

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



Govt boosts Education funding with UGX 37Billion for University Research and TVET Curriculum



Pupils during a class lesson at Msafiri Primary School. (Source: msafiri blog)

The Ministry of Finance unveiled significant investments in the Education Sector for the upcoming financial year, allocating billions of shillings to revitalize university research and overhaul technical education curricula.

According to the Second Budget Call Circular for FY2026/27 issued on February 13, 2026, the Government has set aside **UGX 7 billion** for curriculum development through the Uganda Vocational and Technical Examination Board (UVTEB). Additionally, 6 public universities will receive **UGX 3 billion** each for evidence-based research, marking one of the largest targeted investments in higher education research in recent years.

The focus on technical and vocational education comes as government pushes its "Full Monetization of Uganda's Economy" agenda, which prioritizes commercial agriculture, industrialization, and digital transformation. Curriculum development for TVET is seen as critical to producing graduates with skills matching labor market demands in these priority sectors.

Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Busitema University, Mountains of the Moon University and Makerere University Business School are the beneficiaries of the research funding, which aims to align academic inquiry with national development priorities under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV).

The budget circular, issued by Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury Ramathan Ggoobi, emphasizes that all investments must contribute to what it terms the "four parameters of economic performance" - prioritizing enablers, export growth, fiscal returns, and private sector growth.

Beyond research funding, the circular reveals substantial infrastructure investments across public universities. Gulu University has been allocated **UGX 10 billion** for construction of a senate building to ensure proper storage of student records and provide additional lecture and office space. Mountains of the Moon University will receive **UGX 10 billion** to complete its Faculty of Agriculture and Environment Science Lecture Complex.

Makerere University secured additional funding beyond its research allocation, including **UGX 3 billion** for renovation of student halls of residence and **UGX 14 billion** for completion of the Makerere School of Public Health. The university will also receive **UGX 20 billion** for construction of the Makerere Lung Institute, signaling government's attention to specialized health research and training infrastructure.

Civil Society Organizations tracking education financing have welcomed the investments but called for robust oversight to ensure value for money. Additionally, they will monitor procurement processes for university construction projects to ensure transparency and value for money, advocate for universal access standards and gender-responsive facilities in new infrastructure, and demand public disclosure of research priorities and selection criteria for the **UGX 3 billion** research allocations.

During the FY2026/27 execution phase, CSOs should track quarterly budget performance reports to verify that funds reach intended activities and document community-level impact, examining whether TVET curriculum reforms and university research translate into improved skills, employability, and innovation. The circular's new Accounting Officers' Budget Discipline Charter and rewards-and-sanctions framework provide powerful accountability tools that CSOs can leverage to demand responsibility for poor performance, ensuring that these significant education investments deliver tangible results for Ugandan learners and communities.

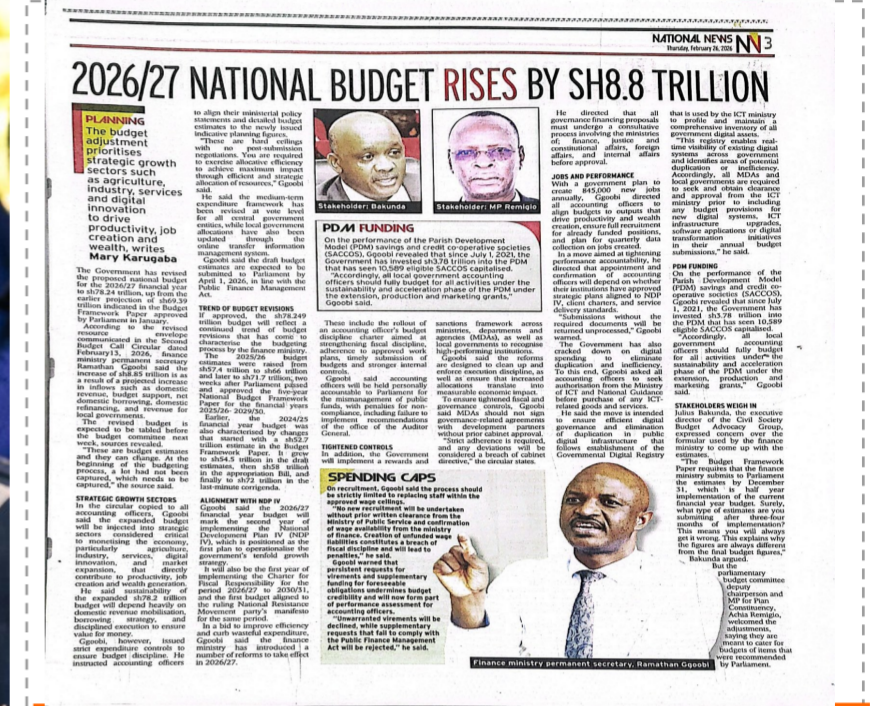
The allocations come with stringent accountability requirements outlined in the circular, including mandatory gender and equity compliance certification, HIV/AIDS mainstreaming, and integration of universal access standards for persons with disabilities.

Universities and the UVTEB must submit their detailed budget estimates to the Ministry of Finance by March 5, 2026, for review and consolidation before Parliamentary submission by April 1. The circular warns that submissions without proper documentation, including evidence of alignment with NDP IV and approved strategic plans, "will be returned unprocessed."

The education sector investments represent a fraction of the overall **UGX 78.249 trillion** national budget envelope for FY2026/27, which reflects an increase of **UGX 8.85 trillion** from initial projections. The budget theme positions education and skills development as enablers of the broader economic transformation agenda.

For universities, the research funding presents both opportunity and challenge - opportunity to produce knowledge that addresses Uganda's development challenges, and challenge to demonstrate tangible impact and value for public investment. The circular's emphasis on "evidence-based research" suggests government expects measurable outcomes that inform policy and practice.

CSBAG IN THE MEDIA



#PARTICIPATORYBUDGETING

CSBAG, under the UN-EU Spotlight Initiative, conducted a capacity-building training for officials from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Ministry of Education on Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting, aimed at prioritizing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

The education sector investments represent a fraction of overall UGX **78.249** trillion, national budget envelope for FY2026/27, which reflects an increase of UGX **8.85** trillion from initial projections. The budget theme positions education and skills development as enablers of the broader economic transformation agenda.

SOURCE: The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 2nd Budget Call Circular on Finalization of Ministerial Policy Statements and Detailed Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure FY2026/27