



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Parliament asked to reject non gender inclusive budgets

Parliament has been asked to reject national budgets drafted by the Government, but don't address gender issues affecting vulnerable groups like the women, youth and children.

According to gender activists, the Government has continuously tabled before Parliament non gender inclusive budgets which don't address problems such as access to clean water, health services and education of vulnerable people such as those with disabilities.

"It is not fair constructing a tarmac road in an area, when there are no schools, health centers or anti-malarial drugs in hospitals, there should be equality in budgeting," Siraji Magara, a budget Policy specialist at the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) said.

He made the remarks, during the budget training of members of the public by UN Women in partnership with CSBAG.

During the training, the Government was faulted for paying much attention on infrastructure development, and neglected other social services such as health which impact on the lives of vulnerable groups like the women.

'Work closely with communities'

To address the gaps, the gender responsive budget activists, implored the Government to work closely with local communities for a better understanding of the issues affecting such communities.

In Kasese district, where one of the budget training and consultative meeting by UN women was conducted, the locals pointed out poor health services, lack of theaters and health specialists as some of the area's Government should pay attention to, during the consideration of the 2020/2021 financial year budget.

They also pointed out the lack of health services to vulnerable groups like the women and the People with disabilities who face challenges in access to services.

"Most of the public health centers, don't have special beds for PWDs. There is also understaffing you find one midwife working on hundreds of mothers," Beatrice Muhindo said. The locals also pointed out areas like education, agriculture which they said need special attention when considering the national budget.



Kasese Resident District Commissioner Lt. Joe Walusimbi speaking. @CSBAG

MPs blamed

They faulted the MPs for not doing enough consultations with their electorate, to get views from them on the major areas of focus, when approving the national budget.

"The Government will say we have paved a road which benefits all Ugandans both men, women and children. But there are certain things which we need to pay special attention to. Some politicians, such as the local council leaders, only care about how much money is going to their areas," Lt Joe Walusimbi, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Kasese said.

He noted that some leaders especially at the district level, don't mind about service delivery as they focus more on budgets allocated to their constituencies.

The RDC also attributed the poor service delivery to some politicians whom he described as corrupt and morally not upright.

"Some people when they are in leadership positions, all they care about is their share, don't want to know about others and as long as we still have moral decay, there is nothing much we can achieve."

Be budget champions

On his part, Samuel Ssenku Kimuli, the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kasese district, implored Ugandans to be budget champions.

According to him, this can be done by bringing to the attention of Government key areas they think should be funded for inclusive budgeting.

The Government which recently held the national budget conference for the FY 2020/2021 is currently carrying out consultations ahead of the drafting of the National Budget framework paper for the next financial year.

During the launch Gender and Equity Budgeting reference tools for MDAs last year, Gender Minister Janat Mukwya said responding to the needs of all Ugandans when making sector plans and budgets will not only demonstrate the pride, we have for our people but also enhance more trust from the people we are appointed to serve.

According to her, discriminative plans and budgets is a demonstration of directly challenging the humanity of left out Ugandans.

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 CSBAG at csbag@csbag.org

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



Neighborhood Assemblies training in Arua District on 25th October, 2019. @CSBAG



CSBAG PFM training for CSOs at Eureka Hotel on October 24th 2019. @CSBAG