



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Sold cows and paid Shs10b in cash for land? You got to be kidding me!

CSBAG IN PICTURES

“News that made headlines this week was about developments around the UBC land, where MP Muhanga boldly intimated selling cows, goats, etc... CSBAG in this week’s shares with you one the of most insightful perspectives on this matter”



The Burahya County MP, Ms Margaret Muhanga (C), engages Mr Richard Barungi (L), a UBC board member and Mr Simon Kaheru (R), the acting UBC board chairperson, during a presentation of the institutions’ audit report to the parliamentary Committee on Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises at Parliament on Tuesday.

Photo credit to Daily Monitor



CSBAG this week started preparations for CSO nationwide Budget consultations for the FY 2017/18. In the picture are National and regional CSOs participating in one of the preparatory discussions on 5th August 2016 at CSBAG headquarters. | @CSBAG2016



“... We know where we came from, no classroom for many years, now we have a classroom. Soon we will have furniture and that will make me happy because my pupils will learn how to write very well”

*Catherine Otim,
P1 Teacher*

For many years pupils of Rachokoko Primary School in Abim District had been sitting under trees for their lessons. Pupils of Primary 2 and 3 were left with no choice but to flee from school any time the rain threatened to pour.

Ms Awori Esther Okoti a PBC member said initially school authorities were sceptical of any change. But after communities facilitated by CSBAG monitored the school, held wider meetings with parents in the community and the Local Government officials. Consequently, the Local Government allocated money for finishing up the school.

Currently all children in Rachokoko Primary School study in classrooms and this has positively led to an increase in enrolment figures since 2014 when the classroom block was completed. Over 200 more students have joined the school 2014, increasing the population to 578.

Here is the story in summary: UBC management under Paul Kihika started a fire sale of the public broadcaster’s prime land. Many benefitted, often irregularly. In the mad rush, fatal mistakes were committed, which later came to haunt the culprits. The High Court found that this particular transaction was flawed and illegal and struck it down, potentially leaving the original buyers, Haba Group, without the land or the money they’d paid against an illegal transaction they couldn’t enforce.

Such can’t happen without the connivance of very senior people in the Lands Office, and if it sounds familiar, it is because it is: in two separate matters involving some of the same players, land was transferred to related parties by the same people in the same manner to pervert the course of justice.

In fact, we must now confront the reality that has been staring us in the face for many years now; that these frauds must be godfathered from higher levels of government, for the direct and personal benefit of people with the power to stop them and absolutely no desire to do so.

On the grand chessboard of grand corruption in Uganda, many of the ‘small people’ caught holding the can or making up tales of fancy about walking up flights of stairs to collect pie from the sky are just pawns. Ms Muhanga might be a damn good goat-herder, but we must start to ask; who owns the flock?

“...one would expect that tax authorities would have a question or two...”

None of this is new, or particularly unsurprising, for there is a Luwum Street in every corridor of power or money. However, what should concern us, beyond the number of goats one would need to sell to raise a billion, is how public bodies were used to try and circumvent the course of justice and the court ruling.

An appeal to higher courts to stop the wheels of justice turning. A bogus consent judgement entered into with the connivance of UBC officials to irregularly countermand or amend judicial orders. Eye-popping transactions in the Lands Department whereby the land was transferred to one party at 14:42, a special certificate issued two minutes later, and then the land transferred to yet another party two minutes later.

The article is extracted from Daily Monitor, originally Published by Daniel Kalinaki- The writer is a Uganda journalist based in Nairobi.

Link: Sold cows and paid Shs10b in cash for land? You got to be kidding me!