

CSBAG- PPDA moot partnership to tackle graft in public procurement



A group photo of CSOs, PPDA Team and Media partners at the interface meeting held 26th June 2025 at PPDA Head Quarters.
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“These reforms were designed to promote transparency, accountability, and value for money in public procurement while boosting the inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD)-led businesses in government contracts.”

Stated Dr. Aloysius Byaruhanga, PPDA’s Director of Performance Monitoring while addressing the meeting

held today, 26th June, 2025, between the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) and the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA). The meeting enhanced CSO knowledge and engagement with PPDA reforms designed to promote transparency, accountability, and value for money in public procurement while boosting the inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWD)-led businesses in government contracts. The meeting also fostered collaboration between PPDA and CSOs to strengthen oversight and advocacy in procurement processes.

In his remarks delivered at the partnership meeting held at the PPDA headquarters in Kampala, the CSBAG Executive Director Mr Julius Mukunda stated that CSOs to be effective in their work, they require authentic information in their push for sound accountability in public procurements and that’s the reason of the meeting.

He went on to indicate that CSBAG and its partners need to combine solid efforts to improve public procurements. “We can’t do without partnerships in this fight against corruption in the procurement. So, this provides us with strong soldiers from the side of government,” Mr Mukunda said.

“We follow the money, and over 60% of the budget is in procurement and because of that we see procurement as a governance and accountability issue,” he said. He added “This process is important to Ugandans because it helps our ordinary citizens access markets and take part in business.”

Dr. Aloysius Byaruhanga, PPDA’s Director of Performance Monitoring, emphasized the importance of increasing citizen participation in the procurement process through evidence-based advocacy. He urged CSOs to build public trust by providing real-time information on contract implementation. He highlighted PPDA’s limited regional presence as it has only 4 offices in Mbale, Gulu, Mbarara, and Kampala and rallied CSO support to extend PPDA’s monitoring reach.

Key insights from the meeting was the Reservation Schemes, which was presented as an opportunity to empower marginalized groups. “This reserves 15% of public procurements for registered associations led by these groups to supply goods and services to the government. This initiative aligns with the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) policy to promote local providers and enhance inclusivity in public procurement.” Michael Abaine Senior Officer, Local Content PPDA. Discussions underscored the need for CSOs to advocate for effective implementation of this scheme to ensure marginalized groups benefit.

On the Contracts Monitoring System which allows communities to track projects and raise red flags. “ To date, 28 CSOs have to date monitored 700 projects across 67 districts worth US\$ 642.4 billion across 67 districts, with the central region having the least coverage. PPDA called additional partnerships in areas to increase CSO efforts in tracking public procurement to ensure accountability and effective implementation of government contracts”. Stated Onen Simon- Procurement Data analyst

The discussions also deliberated on key challenges in public procurement, such as limited regional oversight by PPDA and the need for greater citizen awareness. CSOs were encouraged to leverage tools like the CMS to monitor contracts and report irregularities. Overall the meeting emphasized PPDA’s reforms, including the eGP system and Reservation Schemes, as critical to improving transparency and inclusivity.

In her closing remarks the CSBAG Deputy Executive Director, Ms Carol Namagembe stated that partnership has also unearthed additional interest that could be tapped into and lead into a structure operating framework by CSOs and PPDA. She called on fellow CSO colleagues to support PPDA through raising awareness and mobilising citizens to engage in the push for greater transparency in government procurement systems, as well as benefit from the reservation scheme.

Present at the meeting were CSOs operating in Arua, Budaka, Kampala, Kanungu, Moroto, Rubanda, Rukiga and Sheema and these included Sensitize Uganda, African Youth Development Link, Restless Development, Nyanza Fish Farmers, Kanungu Community Efforts for Rural Transformation, Kigezi Women in Development, Rural Initiatives for Community Empowerment, Faraja Africa Development, West Nile Regional Civil Society Network, Karamoja Women Cultural Group, Lusuganda Development Initiative, Karamoja Youth Effort to Save the Environment, Women and Girls Call Initiative, Karamoja Women Umbrella Organization and Riamiriam Civil Society