



CSBAG BUDGET NEWS BRIEF



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Advocating for a People Centered Budget that Dignifies Humanity



Budget FY2016/17 approval set for coming week

#TAXMPs HEADLINES



“Parliament is set to Pass the national budget for 2016/2017 this week (starting Monday). The House chaired by Deputy Speaker Jacob Oulanyah failed to pass the budget, on Thursday 28, April 2016, after the Parliament’s Budget Committee informed Parliament that its report was not ready.”



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In a sitting on Thursday, Oulanyah told the MPs that the Budget Committee, which was meant to report on its findings to the House, early this week, was not ready. “The Ministry of Finance is submitting documents in piecemeal, which is not helping the budget approval process. “I appeal to the Ministry of Finance to urgently submit all the relevant documents so that this process can move.” Said Oulanyah.

The Director Budget in the Ministry of Finance, Kenneth Mugambe explained to the MPs that Sh 4.7trillion hadn’t been included in the budget because the treasury had not completed reconciliation yet the money was needed to finance treasury redemption, an annual activity.

The 2016/2017 national budget was pushed to **Sh 26.3** trillion from the initial **Sh 21.2** trillion.

The budget approval process, as provided for by the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, was pulled back by a month to allow for its approval before the end of the 9th Parliament in mid May 2016. Following this, the national budget approval and passing of the Appropriation Bill, 2016, which gives Government the authorization to withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund Account, was scheduled for April 28, 2016.

MPs key recommendations for FY 2016/17

Most of the committees had by Tuesday 26th April 2016 submitted all their budget reports to the House for debate pending a final report by the House’s budget committee. In these reports, the sectoral committee have recommended increased funding to key sectors such as Health, Agriculture, and education among other sectors for improved social service delivery.

HEALTH SECTOR

In the Ministerial Policy Statement for the Ministry of Health, the MPs recommended that the Ministry of Finance;

- Provides the ministry of health with Sh13.5b to recruit 300 doctors and 50 pharmacists to fill vacant posts for different referral hospitals and health center IVs around the country.
- Recruitment and deployment of senior cadres in the general hospitals and health centers IVs mainly doctors and other senior staff be decentralized.
- The MPs noted that most local governments had failed to manage the recruitment, posting and supervision of health workers in health center IVs and general hospitals.

EDUCATION SECTOR

In its report, the Parliamentary Committee on education called for;

- Increased salaries for primary, secondary and University tutors.
- Improved staffing levels for all public teaching institutions in the country from the current 17% to 50%, to ensure quality education.

GENDER, LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The MPs recommended that;

- The Government phases out the Youth Venture Capital fund, and incorporate it into the Youth livelihood programme to avoid misuse of public funds.

CERTIFICATE OF GENDER AND EQUITY COMPLIANCE

The MPs recommended that;

- Budgets which don’t comply with certificate of gender and equity compliance are not passed considering Section 13 (15) (g) of the public finance management Act 2015 mandates the ministry of finance in consultation with the equal opportunities commission to issue a certificate of gender and equity compliance certifying that a policy statement is gender and equity responsive

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Parliament Committee on infrastructure recommended that;

- Government honors its pledge and tarmac different roads whose construction and upgrading has been pending in different budgets
- Sh 2b to be provided in the 2016/17 national budget to upgrade different slums in the country, for improved living conditions.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The MPs on the Natural Resources Committee recommended that;

- There should be a proper coordination of the project in accordance with the signed contract between the contractor, the ministry of energy and the owner consultants.
- Government to institute investigations into how AF consultants (Uganda electricity generation company Ltd Consultants) were procured.
- Last month, it was reported in the press that Karuma 600 megawatt power dam had developed cracks along the spillway section of the dam and the project was at risk.

Breaking down the budget, Bahati told the legislators that Sh 200b had been allocated to the NAADS to boost production, Sh445b to the infrastructural projects such as roads, sh20b towards compensation of people in northern Uganda and Sh 10b for Luweero triangle. However the MPs on the budget committee grilled the Minister for what they called last minute revision of the 2016/2017 budget and expressed concern how various sectoral committees of parliament intend to examine the increment.