



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Construction of sh500m Budaka health facility building stalls

The construction of the sh500m building for Namusiita Health Centre III in Budaka District has stalled, seven months after the set date for commissioning, district officials have said.



The sh500m building for Namusiita Health Centre III in Budaka District whose work has stalled after the contractor abandoned the site. @CSBAG 2019.

According to the Budaka Chief Administration Officer (CAO) Abdul Batambuze, Giomarks Engineering, the project contractor abandoned the site and the district officials do not have control on him since procurement was centrally done by Ministry of Health.

"At the moment we are having a challenge with our contractor because of too many sites he is running, we have made the last extension for him to complete the work and ends on December 31, 2019. I am however, worried that he may not complete," said Batambuze.

He said this during the monitoring visit youth friendly service delivery in Budaka District on 13th November, 2019.

"The contractor constantly wants us to advance money to his company which we can't do because we don't have any performance bond and eventually when 31st December comes, we shall go back on the drawing board on the way forward," said Batambuze.

'Several reminders written'

The CAO told media that he has written several reminders to the contractor but he has kept deaf ear on the project.

"We have reminded him that this is the last extension but he is not bothered because the contract was given to him by the Central Government, not us at Local Government level," he stated.

According to the Batambuze, the contractor has only done 50% of the construction when the commissioning of the finished project was supposed to take place in May this year.

The acting Budaka District Health Officer Moses Kabangi said the building was supposed to house maternity ward which could handle at least five deliveries everyday but works on construction has since stalled.

Contractor paid 40% of total funds

According to Kabangi, about 40% of the sh500m meant for construction has been paid to the contractor, but work hasn't progressed well.

"The project was handed to the contractor at the end of the first quarter of 2018/2019 Financial Year, we expected that by May this year, the project would be complete but hasn't been the case," said Kabangi.

What MPs say?

Mbogo Kezekia, the Budaka Country MP said there's shoddy work going on, hence calling for termination of the contractor's services.

"It will be our wish if this contractor is terminated and re-instate another person so that those people can be given proper service delivery. What the contractor is doing on the ground is to simply eat the taxpayer's money," said Mbogo.

Meanwhile, the visiting team was also irked by the pediatric ward at Budaka Health Centre IV whose construction has stalled for the last 11 years.

Sarah Wekomba, the Bulambuli Woman MP asked Government should always ensure supervision of public works to realise value for money.

"In centrally procured projects, Central Government should have meetings with Local Government officials, and give them proper guidelines for easy monitoring of works," she stated.

CSO's take

Jeff Wadulo, the CSBAG Parliamentary Liaison Officer said Government involves its self in projects that it is not willing to complete and that's affects service delivery.

Ministry of Health responds

When contacted via Twitter, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health Diana Atwine confirmed that procurement was done by the sh500m building was done by the ministry but the district was given supervisory roles on the project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Are you aged between 17 and 30 years? Passionate about budgeting for your country? CSBAG presents you an opportunity to contribute to planning and budgeting process of public resources for promoting a people centered budget that dignifies humanity. How: Compose and send a skit, Poem or Cartoon about the national budget and send to csag

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



The Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga gives Siraj Magara CSBAG's certificate of recognition for supporting WASH sector during a symposium



Rama Omany, the Program Advisor at CSBAG(extreme right) speaks during the Uganda Parliamentary Forum symposium on Water Sanitation and Hygiene at Parliament on November 15th, 2019. @CSBAG.