



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Reduce wasteful expenditure to finance 2017/2018 budget – CSOs tell gov't

“A snapshot at the wasteful expenditure items show that the 52.4% decrease in the budget for welfare and entertainment from UGX 91.2bn to UGX 43.4bn has been undermined by increase in the budget for special meals and drinks from UGX 99.422bn to UGX 139.097bn, by UGX 40bn. This leaves one wondering which special meals and drinks take resources more than those allocated to ICT or Tourism, Trade and Industry.



CSO members addressing the media at the press conference that was held on April 9th, 2017. | @CSBAG2017

Government, for printing, stationary, photocopying and binding, despite the emergency of the digital era. According to the CSOs, it is imperative that the Government priority sectors are reflected to such sectors, if national development objectives, are to be met.

Aircraft Budget reduced from **UGX14.4bn** in FY 2017/18 to **UGX 4bn** in FY 2017/18 Budget for Aircraft. *Source: Draft Budget Estimates FY 2017/18*

“There are also repetitive expenditure classifications/Charter of Accounts that need to be streamlined like the incapacity, Death Benefits and Funeral Expenses and Classified Expenditure and Classified Equipment” Mukunda explained.

Domestic arrears

At the press conference, CSOs, also expressed concern over the failure by Government, to pay service providers, which they said has led to an increase in the domestic debt.

Despite promises by the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). “To our surprise the FY 2-17/18 development budget has UGX 43.76bn in arrears which 27bn and 7.5bn to be allocated to UNRA, Water and Environment sectors respectively”. Reads the CSBAG paper on the Ministerial Policy Statements FY 2017/18

“These service providers are a source of livelihood, to many people, so what is going to happen if government doesn't want to pay these people? The issue of domestic arrears has to be addressed urgently to save the unemployment problem in the country,”

According to the Draft Budget Estimates for FY 2017/2018, only Sh300.85b has been budgeted for by Government, to clear some of the domestic arrears, which have been accruing over the years.

Tax Bills

In their analysis of the taxation measures for FY 2017/18, the CSOs, welcomed Government's move to exempt tax on animal feeds and irrigation equipment, stating this move would boost agricultural productivity and the Tourism Sector.

Tabled on 4th April 2017, the Value- Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017proposes, an exemption on the supply of animal feeds, crop extension services and irrigation works, to support agriculture. However briefing journalists, the CSOs noted that there is need for Government to come up with more measures for resource mobilization other than exemption in order to boost local revenue collection, to be able to fund the national budget.

“The exemptions are good but they come with a price to pay, however much government has proposed tax exemptions on sanitary towels, the prices for pads will not go down, there is need to beef up our local revenue collections,” Nelly Busingye a member of CSBAG representing SEATINI said. In the tax Bills, the government is also proposing a 15% withholding tax, on winnings of sports betting and revisions in beers and spirits under the excise duty Bill.

CSOs also welcomed the proposal by Government to impose a 15% withholding charge on Winnings of Sports Betting and the revisions on beers and spirits under the Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Gender equity

The CSOs also urged MDAs, to adhere to gender budgeting, for a gender responsive budget. According to CSBAG, 40 MDAs, about 30 %, have not qualified for the Certificate of Gender and Equity after accessing their Ministerial Policy Statements, by the equal opportunities commission. “MDAs need to take the issue of gender and equity very serious, if they don't come up with a certificate of gender equity, their plans will be delayed,” Winnie Promise, from the forum for women in democracy (FOWODE) said.

CSOs task the Gender Ministry to give more technical support to these poorly performing sector to enable them adequately and equitably plan and budget for with gender for gender and equity.

INCREMENTS AND DECREASES FY 2017/18

INCREMENTS	FY2016/17	FY2017/18
Resource allocation to capital purchases	805.5bn	1,309bn
District Discretionary Development	123.9bn	246.9bn
Equalization Grant		
Conditional transfers to sanitation and hygiene	0	4.5 bn
Special meals and drinks	99.422bn	139.097bn
DECREMENTS		
Provision for books, periodicals and news papers	187.922bn	43.477bn
Conditional transfers from urban equalization grant	126.5bn	600,000 bn
Air craft	24.4bn	4bn

UPCOMING CSO EVENTS

Event: Presenting CSO Position on Trade Sector Ministerial Policy Statement for FY 2017/18

Date: 10th April, 2017

Convener: Parliament Committee Tourism, Trade and Industry

Venue: Parliament of Uganda

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



Hon. Rwakimari (2nd right) responds to submissions from CSOs at a meeting to discuss the Health Position Paper that was presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Health on 8th April, 2017.



CSO members and the media attending a press conference at the CSBAG secretariat on 9th April 2017

UGX 139bn

FY 2017/18 Special meals and Drinks Budget FY 2017/18.

Source: Draft Budget Estimates FY 2017/18

Mr. Mukunda was addressing a press conference at the CSBAG offices in Ntinda, where he alongside other members of the CSBAG, addressed journalists on the 2017/2018 financial year budget.

The CSOs also expressed shock at the Sh77b budgeted by