



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF

498th EDITION | 1st – 6th Oct 2018



Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Finance ministry reviewing training modalities for district officials

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In response to the inadequate training on budget technicalities, the Finance Ministry is reviewing its training modalities to have various district officials trained in a gazetted district. A senior Economist at the Ministry, Esther Ayebare confirmed this last week while responding to questions from local government officials during a Local Government Budget consultative (LGBC) meeting at the Igongo cultural centre in Mbarara. Responding to a question regarding how the Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) are determined, Ms Ayebare explained to the officials that IPFs are developed using the On-Line Transfer Information Management Systems (OTIMS). She reminded the local government officials that the FY 2019/20 IPFs were released on 14th September 2018.

Starting the process

Earlier, the Finance Minister’s key note address was delivered by Mr. Mweirwoha John the Assistant Budget Commissioner at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). He reminded the audience that the LGBC meetings are meant to kick start the budget process for FY 2019/20. He also noted that FY 2019/20 is the final year of National Development Plan II and that FY2019/20 offers the country its final attempt towards achieving middle income status by 2020. Later, Mr. Mweirwoha John responded to the question of poor state of roads leading to tourism sites and noted that: “there is need for UNRA to discuss with MoFPED and other relevant stakeholders to consider these roads in the next Budget Framework Paper.” He implored the district officials to always check their emails for any updates from MoFPED in response to the question of when IPFs are released.



Mr John Mweirwoha, Assistant Commissioner Budget at the Ministry of Finance speaking at a past LGBC meeting. He called for discussions between UNRA, the MoFPED and other stakeholders to address the poor state of roads leading to tourism sites.

Relatedly, Mr. Kaganda Henry of the Uganda Road Fund (URF) responded to the concern of lack of effectiveness and efficiency in road projects. “There are differences between National roads handled by Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) and District roads handled by Local Governments,” Mr Kaganda said adding that National roads handle more traffic than district roads and as such require more resources as compared to district roads.

Quarterly training

Speaking on behalf of the Accountant General, Mr. Ambrose Promise informed participants that the Accountant General will carry out quarterly trainings on systems that are to be used by government. He added that assets management guidelines would be rolled out this financial year-2018/19. In response to the need for Ministry of Public Service to visit each local government and discuss unique district human resource challenges Ms. Dorah Aryatuha from the Ministry of Public Service informed the participants that the Ministry would love to visit every district and discuss unique district human resource challenges but they are constrained by

resources. Ms. Aryatuha also responded to the question of hard to reach districts and the associated service delivery challenges. She said that government has both medium and long term solutions to such scenarios. In the short run, Government plans to establish phone networks and banking services in these areas and for the long term construct staff quarters and other amenities in these areas. At the same event, the Civil Society position paper was presented by Mr. Kugumisiriza Derrick of Kick Corruption out of Uganda (Kabale). A range of service delivery issues including health, education and agriculture were raised among others. The CSO position paper was developed by indigenous CSOs in the) under the technical and Financial support from the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG). The CSOs included; Kick Corruption Out of Uganda - Kabale, Let Us Save Uganda-Rubanda, Community Empowerment Initiative-Rukiga, Rwerere Women in Development-Rukungiri, Kisoro District Cbo/Ngo Forum-Kisoro, and Kacoert from Kanungu.

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



The Director Budget at the Finance Ministry, Kenneth Mugambe (2nd right) chatting with CSBAG Budget policy specialist, David Walakira (right) during the Quarter two expenditure release meeting in Kampala last week. | CSBAG2018



Patrick Owori, presenting a position paper on behalf of CSOs at the LGBC meeting in Jinja last week. He called for improved service delivery especially in the education, health and agriculture sectors.



Mr. Were Isaiiah, the Municipality Education Officer, Bugiri district speaking at the LGBC meeting in Jinja last week. He attributed teacher absenteeism to illness and multiple loans. | CSBAG2018