



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



543RD EDITION | 13TH - 19TH MAY 2019

Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



CSOs call for the operationalization of Salaries Commission

“... fast track the establishment and operationalization of the Salaries and Remuneration Commission to guide increase in emoluments for MDAs.”

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) under their umbrella, the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) have called upon Government to consider the Report of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) on pay disparities and fast track its recommendations to constitute and operationalize the Salaries and Emoluments Commission. This follows a move by Parliament to use its legislative rights to propose cuts to sector budgets and also increase allowances of Members of Parliament (MPs) by 39%, to a tune of UGX 63.46bn.

Speaking during the launch of the FY 2019/20 National Budget month at the Finance Ministry recently, CSBAG Executive Director, Mr. Julius Mukunda called for the reversal of Parliament's power to determine MPs' allowances and salaries, and the need to operationalize the Salaries and Emoluments Commission, as recommended by the EOC.

At the same event, Minister of State for Finance in charge of General Duties, Hon. Gabriel Gadison Ajedra noted that while Parliament determines its emoluments, salaries, and allowances, this money should be spent elsewhere. He also called for an amendment of this law such that a salary commission is put in place

Mr. Mukunda also added that increasing MPs' allowances will demoralize other civil servants like teachers, doctors and soldiers.



CSBAG staff addressing a press briefing on the arbitrary increase of MPs' Allowances on 12th May at CSBAG offices in Ntinda. | @CSBAG2019

EOC Report on Salary Disparities

In 2017, EOC commissioned a study report on salary disparities in the public sector. Findings show that salary disparities in the public service contribute negatively towards efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. Among the direct consequences include absenteeism, low motivation, corruption and late coming among others.

“In the harmonization of remunerations for public servants, the Ministry of Public Service should ensure fair pay that is commensurate to the ever changing economic environment to overcome corruption, low morale, and absenteeism among other vices that may arise from pay disparities.” Reads part of the 2017 EOC report.

The allowances increment for MPs comes at a time when other public servants like teachers are threatening to strike over low pay.

CSOs have also expressed concern that the act of increasing allowances for MPs especially by such a huge and unprecedented margin is not only insensitive to the plight of other public servants but an act of selfishness on the MPs' part

FY 2019/20 National Budget Cuts

CSOs have advised that the new untaxed resource that MPs are adding on their allowances can be used to upscale critical sections in the FY 2019/20 National Budget that are instead being cut such as health and education.

With the UGX 63.4 billion, each will on average have increase their allowances by UGX 149 million annually in addition to the existing allowances, while many civil servants continue to suffer with inadequate facilitation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE NATIONAL BUDGET MONTH ACTIVITIES FOR FY2019/20

Launch of the National Budget Month FY2019/20 at the MoFPED Head Offices Tuesday 14th May 2019

Tree Planting along one of the road reserves of Kampala Friday 24th May, 2019

Donation of Scholastic Materials at East Kololo Primary School Thursday 30th May 2019

National Budget March from the Constitutional Square to Kololo Ceremonial Grounds Tuesday 4th June, 2019

Service Excellence Exhibition @ Kololo Ceremonial Grounds Tuesday 4th - Thursday 6th June, 2019

Budget Speech Day Thursday 13th June, 2019

Post Budget Dialogue at the Serena International Conference Center Thursday 20th June, 2019

Budget Breakfast Meetings targeting the Public, especially those in SME sub-sector in the following 6 Regions:
a) Northern Region- Lira
b) West Nile Region-Arua
c) Eastern Region-Soroti
d) Kampala-Hotel Africana
e) Mid-Western Region-Hoima
f) South Western Region-Kabale
Friday 21st June, 2019

UGBudget19
#KnowYourBudget

MOFPED
#Doing More

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



(L-R) CSBAG Executive Director, Julius Mukunda, Minister for Finance in charge of General Duties, Hon. Gabriel Gadison Ajedra, and the Acting Secretary to the Treasury at the Finance Ministry, Kenneth Mugambe, pose for a photo after launching the National Budget month for FY 2019/20 ON 14th May. | @CSBAG2019