



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



205th EDITION | 12TH -18TH SEPT 2016

Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Finance begins FY 2017/18 Budget Consultations at Local Government

This week, Ministry of Finance embarked on the process of consulting Local Governments on the Budget priorities for FY 2017/18. Altogether 16 workshops were organised in 4 regions and in all these workshops CSO representatives made presentations and these include: Transparency International Uganda, African Centre for Trade and Development (ACTADE), Friends of Christ Ministries (FOCREV), Nebbi NGO Forum, Council for African Policy (CAP), Strategic Organization for Real Action (SORAK), Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC), and Pader NGO Forum.



Shoddy work construction at Butokota stream, Mitete parish, Mikaka Kalibubbu Village.



All this was noted as serious concerns that should be catered for in 2017/2018 budget.

Revenue Generation was a critical issue of discussion in these workshops. Domestic revenues are projected at Shs.12, 914 billion in FY 2016/17 up from Shs.11, 598 billion in FY 2015/16. This is to be achieved through improving efficiency in tax administration, strengthening enforcement of collections, reducing the size of the informal sector and increasing investment in tax collection infrastructure. However, Local government complained about local revenue that was currently swept back to central government furthermore complained about the local revenue mobilization constraints which included limited facilitation to collect revenue, poor management of the collected revenues among others. On the revenue still, the local councils complained about oil and gas in their region and yet they are denied knowledge about the progress which in future is going to compromise revenue mobilization in the region, however ministry of finance planning and economic development responded by promising to work closely with URA to review the tax policy/law which is likely to boost domestic revenue mobilization.

There was also Lack of transparency and information in the procurement process: This being a common issue raised to Ministry of Finance, Procurement is done at the district level and information is not shared with the service beneficiaries neither are they involved. For example in the western region local government officials from kagandi, masindi and Hoima complained about the delays in the procurement process which directly slow service delivery. PPDA responded by encouraging the procurement process at all levels starting as soon as possible other than waiting to receive money, this is hoped to improve service delivery.

Another CSO factor that dominated discussion was poor monitoring and inspections of service delivery points specifically, in the health and education sectors, Issues of very weak monitoring and inspection have again and again come up.

No doubt this loophole undermines proper and efficient service delivery in these service delivery points across the country. MoFPED responded to this challenge by promising to enhance monitoring and evaluation especially at local levels not only through increasing budget allocation but also in capacity building in the same area

In the Central region, there was a concern about Corruption in service delivery. Corruption has continued to surface in the consultative workshops in the different regional workshops. For example in Sembabule District Service Commission - Education department, teachers were allegedly asked to pay between 200,000/= to 1 million to be shortlisted for interviews. To be confirmed/given an appointment letter, a teacher had to allegedly pay between 200,000/= to 500,000/=. This is cited in Kabala primary school, Lwemiyaga Sub County. The teachers expressed this concern during the interface between head teachers and the DEO which was organized by TIU. When called upon for more engagements, the teachers could not turn up for "fear of losing their jobs.

For the Eastern region, there was Absence of ambulance services especially at HC IIIs for emergency. There was a call for guidance to Health Centers after it was mentioned that Sironko and Bududa district had no ambulance. The Ministry of Health Official mentioned that Ambulances will be provided to districts that have not received vehicles in the last 5 years and more money to be allocated to hard to reach areas. This will be guided by inventory of ambulances which is being carried out to establish Health Centers that should receive ambulances actually a review on the same is to be made especially in the 2017/2018 budget. Still under health, the issue of PHC development grant being reviewed came up in the Hoima workshop insisting that this should be reconsidered.

See News article: Minister Clashes with CSOs, RDC over poor service delivery
http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1435332/minister-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event: Local Government Budget Consultative meetings
FY2017/18

Date: 19th-27th September 2016

Convener: Ministry of Finance.

The National Budget FY2017/18 budget consultative meetings are still going on. [Download](#) the schedule here.

Event: Launch of the Parliamentary Forum on Public Finance Management.

Date: 23rd September, 2016

Guest of Honor: The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda

Convener: CSBAG and Parliament of Uganda

Venue: Parliament of Uganda

CSBAG WEEK IN PICTURES



Mr. Julius Mukunda, Coordinator, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, the developments partners and other Government officials at the Accountability Sector Joint Annual Review 2016 at Office of the President in Kampala, Friday, 16th September 2016. |@CSBAG2016



PICTORIAL

LG BUDGET CONSULTATIONS



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DEO-Budaka district stresses that Govt Capitation grants are minimal to cater for adequate feeding for children in schools. #ULGBUDGET17



Lydia Kobusinge @lydiaglm · Sep 15
@CSBAGUGANDA Mr.Kakama, Commissioner MFPED states that over UGX12bn remained unspent in FY 2015/16#ULGBUDGET17



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CSBAG (csbag.org) @CSBAGUGANDA · Sep 15
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Ms. Susan Nanduddu from @actade making CSOs presentation during the #ULGBUDGET17 in Hoima district @JuliusMukunda

