



# CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Address staffing gaps in Local Governments -CSOs urge Gov't

**Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have asked the Government to address worrying levels of staffing gaps in Local Governments which they said has affected service delivery in different sectors of economy.**

CSOs said this on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 during Local Government Budget Consultative Conference that took Place at Mountains of Moon Hotel in Fort Portal.

Organised by Finance Ministry, the event was attended by District Chairpersons, Resident District Commissioners, Chief Administrative Officers among other dignitaries.

According to CSOs, although staffing gaps have been in existence before, the challenge was worsened with recent creation of new administrative units by Government.

"Newly created Kikuube district has operated for two financial years without key staff in different departments. Creation of the new administrative units has greatly affected the human resource of Kyenjojo district as a whole, whereby most staff in the new units are not substantive," said Executive Director Rwenzori Anticorruption Coalition (RAC) Angela Byangwa.

She said in Kyamutunzi Town Council, a number of staff report for duty once a week, attributing it to the fact that most of them are acting in various other administrative units.

"A case in point is the Kyamutunzi sub-accountant who is serving in 3 administrative units. Karama Primary School for two years had no Head Teacher while Mbegu Primary School in Hoima district has a male teacher acting as Senior woman teacher," said Byangwa.

Siraj Magara, a Budget Policy Specialist at Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group said besides staffing gaps, there's a worry challenge of low infrastructure in social sectors like schools and health centers which should be addressed.

"staffing gaps have perpetually existed in all Local Governments. However, going forward we think that key areas like Education and Health should have staff put in place," he stated.

He added: "We feel still there are children studying under trees, make shift structures and we hope this coming budget will address the issue."



Assistant Commissioner for district administration at Ministry of Local Government Emmanuel Tugabirwe responds to queries raised by participants during Local Government Budget Consultative Conference on September 19, 2019@CSBAG.

### What Local Government says

The Assistant Commissioner district administration in the Ministry of Local Government Emmanuel Tugabirwe told journalists that recruitment rate at Local Government level stands at an average of 55%.

However, he said, more recruitment will be done gradually.

"Sometimes funds are not readily available to recruit 100% staff, however, we want the Local Government recruitment to be at 65% in the next three years, from the current 50%-55%. In the meantime, there some positions that can't be left out; they include heads of departments, sub-county and Parish chiefs," he stated.

### 'Accounting Officers to blame'

Tugabirwe said: "Sometimes Local Governments fail to meet deadlines for submitting their recruitment plans. For example, like now, if an accounting officer submits recruitment plans by December, they may not be approved."

He warned accounting officers against late submission.

### Chief Administrative Officer's view

Anselm Kyaligonza, the Ntoroko District Chief Administrative Officer stunned the participants when he said his district is only at 29% recruitment, citing failure by Ministry of Public Service to approve his recruitment plans.

"We have been submitting recruitment plans every year, but every time we do it, we don't get response from the Ministry of Public Service. This time, I will make sure that we get a positive response on recruitment from the ministry," he stated.

When asked to comment about Ntoroko case, Tugabirwe said some districts are hard to reach and, in most cases, even when they advertise, they don't get people to fill those posts.

"There are some districts that Government describes as hard to reach, hard to work and hard to stay; that could be the reason why Ntoroko is in that situation," he said.

### The FY 2020/21 budget consultations enters second week

The FY 2020/21 Local Government Budget Consultative (LGBC) meetings are entering the second week starting tomorrow September 23<sup>rd</sup> enter.

These meetings are organised in accordance with Section 9(1) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA, 2015) as amended.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are among the stakeholders to be have been consulted ever since the start.

Throughout entire conferences, Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) is also given platform to present their issue papers during the different regional LGBCs for the FY 2020/21.

The papers reflect the budget performances and service delivery performance/gaps in the districts of the respective sub regions.

The participants will comprise Local Government Political and Technical Heads among others.

The second eight meetings are scheduled as follows:

Host	Venue	Dates
Mbale 1	Mt. Elgon Hotel	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Mbale II	Mbale Resort	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Seeta1	Ridar Hotel	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 24 <sup>h</sup> Sept
Seeta II	Ridar Hotel	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Gulu 1	Bomah Hotel	23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Gulu 11	Acholi Inn	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Sept
Mbarara1	Lake View Resort	23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Sept
MbararraII	Lake View Resort	26 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> Sept