

Parliament approves UGX 72.376 trillion FY2025/26 budget



Members of Parliament during a plenary session. Photo: Parliament

As we wait for the president assent to the Appropriation bill, officially authorizing government spending, it should be noted that, a significant portion 38% equivalent to UGX 27 trillion is allocated for loan repayments, reflecting the country's growing debt burden

Parliament chaired by the Right Honourable Speaker Anita Among approved the FY2025/26 budget totalling UGX 72.376 trillion marking a 25% increase from the National Budget Framework Paper Budget projection of UGX 57.4 trillion. Earlier, Parliament had to suspend proceedings of the Appropriation Bill, 2025, approval to allow the Budget Committee to finalize its report on the bill.

Key highlights of the approved budget

The approved budget total is UGX 72.376 trillion, which is a slight increment from the current financial year budget of UGX 72.136 trillion.

UGX 18.509 trillion has been allocated for high-impact projects under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), focusing on agro-industrialization, tourism, mineral industries (oil and gas), and innovation.

Considering this is an electoral campaign year, the Electoral Commission is set to receive UGX 450 billion to support the 2026 general elections roadmap and UGX 209 billion for the National Identification & Registration Authority (NIRA) for ID renewals.

Key infrastructure allocations include UGX 2.17 trillion for the Standard Gauge Railway and UGX 2.2 trillion for roads and bridges.

Human capital development budget includes Health with UGX 1.398 trillion for development (e.g., UGX 103.8 billion for Mulago Hospital, UGX 91.5 billion for Uganda Cancer Institute) and UGX 204.7 billion recurrent. Under education UGX 497.1 billion is recurrent budget, UGX 322.9 billion as development budget which includes UGX 33.9 billion for Makerere University

Agro industrialisation is set to receive UGX 611.5 billion as development budget and, UGX 188.1 billion recurrent budget.

On a positive note, Government has allocated UGX 1.4 trillion to clear domestic arrears, in the 2025/2026 financial year, an improvement from the previous year's Shs200 billion, but still a slow pace for repayment

On Financing, domestic revenue targets for FY2025/26 is UGX 35.693 trillion (tax and non-tax) an increase from UGX 32.097 trillion in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

While debating the budget Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda MP Kira Municipality led opposition MPs in opposing the budget's approval unless restructured to address socio-economic challenges. He criticized its lack of macroeconomic analysis, calling it a "wish list" due to insufficient revenue (UGX 35 trillion against UGX 72.376 trillion expenditure).

Debate on the Parliament Budget

MPs criticized the UGX 109 billion allocated to Parliament, arguing that funds should be redirected to more urgent national needs. Erute South MP, Jonathan Odur, led the charge, highlighting what he termed "wasteful expenditures"

Odur pointed out that Parliament's 28 committees received only UGX 25 billion, while UGX 5.4 billion was allocated to Parliamentary Commissioners. MPs argued that committee budgets should be ring-fenced to prevent misuse

Some legislators questioned the UGX 10.9 billion allocated to improving Parliament's image, arguing that transparency and accountability would naturally enhance public trust without the need for such expenditures.