

CSBAG BUDGET NEWS



Finance Minister Matia Kasaija tasks URA on 20% Tax to GDP ratio as Digital Strategy is launched



Hon. Matia Kasaija and URA Commissioner General John Musinguzi during the Launch of Digitalization and IT strategy 2023/24- 2026/2027. Photo @URA twitter

The Minister for Finance, Planning, and Economic Development Matia Kasaija has tasked Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to ensure that it achieves a 20% Tax to GDP ratio in the next two years if Uganda is to move away from borrowing.

This, he said while officiating the launch of the Digitalisation and IT Strategy 2023/24- 2026/2027, by URA in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kampala last week.

"I am tasking URA to secure a 20% Tax to GDP ratio within another two years. There is no way a mature country such as Uganda should have to go through the humiliation of borrowing. As MOFPED, we additionally urge you URA to facilitate the government's job creation efforts for our youth," said Kasaija.

The Minister also stressed the need to enhance revenue collection for Uganda's development. He also emphasized youth employment, which will drive industrial growth, infrastructure development

The URA Commissioner General John Musinguzi said that Uganda can be fully independent when we can fund our budget without asking for money elsewhere. He said that the launch of the Digital Strategy is a step in the right direction to not only hit the target but to grow Uganda's Tax to GDP ratio.

"We exist not just to hit the target; however, I assure you that we shall continue hitting it never looking back, but beyond the target, we also know that it's our role to grow our country's tax-to-GDP ratio," said Musinguzi.

Musinguzi said that beyond harnessing technology opportunities, URA is also focusing on Performance Management.

"We've come up with a system that transparently measures staff efficiency.

Stakeholder engagements and tax education are also high on the URA agenda that's why we have introduced innovations like the URA Touch-Point, and the Contact Center and are beefing up on media engagement."

Sheila Ngatia, the Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP Uganda said that the URA's Digital Strategy launch showcases Uganda's commitment to tech-driven tax administration for inclusive development.

"UNDP is ready to collaborate for a digitally empowered tax system, ensuring no one is left behind as Uganda prospers," she said.

The URA's Commissioner for IT and Innovation Robert Mutebi said that, from a technology angle, URA has taken on two major assignments to simplify our customer journey and to reach as many people as possible with tax services.

He cited a revamp in touch points with URA, including being reached via WhatsApp for service.

"This strategy seeks to solve the issues that we have been seeing with the URA service and approach to business. Within the strategy are solutions that have been devised and the route map of deploying these solutions in service," he stated.

He added that URA has introduced the USSD code *285# that is onboarding many taxpayers who in the past couldn't self-serve with the online platforms. In addition, he said that taxi drivers today are using their feature phones to pay their advance income tax and traffic tickets.

CSBAG PUBLICATION



Download CSBAG 2023 mid year performance [report here](#)



#REFLECTION23

CSBAG staff during the quarterly reflection and planning meeting to review, reflect and plan for advocacy work on 12th October 2023 at CSBAG offices

"Uganda can be fully independent when we can fund our budget without asking for money elsewhere. This is our dream, our vision at URA, and this Digital Strategy Launch is a step in the right direction

"

Source: URA Commissioner General