

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



CSBAG warns against Irregularities Involved In Securing Government Jobs



SOURCE (LinkedIn Insights)

Uganda is faced with rising cases of rampant bribery in recruitment processes Uganda's local governments. CSBAG warns that the sale of public jobs not only undermines meritocracy but also weakens public trust and cripples service delivery.

A recent *Daily Monitor* investigation exposed disturbing cases where district officials and intermediaries allegedly demanded bribes from desperate job seekers. In Kapelebyong District, a technical officer was accused of extorting over **UGX 25 million** during a recruitment exercise. In Gomba District, three senior officials including the District Service Commission Chairperson were charged with soliciting bribes ranging between **UGX 1 million** and **UGX 20 million** from applicants. These incidents reveal a growing culture of corruption in the hiring of public servants.

These findings come at a time when the Auditor General's 2023 report documented more than 26,000 payroll anomalies across government institutions. The report highlighted ghost workers, double payments, and irregular recruitments. Ghost workers alone were projected to cost the country **UGX 53 billion** annually. This mismanagement of resources affects vital sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure development which slows Uganda's fiscal development.

The Inspectorate of Government (IGG) has further confirmed the systemic nature of the problem. According to its corruption survey in 2021, 82% of job seekers in local governments reported being asked for bribes. The education sector recorded the highest value of bribes requested, totaling **UGX 36.9 billion**, while the health sector accounted for the largest bribes actually paid, amounting to **UGX 12.9 billion**.

CSBAG's Executive Director, Julius Mukunda, condemned the practice as a betrayal of public trust and a major barrier to inclusive development. He urged government institutions and oversight bodies, particularly the Ministry of Public Service and the Public Service Commission, to urgently reform recruitment processes. Mukunda called for tighter payroll controls, including digital verification systems, regular headcounts, and strict supervision of recruitment panels to curb irregularities before they occur.

CSOs further emphasized the need for transparent and merit-based hiring. This, the organization argued, can be achieved through regular independent audits, stronger monitoring of District Service Commissions, and the publication of recruitment outcomes and scoring criteria. These steps would restore public confidence and ensure that competence, not bribery, determines access to public jobs.

On enforcement, Mukunda stressed that those implicated in selling jobs must be investigated, prosecuted, and held personally accountable for the loss of public resources. *"Without deterrent measures, corruption in hiring will only deepen. A strong and visible punishment for offenders is essential to send a clear message that Uganda will not tolerate the commercialization of public service jobs,"* he warned.

CSOs have cautioned against this growing practice in local gov't. If unchecked, corruption in recruitment will cripple service delivery, deepen inequality and erode citizen trust in government. *"This is not just administrative malpractice, it is corruption at its most dangerous, and it must be rooted out before it affects the integrity of public service,"* Mukunda concluded

CSBAG EVENTS

Event: Business Linkages and Investment Connections (BLINC) Strategic Retreat

Convenor: CSBAG

Date: 16th August 2025

Venue: Esella Country Hotel



#PARTICIPATORYBUDGETING

In Ariwa Subcounty, Yumbe our field officer enrolled some community members and the Participatory Budget Clubs (PBCs) from the Hemic and School Management Structures on the Citizen Feedback Platform (CPF) an initiative dedicated to empowering citizens on insights and gain feedback on government operations

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SOURCE: OAG

