



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**TALKING NOTES**

By

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**Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development**

AT

**THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET MONTH FY 2022/23**

AT THE UGANDA MEDIA CENTER

17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

Heads of Institutions,

Technical Officers,

Members of the media fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen

### **Preamble**

1. I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the Launch of this year's National Budget Month FY 2022/23.
2. Over the years, Government has partnered with the Civil Society Organizations in supporting and promoting budget transparency initiatives, which include: the Annual Budget Month, Budget Website [www.budget.go.ug](http://www.budget.go.ug); the Budget Call Center **0800229229**; and the Barazas, which are spearheaded by the Office of the Prime Minister.
3. The major objectives of the National Budget Month are:
  - i. To account to the Public on the status of implementation of the previous budget strategy;
  - ii. To equip Ugandans and key stakeholders with relevant knowledge and information on the Budget to inspire informed debates, ownership and effective participation in implementation;
  - iii. To increase collaboration amongst providers of public services for improved service delivery and impact on social wellbeing;
  - iv. To heighten transparency and accountability in mobilisation, allocation and utilisation of public resources; and,
  - v. To increase the level of public awareness about its tax obligations and appreciate Tax Payers for improved voluntary compliance.

## **Outcomes of the Budget Month**

4. The above initiatives have enabled Government to interact with citizens on budget related matters and it is through these initiatives that Government has achieved the following:
  - i. Improved public awareness and access to the National budget documents produced by the Ministry; which has increased budget transparency and accountability;
  - ii. Improved collaboration between Government, Civil Society, the Private Sector and the public towards improving service delivery and achieving results; and,
  - iii. Enhanced participation of citizens in the Budget Process.

## **Key Activities to be implemented**

5. In this year's National Budget Month, we shall undertake the following activities to further reach out to the public, from 10<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022;
  - i. Media Engagements on Topical Issues on the Budget/Economy -Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022
  - ii. The Corporate Social Responsibility -Tree Planting and Blood Donation: Tree Planting - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May and Blood Donation Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.
  - iii. The Budget Reading on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022;
  - iv. The Service Excellence Awards to the Best Performing Central and LG Agencies on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.
  - v. The Post-Budget Speech Hybrid Conference from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.
  - vi. The Post-Budget EAC Tax and Budget Dialogue on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2022.
  - vii. The Private Sector Post-Budget Dialogue in all regions from 20<sup>th</sup> June to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
  - viii. Regional Budget Breakfast Meetings – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

- ix. The Post Budget Regional Media Engagements (on Local Radios and TVs) and promotion of Budget Transparency Initiatives in all major towns and regions of Uganda from Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
6. Let me now give you a sneak peek into the budget for the coming fiscal year 2022/23. Our theme is '**Full Monetization of the Ugandan Economy Through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Expanding and Broadening services and Digital Transformation and Market Access**' and the budget will aim at achieving three broad objectives.
    - i. Ensure Peace and Stability through enhanced Security and Macroeconomic stability, as key foundations for growth and development.
    - ii. Mitigate the impact of the COVID19 pandemic through widespread vaccination, support to businesses, and re-SECRET 9 opening the economy to enable all sectors to function optimally.
    - iii. Enhance socio-economic transformation by redirecting budgetary resources towards wealth and job creation, industrialization, export promotion and other areas with high returns on investment.
  7. **Economic Prospects:** Despite the economic recess occasioned by the Covid 19 pandemic, the economy continues to show signs of recovery following the easing of the lock down, as at half year, our economic growth was at **3.8%**. The economy is projected to grow at between **3.8%** to **4.5%** compared to **3.4%** by the end of FY 2020/2021.
  8. Government has come up with economic /business recovery programs for the FY 2022/23 and the medium term. I therefore, call upon all of you, fellow country men and women to participate in these activities of the Budget Month in order to appreciate the opportunities available and the Government priorities in the Budget. This will strengthen the collaboration between the Citizens and the Government towards improved accountability for public resources and better service delivery.

9. I also call upon you to listen to the HE. the President on the 14th June 2022 when the detailed Budget Speech will be read.
10. I would like to thank our National Budget Month Partners: The Bank of Uganda, Uganda Revenue Authority, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment, Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute, Public Sector Foundation Uganda and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) for working with us to increase citizens' participation in the budget process.
11. With those few remarks, I hereby launch the National Budget Month for FY 2022/23.

I thank you all.

For God and my Country.