



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Health ministry yet to act on Health scheme as patients await cancer machine

UPCOMING CSO EVENTS

Event: Performance Based Budgeting meeting

Convener: Ministry of Finance

Venue: Ministry of Finance offices

Date: Monday, 10th July 2017

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



CSBAG staff meeting with officials from Ford foundation last week at the CSBAG offices in Ntinda, Kampala. |@CSBAG2017

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR BUDGET 2017-2018

As part of our effort to explain the FY 2017/18 Budget, we have uploaded a video that breaks down the key numbers of the agriculture sector allocations. For details please click on: <https://youtu.be/KkF-qXLE9kA>



Health Minister, Dr. Ruth Aceng speaking at a past event. She says the ministry intends to raise salaries of medical workers.

CSO proposals

In their proposals, the CSOs and the MPs, however noted that the scheme needs to be opened up to all Ugandans both the working and non-working class for better health service delivery. The MPs also proposed that the policy brings on board, people in the informal sector, as contributors and beneficiaries of the health scheme. According to the government, financing of the health scheme, shall be 40.7% sponsorship from government, insurance contributions 52.9% and direct income 6.4%.

Financing of the scheme

The proposed plan will have the scheme financed by 4% monthly contributions from an employee's earnings, with the employer contributing an additional 4%. In 2010, neighbouring Rwanda enrolled 8.5m members in the national health scheme, which depends on citizens contributions based on their economic status, the Rwandan government, however pays for its citizens, who cannot afford to contribute to the scheme. If approved, the National Health insurance scheme, will enable Ugandans to receive free improved medical services.

Medical workers' salaries

According to Atwine, the ministry is working hard to have salaries for all health workers across the board, increased, but it is constrained by resources. "This is something that is close to our hearts, and we are sure it is something that government is working on," Atwine said. In its 2017/18 financial year budget, the ministry asked for Sh641b for enhancement of salaries for health workers across the board, but the request was put under the unfunded priorities. Recently, during an interaction with the health committee of parliament, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, the minister of health, told the MPs that the ministry plans to revise the salaries of medical workers.

Cancer machine

Asked to comment on when the country is receiving the cobalt 60 radiotherapy machine, Dr. Atwine restrained herself from commenting on the matter until the machine finally arrives in the country. The ministry had set June as the month in which the machine would arrive in the country, but until now the machine has not been received by the ministry. The ministry has since changed the time for the arrival of the machine to August. Uganda's only radiotherapy machine, broke down in March last year, leaving nearly 2,000 patients without any proper treatment, with some 400 of the cancer patients forced to travel to the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya for better treatment of the cancer disease. The ministry of health has since completed the renovation of the old bunker to accommodate the new machine at the Mulago cancer institute.

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The ministry of health is waiting for a status report from the Parliamentary council, for action on the proposed National Health Insurance Scheme which was set to kick off this month, subject to passing of the National Health Insurance Bill 2007. The Ministry of finance recently issued the long-awaited certificate of financial Implication to the ministry of health, paving way for the consideration of the National health scheme Bill 2007 by parliament.

"We have not progressed much; we are still waiting for a response from the Parliamentary Council, for progress on this Bill," Dr. Diana Atwine, the Permanent secretary in the ministry of health said.

Budget concerns

The Ministry had in its 2017/18 financial year budget asked for Sh5b as startup capital for the implementation of the scheme, but according to Atwine, the money was not provided. During a meeting with the parliamentary committee on health, on the 2017/18 financial year budget ministerial policy statement for the ministry of health in Entebbe, the Civil Society Movement under their body, the civil society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG), the CSOs proposed that government allocates Sh5b, as startup capital for consideration of the scheme. The government had allocated Sh13.7b in the National Budget framework paper, for the National Health insurance scheme, but in the final draft, of the ministerial policy statement for the ministry of health, the money was not highlighted.