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7th June, 2019

REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY FOR THE SERVICE EXCELLENCE EXHIBITION

Hon. Ministers Present
Heads of Institutions
Members of Civil Society
Technical Officers
The Media Fraternity
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank you all for participating in this year's Service Excellence Exhibition which has been running for the past three days. The purpose of this exhibition was to inform the Public about all the products, services and innovations that Government Agencies are expected to offer, and to give back to the Public.

During the exhibition, over 120 Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and over 17 Civil Society Organizations showcased their products and services; 2400 Ugandans received the Yellow Fever Vaccine; 248 units of blood were collected; and, 3000 litres of milk were distributed, to mention but a few. The above purpose has therefore largely been achieved.

In addition, I would like to note the following:

1. The National Budget Month activities in general and the Service Excellence Exhibition in particular have facilitated Public awareness and understanding of how the National Budget has been spent by the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies;

2. The exhibition has created and inspired inroads in Public ownership of the National Budget and buy-in for Government programs;
3. There has been improved collaboration between the different Government agencies in demonstrating accountability for Public resources; and,
4. There is an increase in Public awareness about the key Government programmes and how the Public can get involved in demanding better services.

The following lessons have been learnt during the same period:

1. The Public needs more sensitization on Government programs. I therefore call upon my colleague Ministers to publicize the Government programmes in order to increase awareness among the Public;
2. There is an even greater demand for Government interventions in the everyday lives of Ugandans in the areas of Health and Agriculture; and,
3. The exhibition should be held in the different regions of the country to facilitate uniform access to information on Government Programmes and Projects.

Through this exhibition, Government has been able to account to the Public and to obtain feedback that will lead to an improvement in the delivery of services. **Going forward therefore, this activity will be held annually.** I therefore urge all Ministries, Agencies and Departments to adequately prepare for next year's exhibition, and to take seriously the feedback obtained to improve delivery of services.

I urge you, members of the Public, to follow up and demand for accountability from the different Ministries, Departments and Agencies, in order to improve the delivery of services.

The Government of Uganda has promoted Budget Transparency aimed at enhancing budget literacy and citizens' engagement in prioritization, budgeting and oversight for poverty-reducing interventions since 1998. The Budget Transparency Initiatives aim at strengthening Budget Transparency by disseminating budget information and generating feedback from

citizens, thereby enhancing accountability for improved public service delivery. The exhibition we had this week was in line with Budget Transparency.

As part of efforts to increase Budget Transparency, my Ministry has a website dedicated to Budget issues: www.budget.go.ug and the Budget Call Center Toll Free Hotline: **0800229229**. I urge you, members of the Public to make use of the Budget Website and Call Center to obtain information on the Budget and to provide timely feedback on implementation of Government projects, delivery of Public Services and misuse of Public resources.

Next week, we shall have the Reading of the Budget Speech on Thursday, 13th June 2019 at the Serena International Conference Center. This will be followed by the Post Budget Speech Dialogue on Thursday, 20th June 2019 at the same venue. We shall then have Regional Budget Breakfast Meetings targeting the Public especially those in the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises subsector on Friday, 21st June, 2019 in the following regions:

- a) Northern Region- Lira at Pauline Hotel;
- b) West Nile Region- Arua at Tropical Suites Hotel;
- c) Eastern Region- Soroti at Timisha Hotel;
- d) Mid-Western Region- Hoima at Hotel Kontiki; and,
- e) South Western Region- Kabale at Cephas Hotel.

To crown the National Budget Month activities, we shall have the last Budget Breakfast Meeting in Kampala on Tuesday, 25th June 2019. I call upon all of you to take keen interest in these activities and participate in all of them in order to Know More about Your Budget and to take advantage of the opportunities therein.

With those few remarks, I hereby officially close this year's Service Excellence Exhibition and wish you successful implementation of the Budget for FY 2019/20.

I thank you all.

For God and my Country.