

OAG FY2023/24 REGIONAL UPDATES: Local Government Urged To Act on Auditor General's Recommendations



Representatives from local districts, OAG, CSBAG, CSOs, law authorities at the Regional Visit in Moroto Region 31st July 2025. Source (CSBAG)

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The Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), in partnership with the Office of the Auditor General (OAG), has convened a regional visit in Karamoja Region to disseminate the FY 2023/24

audit findings for the region. The dialogues were attended by stakeholders including about 63 duty bearers, 2 representatives from the CSO space including KAYESE and AWOTID. This report covered 9 districts including: Abim, Kotido, Nabilatuk, Karenga among others.

During the meeting, the Local Council V Moroto Chairperson Oketch Godfrey appreciated CSBAG for organizing this engagement sighting the importance of understanding budget concepts and creating awareness. He also appreciated the OAG for being part of this engagement and he committed to adopting the recommendations in the audit findings as well as collaborating with other stakeholders to make local district administration effective.

However, he raised concerns on late budget disbursements which makes it difficult to implement certain projects in the local government. “You find that the money comes late and even when it comes its little. We need more increments with the budgets of Karamoja,” Oketch said

Speaking at the engagement, CSBAG Board Vice chairperson Richard Mugisha appreciated the participants for turning up in large numbers for the different districts. He emphasized the importance of participatory auditing in improving service delivery and commended the OAG's continued commitment to innovation and collaboration with civil society and other actors.

During the meeting, he encouraged different stakeholders to interest themselves in building up their understanding of audit and budget processes which affect service delivery and proper reporting of audit findings can promote transparency and advance accountability. “While we are all in this meeting, I implore you all to take note of the key findings in this report most especially the various district representatives,” Mugisha added.

The Office of the Auditor General, represented by Auditor Michael Amuria and Senior Auditor Erasmus Akankwasa who represented the Principal Auditor highlighted the collaboration and importance of citizens participation in audit processes to enhance credibility and improve service delivery in the different districts. “As citizens be involved in these processes with our supporting platforms to help us auditors to also plan better. We have the Citizen Feedback Platform (CPF), the auditing tracking tool, photos or any documentation that can support our findings,” Akankwasa said.

The Auditor General's team shared key Audit findings of the region that constituted the report FY2023/24, including the Opinion Status which consisted of 10 unqualified (good report), 2 qualified (bad report), overstatement of expenses by letters of Credit amounting to UGX 72 billion, Unaccounted funds amounting to UGX 13 billion, unsupported prepayments and advances amounting to UGX 1.82 billion. They also listed the Parish Development Model where the Parish Revolving Fund worth UGX 51 billion was disbursed to households and UGX 31.59 billion was undisbursed. For Asset Management, UGX300 billion assets were not valued and some undisposed.

However, the Auditor General's team encouraged accounting officers and stakeholders to lookout for the OAG report, know the opinions, familiarize themselves with the recommendations and follow up on implementation to ensure enforcement especially the Treasury Memorandum which outlines the government's official action plan to address audit findings and ensure accountability.

The meeting progressed to a plenary discussion where participants raised concerns and recommendations on different issues. Charles Ichogor RDC Kotido District raised concerns on incompetence caused by inadequate capacity for both staff and citizens in the area, “Kotido has only 2 substantive staff hence the mass incompetence among department heads. I believe that CSBAG should support and have capacity building sessions for the people in Kotido. They will greatly benefit as a district,” he added.

Different regional leaders encouraged CSBAG and OAG to simplify reports for Public Account Committees, encouraged different ministries and development agencies to also take part in the meetings to understand why certain sectors face late releases, return of funds to the Consolidated Funds and training to guide local leaders on audit processes which can guide civic engagement at the local levels.

As the meeting drew to a close, Bernard Oite, the representative of the Regional Head of the Department of the Inspectorate of Government appreciated CSBAG for convening the engagement. He acknowledged the benefit of the simplified findings of the Audit Report and promised that the IGG office will make use of them. He implored the local leaders in the region to build genuine political will in order to fight against corruption in administration and recruitment processes. Additionally, he tasked local leaders to utilize the whistleblowing policy as the IGG office receives few complaints as people fear coming up

In conclusion, the Dissemination of the Audit Report Findings for FY2023/24 in the Karamoja Region was well received with more calls to encourage local leaders to make use of recommendations and continuous engagement from OAG to CSBAG to empower citizens to demand accountability through quarterly or immediate meetings after the release of the Audit reports.