



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



249th EDITION | 20th - 26th MARCH 2017

Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



PPDA fails to recruit engineers due to budget cuts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event: CSOs Retreat to analyze Ministerial Policy Statements and alternative budget proposals FY207/18

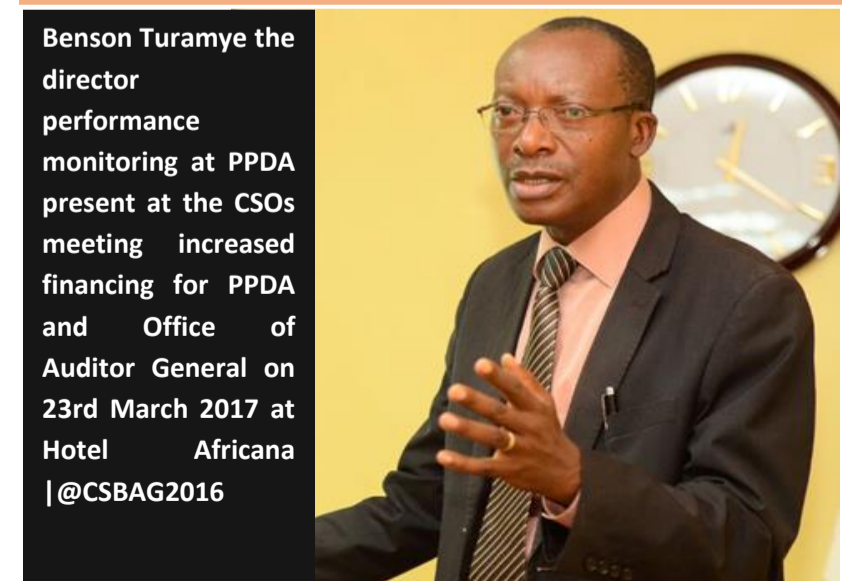
Date: 29th -31st March 2017 March 2017

Convener: CSBAG

CSBAG IN PICTURES

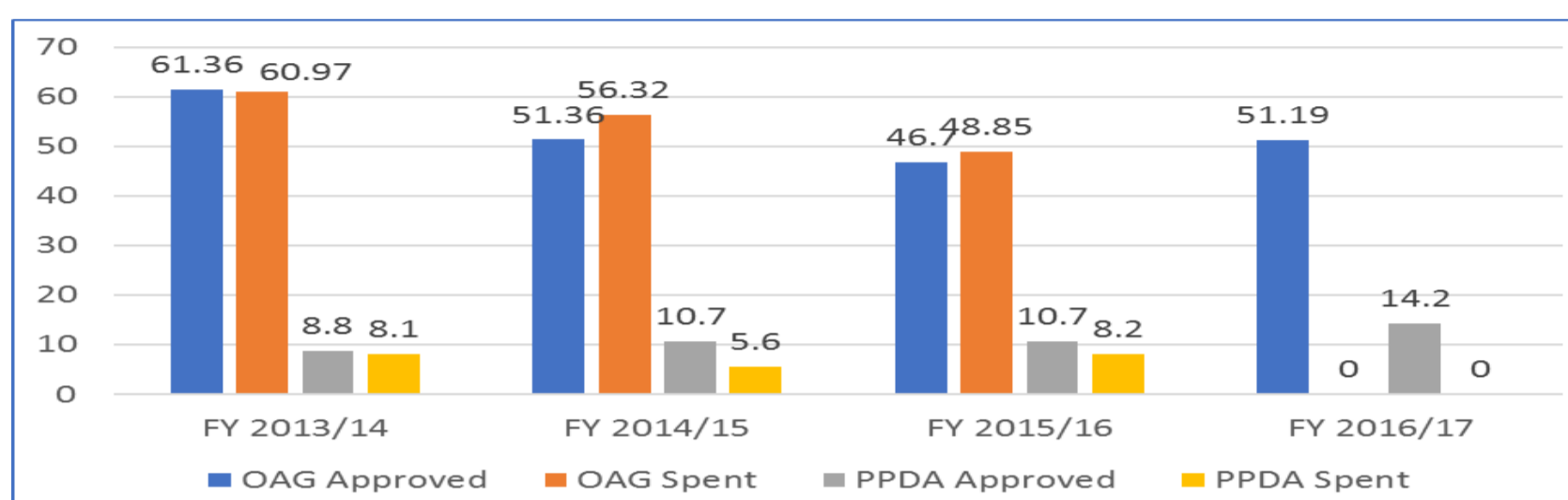


The chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Public Service and Local Government, MP Raphael Magezi emphasized the importance of adequate financing for local government for economic development at a high-level meeting on 21st January 2017 | @CSBAG2017



Benson Turamye the director performance monitoring at PPDA present at the CSOs meeting increased financing for PPDA and Office of Auditor General on 23rd March 2017 at Hotel Africana | @CSBAG2016

“Following the National Budget Updates from CSBAG, this week, we share with you CSOs position on financing for accountability institutions in Uganda which was presented to Members of Parliament last Thursday, 23rd March 2017 at Hotel Africana in preparation for a pro poor budget FY2017/18.



Financing trend for PPDA and OAG | Source: Ministry of Finance documents

As a result of budget constraints, the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) has failed to recruit engineers to implement its activities.

This was revealed by Benson Turamye the Director Performance Monitoring at PPDA who said the persistent budgetary cuts has affected the implementation of the Authority's activities. "Due to inadequate financial resources, the Authority has failed to recruit and retain staff with specialized skills like Engineers," Turamye said. He pointed out that Engineering Audits is crucial for the high performance of the institution.

The Director noted that the Authority's services are being overstretched by the increase in number of entities at both local and central levels. Turamye was speaking during the strategic meeting on increasing financing for PPDA and Office of Auditor General (OAG). The meeting was organized by Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) at Hotel Africana on Thursday March 23, 2017.

Under the unfunded priorities for the financial year 2017/2018, Turamye cited E-Government procurement with the funding gap of UGX 960m while expansion audit coverage and investigations the gap is UGX 120m bringing to a sum of UGX 1.08b.

He also informed participants that the Authority is grappling with poor contract management because of issues like poor workmanship, delayed execution of works and abandoned sites before the completion of the contract which all amount to poor service delivery.

The PPDA Director Performance Monitoring was responding to concerns raised by civil society about the underfunding of accountability sectors which are crucial for the delivery of quality public services.

Presenting a paper titled "Increasing financing for PPDA and OAG" Mark Agong Budget Policy Specialist with CSBAG noted that the emergence of unique sectors like oil and gas pose a challenge to both accountability sectors as it requires specialized skills to do engineering audits.

Agong also enumerated challenges the institutions are faced with among them insufficient funding, inadequate staffing levels which is at 33%, clearing lower Local Government audit backlog and delayed follow-up of audit recommendations by government ministries, departments and agencies as well as policy makers.

He told participants that the underfunding of accountability institutions has led to inadequate monitoring and supervision, low levels of compliance, increased cases of corruption as well as low revenue mobilization. "Despite legal regime in place to fight corruption, the vice has continued to be a concern to Ugandans," Agong stated.

The Budget Policy Specialist informed the audience who included district officials, members of civil society and government officials among others that a number of reforms have been made to enhance accountability systems and strengthen oversight functions but has been hampered by limited funding.

Turamye came up with resolutions among them are need to strengthen synergies with OAG especially during audit and reporting, sign pact with CSOs to share reports and explore training in monitoring and contract implementation, developing an E-procurement audit module as well as strengthening monitoring, reporting and follow up.

On his part official from OAG Robert Kamukama welcomed the civil society presentations and pledged to share it with top officials to come up key recommendations to bridge the gap of issues raised.

In his closing remarks Albert Oduman agreed with CSOs overview of the accountability institutions and called for increased funding if the two agencies are to execute their mandate well which will inevitably improve service delivery to benefit citizenry.

Also, don't miss out our news update about the meeting with Parliamentary committee on LG to discuss LG financing FY2017/18: [MPS, CSOs call for increased financing towards Local Government](#)

FY 2017/18, PPDA has unfunded priorities amounting to UGX 1.455bn OAG has unfounded priority amounting to UGX 33.6bn