



## Parliament under pressure to beat budget deadline May 31, 2017



Parliament of Uganda during plenary debate. Photo credit to parliament of Uganda

**“Parliament is this afternoon expected to pass the Sh28 trillion budget, for the financial year 2017/18 after intense scrutiny of ministerial policy statements, for different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).”**

Parliament is this afternoon expected to pass the Sh28 trillion budget, for the financial year 2017/18 after intense scrutiny of ministerial policy statements, for different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

“We cannot go beyond today otherwise we will be in breach of the laws we have passed ourselves,” Jacob Oulanyah, the deputy speaker told Parliament today morning as the House convened. Oulanyah had today called the House to sit starting morning hours, to consider the budget before the end of the set deadline.

However most of the documentations required for the consideration of the Budget, were not ready by 11; 00am, which forced the speaker to adjourn the House to 2:00pm.

According to the Public Finance Management Act, the Budget is supposed to be passed by Parliament at least not later than May 31, which is today. The Appropriation bill which contains resource allocations for every sector as well as revenue sources, is one of the main items on today’s order paper.

According to the National Budget Framework Paper adopted by Parliament a few months ago, the Sh28trillion budget will be earmarked as follows. Sh17.4tn is earmarked for Recurrent Expenditure, while shs 11.5trillion is for Development Expenditure. The Public finance management Act , Section 14(1) provides that, “Parliament shall, by May 31, of each year, consider and approve the annual budget and work plan of Government for the next financial year, using the Appropriation Bill and any other bills that may be necessary to implement the annual budget.”

During today’s sitting the House will also adopt recommendations of its Budget Committee on the different projections, regarding sector resource allocations. The new Budget becomes effective on July 1, 2017 in line with Section 13(5) of the Public Finance Management Act.

The 2016/17 Budget was shs26.3trillion, indicating a rise of close to shs 3 trillion in the next Financial Year's budget which is close to Sh29trillion.