



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



233RD EDITION | 16TH -22ND JANUARY 2017

Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



PRESS STATEMENT :the budget we want FY 2017/18

UPCOMING CSO EVENTS

EVENT: CSOs Pre-Budget Dialogue FY2017/18 budget

DATE: 24th January 2017

VENUE: Makerere University Main Hall

CONVENER: Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group

EVENT: MEETING PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON THE NBFP FY2017/18.

[VIEW THE TIME AND DATE SCHEDULE HERE](#)

CSBAG IN PICTURES



CSBAG Coordinator Mr. Julius Mukunda hosted on NTV Uganda's Fourth Estate to discuss the National Budget FY 2017/18 among other issues on 23rd January 2016



The CSOs, Members of Parliament and Ministry of health meeting to discuss the health sector BFPFY2017/18 on Friday, 20th January 2016 at Imperial Royale Hotel.

"This week Civil Society Organizations under the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group issued the first CSO Statement on the National Budget Framework Paper for the Financial Year 2017/8 which we share with you in this week's Edition

6. **We recommend that**, Government;
 - i) Establishes a fully functioning appraisal and evaluation department to approve project designs to enable the avoidance of debt related costs and delays during implementation because of poor feasibility studies and project designs. It will also enhance the absorption capacity to ensure full utilization of the borrowed resources.
 - ii) Establishes a clear tracking system for timelines for loan funded projects and fulfilment of government commitments on project implementation.

Should increase domestic revenue mobilization to boost private and public investment for more savings. This will reduce on the demand for borrowing resources which comes with commitments as domestic savings will be available for investment

Social Sector suffers severe budget cuts yet again!

7. We note with concern that social sectors have yet again suffered severe budget cuts in the FY 2017/18. Out of the six (6) sectors of agriculture, Education, Water & Environment, Social Development, Trade, Tourism & Industry and Health, only the Agriculture and Water sectors got budget increments of UGX 23.3bn and UGX 9.5bn only respectively. Of all the social sectors, the Health sector got the most bite as we see over UGX 541.5bn cut from the sector.

More Public resources go to waste!

8. As the country struggles to raise revenues and some of the social sectors suffer budget cuts due to insufficient resources, we have continued to observe areas of wastage that could have saved more sources for the FY 2017/18 budget to deliver services to Ugandans. In our own assessment government, could save UGX 76,991,516,123 if wastage and misuse of resources is addressed.

Social Sector Budget 2017/18 Cuts FY

Sector	Approved budget FY 2016/17 (UGX Bns)	Budget Projection FY 2017/18 (UGX Bns)	Change in Allocation
Agriculture	823.4	846.7	23.3
Education	2,447.50	2,370	-77.5
Water and environment	689.6	699.1	9.5
Social Development	192.8	172.7	-20.1
Trade Tourism & Industry	103.8	100.3	-3.5
Health	1,827.30	1,285.80	-541.5

Source: Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development

Rewards for outstanding performance

9. Whereas we totally agree that rewarding hard working civil servants and any other Ugandan is a good practice that should be maintained, and where as we agree with the precedents that any Ugandan who shows heroism should be rewarded, and where as we agree that rewarding hard working Ugandans who promote and protect our country economically, socially and any other front is okay, we have found that rewarding has become selective. The set guide lines (in Public service standing orders of government) to follow and method to use when rewarding hard working Public Servants and heroes are not adhered to. The UPDF in military service working to secure the country on all fronts, the health workers who fight epidemics such as cholera and ebola, in Uganda and all other Public servants, have all served their country diligently.
10. We therefore propose a guideline for presidential rewards in honor of the great work done to be reviewed and adequately implemented. Critical expenditures that should be Funded by Government- FY 2017/18
11. CSOs contend that if government allocated adequate resources to the areas below, the budget for the FY 2017/18 will be one step closer to delivering the aspiration of the citizens as we aim for middle income status;

Agriculture sector:

12. UGX 4.5 billion should be allocated to equip and boost the work of the newly recruited crop and animal inspectors at the airport and border posts
13. An additional UGX: 8.0 billion should be allocated to provide for the required doses of the Foot and Mouth Diseases vaccine.
14. UGX 12bn should be allocated to set up water for irrigation, aquaculture and livestock at farm level i.e. ponds, valley tanks, dams and shallow wells.

The Lands, Housing and urban development sector

12. The sector should be allocated UGX 1.5bn for the development and implementation of physical development Plans for orderly and planned developments in the country

Trade Tourism and Industry:

13. The sector should be allocated UGX 2.214 to Revitalize Cooperatives Movement across the Country,

Education sector

17. UGX 53.871bn should be allocated for the Construction of Primary Schools in parishes that do not have Primary schools. It will reduce the distance pupils' cover to access schools and contribute towards increased rates of enrolment, retention and completion of school
18. UGX 8.2bn needs to be allocated for UNEB to cater for increase in candidates for FY 2017/18

Health sector

19. UGX 5bn is required for the start-up of the NHIS
20. UGX 20bn to be allocated to Local Government to cater for increase in commodity prices, increase in population and number of health Facilities; funds for re-tooling and for basic infrastructure construction like latrines

Water & Environment sector

17. UGX 90bn to Increase access to clean and safe water from the current 65% to 79 % in rural areas within a radius of 1Km with the aim of providing water source in every village.

Other critical issues that need attention as we prepare for the FY 2017/18

18. Capping of interest rates to manage the high cost of credit in the economy
19. According the CGE for NBFP FY 2017/18 we observe that there was delayed submission of Sector BFPs to the EOC and there was a registered decline in sector performance in FY 2017/18. We note with concern that the accountability sector where the MoFPED lies, performed miserably at 32% compared to 66% of the previous year. Per the PFM Act 2015, its budget is not supposed to be discussed by parliament.
20. Government needs to budget for and remit funds (UGX 30bn) to the ACF annually to enable the funds to be attract counterpart funding from the Participating Financial Institutions

Conclusion

21. The budget for the FY 2017/18, currently at an unprecedented UGX 30.3 trillion, is the one that could contribute to the delivery of the country to the middle-income status, however, this same budget is heavily dependent on domestic borrowing and project financing all of which are not sustainable especially in the long run. We therefore urge citizens to pay their fair share of taxes and demand for Accountability. Government should endeavour to increase proactive ways of collecting domestic revenues budget also borrow more concessionally to avoid crowding out the private sector.