

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



The PDM Accountability Gap Needs to Be Urgently Addressed



President Museveni launching PDM in Acholi Sub region. Source (Presidential Initiative Website)

President Yoweri Museveni's message to Ugandans during his State of the Nation Address on June 4, 2026, was characteristically direct: "The message is clear: no more sleep." He was urging citizens to wake up and take advantage of the economic opportunities flowing from government programs, chief among them the Parish Development Model. With at least **UGX 100 million** channeled annually to each of over **10,500 parishes**, totaling more than **UGX 1 trillion** per year injected into grassroots economies,

Millions of households have been targeted through parish-based revolving funds, and alongside Emyooga and the Uganda Development Bank's **UGX1.6 trillion**.

The President's "no more sleep" comes at a time when audit findings and field reports from districts across Uganda report something else.

Evidence coming from the Auditor General's report for the Financial Year ending June 30, 2024 shows that of the **UGX 3.258 trillion** released to **10,589 PDM SACCOs** nationwide, only **UGX 2.75 trillion**, **84%** actually reached intended households.

That leaves **UGX 508.6 billion**, or **16%** of the total, sitting undistributed. Even more alarming, **UGX 106 million** withdrawn by **62 SACCOs** cannot be accounted for at all. The Auditor General identified **109** ghost projects—enterprises that exist only on paper but received funding. **UGX 263 million** was diverted across **52** local governments. Perhaps most shockingly, **2,336** households received PDM loans multiple times, in clear violation of program guidelines that state no household should benefit more than once.

These represent a systemic failure of transparency, and accountability which contradicts the narrative of a smoothly functioning wealth-creation engine. The repayment crisis, meanwhile, suggests that even where funds did reach beneficiaries, the program's sustainability is in jeopardy. In Kwania District, only **32** households out of **17,513** beneficiaries have repaid their loans—a repayment rate of less than **0.2%**.

The total recovered in Kwania stands at **UGX 7.5 million**,

against **UGX17.5billion** disbursed over several financial years.

In Masaka City, the picture is similarly bleak: only Shs58 million has been recovered out of more than **UGX 7 billion** disbursed. Nationally, according to the Auditor General's report, a mere **18,105** beneficiaries across **30** districts had begun voluntary repayments as of December 2025, yielding just **UGX9.34billion**—a fraction of the **UGX 3.38 trillion** invested since the program's launch in the 2021/2022 financial year

CSBAG's own Executive Director, Julius Mukunda, has previously urged Ugandans to position themselves to benefit from PDM funds, evidence suggests that even when Ugandans do rise to access these funds, the system fails them

The information gap is another challenge most people across the country lack vital information about the PDM, despite government funds having been injected to train technical staff.

If citizens do not understand the program—how to apply, how to use funds productively, how to repay, or what their rights are—then the President's call to "take advantage of opportunities" becomes an impossible instruction.

How can a farmer in a remote parish seize an opportunity she does not know exists? How can a market vendor repay a loan when she was never properly trained in financial literacy?

CSBAG is calling for the re strategization of the PDM. On the contrary, we believe the model has merit and could genuinely transform livelihoods if implemented correctly. But implementation must be fixed—and fixed now. As Julius Mukunda himself once argued, we must "fix the plane while in the air" .

That means immediate corrective measures: public dashboards, mandatory pre-disbursement financial literacy training, sanctions for officials and politicians who undermine the program, and a hotline for citizens to report extortion or diversion of funds.

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SOURCE: Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development 2026