AUGUST 2012 HANSARD

QUESTIONS

Date: 1st August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Peris Chepchumba
Contribution she made on: Monies Owed to Masinde Muliro University
By Kakamega Municipal Council

She asked the Minister for Local Government the following Questions

a) whether he is aware that Kakamega Municipal Council has declined to honor
payment of Kshs575,964 owed to Masinde Muliro University of Science and
Technology arising from preparation of Environmental Assessment Report
contract by the council six years ago and, when the money plus interest will
be paid;

b) Whether he is further aware that after the initial payment of Kshs.159,036
vide cheque dated 25th April, 2005, council officers have been demanding a
bribe of between Kshs60,000 to Kshs80,000 before Kshs575,964 could be
released and also over the years, written cheques have been torn when
bribes are not given and what action will be taken against the officers; and,

c) Whether he could table the letter dated 10th December, 2004 requesting the
then Western University College of Science and Technology to undertake
Environmental Audit for the Kakamega Municipal Council, Environmental Audit
Report contract No KMC/QUO/12/04, invoices and demand letters from
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology and any relevant
information related to this case.

Date: 4th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Martha Karua
Contribution she made on: Use of BVR System to Curb Electoral Fraud

She asked the Minister for Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs the
following Question

a) To clarify if there exists international agreements with any foreign country to
exchange data and especially criminal data for the mutual benefit of the
country

Date: 7th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Maison Leshoomo
Contribution she made on: Lack of Clear Policy on Issuance of Identity
Cards to Kenyan Youths

She asked the Minister of State for Immigration and Registration of Persons the
following Questions
a) To clarify why in Samburu at present only 8,000 people had identification cards despite the government claims to have issued all the identification cards.

b) To also explain why some people who have applied for ID cards have not received them two years after applying for them and still have the waiting cards.

Date: 8th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Joyce Laboso
Contribution she made on: Cushioning Farmers from Effects of Massive Crop Failure Due To Frost

She asked the Assistant Minister of State for Special Programmes the following Questions

a) Whether he was aware that the whole South Rift region had had complete maize crop failure and added that as the policies were being made, would the Ministry consider making food provisions for the farmers living in these areas.

Date: 15th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Martha Karua
Contribution she made on: Trespass into Private Property by Administration Police Officers

She asked the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security the following Questions

a) Whether he was aware that a contingent of Administration Police (AP) officers trespassed onto private property that is subject of a court dispute, namely Narok/Nguruman/Kamorora/1, in April 2010 and have remained there since, despite protests by the registered owners; and,

b) Whether he could order immediate withdrawal of the police from the property.

Date: 15th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Amina Abdalla
Contribution she made on: Establishment of Rehabilitation Centres in Central Province

She asked the Minister for Public Health and Sanitation the following Question

a) How long it would take to decentralize the rehabilitation centres in the 47 counties considering it took almost 18 years to establish two rehabilitation centres in Mombasa and Nairobi.
Date: 21st August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Prof Kamar
Contribution she made on: Reasons for Poor Ranking of Kenyan Universities

She responded to the Question by Hon. Odhiambo by stating the following:

a) That the recent ranking of universities was done by two different bodies. The first one was done by a body called the Fourth International Colleges and Universities which was done early in 2012, and which gave results of 100 universities and colleges. In that ranking, only four public universities and one private university in Kenya appeared in the top 100. In another ranking which was done by Cybermetric Lab under the auspices of the Ranking Web of the World Universities which was done in January 2012, there were five public universities in Kenya appearing among the top 100 and two private universities.

b) She pointed out that the rankings of universities by the two bodies based the ranking on some criterion and that what appeared to be poor ranking of the Kenya universities even among the African countries may be misleading mainly because of the criteria used by the ranking agencies and added that was because the two agencies appeared to use different ranking criteria.

c) She continued on saying that it was instructive that rankings of universities were based on, amongst others, the number of teacher staff in a university who hold PhD Degrees and that it was also based on the number of applications, the number of academic and research work posted on the website rather than the quality of what is posted was also part of the criterion.

d) She went on to state that in the Kenyan scenario, most universities carry out a lot of intensive academic and research work. However, this did not get posted to the websites owing to the challenges of ICT inter-connectivity in Kenyan universities so, most of what is done is not on the website and yet the two ranking institutions were only using what they can see in the websites.

e) She however admitted that a number of lecturers did not hold PHD which also affected the ranking but quickly added that this information being taken from the website was also misleading because the websites may not have been updated which may in turn give misleading information.

f) She further pointed out that in the ranking that was done by the first institution in January 2012, the University of Nairobi (UoN) was ranked No.17 while in the ranking that was done within the same quarter by the Fourth Colleges and Universities ranking, the UoN was ranked at No.11.

g) She pointed out that the discrepancy showed again showed in the other universities. The Strathmore University was ranked No.43 in the first ranking and it was No.46 in the second ranking. Kenyatta University was ranked at No.45 by the first group but was No.54 by the second group. Egerton University was ranked by the World Universities Web at No.50, while it was
No.59 by the second ranking. Moi University was ranked No.69, but it did not appear in the ranking of the first group. USIU was ranked No.71 by the ranking of the Fourth International Colleges and Universities, but it does not appear in the Ranking of the Web of the World universities. Jomo Kenyatta was ranked No.76 in January by the Web of the World universities, but it did appear at No.81 in the next group.

h) She stated that because of the different criteria even between the ranking agencies, it would appear that one could not get the right picture of where the universities fall.

i) She pointed out that the Government was currently addressing the problems of shortage of lecturers in the public universities through a number of initiatives and went to state that some of these were

a) Having a bilateral agreement with the German Government through which their aid agency DAAD offered several scholarships to the teaching staff in our universities. This project mainly targeted university lecturers in the fields of medicine, engineering and the sciences. She further stated that each year, a number of lecturers join German universities to study for their PhD programmes.

b) She further added that the Ministry had gone further and cosponsored more candidates under this programme since the previous year and were putting in Kshs20 million so that they also have partial scholarships.

c) In addition to this she pointed out, there was the GOK/ADB Higher Education, Science and Technology quality and relevant Improvements Project, which has a component on training of university teaching staff. Under that programme, university teaching staff with bachelor’s degree would be trained at masters’ level, while those with masters will be trained at PhD level in the fields of engineering and applied sciences.

d) The other strategy she pointed out was through the Pan African University Institute of Basic Science Technology and Innovation, an initiative of the African Union which is now within Jomo Kenyatta University. It is expected to train Kenyans in the fields of masters and PhD levels in engineering and applied sciences and pointed out that she kept on referring to engineering and applied sciences because this is the area that has the highest shortage. It is also expected to upgrade the teaching and research capacities of our universities.

e) The other strategy she pointed out was providing scholarships from friendly countries all over the world each year. Most of the scholarships are in the areas of sciences, medicine, engineering and technology. It is envisaged that the post graduate studies will be undertaken through the universities. We have prioritized our universities for these scholarships. She concluded by stating that all those initiatives were aimed at capacity building within the universities in order for them to have an equivalent staff compliment for the expansion that they were undertaking currently.

Date: 22nd August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Prof Kamar
Contribution she made on: Establishment of More Middle Level Colleges to Offer Science/Technological/Vocational Courses
She responded to the Question raised by Hon. Pesa By stating the following:

a) The Government was currently establishing technical training institutes across the country as follows:-
   i) Eight new technical training institutes are being constructed in collaboration with the African Development Bank. These are:
      1. Siala in Migori, Aldai in Nandi County
      2. Bureti in Kericho County
      3. Mukurweini in Nyeri County
      4. Wajir Technical Training Institute in Wajir County
      5. Tseikuru in Kitui County,
      6. Dodoma Technical Institute in Kilifi County and
   ii) There are also five new technical training institutes (TTIs) which were fully funded by the Government as follows:-
      1. Ekerubo-Gaitai TTI in Nyamira County
      2. Bondo TTI in Siaya County
      3. Karumo TTI in Meru
      4. Mitunguu TTI in Meru; and
      5. North Rift TTI in Baringo East Pokot.
   iii) She also indicated that there are eight campuses of existing institutions which had been established. These were:-
      1. Mandera, under the Kenya Polytechnic College
      2. Kwale, under the Mombasa Polytechnic University College;
      3. Marsabit, under the Kenya Technical Training College (KTTC);
      4. Narok, under the KTTC;
      5. Ziwa, under the Eldoret Polytechnic;
      6. Bomet, under the Eldoret Polytechnic; and,
      7. Turkana, under the Kisumu Polytechnic;

She further pointed out that it was also expected that in this financial year, the remaining nine counties without technical training institutes would be taken care of and these are Isiolo County, Tharaka-Nithi County, West Pokot County, Samburu County, Elgeyo Marakwet County, Laikipia County, Tana River County and Lamu County.
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Date: 1st August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Esther Murugi
Contribution she made on: Resettlement of IDP’s In Kenya

She responded to the question by Hon Njuguna by stating the following

a) That in the Financial Year 2009/2010, the Ministry of Lands was given Kshs1.4 billion. In the Financial Year 2010/2011, they got Kshs1.5 billion; in the Financial Year 2011/2012, they got Kshs2.5 billion and in the current year, they have Kshs1.8 billion bringing it to a total of Kshs7.2 billion. She added that the Government had not received any funding from development partners for purchase of land for resettlement of IDPs, but had received donations of land from County Councils of Turkana and Lodwar and from a Reverend Gichuki.

b) The Government had purchased parcels of land and forwarded to her Ministry to resettle IDPs; the 99 parcels measured 17,183.53 acres but she added that three of these parcels had issues and although the IDPs were there, they had not been able to completely resettle them and were awaiting the issues to be resolved.

c) That the Government had resettled 5,200 IDP households on Government purchased land and 2,593 would be settled on the land donated by the County Council of Turkana and the Municipal Council of Lodwar. This she added gave a total of 7,793 IDP households resettled.

d) She pointed out that her ministry was yet to resettle 1,778 households but that the Government was in the process of procuring approximately 5,652 acres of land to resettle the remaining households. Once this was done, then her Ministry would finish the resettlement programme.

e) Unfortunately, some IDP’s were not captured but her Ministry was looking for ways they could be accommodated into the project.

Date: 1st August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Wavinya Ndeti
Contribution she made on: Non-Payment of Salaries to Youth Polytechnic Instructors

She responded to the question by Hon Dr. Kones by stating the following

a) She was not aware that several instructors at the youth polytechnics and other staff employed eight months ago had not been paid but that she was however, aware that there was a delay in payment of the instructors which was generally occasioned by the newly introduced Government human resource information system.

b) The Ministry had, however, processed the documents of all the instructors employed in May, 2012, and all of them had since been paid and that the Ministry has taken all necessary measures to ensure that the instructors and other staff are paid on time.
QUESTIONS BY PRIVATE NOTICE

Date: 2\textsuperscript{nd} August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Shakila Abdalla
Contribution she made on: Measures to Facilitate Sound Management at CK

She asked the Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports the following Question, by Private Notice

a) If the Minister was aware that the leadership wrangles facing the management of Cricket Kenya were affecting the quality and standard of services rendered by the entity
b) If he was further aware that the coach and the Chief Executive Officer of Cricket Kenya earn twice as much as the total allowances paid to the 20 players of the Kenya cricket team?
c) What measures the Minister was taking to facilitate sound management and prudent expenditure in Cricket Kenya?

Date: 7\textsuperscript{th} August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo
Contribution she made on: Upsurge of Insecurity in Homa Bay Town

She asked the Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security the following Question, by Private Notice

a) Under what circumstances were Messrs Samuel Ogalo, aged 52 years; Dickson Andata, aged 50 years; Samuel Ayuko, aged 49 years; and Oduor Ugenya, aged 54 years, all of whom were night guards, murdered outside Shivling Supermarket in Homa Bay Town on 29th July, 2012
b) What steps the police have taken to arrest the culprit(s)
c) What measures have been put in place to curb the rising insecurity in Homa Bay Town

Date: 14\textsuperscript{th} August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Martha Karua
Contribution she made on: Irregular Allocation Of Land Lr.No.Baragwi/Raimu/22

She asked the Minister for Lands the following Question by Private Notice.

a) If the Minister was aware that land parcel LR No. Baragwi/Raimu/22 which belonged to Kirinyaga County Council and which was a subject of Civil Appeal
Case No.280 of 2001 had been irregularly subdivided and transferred to a third party contrary to a court order

b) What the Minister was doing to reverse the irregular transaction

**Date: 16th August 2012**
**Member of Parliament: Hon. Maison Leshoomo**
**Contribution she made on:** Killing of Mr. Tilam Leresh by British Army Soldier

She asked the Minister of State for Defense the following Question by Private Notice

a) If he could clarify why his Ministry was not handling the British Army issue with a lot of seriousness and especially when the British Army was unlawfully controlling the area and harassing the residents.

**Date: 16th August 2012**
**Member of Parliament: Hon. Shakilla Abdalla**
**Contribution she made on:** Imminent Eviction of Mpeketoni Farmers by Egerton University

She asked the Minister for Lands, the following Question by Private Notice

a) If the Minister was aware that about 50 farmers and their families were about to be evicted from land they have occupied for close to 15 years by Egerton University in Mpeketoni, Lamu

b) How much land the University acquired and who sold it to them

c) If he could provide copies of ownership documents by the University
STATEMENTS

Date: 7th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo
Contribution she made on: Business for the Week commencing From 12th To 14th August, 2012

- She thanked the Minister for laying out the Business of the House for next week, especially prioritizing the constitutional Bills and further maintained the need to prioritize the constitutional Bills and added that even the Bills that were with other agencies should be hastened and fast tracked to the House.
- She noted that as Parliament moved closer towards December, Members would be extremely busy campaigning and thus would not be easily available for the deliberations especially the two-thirds that the Minister had talked about.
- She further stated that if the Executive did not live up to that expectation, the Constitutional Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC) would take over and bring those Bills because they owed it as a duty to Kenyans.
She supported the report of the committee but sought to make the following amendment:

"THAT, the Motion be amended by deleting the fullstop at the end thereof and inserting the words "subject to deletion of recommendations 3 and 4 on page 53."

She explained that she was proposing to delete the recommendation that stated: "hon. Amos Kimunya and Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u have been responsible for the loss of Kshs1.83 billion acted contrary to the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Constitution of Kenya, the Public Officer Ethics Act and the Public Procurement and Disposal Act in that respect and for that reason, they are not fit to hold public office.

She also recommended the deletion of article (4) that stated:

"The appointment of Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u as the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya should be terminated towards this end. The President should appoint a tribunal pursuant to provisions of Section 14(2) and (3) of the CBK Act, Cap 491. In the meantime, Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u must step aside from office with immediate effect."
Date: 1st August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo  
Contribution she made on: Payment of Dues to Retired Teachers

- She supported the motion stating that it was very unfortunate that the teachers had not been given the money adding that for the last 15 years, most of them had suffered; they had lived in abject poverty; some of them had already died, as some hon. Members had noted earlier.
- She pointed out that these teachers had nobody else who could assist them because they had ceased to be members of the Kenya National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and it was House only that could assist them and if it did not they would continue to suffer.

Date: 1st August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Martha Karua  
Contribution she made on: Adoption of Sessional Paper No.4 of 2011 on National Agricultural Sector Extension Policy

- She supported the motion saying even as they pass the motion there was no justification for the delay in implementing the programmes. She however questioned the readiness of the farmers to implement the well structured proposals. She raised her concerns on the Ministry’s ability to implement the strategies.
- She stated that it was one thing to bring good policies and another to implement them. She suggested the concerned agencies to move with speed to walk the talk. She stated that as parliament they wanted to see a Ministry that is not just good at putting forward policy papers but also good in acting because there is nothing to stop the Ministry from taking interventions that were necessary even without this policy.
- She pointed out that the Minister was interchangeably using the words “commercialization” and “privatization”. She stated that “commercialization” was making sure that the extension services were self-sustaining where the farmer may be called upon to make a token contribution. But “privatization” was giving over to people who wanted to make profits out of the extension services. This is okay for large-scale farmers. But for small-scale farmers and majority of our farmers in Kenya are small-scale farmers but whose total or accumulative output has a profound effect on the nation whether on food security or on the exports that we export daily.
PROCEDURAL MOTION

Date: 20th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Martha Karua
Contribution she made on: Extension of Sitting Time

She supported the Motion stating that while considered that hon. Members wanted to go on recess there was business the House needed to transact before that and that if hon. Members found it appropriate, it would have been nice to extend the sitting so that we could finish the business before the House that day which was critical business to issues of the Constitution as indicated on the Order Paper.
Date: 1st August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo  
Contribution she made on: The Energy and Communications Law (Amendment) Bill

- She supported the Bill saying that it primarily sought to cut the issue of vandalism of telecommunications gadgets that further exacerbate security issues which in turn lead to the deaths of many people.
- She went on to state that in cases where these vandalism of gadgets was, rampant, insecurity was also high and inevitably it was the weak in society who suffered and especially women and children who are raped and even murdered.
- She further went on to point out that vandalism also affected the economy as it denied the country much needed revenue and caused major losses. This she said also trickled down and increased the unemployment rates, especially the youth.
- She stated that the other items that were affected by vandalism were road signs and pointed out that this too affected the youth who were the highest number of unemployed people.
- She however cautioned against rash judgment of the matter saying that the situation too affected another group of people, that is those working with scrap metal like the *jua kali* artisans who made their living out of the same.
- She also pointed out that the bill should push the telecommunications provider to

Date: 15th August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo  
Contribution she made on: The Coconut Bill

- She gave her message of condolences to the families of the bereaved women who died in the Tanzania tragedy. She went on to congratulate hon. Mungatana for bringing the Bill before the House and for seeking to include the coconut industry within the country’s economy.
- She however went on state that while discussing that critical Bill, the Government side did not seem to take this issue seriously and added that it was no wonder that the Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) were always saying: *Pwani si Kenya* and really, if they were serious, they would be here to show that *Pwani* is in Kenya.
- She thanked hon. Mungatana for taking care of this sector and added that Kenya would be a much richer nation if we would not only focus on the coconut industry, but all other plant genetics.
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

Date: 14\textsuperscript{th} August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Linah Kilimo
Contribution she made on: The Teachers Service Commission Bill

- She congratulated the Minister for bringing the TSC Bill stating that it would enhance the performance of TSC which had been steered very well by its secretary since 2004.
- She further stated that holiday tuition should have continued until January to give teachers adequate notice to cover the syllabus rather than stop it midway through the year.

Date: 14\textsuperscript{th} August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo
Contribution she made on: The Teachers Service Commission Bill

- She thanked the Minister for bringing the Bill into the House, and added that contrary to the belief, it wasn't the teachers who wanted the money for holiday tuition but rather the parents who requested for remedial measures so that the syllabus can be covered.
- She also stated that with the shortage of teachers it was only fair for allow the holiday tuition to go on as the government looked for funds to employ more teachers but called for the teachers to provide some sort of guideline on how holiday tuition should be done.
POINTS OF ORDER

Date: 1st August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo
Contribution she made on: Timeline for Disbursement of FPE/SSE Funds

➤ She called on the Minister to provide a Statement with their position on the over Kshs7 billion owed by the schools to the Kenya Publishers Association in respect of books that had been supplied to schools but which had not been paid for and further asked how the Ministry intended to deal with that issue.
➤ She supported the point of order, especially the part that related to appointment of a serving member of the Judiciary without perhaps consulting the Chief Justice. She noted that in respect for the separation of powers, the Executive does not choose for itself which judicial member will be a member of the committee but rather they request the Judiciary and the Judiciary gives a person but the handpicking by the Executive was not good for separation of powers.
➤ She further added that it was not even good for the confidence of the public and asked the Minister to make a serious explanation as to this end.

Date: 4th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Rachel Shebesh
Contribution she made on: Deportation of Mr. Abas M. Athman

➤ She questioned why the House continued to discuss an issue that is contrary to the Bill of rights and quoted article 28 that stated:

"Every person has an inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected".

Date: 8th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo
Contribution she made on: Reasons for Poor Ranking Of Kenyan Universities in Africa

➤ She suggested to amend the Standing Orders because when Back Benchers do not ask Questions, the Questions are dropped and added that the reverse that when Ministers do not answer questions, the ministers should be dropped.
➤ She justified her statement by stating that the question raised touched on the issue of regulating higher education, and while the education sector had completely gone ‘haywire’ the Ministers were not available to answer them.
She pointed out that it was unfortunate that the Members who raised this issue only appeared to target Kenyans with UK citizenship who are Muslims and added that the Bill of Rights Provisions applied to every Kenyan who wanted to come home, but who happens to be a UK citizen.

She pointed out that Kenya cannot be a country which discriminated against its own people and that any UK citizen can come into this country and get a visa at the airport when our own Kenyans cannot get visas adding that members were looking at the issue as if it only applied to Muslims who have UK citizenship.

Date: 8th August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Wavinya Ndeti  
Contribution she made on: Delayed Payment of Pension to PBK Former Employees

- She inquired whether the IDP’s being referred to were from her constituency and added that if they were she wanted to find out and help them out.

Date: 8th August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Millie Odhiambo  
Contribution she made on: Funding of LVEP for Removal of Water Hyacinth from Winam Gulf

- She pointed out that while the Minister was addressing the issue, he should also indicate what he is going to do to the fishermen whose boats had been sandwiched and stranded despite depending on the same boats for their mainstay.

Date: 15th August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Martha Karua  
Contribution she made on: Presentation of Cellular Mobile Performance Assessment Report

- She suggested the government takes more stringent action to protect consumers from service providers who are ripping consumers off their hard earned money.

Date: 21st August 2012  
Member of Parliament: Hon. Rachel Shebesh  
Contribution she made on: Assault on Mrs. Kandie by Shelter Afrique Managing Director

- She Sought a Ministerial statement from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs regarding the alleged assault on Mrs. Karen Njeri Kandie, a Finance Director at Shelter Afrique by the Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, Mr. Alicen Ba,
on 20th June 2012 at her place of work. She added that the statement should:

a) Explain the circumstances under which Mr. Alicen Ba was arrested and released from Capitol Hill Police Station;

b) Clarify whether Mr. Ba enjoys diplomatic immunity and if so, provide details of those immunities; and,

c) Explain why the Minister had not extradited him to his country to face assault charges if he enjoys diplomatic immunities.
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Date: 6th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Beth Mugo
Contribution she made on: Outbreak of Ebola in Uganda

- She pointed out that that there was no confirmed case of Ebola in Kenya following an outbreak of the disease in Uganda. She stated that Thursday 26th July, 2012, her Ministry was informed of a mysterious disease that had infected 20 people and killed 14 of them in Kibaale District, mid western Uganda, which is about 200 kilometers from Kampala.
- She stated that her Ministry immediately issued an alert to all the districts and provincial headquarters informing them of the mysterious disease. She added that on Saturday, 28th July, 2012, her Ministry received information from the World Health Organization (WHO) indicating that the mysterious disease had been confirmed from laboratory investigations done in Uganda to be Ebola.
- Her ministry then issued another alert informing the districts and provinces of the diagnosis and clinical presentation, highlighting the measures that health workers were required to undertake in the event a case was identified in Kenya.
- She informed Members that Ebola is a highly fatal disease caused by a virus and it has no known cure or vaccine. She went on to add that those infected exhibited by high fever, headache, body pains, abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhea, red eyes and a measles-like rush. She added that although the disease sometimes caused bleeding from body openings, this was not a common feature of the current outbreak in Uganda.
- She further stated that Ebola was discovered in 1976 and since that time, there had been 25 outbreaks although no Ebola outbreaks had ever been recorded in Kenya.
- She explained that the disease is spread by direct physical contact with body fluids such as saliva, blood, stool, urine, vomit, sweat and soiled linen from an infected person. The key measure to be undertaken in the control of this disease, she stated is contact tracing and isolation of all persons who have been in contact with confirmed or suspected cases.
- She pointed out that at the moment, this measure was being undertaken in Uganda, especially in Kibaale District, which was the epicenter of the current outbreak and that the one fatal case that was reported in Kampala was actually a referral from Kibaale District and the deceased was a clinician who had treated suspected Ebola cases in Kibaale District.
- She further pointed out that the Government of Uganda had quarantined seven doctors and 13 other health workers who came into contact with patients at Mulago Hospital.
She informed the House that her Ministry had put in place various measures to ensure that the disease does not spread to Kenya. These included:-

a) Setting up of a national task force that will:-
   i) Continuously monitor the situation
   ii) Ensure preventive measures are in place; and,
   iii) Ensure that the country is adequately prepared to respond to any occurrence.

She pointed out that the task force, chaired by the Director of Public Health and Sanitation would be meeting twice in a week to assess and advise on any evolving situations. She added that similar committees had been formed at the border districts with Uganda and were meeting regularly.

b) All health workers in the country being put on high alert and provided with Ebola fact sheets and other guidelines. She added that due to the good surveillance measures put in place, the health workers were now on high alert for any suspicious cases, adding that a suspected case had been reported in Siaya District Hospital on Monday, 30th July, 2012 but it had not yet a confirmed Ebola case.

c) Her Ministry had also strengthened surveillance at all the ports of entry and any suspected cases were being handled professionally. She added that they had further requested the district health teams in the border areas of Uganda to provide for isolation rooms in the event that a case was identified. Further on, she stated that personnel protective equipment kits which will enabled health workers investigate and manage any suspected cases have been distributed to the border districts and all ports of entry.

She concluded by stating that measures had already been put in place, and any suspected case of Ebola in the country would be fully investigated and confirmation of the same can be made in the laboratories at KEMRI in Nairobi. She further stated that the Government through her Ministry developed a very efficient and reliable Surveillance system which was always in a state of preparedness.
PRIME MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Date: 6th August 2012
Member of Parliament: Hon. Rachel Shebesh
Contribution she made on: Measures to Mitigate Floods in the Country

- She pointed out that this was probably the fourth or fifth time that the Prime Minister was responding to the issue of floods and disasters caused by climate change and questioned how long he would answer Questions, where there were straight Ministers who could answer, on the disaster response issue which involved many Ministries.
- She reiterated that this was the fourth time that they had brought up the issue that needed to be taken to the line Ministries and suggested the Government make a policy for it to be either under the Ministry of State for Special Programmes, Ministry of Water and Irrigation or Ministry of Agriculture, so that they can answer these Questions more directly