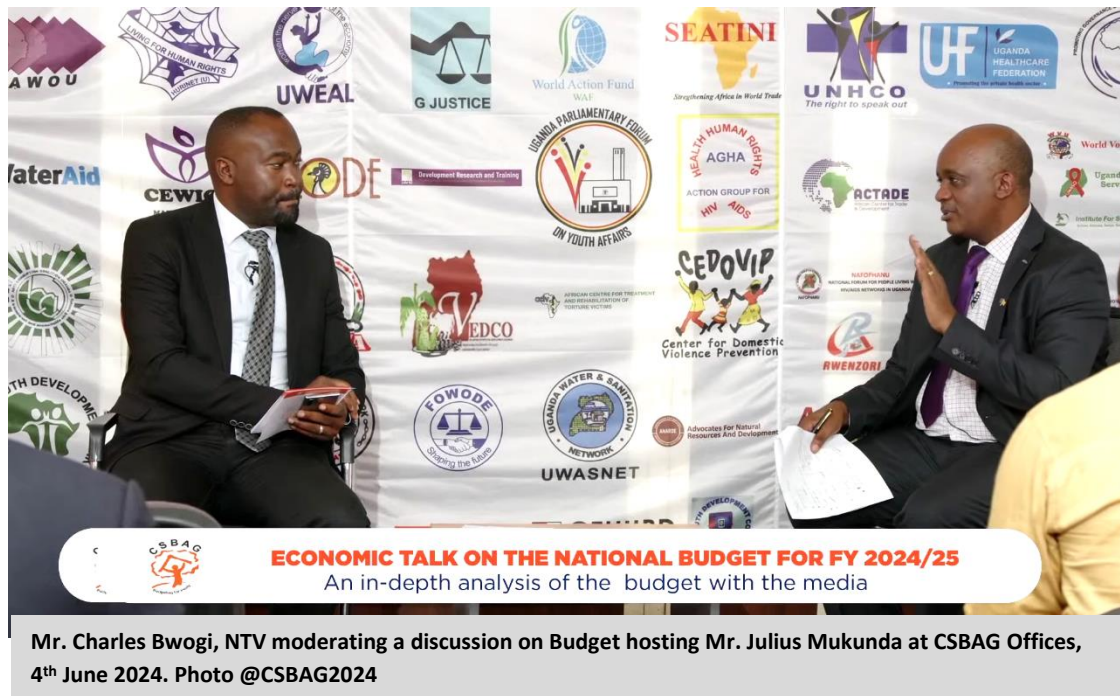


## CSOs fault fiscal indiscipline on political laxity to plough sanity



**Members of the Civil Society Organization (CSO) committed to advocating for proper budgeting process in Uganda have faulted the persistently escalating fiscal indiscipline in Uganda's budget process on a weak political whipping system.**

This came during the Economic Talk on the National Budget for FY 2024/25 that was held at the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) offices in Kampala on Tuesday.

During the said session, the Executive Director of CSBAG Mr Julius Mukunda expressed strong displeasure over the express-manner in which the Shs14 Trillion Corrigendum was processed and okayed by Parliament.

Mr Mukunda stated that majority of the items captured in the said corrigenda(additional) budget that was on 16<sup>th</sup> May processed by the Parliament prior to the passing on the 2024/25 National Budget Report were not necessary.

Mr Mukunda, for instance, the Shs14 Trillion corrigenda that caused a pronounced upward adjustment in the initial 58.3 trillion budget estimates that morphed into the Shs72.13 trillion National Budget for Financial Year 2024/25 that commences on July 1<sup>st</sup> this year was littered with irregularities.

He stated that the majority of the items that were contained in the said corrigendum would have been rejected and thrown out if the Ministry of Finance officials had tabled before Parliament on time.

"This corrigendum is as a result of Parliament's failure to execute its mandate. Parliament should play their job, which is to check the executive but this time around they were inadequate in playing this role. They would have saved us," Mr Mukunda said.

Some of the pronounced items in the said corrigendum budget include medical interns with Shs34 Budget, State House had Shs24 Billion, Office of the President with Shs25 Billion while Shs40.0 trillion planned for cattle compensations for Lango, Teso and Acholi regions.

It is worth noting that the Shs14 Corrigendum was on 16<sup>th</sup> May formally laid before Parliament in the morning at 11am, referred to the Parliamentary committee on Budget and it was on the same day approved to form part of the Shs72 Trillion 2024/25 National Budget.

It is for this reason that Mr Mukunda faulted the legislators for hurriedly processing the Shs14 Trillion corrigendum and yet it had items which would otherwise be captured in the next Financial Year budget. He also reasons such tendencies on Parliament's encourage indiscipline within Uganda's budgeting process.

He also faulted the political leadership of Uganda, especially the Ministry of Finance, for not only failing to whip its technocrats to prepare the corrigendum on time, but also for continuously condoning irregularities in Uganda's budget process. He therefore said that "the President needs to come out and put back the House to order" as a means to restore sanity within the budget process.