



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Youth leaders ask Govt to rethink employment strategies

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Youth queue up to check for job opportunities. The Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Youth Affairs (UPFYA) has asked government to consider fresh strategies to address the country's rising youth unemployment figures. | @CSBAG2017

However, all these programmes have not delivered the desired results, and many youth are yearning for employment. While releasing the final 2014 census results last year, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicated that 58% of Ugandans are not working for reasons other than pursuing studies. The census report indicated that Uganda's population between the productive age of 14 and 64 is slightly over 18m. With 58% of this population group unemployed, it means that Uganda's total non-utilized labour potential is at 10.4m as of 2014.

Calls for industrialization

"To be able to find employment opportunities for our youth, we need to industrialize. High levels of industrialization, is where many jobs can be created to support the young people," Natumanya said. Statistics indicate that youth in Uganda, are the youngest population in the world, with 77% of its population being under 30 years of age. The unemployment rate for young people ages 15–24 is 83%. The rate is even higher for those who have formal degrees and live in the urban areas. This is due to the disconnect between the degree achieved and the vocational skills needed for the jobs that are in demand for workers. To address youth unemployment, the parliamentary forum on youth affairs, is pushing for the establishment of the Youth development bank, where funds to enable youth startup businesses, can be channeled.

Way forward

"We are planning a youth development bank bill highlighting inadequacies in existing youth programmes as justification for the financial institution," Mwine Mpaka, the chairperson UPFYA said. The forum also want parliament to pass the National Youth Service and internship Bill, which was tabled before parliament last year.

MPs proposal

In the proposed scheme, a Secretariat will be responsible for receiving information about young people graduating from universities and tertiary institutions, finding suitable placements for young people, pay their stipend during their respective placements and at the end of one year of their placements issue them with certificates that will increase their ability to be employed or even start their own businesses. Placements will be in government and non-government sectors and will run for a year according to this proposal. The secretariat will be funded by money from the national treasury. MPs proposed that at least 5% of the Pay As You Earn (PAYE) deducted from all employees in the country be channeled to the Youth service Secretariat to facilitate their work and all programmes aimed at promoting the proposed scheme.

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



Participants attending the Kibaale district Budget conference where district officials requested CSBAG to assist with Needs Assessment training and induction for councilors. | @CSBAG2017



Participants at the Joint Agricultural Sector Annual Review meeting that was held recently at the Speke Resort in Munyonyo. The meeting discussed pathways for accelerating agricultural transformation among others.



District leaders, government officials and members of the Civil Society attending the central region Local government Budget consultation meeting in Seeta last week. | @CSBAG2017