

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



CSOs urge thorough scrutiny as Government tables UGX6T Supplementary Budget



Members of Parliament during a plenary session in Parliament (Source: business news)

A coalition of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) monitoring public finance management has called for rigorous parliamentary oversight following the Government's tabling of a Supplementary Appropriation Bill seeking an additional **UGX 6 trillion** for the 2024/2025 financial year.

The request, presented to Parliament on Thursday, March 12, 2026, by the Minister of State for Finance, Hon. Henry Musaasizi, seeks to authorize additional expenditure across all four quarters of the current fiscal year. If approved, this injection would represent a significant increase to the already approved national budget.

While acknowledging the Government's constitutional right to seek additional funds under **Article 156(3)** of the Constitution, civil society actors have expressed concern over the magnitude of the request and the justification for the expenditure.

The Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) has welcomed the Speaker's referral of the Bill to the Parliamentary Budget Committee but stressed the need for a transparent and participatory review process. A supplementary request of **UGX6 trillion** so late in the financial year is unprecedented and raises serious concerns regarding fiscal discipline, said Julius Mukunda, Executive Director of CSBAG. Parliament must go beyond a mere procedural approval.

The Budget Committee must critically examine whether these expenditures are unavoidable, whether they represent value for money, and why they were not anticipated during the initial budget planning process. The CSOs pointed to **Article 25** of the **Public Finance Management Act 2015** which requires that such requests be properly justified.

They also urged the Budget Committee to demand a

detailed breakdown of the **UGX 6 trillion**, specifically identifying which MDAs and local governments stand to benefit and what specific shortfalls or new needs have arisen.

In addition, the CSOs also warn that such a large unbudgeted expenditure could have implications for Uganda's public debt sustainability. Financing this supplementary budget will likely involve either re-allocating funds from planned activities or borrowing. Both options have consequences, If this involves domestic borrowing, it could crowd out the private sector.

If it involves external loans, it adds to our growing debt burden, which is already consuming a large portion of national revenues for repayment. They specifically called on the Budget Committee to investigate whether any of the funds are intended for recurrent, non-essential expenditures or for projects with low absorption capacity.

Acknowledging that the financial year is already underway, the CSOs have called on the Budget Committee, led by its Chairperson, to conduct quick but comprehensive public hearings. They argued that citizens have a right to know how their resources are being reallocated.

We appreciate the Speaker for referring this matter to the committee for scrutiny. We now urge the Members of Parliament on the Budget Committee to fulfill their mandate as the people's representatives. They must ensure that this does not become a channel for wasteful expenditure.

The CSOs have pledged to follow the parliamentary process closely and provide technical input to the committee to ensure that the supplementary budget serves the public interest.

CSBAG IN THE MEDIA



THE PLATFORM JULIUS MUKUNDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - CSBAG
WALIWO OKUSOMOZEBWA MU BYOBULAMU N'EBYENJIG



#PARTICIPATORYBUDGETING

CSBAG, together with the Parish Development Model Secretariat and the Ministry of Local Government during a monitoring planning meeting with its field team and implementing participants to equip participants on a deeper understanding of the Parish Development Model.

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SOURCE: The Parliament of Uganda

