

## Parliament Guide

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# House Committee checks govt over unfulfilled promises

The Government Assurances and Implementation Committee's findings that the government had failed to provide most of the essential requirements for these new cities to function effectively.

BY MONITOR REPORTER

Parliament's Committee on Government Assurances and Implementation has raised red flags over the government's failure to deliver on key promises. These range from the full operationalisation of the newly created cities to the upgrading of health facilities across the country.

In a detailed report tabled before the House, the Committee accused Government ministries of neglecting commitments made on the Floor of Parliament, exposing gaps that continue to hinder service delivery and local development.

The mandate of the Government Assurances and Implementation Committee is drawn from Rule 179 (1) of the 2021 Rules of Procedure of Parliament, which requires it to closely monitor and scrutinise un-



Hon. Betty Namboozie (right), the former Chairperson of the Government Assurances and Implementation Committee hands over office to the incoming chairperson, Hon. Abed Bwanika.

dertakings made by the government.

Specifically, under Rule 179(1) (a), the Committee is tasked to "monitor and evaluate the fulfilment of government assurances" as pledged by the President, Prime Minister, and Ministers while addressing the House.

It is against this backdrop that Committee Chairperson Hon. Abed Bwanika (Kimanya-Kaboneru) and his deputy, Hon. Joyce Bagala (Mityana Woman MP) undertook an extensive review of various

commitments made by Government before Parliament.

In early August 2025, Hon. Bwanika tabled a 28-page report detailing the extent to which government had fulfilled its promise to provide the necessary resources to fully operationalise the ten new cities created during the Financial Year 2020/21.

The report, presented during a plenary sitting chaired by Speaker of Parliament Anita Among, scrutinised the implementation of assurances that were to be delivered

primarily through the Ministry of Local Government.

The 10 cities in question were established on April 28, 2020 by the 10th Parliament, which approved the Minister for Local Government, Hon. Raphael Magyezi's proposal to elevate 15 municipalities into city status in phases.

The first batch of Arua, Gulu, Jinja, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Mbale, and Masaka, came into effect on July 1, 2020, followed by Hoima, Lira, and Soroti on July 1, 2021.

However, during the August 7,

### GRIM FINDINGS

Among other concerns, the Committee on Government Assurances and Implementation discovered that the cities had been activated without the enactment of appropriate legislation to guide their governance. After on-site visits, the Abed Bwanika-led Committee established that most cities were inadequately staffed, with employees working in cramped office spaces and lacking proper accommodation.

2025 sitting, Parliament learnt from the Committee's findings that the government had failed to provide most of the essential requirements for these new cities to function effectively.

"The Committee concludes that, to a large extent, the Government has not implemented this assurance to fully operationalise the new cities," the report reads in part.

The Committee's conclusion followed a thorough examination of government's pledges to empower the ten newly created cities. The report, debated and later adopted by the House in the presence of Magyezi, accused government of failing to provide at least five key necessities for the cities to operate efficiently.

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TURN TO PAGE 23



# Parliament holds govt accountable

that most cities were inadequately staffed, with employees working in cramped office spaces and lacking proper accommodation.

"The Committee observed that the process of creating cities was undertaken without due consideration of the criteria set out in the Local Government Act," Bwanika noted while referencing the report.

He added that "in most cases, the mother districts continue to occupy the old office structures, leading to constant conflicts between the cities and their parent districts."

For instance, in Gulu City, some departments were still operating from district offices due to lack of space, while in Mbarara City, part of the city office space had report-

edly been rented out by the district to a private entity.

## Gaps in health facilities implementation

In a related inquiry, the Committee undertook a nationwide assessment to establish whether government had fulfilled its commitment to ensure that every sub-county has a functional health centre.

The Committee examined the extent to which medical supplies, staffing, and equipment had been provided, as repeatedly promised.

Specifically, the Committee assessed the upgrade of Health Centre IIs to IIIs, the construction of new Health Centre IIIs, and the

equipping of upgraded and newly built facilities.

Following a comprehensive review, the Committee reported to Parliament in early August that most of these commitments had not been fulfilled.

"Government has not lived up to its promise to implement the assurance to upgrade, rehabilitate, construct and equip health facilities in local governments; install CT scans, oxygen plants, and ICU equipment in all regional referral hospitals across the country," Bwanika reported.

The findings provoked outrage among several legislators. Speaker Among decried the chronic under-

staffing in public health facilities such as Mulago National Referral Hospital, where modern equipment remains largely underutilised.

"In Mulago, we have the best ICU and other advanced equipment, but we lack the human resources to operate them. We end up referring patients abroad simply because we cannot afford to pay the staff," she said.

Health minister, Dr Jane Ruth Aceng acknowledged the Committee's report, describing it as valuable but slightly outdated.

"Indeed, it is a very good report. However, it was made in October last year [2024]. I would like to remind the Committee Chairperson

that much has changed since then, and we may need to revisit some aspects," Dr Aceng remarked.

## Strengthening oversight

Overall, the 37-member Committee has, throughout the fourth session of the 11th Parliament, continued to champion Parliament's oversight role by interrogating government assurances to determine whether they have been fulfilled.

Through such scrutiny, the Committee has reaffirmed Parliament's constitutional responsibility to ensure accountability and transparency in the execution of the government promises.