



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



How to remember the 9th Parliament: a day before 10th Parliament takes oath

Starting tomorrow 16th May 2016, members of the 10th Parliament will start taking the oath until 18th May 2016. As we bid farewell to the 9th Parliament, CSBAG takes times to reflect on memorable budget events of the 9th Parliament.

The 10th Parliament is composed of 458 members, of these 302 belong to the ruling NRM party, 59 are independent and 56 belong to the various opposition parties. This number is bigger than what we had in the 9th Parliament and already Government has started discussions on how to adequately house this huge number as the current chamber can only house 200 legislators. Many have argued that huge numbers had an effect on the quality of debate in the 9th Parliament as each member had only about three minutes to submit a point in plenary.

Absenteeism has been one of the greatest flaws of the 9th Parliament, a number of times parliamentary proceedings were postponed due to lack of quorum. This prompted the Speaker to start rollcall before any parliamentary proceedings. Many critics have since argued for MPs pay to be tagged to attendance in order to minimize absenteeism in Parliament.

In its first year, the 9th parliament promised a more vibrant and independent parliament compared to its predecessors but some of this changed along the way. Many wonder about how different the performance of the 10th parliament will be. One of the 1st assignments the 10th Parliament has to perform is to decide on the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016 which was returned by the President. The decision taken by this incoming Parliament will have a lot of implication on how Ugandans perceive Parliament and how it performs its representation mandate.

From the CSBAG membership. We take this opportunity to welcome the 10th Parliament and we pledge to collaborate with them as we strive to realise a people center budget that dignifies humanity.



2012

Ugandans witnessed a standoff as Parliament refused to pass FY 2013/14 Budget unless Ush 260bn had been allocated to fix health sector. Instead Government identified 49bn.2bn



2012

Parliament commenced debate on the Public Finance Bill, 2012. The Bill at the time sought to repeal the Budget Office and powers of Parliament over the Budget among other things



2013

The Speaker suspended the approval of the 2014/15 budget due to absenteeism of Ministers on foreign trips, even after it emerged that most of the committees were ready to present their reports on the Budget



2013

National Resistance Movement party establishes Budget Committee charged with duty of budgeting for the whole country on behalf of the NRM party. Committee possess Parliament's lawful mandate in the budget process.



2013

Due to scandals in OPM, Donors withdrew project support to Government. A raft of new tax and revenue measures on taxes on water, fuel, telecoms, boda-bodas and motor vehicles were introduced for FY 2013/14 seeking to plug an unprecedented budget 3.6 trillion deficit.



2014

Through the Rt. Hon. Speaker, Parliament rejected the proposal to tax Agriculture inputs in FY 2014/15 to the benefit of especially the smallholder farmers



2015

Parliament approves Public Finance Management Act, and in the same year approved amendments restoring the use of Supplementary Budgets



2016

Changes to budget cycle come into full effect as per the PFMA, 2015. This was amidst the 2016 general election schedule. Parliament approved Budget FY 2016/17 earlier than mandated by PFMA, 2015



2016

Parliament amended Income Tax to exempt self from paying tax on allowances. President rejects Income Tax (amendment) Bill, 2016 and MPs vow to return Bill to President without modification.

THE WEEK IN PICTURES



This week the Nation cheered to the news that The President had rejected MPs proposal in the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016 that seeks to exempt them from paying tax on their allowances.



CSBAG members and partners including ActionAid Uganda, Food Rights Alliance, Uganda Debt Network, SEATINI at a press conference where Petitioners were updated on the President's action on Income Tax Bill 2016. At the same press conference CSOs called on MPs no to fight President's decision.



National and subnational CSO partners under the Voice and Accountability component held a farewell dinner for Fergal Ryan at the Carnivore. Over 30 partners attended this memorable event.