



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Inadequate funding hampering fight against corruption- Civil Society

Inadequate funding of anti-corruption agencies is impeding the fight against corruption in Uganda, Civil Society Organisations have said.

Under umbrella body Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), CSOs decried inadequate funding as it renders the anti-corruption agencies helpless in fighting the corruption vice.

This was during the 2019 CSO Anti-Corruption Convention held today 5th December 2019 under theme "Promoting Accountability for National Development". This was jointly organized by anti-corruption agencies including Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Transparency International Uganda (TIU) action aid Uganda among others. The CSOs cited at Inspectorate of Government (IG), Public Procurement and Disposal Assets (PPDA), Directorate of Ethics and Integrity and Office of Auditor General (OAG) and Local Government Public Accounts Committees (LGPACs) among others.

"Budget allocations to IG was sh45.421b in FY2016/17 and increased to sh53.48b in FY 2019/20. The increase of the IG budget is commendable since it will enable to inspectorate to fulfill its mandate. However, the anti-corruption unit was allocated sh23.59b (44.109%) in FY 2019/20. The funding is still insufficient compared to the operational cost of investigations, prosecutions, verification of declarations and public awareness programmes," said Patrick Rubangakene, a Budget Policy Specialist at CSBAG. While presenting at the convention, Rubangakene commended Government for the budget increments realized across the various institutions but went ahead to call on Government to double the financing efforts.

Rubangakene who presented a paper on public financing for anti-corruption institutions said budget allocations for OAG was sh51.491b in FY2016/17 and increased to sh63.92b in FY2019/20 whereas that allocation for the Financial Intelligence Authority(FIA) was sh7.45bcin FY2016/17 and increased to sh13.023b in FY2019/20 which he still said is inadequate given the magnitude of the work they do.

Budgetary allocations below required amounts

On LGPACs, he said the budgetary allocation is below the required amounts and their problem is compounded by low collection of local revenue. "Local Government Public Accounting Committees' can't afford field visits to substantiate queries, lack office space while others are facing the challenge of late release of funds. The allocation is inadequate given the expanding audit mandate such as gender and environment," Rubangakene stated.



Patrick Rubangakene, the Budget Policy Specialist at CSBAG makes a presentation during the Anti-Corruption Convention at Royal Suites in Bugolobi on December 5th 2019. ©CSBAG

"There is need to build capacity among LGPAC members in executing their duties through forging partnerships with development partners and civil society. For example, short training programmes facilitated by the NGOs or the Civil Society Groups. LGPAC members should be elected members of council so as to improve commitment of LGPAC." They also cited at is need to advocate for an amendment of the Local Government Act (1997) to introduce level of education as a criterion for LC V councillorship. They said Local Governments should appoint a mixture of senior citizens and young professionals to make a vibrant combination of LGPAC membership. Currently majority of the LGPAC are old retirees.

'More accountability needed'

Member of Parliament Daniel Muhairwe and a member of Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) stressed the need to establish another Public Accounts Committee to track the implementations of Parliamentary resolutions to ensure that there is value for money.

He also agreed with Civil Society position of empowering LGPAC saying there is need to restructure it.

'Directorate for Ethics & Integrity budget cut'

Information from annual performing reports revealed that the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity (DEI)'s budget was decreased to sh5.152b in FY 2018/19 from sh5.525b in FY 2016/17. The reports furthermore indicated that national anti-corruption strategy coordination was allocated only 500m (5.82%) of the total DEI budget. Being the Secretariat of the Inter Agency Forum (IAF), the low funding impacts negatively on the ability of the DEI to coordinate anti-corruption efforts in Uganda.

What they say?

During the panel discussion the Abim district chairperson, Godfrey Okello revealed that Abim PAC receives only UGX1million per quarter which is just a drop in the ocean. He told the audience that the quality of audit report is also wanting.

"The quality of audit reports needs to be addressed as there are discrepancies," Okello stated.

Kakumiro district Chairperson Tibiwa Ker told participants that his district was grappling with underfunding and the district has failed to raise local revenue.

According to him, the issue and this affects the accountability committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WHAT: High level

WHEN:

WHERE:

PARTICIPANTS:

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



Zaminah Malore, a member at Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) Speaks during a meeting on Gender Responsive Budgeting at Golf Course Hotel in Kampala on December 4th, 2019. Looking on is Susan Oregede, an official from UN Women. ©CSBAG.



CSBAG Budget Policy Specialist Siraj Magara speaks during the meeting on Gender Responsive Budgeting at Golf Course Hotel on December 4th, 2019. ©CSBAG