



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



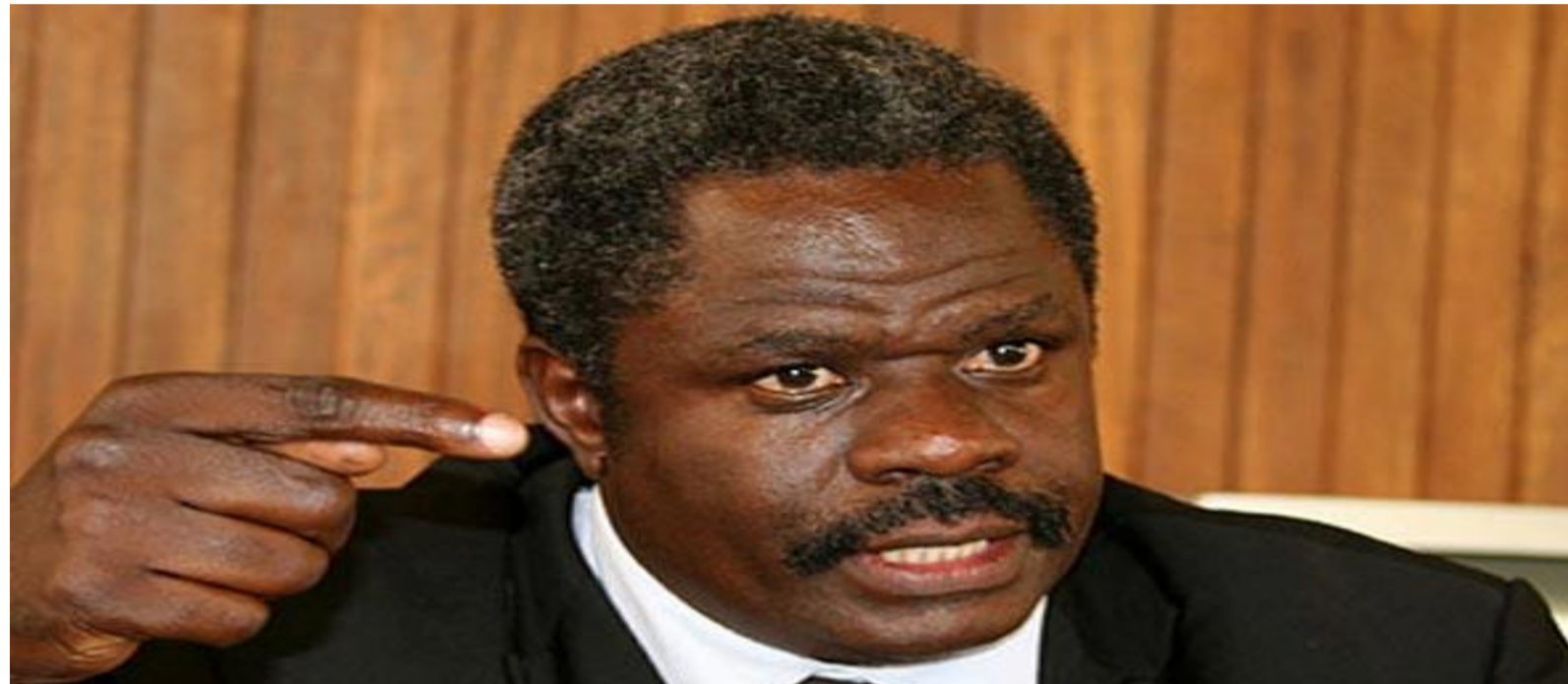
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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Workers' MP calls for supplementary budget for doctors' salaries

"Doctors have been asking for a pay raise for the last four years, and nothing has been done. This is the time for the Government to act," says Workers' MP



Workers' MP Dr. Lyomoki says the Government should consider seeking a supplementary budget to cater for doctors' demands to avert the negative impact of the strike on the lives of innocent Ugandans. | @CSBAG2017

Workers' MP Dr. Sam Lyomoki, also member of the Parliamentary committee on health, has advised the Government to table before parliament a supplementary budget, to increase doctors' allowances and salaries. The medical doctors under their body the Uganda Medical Association, who recently called for a sit-down strike, want Government to review their salaries, which would see an intern doctor earn Shs8.5million as opposed to the current Shs960, 000 before tax. They also want a medical officer or teaching assistant to be paid Shs15 million and accorded a two-bedroom house plus a 2.5cc vehicle. The doctors also want salaries for nurses and midwives enhanced to about Shs6.5 million along with a three-bedroomed house, 2.0cc vehicle and one domestic worker.

On Thursday, President Yoweri Museveni directed the striking doctors to return to work, saying they risk being sacked. He argued that Government will soon get good doctors to replace those he accused of betraying the country. The Government has since deployed Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF) medical team to different public hospitals for health services. The doctors' industrial action which started about three weeks ago has paralyzed services in most Government hospitals.

Advice to Government

In a recent interview, Michael Bukenya Iga, the Chairperson Parliament's committee on Health advised the Government to consider increasing the budget for human resource in the Health ministry, to boost remuneration of health workers. Bukenya, who doubles as the Bukuya county MP, also wants Government to consider increasing the ministry of Health budget, in the FY2018/19 budget, to deal with health challenges such as drug stock outs, shortage of health workers among other issues affecting the health sector. 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. During a budget 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 for principal medical officers, from Sh1.9m to Sh5m. She said the same amount, will be paid to medical officers (special grade), senior medical officers and medical officials. For the senior consultants, the ministry plans to revise the pay from Sh3.4m, to Sh7m. The same money will be paid to consultants.

Opposed proposal

The Ministry also told the MPs that it would increase lunch allowances for nurses and midwives as a way of motivating them. Tom Aliti, the Acting commissioner planning and policy, in the ministry of Health, told the legislators that the ministry wants to increase allowances for nurses and midwives from the current Sh66, 000, to Sh288, 000 per nurse /midwife, per month. Through a phased manner, the ministry had wanted to effect the increments starting with doctors and consultants, however the committee opposed the proposal saying nurses and midwives, which they said are important in the health sector, be considered alongside doctors.

Medical workers including interns across the country, have on several occasions engaged in strikes over poor pay, but with not much intervention by the Government.

UPCOMING CSO EVENTS

Event: Training on Data and Budget Analysis

Convener: Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG)

Date: 23rd and 24th November 2017

Time: 8:30am-5:00pm

OUR WORK IN PICTURES



CSO participants from Teso sub-region discussing avenues to influence district Budgets recently. | @CSBAG2017



Members of district councils, Participatory Budget Committees, and other CSOs at the end of a meeting in Northern Uganda last week. | @CSBAG2017



CSBAG Monitoring & Evaluation officer, Eria Mugisa addressing CSO participants from Tooro region at a meeting recently. | @CSBAG2017