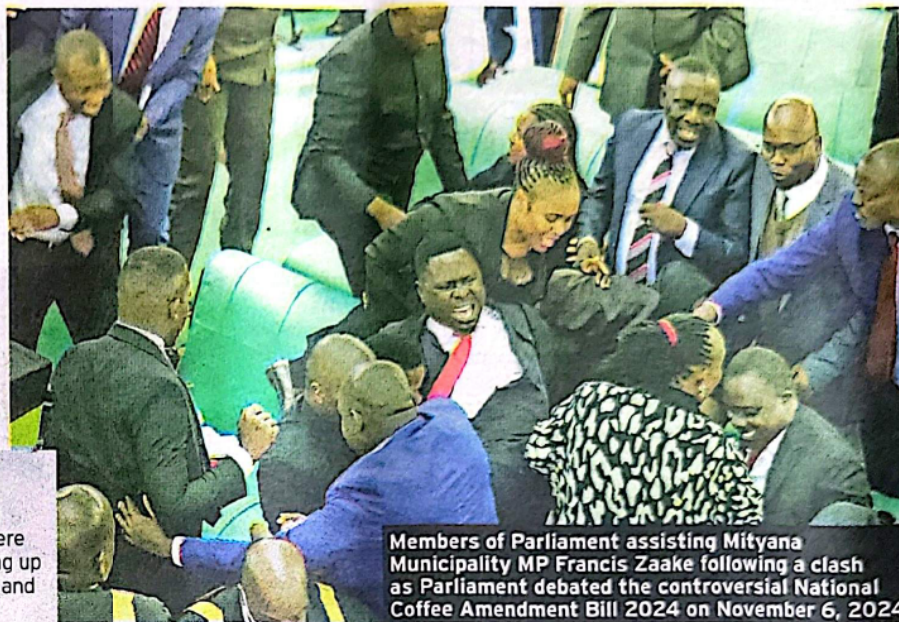
The House witnessed several moments where tempers flared, ending up in heated arguments and fist fights.

One of the people at the centre of the storm was Mityana Municipality MP Francis Zaake, who was boxed by Kilak North MP Anthony Akol.

To defuse the chaos, Speaker Anita Among quickly adjourned the House for 30 minutes, retreating to restore order.

In 2023, Rakai Woman MP Juliet Kinyamatama wanted Zaake suspended from parliamentary proceedings for allegedly making what she described as defamatory remarks against her.

After a lengthy hearing by the disciplinary committee, Kinyamatama lost.



Members of Parliament assisting Mityana Municipality MP Francis Zaake following a clash as Parliament debated the controversial National Coffee Amendment Bill 2024 on November 6, 2024

Parliament managed to pass 26 Bills during the period, the highest number ever.

Among singled out the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Bill, 2021, as one of the most significant laws passed, saying it laid a critical foundation for Uganda's oil production agenda.

The Speaker further said the House adopted 31 committee reports and processed numerous issues raised by MPs.

Among argued that despite criticism often directed at Parliament, the Legislature had actively exercised oversight over the Executive.

She noted that MPs asked 112 questions to government

during the session, all of which were answered by the Prime Minister, while Parliament also passed 71 resolutions.

Among further praised Members of Parliament for introducing 12 Private Members' Bills, describing the development as proof that legislators were increasingly taking initiative beyond government-sponsored legislation.

Key controversial laws that were passed by Parliament include: Protection of Sovereignty Bill, Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023, Computer Misuse (Amendment) Act (2022) and Rationalisation of

Government Agencies and Public Expenditure Bills.

The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 was signed into law by President Yoweri Museveni in May 2023, resulting in significant international sanctions and aid restrictions.

The Computer Misuse (Amendment) Act (2022) was signed into law, but the Constitutional Court later nullified some of its sections.

The Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure Bills resulted in the closure of agencies such as Uganda Coffee Development Authority and Uganda National Roads Authority.