

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



Shs 100 Million payout to MPs raises public spending concerns



Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thomas Tayebwa consults with Gov't Chief Whip Denis Hamson Obua during plenary session. Photo: Parliament

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has defended the Shs 100 million payments to Members of Parliament, stating that the funds are part of efforts to safeguard the country's sovereignty and peace.

This move has been criticized by opposition MP Muwanga Kivumbi Muhammad and media outlets like the Daily Monitor, which Museveni claims are serving foreign interests.

Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa had previously dismissed reports of the payments as "street talk," refusing to allow debate on the matter since it wasn't budgeted for or approved by the Parliamentary Commission.

Tayebwa emphasized that the leadership is only accountable for what Parliament budgets, appropriates, and expends.

However, President Museveni confirmed that MPs received Shs 100 million each through classified funding, contradicting Tayebwa's denial. The controversy highlights ongoing debates about transparency and accountability in government spending.

Kivumbi said that as it's now public knowledge that Shs 100 million was allocated under a classified State House account, concerns arise about parliamentary oversight. "This isn't the first instance; a previous Shs 40 million also passed under similar classification raised eyebrows."

We urge parliamentary leadership to provide adequate time for thorough scrutiny of supplementary budgets, ensuring MPs understand what they're approving to prevent potential abuse.

President Yoweri Museveni responded to criticism from opposition MPs, led by Muwanga Kivumbi, over the Shs 100 million payments to parliamentarians.

In a statement issued on April 11, 2025, Museveni said, "Last night, on UBC, I saw a cluster of Opposition MPs, led by a one Kivumbi, expending a lot of energy, on the supposed sh. 100 million per person given to MPs through classified Funds, etc.

In this campaign, these Opposition MPs are supported by the anti-Ugandan newspaper known as 'Monitor'. However, for the Kivumbi group of Opposition MPs and for the Monitor Newspaper, I have one question: "Dear Sirs and madams, have you ever heard of foreign funds being sent into Uganda to influence our politics in the favour of the foreigners?"

Secondly, the next question: "If you are an anti-corruption warrior you claim to be, why you have never talked about these foreign funds?" Who has been receiving these foreign funds and for what purpose? When you receive foreign funds, you are not only corrupt but you are a traitor.

Regarding the classified funds, they have two purposes: to buy classified equipment and also to promote activities that help in defeating the enemy schemes in Uganda and keep the peace of the People of Uganda.

Has this helped to keep the peace? Absolutely. Is that not the reason why Uganda is an island of peace in this area?

Civil society leaders in Uganda are expressing discontent over a proposed move to allocate more funds to Members of Parliament (MPs), warning it could further strain the country's struggling economy and impede service delivery.

Julius Mukunda, Executive Director of CSBAG, said, "In terms of saying that MPs are there for us, that's out. They're there for themselves. Now we know it.

We need citizens to push back and bring in government people who can care for us. The social contract between us and the politicians is never there." Mukunda added that if parliamentarians were doing their job of appropriation correctly, ensuring that services reach their constituents, their people wouldn't have to beg for anything.

"It's unfair to blame the public for putting pressure on them; after all, they were elected to office to legislate on behalf of their constituents."

Angella Kasule Nabwohe, Executive Director of ISER, highlighted the healthcare sector's challenges, pointing out that staffing in regional referral hospitals stands at 37%, with no funds allocated for medical interns.

Meanwhile, funds are being directed towards MPs. As elections approach, Nabwohe emphasized that health and education will be critical issues, questioning how these priorities can be translated into tangible financial commitments

The Shs 100 million payout to MPs has sparked renewed concerns about transparency and accountability in government spending. Many Ugandans are questioning the timing and secrecy surrounding the classified expenditures, fueling debates about corruption and parliamentary oversight.

CSBAG IN THE NEWS

1. Opposition MPs in trouble over Shs100m, [Read more here.](#)
2. Uganda's Parliament is a Cautionary Tale for Emerging Democracies, a Self-Enrichment Syndicate, [Read more here.](#)
3. Civil Society activists raise concerns over misplaced priorities, [Read more here.](#)



#UGBUDGET25

From right to left: Ramathan Ggoobi, PSST; Julius Mukunda, CSBAG Executive Director; and Arthur Binomugisha, ACODE Executive Director, during the Q4 releases at MoFPED offices on 8th April 2025. (Photo: CSBAG) Mr Mukunda advised that strict measures be installed to condition all planners in various MDAs to capture all key priorities in their main budgets as a measure to lessen on the reliance of supplementary budgets that are in the long-run either abused or misused.

By the end of March 2025, Government had collected domestic revenues amounting to Uganda Shs 22.379 trillion against a target of Shs 22.516 trillion, implying a cumulative shortfall of Shs 136.64 billion. During the final quarter of the financial year, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and other revenue collecting institutions are expected to collect a total of Shs 9.37 trillion.

Source: Press Release on Q4 expenditure releases for FY2024/25

