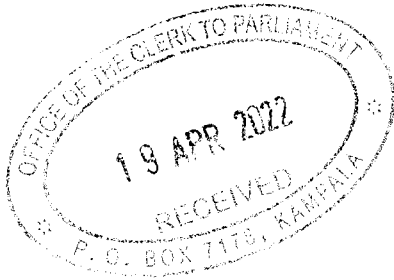


REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE ON THE MINISTERIAL POLICY
STATEMENT AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FY 2022/23**

OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT BUILDING- KAMPALA

APRIL 2022

1 | Page

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- Bottom right: *Monette*, *Devi*

ACRONYMS

bn	Billion
EOC	Equal Opportunities Commission
FY	Financial Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoU	Government of Uganda
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IFMS	Integrated Financial Management System
LGs	Local Governments
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MoICT&NG	Ministry of Information Communication Technology and National Guidance
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
MPS	Ministerial Policy Statements
NBFP	National Budget Framework Paper
NBI	National Backbone Infrastructure
NDP	National Development Plan
NITA-U	National Information Technology Authority- Uganda
NPA	National Planning Authority
PDM	Parish Development Model
PDMIS	Parish Development Model Information System
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
tn	Trillion
UBC	Uganda Broadcasting Corporation
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
UICT	Uganda Institute of Information Communication and Technology
UGX	Uganda Shillings
UPL	Uganda Posta Limited

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members

In accordance with Section 13 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance (MoICT&NG) submitted to Parliament, the policy statement for the Financial Year 2022/23 for the votes under his jurisdiction on 15th March, 2022. Also pursuant to Rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Shadow Minister for Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance presented the alternative Ministerial Policy Statement on 29th March, 2022.

The policy statements were referred to the Committee on Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance for scrutiny and report to the plenary, in accordance with Rule 146 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

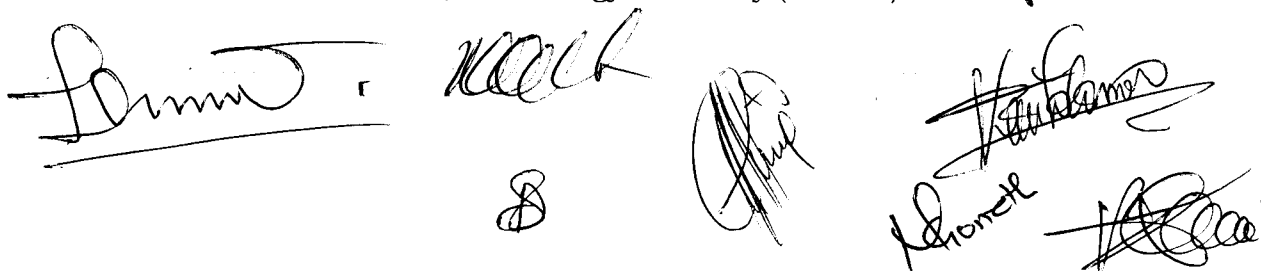
Under Article 155(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, and Rules 148 & 149 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, Sectoral Committees are mandated to, among others:

- i. Examine and comment on policy matters affecting Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) covered by them, and;
- ii. Examine critically Government recurrent and capital budget estimates and make recommendations on them for general debate in the House

The Committee, in fulfillment of its mandate, hereby presents its report for consideration and adoption with regard to the ministerial policy statement and budget estimates for Financial Year 2022/23 for the following votes, public corporations and state enterprises under its jurisdiction:

Votes

- i. Vote 020: Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance;
- ii. Vote 126: National Information, Technology Authority (NITA-U)

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Public Corporations and State Enterprises

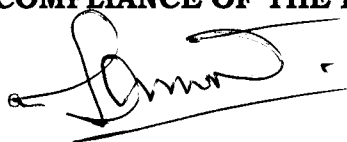
- i. Uganda Communications Commission;
- ii. Uganda Broadcasting Corporation;
- iii. Uganda Posta Limited;
- iv. Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology
- v. Uganda Media Centre and
- vi. Uganda Media Council
- vii. Vision Group

2.0 METHODOLOGY

In preparing this report, the Committee:

- (i) Reviewed and analyzed the following documents:
 - i. The Public Finance and Management Act, 2015;
 - ii. The ICT & National Guidance Ministerial Policy Statement FY 2022/23;
 - iii. National Budget Framework Paper (BFP) FY 2022/23 – 2026/27;
 - iv. The Programme Implementation Action Plans;
 - v. Report of the Auditor General to Parliament for the Financial Year ended June 30 2021;
 - vi. Certificates of Compliance (NDP III, Gender & Equity);
 - vii. The Semi Annual Budget Performance Report FY 2021/22
 - viii. The Presidential and Policy directives issued by the MoFPED;
 - ix. The MoICT&NG Strategic Plan FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23
 - x. The Annual Budget Performance Report FY 2020/21;
 - xi. The National Development Strategies – Vision 2040, NDP III and the NRM Manifesto (Manifesto on ICT Priorities); and
 - xii. The ICT & National Guidance Ministerial Policy Statement FY 2021/22
- (ii) Held meetings with the Ministers of ICT & National Guidance and their technical staff as well as the accounting officers and staff of the public corporations and state enterprises under the committee jurisdiction.

3.0 COMPLIANCE OF THE MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT WITH THE LAW



Section 13 (15) of the PFMA, 2015 provides for the contents of the ministerial policy statements to be submitted to parliament by the responsible Minister. The Minister of ICT and National Guidance presented the requisite information regarding the votes under his jurisdiction except the statement of the actions taken by the votes to implement the Parliament recommendations in respect to the Auditor General's report of the preceding financial year.

3.1 Gender and Equity Compliance

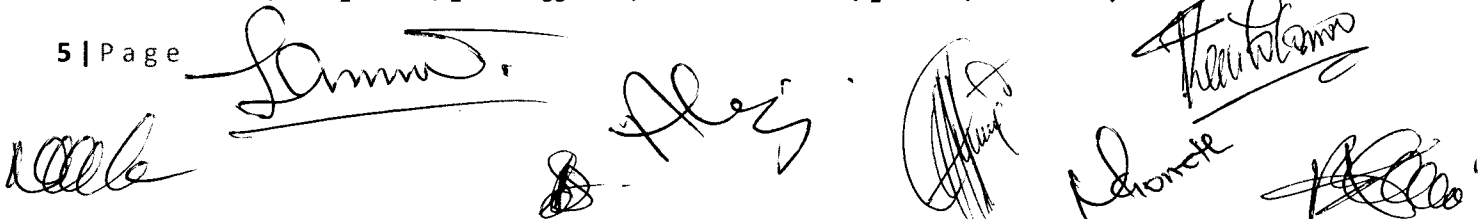
Section 13 (15) of the PFMA, 2015 requires each policy statement to contain a certificate issued by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission certifying that the policy statement is gender and equity responsive and specifies the measures taken to equalize opportunities for women, men, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

The Equal Opportunities Commission assessed the ministerial policy statement and recommended that they be issued certificates of compliance basing on the fact that they scored above the minimum of 50 percent. The overall performance for NITA-U and Ministry of ICT & NG was recorded at 76 and 68.95 percent respectively, an improvement from the previous year.

The Committee observes that the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance and the entities thereunder; Popularized ICTs for PWDs through conducting training on the accessibility of ICTs; Reviewed and updated the draft ICT policy for PWDs; Supported Women in ICT Businesses through awareness and advocacy activities; Disseminated rules and guidelines on gender and equity; Supported initiatives for online safe computing through awareness and advocacy activities; and enhanced NITA-U connectivity in the underserved regions of the country.

The Committee however notes that more has to be undertaken to fully achieve Gender and Equity balance across the board and recommends that the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance;

- i. Extends broadband ICT infrastructure coverage countrywide in partnership with the private sector and all Government entities and also implement last mile connectivity to key areas (Districts, sub counties, schools, hospitals, post offices, tourism sites, police, and LGs)***

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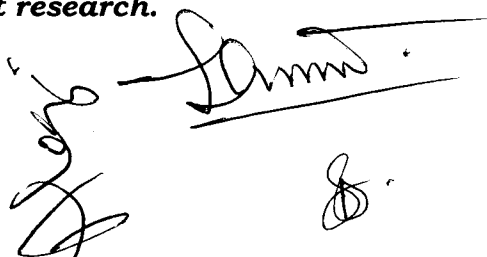
- ii. ***Deploys Wi-Fi hotspots to cover the fifty (50) sites across the country.***
- iii. ***Conduct stakeholder awareness campaigns to increase awareness on Gender Based Violence.***
- iv. ***Government provides a budget allocation of UGX. 4.229bn to enable the implementation of the above interventions***

3.2 Sustainable Development Goals

ICT is a critical component of all sustainable development initiatives and of fundamental importance for all sustainable development programmes. The planned activities of the sector contribute to SDG 9: *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*. The activities particularly relate to SDG 9 (c) *Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020*. These activities include: Promoting ICT research, innovation, and adoption of the Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and Robotics; Enhancing ICT skills and vocational development; Extending broadband ICT infrastructure coverage countrywide in partnership with the private sector and implement last mile connectivity in public service delivery areas leveraging existing infrastructure by government and private sector players; and Expanding the Digital Terrestrial Television and Radio Broadcasting network.

The Committee observes that the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance has; Encouraged innovation in the use of spectrum as a scarce resource to serve all communities; Consolidated ICT infrastructure attributes into a National Broadband Infrastructure Blueprint portal; Provided technical assistance and training to Uganda on National ICT Development Strategy project; Finalizing the National ICT Innovation Policy;

The Committee recommends for the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance to Popularize ICTs for Persons with Disabilities and Conduct training on the accessibility of ICTs; Automate the ICT Sector Business Processes and Develop a knowledge base portal for the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance; and Conduct e-Government research.







3.3 National Development Plan (NDP)

It is a requirement under Section 13(6) and 13(7) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 (PFM Act, 2015) that the budget is assessed for alignment with the NDP, and a compliance certificate issued.

The 2021/22 Digital transformation annual budget has an unsatisfactory assessment score of 42.0%. This is a poor performance in comparison with the overall national Moderately Satisfactory score of 63.4%.

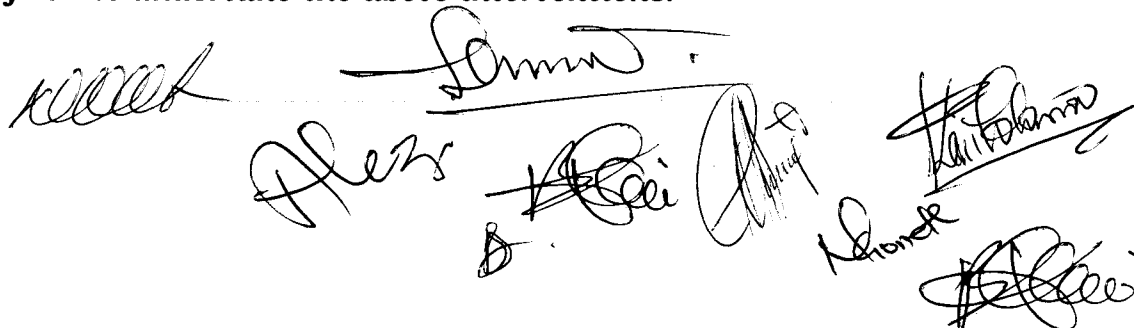
According to the National planning Authority, this unsatisfactory performance is mainly attributed to the low funds released as the Programme received only 38.9% of the total annual budgeted resources by half year, unsatisfactory Projects Alignment on account of poor expenditure outturn and project implementation for the Regional Communication Infrastructure Programme (RCIP) which was carried forward from the NDPII, in addition to projects being behind schedule including the two core projects for the programme on Last mile connectivity to key service delivery points, Postcode and Addressing System

3.4 Environmental issues

The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance has enhanced efforts in the; Implementation of the E-waste Management Policy; Continuously supported the development and adoption of technologies that save energy, recycle e-waste and minimize emission of greenhouse gases; Promoted the use of non-environmental destructive methods; Ensured environmental conservation and preservation.

The Committee recommends that;

- i. The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance manages grievance redress mechanism for all NITA-U and private sector ICT infrastructure implementation projects.***
- ii. The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance conducts stakeholder engagements focusing on environmental issues.***
- iii. Government provides a budget allocation of UGX. 300 million to the Ministry of ICT to undertake the above interventions.***

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3.5 COVID-19

The Ministry of ICT & National Guidance has enhanced efforts in COVID-19 interventions with the; Review and dissemination of guidelines for remote working and SOPs guidelines; Provision of common user items and services; Encouragement of all staff to take the COVID -19 Vaccine; and Conducting sensitization workshop on COVID-19.

The Committee recommends that;

- i. The Ministry of ICT & National Guidance develops and roll outs specific e-Government services as well as a service desk toll free line to support the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry should also enhance awareness campaigns on COVID-19.***
- ii. Government provides a budget allocation of UGX. 478 million to finance the above interventions.***

iii.

3.6 HIV/AIDS

The Ministry of ICT & National Guidance has enhanced efforts in the; coordination of HIV/AIDS awareness seminars and testing services as well as instituting healthy camps with free testing and counselling.

The Committee recommends for the;

- i. Enhancement of stakeholder awareness campaigns to increase awareness on HIV/AIDs.***
- ii. Provision of a budget allocation of UGX. 280 million towards the above interventions.***

4.0 THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION MPS 2022/23

4.1 THE OVERALL NATIONAL BUDGET

4.1.1 Overall Budget Theme:

Full Monetization of the Ugandan Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Market Access and Digital Transformation

4.1.1.1 Draft Budget Projections

S/N	UGX.bn	Approved FY2021/22	BFP Projection FY2022/23	Draft Estimates FY2022/23	Y2Y change
1	Domestic Revenues	22,425.40	25,515.70	25,546.7	13.9%
2	Petroleum Fund	200	-	-	100.0%
3	Budget Support	3,583.20	1,291.70	2,609.2	-27.2%
4	Domestic Financing	2,942.60	2,836.00	4,172.3	41.8%
5	Project Support (External Financing)	6,868.30	5,575.90	6,677.1	-2.8%
6	Domestic Refinancing (Roll-over)	8,547.00	7,651.50	8,008.0	-6.3%
7	Local Revenue for Local Governments	212.4	212.4	237.6	11.9%
	Total Resource Inflows	44,778.90	43,083.20	47,250.95	5.5%
8	External Debt Repayments (Amortization)	-1,786.90	-2,462.50	(2,412.2)	35.0%
9	Project Support (External Financing)	-6,868.30	-5,575.90	(6,677.1)	-2.8%
10	Domestic Refinancing	-8,387.00	-7,651.50	(8,008.0)	-4.5%
11	Domestic Arrears	-555.5	-395.5	(495.5)	-10.8%
12	Appropriation in Aid (AIA) - Local Revenue	-212.4	-212.4	(237.6)	11.9%
13	Interest payments	-4,697.80	-5,088.10	(5,924.7)	26.1%
14	GOU Discretionary Resources	22,271.00	21,697.30	23,495.79	9.2%

Source: MoFPED

The overall national budget for FY 2022/23 will be UGX. 47.251tn, a 5.5% increase compared to what was approved in FY 2021/22. The discretionary government resource envelope is UGX. 23.50tn and 9.2% higher than that of 2021/22

5.0 THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION MPS 2022/23

The Program Mandate: To provide strategic leadership and supervision in ICT, Information and National Guidance for sustainable development.

Program Vision: A knowledgeable and productive society driven by Information, Communications Technology and National Ideology.

Program Mission: To increase access and usage of ICT infrastructure and services throughout the country, ensure effective communication of government policies and programmes and promotion of a national ideology for socio economic transformation.

The Vote is composed of the following institutions

- i. Vote 020 Ministry of ICT & National Guidance
- ii. Vote 126 National Information Technology Authority -Uganda
- iii. Uganda Communications Commission
- iv. Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology
- v. Uganda Posts Limited
- vi. Uganda Broadcasting Corporation

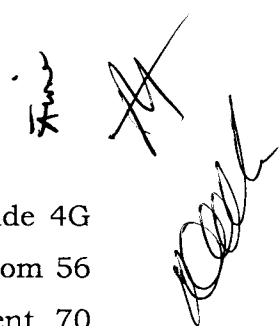
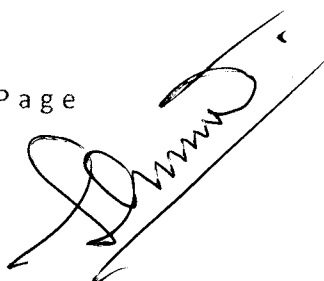
Programme Objectives

The Digital Transformation program subscribes to the following strategic objectives; align with the NDP 3's Program strategic objectives

- i. Increasing the national ICT infrastructure;
- ii. Enhancing usage of ICT in national development and service delivery;
- iii. Promoting ICT research, innovation and commercialization of indigenous knowledge products;
- iv. Increasing the ICT human resource capital;
- v. Strengthen the policy, legal and regulatory framework
- vi. Ensure effective communication and national guidance

The key results to be achieved over the NDP3 Period

- i. Increase ICT penetration (Internet penetration to 70 percent, countrywide 4G coverage, Tele density to 80 percent, Digital Television signal coverage from 56 percent to 95 percent, Radio signal coverage from 60 percent to 95 percent, 70 percent broadband availability in Government MDAs/LGs);



- ii. Reduce the cost of ICT devices and services (unit cost of internet from USD 237 to USD 70, unit cost of low entry smart phones from UGX 100,000 to UGX 60,000 and cost of a computer from UGX 1,600,000 to UGX 800,000);
- iii. Create 500,000 direct jobs within the ICT sector;
- iv. Increase the proportion of population accessing services online to 25 percent;
- v. Provide 80 percent of government services online.

Overall Half FY2021/22 Program Performance

UGX.bn	Approved	Released	Spent	% Budget Released	% Releases Spent
Wage	13.512	6.756	6.152	50.00%	91.06%
Non-Wage	59.637	29.723	26.803	49.84%	90.18%
GoU Dev't	36.465	11.648	8.282	31.94%	71.10%
Ext. Fin.	110.079	52.738	28.374	47.91%	53.80%
GoU Total	109.614	48.127	41.237	43.91%	85.68%
Total GoU+Ext Fin	219.693	100.866	69.611	45.91%	69.01%
Arrears	0.082	0.082	-	100.00%	-
Total Budget	219.775	100.948	69.611	45.93%	68.96%
<i>A.I.A Total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	219.775	100.948	69.611	45.93%	68.96%

Overall, the program performed fairly at half year, with releases at 46% of the total approved budget, based on the ideal 50% mark.

In terms of absorption, 69% of the released funds had been utilized within the same period, trailing being the external development component under NITA-U with mere 53% absorption. This is an indication that the program is lagging in terms of physical performance, as financial performance determines the extent of achievement on physical targets.

5.1 KEY PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS BY DECEMBER 2021

- i. Extension of the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) continued countrywide;
- ii. Innovators and innovation hubs facilitated with grants under the National ICT Initiatives Support Programme (NIISP);
- iii. Completed the establishment of ICT infrastructure in Nineteen (19) schools.
- iv. Scaled up agency banking with commercial banks to offer agency banking financial services at every postal outlet.
- v. Completed the construction of UBC West Nile FM premises in Arua, procured, installed, and tested the radio broadcast equipment and currently the staff relocation is being concluded.
- vi. 15 National Broadcasters distributed via the SIGNET satellite uplink in Kololo to 16 DTT sites across the country.
- vii. The Uganda Media Center coordinated 309 media coverage and monitored 1176 online media;
- viii. 129 Public Education Media Programmes coordinated in 8 MDAs
- ix. The Budget Framework Paper for the Digital Transformation Programme and the BFP for the ICT Sector aligned to with the NDPIII was prepared and submitted to relevant authorities;
- x. Reviewed and presented three Project Concept Notes to Development Committee for approval. These are Broadband over Power line for Last Mile Internet Connectivity, National Postcode & Addressing GIS and IT Shared Platform GOVNET.

6.0 VOTE 020: MINISTRY OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Half Year Performance FY 2021/22

UGX.bn

Wage

Non-Wage

GoU Dev't

Ext. Fin.

GoU Total

Approved 2021/22	Half FY Releases	Half FY Spent	% Budget Released	% Releases Spent
6.073	3.036	2.756	49.99%	90.78%
43.889	23.864	22.467	54.37%	94.15%
29.023	9.652	6.898	33.26%	71.47%
-	-	-	-	-
78.985	36.552	32.12	46.28%	87.87%

Total GoU+Ext Fin	78.985	36.552	32.12	46.28%	87.87%
Arrears	0.082	0.082	0	100.00%	0.00%
A.I.A Total	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	79.067	36.634	32.12	46.33%	87.68%

The ministry had an overall approved budget (including arrears) of UGX. 79.07bn in FY2021/22, divided into recurrent (63.2%) and GoU development (36.7%). By December 2021 UGX. 36.6bn of the approved amount had been released, representing a 46.33% in half year release performance, with the least performance under GoU development component at 33.3%

In terms of absorption, 87.7% (UGX. 32.12bn of the released resources had been utilized during the same period.

6.1 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION 2022/21

UGX.bn	Outturn 2020/21	Approved 2021/22	NBFP 2022/23	Draft Estimates	Approved Vs Estimates	BFP Vs Estimates
Wage	5.94	6.073	6.07	6.778	11.6%	11.7%
Non-Wage	20.25	43.889	33.45	27.449	-37.5%	-17.9%
GoU	17.40	29.023	29.02	17.993	-38.0%	-38.0%
Ext. Fin.	-	-	-	-	-	-
GoU Total	43.59	78.985	68.54	52.22	-33.9%	-23.8%
Total GoU+Ext Fin	43.59	78.985	68.54	52.22	-33.9%	-23.8%
Arrears	0.14	0.082	-	113.755	138625.6%	-
A.I.A Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	43.73	79.07	68.54	165.975	109.9%	142.2%

Though the Vote's overall budget will grow by 109.9% compared to what was approved for FY 2021/22, the available allocable resources will reduce by 33.9% from the UGX.78.985bn to UGX.52.22bn. This reduction will be distributed in Non-Wage and GoU development components at 37.5% and 38.0% respectively. The decline in the development budget has affected critical areas like Grants to innovators, Parish Development Model Equipment, Parish Development Model operations, Support to Regional ICT Hubs and Support to UICT

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The remaining UGX. 113.755bn reflected under arrears has been provided to cater for arrears of the former employees of Uganda Posts and Telecommunications. Government took a decision that all the arrears for the former employees be cleared under the Ministry. This accounts for only 53% of the verified outstanding arrears, which amount to UGX. 213bn in total.

Compared to what was approved in the BFP, the allocable budget will reduce by 23.9% from 68.54%, attributed mainly to a 38% and 18% reduction in the GoU development and Non-wage components respectively.

In order to finance other critical areas, the Committee recommends that instead of paying UGX. 113.755bn (53%) of the total UGX. 213bn (35%) be paid for the FY 2022/23 and the rest of the funding be utilized to finance as follows;

S/N	ITEM	FUNDS (UGX.bn)
1.	SIGNET	11.047
2.	PDM Extra	17.258
3.	BPO Extra	5.000
4.	Vision Group	2.900
5.	National Guidance and Communication Extra	3.000
Total		39.205

7.0 VOTE 126: National Information Technology Authority – Uganda (NITA –U)

Mission Statement


To create a technical and regulatory environment for delivery of reliable and secure e-services

Strategic Objective

- i. To provide high quality information technology services to Government.
- ii. To promote access to and utilization of information technology by the special interest groups

7.1 BUDGET PRIORITIES FY 2022/23

- i. Extend broadband ICT infrastructure coverage countrywide in partnership with the private sector and all Government entities and implement last mile connectivity to key areas (Districts, sub counties, Parishes, schools, hospitals, post offices, tourism sites, police, LGs etc.)
- ii. Existing National Data Centre and DR site upgraded and Hosting services for Government MDAs/LGs provisioned.
- iii. Wi-Fi hotspots deployed and maintained across the Country.
- iv. Priority e-services for public and private sector identified, developed and rolled out.
- v. Integration of Government systems undertaken
- vi. Government Enterprise Architecture and Interoperability Framework implemented
- vii. National Cyber security strategy implemented.
- viii. National ICT Park/BPO/ITES establishment supported
- ix. Certify IT service providers.
- x. Priority National IT standards identified and developed
- xi. Data Protection and Privacy Implemented.
- xii. Support to establishment of ICT Innovation hubs provided



7.2 Half Year Budget Performance FY 2021/22

UGX.bn	Approved 2021/22	Half FY Releases	Half FY Spent	% Budget Released	% Releases Spent
Wage	7.439	3.72	3.396	50.01%	91.29%
Non-Wage	15.747	5.859	4.336	37.21%	74.01%
GoU Dev't	7.443	1.997	1.385	26.83%	69.35%
Ext. Fin.	110.079	52.738	28.374	47.91%	53.80%
GoU Total	30.629	11.576	9.117	37.79%	78.76%
Total GoU+Ext Fin	140.708	64.314	37.491	45.71%	58.29%
Arrears	-	-	-	-	-
A.I.A Total	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	140.708	64.314	37.491	45.71%	58.29%

Source: Half Year Budget Performance Report 2021/22

Of the total approved budget of UGX. 140.71bn for FY 2021/22, UGX. 64.3bn had been released representing a 45.7% half year release performance, with some components performing poorly for example the GoU development and the non-wage components which performed at 26.8 and 37.2% respectively.

With regards to absorption, only UGX. 37.5bn representing 58.2% of the released resources had been absorbed, indicating a poor absorption performance. The main driver is the external development component that had only 53.8% of the released funds absorbed

7.3 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION 2022/23

UGX.bn	Outturn 2020/21	Approved 2021/22	NBFP	Draft Estimates	Approved Vs Estimates	BFP Vs Estimates
Wage	7.44	7.439	7.44	7.439	-	-
Non-Wage	26.41	15.747	15.24	28.574	81.5%	87.5%
GoU	7.43	7.443	7.44	5.276	-29.1%	-29.1%
Ext. Fin.	118.94	110.079	133.06	3.688	-96.6%	-97.2%
GoU Total	41.28	30.629	30.12	41.29	34.8%	37.1%
Total GoU+Ext Fin	160.21	140.708	163.18	44.98	-68.0%	-72.4%
Arrears	0.41	0.08	-	6.318	7797.5%	-
A.I.A Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	160.62	140.788	163.18	51.30	-63.6%	-68.6%

NITA-U's budget (including arrears) has been reduced by 63.6% compared to what was approved in the previous FY, with a 96.6% cut in the External development component of the entity's budget, compounded by a further 29.1% reduction in the GoU development component. Only Ugx 3,687,510,403 has been maintained on this external component for; Wage for contract staff salaries, Rent and ICT equipment acquisition under the Uganda Digital Acceleration Program (UDAP) project. UDAP is a new project under its first year of implementation and it was argued that it's a set-up year that did not require lots of resources.

Furthermore, the non-wage component will explode by 81.5% to UGX. 28.6bn occasioned by the reinstatement of the UGX. 8.16bn that was cut in FY 2020/21 and additional UGX 3 billion to enable NITA-U to continue providing ICT services to MDAs/LGs & Target User Groups in connected to the NBI in the next FY2022/23.

Compared to the NBFP, the budget will shrink by 68.6%, driven by the 97.2% and the 29.1% reductions in the External and GoU development components respectively.

8.0 UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The functions of the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) are stipulated in Section 5, of the Uganda Communications Act 2013, and are as follows;

- (i) Ensuring an enabling regulatory environment that promotes investment and sustainable development of the communications sector
- (ii) Facilitating ubiquitous access to a diversity of quality Communications Services
- (iii) Efficient and effective management of scarce Communications resources
- (iv) Fostering efficient/healthy competition within the sector
- (v) Consumer protection with respect to quality and content
- (vi) Promotion of research in the sector
- (vii) Promotion in the development of quality human resource in sector including the management and operation of Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology
- (viii) Providing advice to government on the sector

- (ix) Represent Uganda's communications sector in ICT related international fora and coordinate the participation of any interested groups.

8.1 Half Year Performance – FY 2021/22

	Approved FY2021/22	Half FY2021/22 performance	% Performance
REVENUE			
Licences	81.083	68.242	84.2%
2% Levy on Gross Annual Revenue	87.193	-	0.0%
Rental Income	3.334	3.003	90.1%
TOTAL	171.610	71.245	41.5%
EXPENDITURE			
Wage	40.912	15.727	38.4%
Non-Wage	33.259	9.629	29.0%
Development Expenditure	47.02	33.521	71.3%
Remittance to Consolidated fund	41.416	-	0.0%
Remittance to MOICT	6.5	1.99	30.6%
Remittance to UICT	2.5	0.175	7.0%
Total	171.61	61.045	35.6%

The UCC had an overall approved budget/ Revenue of Ugx 171.6 billion in FY 2021/22. These funds were to be obtained from Licenses, 2% levy on Gross annual revenue of Telecom operators and Rental Income. By half year, Ugx 71.25 billion had been realized representing 41.5% performance.

Only 35.6% of the approved budget had been utilized in the same period. Of this, nothing had been remitted to the consolidated fund as no revenue had been realized from the 2% levy, while 30.6% of the planned remittance to the Ministry of ICT had already been remitted.

8.2 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION 2022/23

	Approved 2021/22	Approved 2022/23	% Change
Revenue			
Licences	81.08	84.77	4.5%
2% Levy on GAR	87.19	80.08	-8.2%
Rental Income	3.33	3.25	-2.6%
Total	171.610	168.097	-2.0%
Expenditure			
Wage	40.912	42.134	3.0%
Non-Wage	33.259	33.674	1.2%

Development	47.02	46.510	-1.1%
Remittances			
Consolidated fund	41.416	38.039	-8.2%
Remittance to MOICT	6.5	5.590	-14.0%
Remittance to UICT	2.5	2.150	-14%
Total	171.607	168.097	-2.0%

UCC projects to collect Ugx 168.07 billion in FY 2022/23, a 2% reduction from what was approved for the current FY. The source of the revenues will see rental income and the 2% levy contract while licences will grow by 4.5%.

The reduction in projected revenues will be transmitted expenditure plans with remittance to the consolidated fund reducing by 8.4% and remittance to the MoICT reducing by 14%

9.0 UGANDA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (UBC)

9.1 Strategic Objectives

- To develop and inculcate the appropriate culture to deliver the UBC strategy
- To develop innovative programmes and enhance the existing ones to meet current demands and the statutory obligations.
- To build and maintain market leadership in the country and maximize sales
- To develop modern sustainable technology infrastructure and business Delivery models
- To ensure long-term financial sustainability for UBC
- To attain operational excellence

9.2 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE AND THE BUDGET 2022/23

	Approved 2021/22	Spent By End Q2	Proposed 2022/23	Half year Absorption	Budget change
Wage	3.2	1.02	8.463	31.9%	164.5%
Non-wage	11.83	4.41	1.9	37.3%	-83.9%
GoU	7	0.8	4.657	11.4%	-33.5%

Ext Fin	-	-	-	-	-
GoU Total	22.03	6.23	15.02	28.3%	-31.8%
Arrears	-	-	-	-	-
AIA	11.79	6.59	10	55.9%	-15.2%
Grand Total	33.82	12.82	25.02	37.9%	-26.0%

In FY 2021/22, UBC had an approved budget of Ugx 33.82 billion out of which Ugx 22.03 billion was a government subvention while the remaining Ugx 11.79 billion would come from UBC internal revenue sources. By half year, Ugx 12.82 billion had been spent, representing 37.9% absorption. By the same period, Government had released a mere 28.3% of its total commitment while UBC had already generated 56% of its projected revenue.

In FY 2022/23, the total entity budget projections amount to Ugx 25.02 billion, a 26% reduction from the current budget. Though this is largely attributed to a 31.8% reduction in the government subvention, UBC's revenue collection is also projected to decline by 15.2%. To note is that the UBC wage component will more than double (164%) to cater for salaries of the remaining 55% UBC staff that has previously been catered for using internal revenues.

9.3 Sources of revenue to finance the projected budget

Revenue Sources	Projected Revenue	Proportion
Sale of Airtime on UBC TVs and Radios	4,000,000,000	16.0%
Rental Income	5,950,000,000	23.8%
Other Income	50,000,000	0.2%
Government Funding	15,020,000,000	60.0%
Total	25,020,000,000	100.0%

In FY2022/23, UBC will finance its budget with resources from internally generated revenue as well as funds from GoU subvention in the ratio of 40:60. Internally generated revenues will come from Rental Income, Sales of air time and other income, contributing 23.3%, 16% and 0.2% of the revenue budget respectively.

Committee recommendation on UBC/SIGNET

While considering the following:

1. A petition by the member of the committee (Hon Kazibwe Bashir Kazibwe-MP Kawempe South) about the unsatisfactory service provision by the Television industry among others
2. Site Visits
3. Engagement with UBC
4. Engagement with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)

The committee recommends that;

1. ***SIGNET is legally disengaged from UBC by creating its own company fully owned by government with its own mandate, deliverables, Board and Secretariat different from UBC***
2. ***That 2.5bn UGX is allocated to SIGNET (and not UBC) specifically to upgrade the delapidated National Television Operating Centre in Kololo***
3. ***The 7.5bn UGX is allocated to SIGNET (and not UBC) install the DTH services for the Free-To-Air services in order for television services to reach each and every corner of the country***
4. ***Government provides incentives and reductions in taxes on DTH decoders and dishes to ensure that these are affordable and accessible which in the long run will cut on the cost of accessing television and also cut the monopoly of PAY TV***
5. ***That until SIGNET is disengaged from UBC, the funds in par 2 and par 3 above are withheld***
6. ***That once the funds are provided, SIGNET revises its charges from the exorbitant 12m UGX per month to 5m UGX per month***

10.0 UGANDA POSTA LIMITED

10.1 Half Year Performance – FY 2021/22

Uganda shilling billion	Approved FY2021/22	Half year Release	Spent	% Budget Released	% Absorption
Wage	7.956	7.71	2.99	96.9%	38.8%
Non-wage	9.266	8.5	3.19	91.7%	37.5%
Development	2.012	1.01	0.06	50.2%	5.9%
Ext. Fin.				-	
Total Budget	19.234	17.23	6.24	89.6%	36.2%

The institution had an approved budget of Ugx 19.234 billion in FY 2021/22 and 89.6% of this had been realized by half the financial year. In terms of absorption, an overall 36.2 % of the available resources had been utilized in the same period, with the development component performing at a mere 5.9% in absorption.

10.2 PROPOSED BUDGET ALLOCATION 2022/23

Billion Uganda Shillings	Approved FY2021/22	Proposed FY 2022/23	Change
Wage	7.956	8.752	10.0%
Non-wage	9.266	9.816	5.9%
Development	2.012	4.968	146.9%
Ext. Fin.	-	-	-
Total Budget	19.234	23.536	22.4%

Uganda Post's proposed budget for FY 2022/23 is Ugx 23.536 billion, a 22.4% increase from the current year's budget. The main driver is the development component that will grow by 146.9% while the other components will both expand as well.

The sources of revenue for the institution's budget will be trading income at Ugx 17.82 billion and other operating income contributing Ugx 5.72 billion

11.0 UGANDA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (UICT)

11.1 Half year performance and the budget 2022/23

Ugx Billion	Approved 2021/22	Spent By End Q2	Proposed 2022/23	Q2 Absorption	Budget change
Wage	2.203	0.818	3.864	37.1%	75.4%
Non-wage	8.331	1.475	6.875	17.7%	-17.5%
GoU	0.86	0.003	0.655	0.3%	-23.8%
Ext Fin.	-	-	-	-	-
GoU Total	11.394	2.296	11.394	20.2%	0.0%
Total GoU+ Ext Fin	11.394	2.296	11.394	20.2%	0.0%
Arrears	-	-	-	-	-
A.I.A	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	11.394	2.296	11.394	20.2%	0.0%

By half FY 2021/22, the institution had absorbed only 20.2% of their total approved budget of Ugx 11.39 billion, against the ideal 50% within the same period. This translates into a very poor physical performance. This was mainly attributed to the low release by from the government sources in addition to no remittance of the UCC grant

The institution's budget will remain unchanged in FY2022/23 in comparison with FY 2021/22. To note is that the non-wage budget component will reduce by 17.5% while the wage component will grow by 75%. To note further is that the transfers by UCC to the institution will reduce from Ugx 2.5 billion in FY 2021/22 to Ugx 2.2 billion in 2022/21.

11.2 Sources of revenue to finance the projected budget

Billion Uganda Shillings	Approved FY2021/22	Half year Revenue	Proposed 2022/23	FY2022/23 Contribution
Tuition fees (long courses)	2.313	0.207	2.313	20.3%
Tuition fees (short courses)	1.638	0.461	1.638	14.4%
Estates income	0.323	0.046	0.323	2.8%
Other Incomes	0.233	0.065	0.233	2.0%
UCC grant	2.2	0	2.2	19.3%
MoICT&NG (ICT Hub)	1.8	0.423	1.8	15.8%
MoICT&NG (Staff Training)	0.4	0.148	0.4	3.5%
MoICT&NG (Govt Subvention)	2.387	0	2.387	20.9%
Development Partners	0.1	0.076	0.1	0.9%
Grand Total	11.394	1.426	11.394	100.0%

UICT projects to get its resources from various sources, with the main contribution of up to 20.9% coming from expected subvention from Government (MoICT) for enrolled students on Government sponsorship. The other major sources are tuition fees for long courses and UCC grant at 20.3% and 19.3% respectively. The consolidated revenue will remain unchanged at 11.394%.



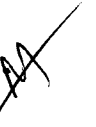
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OVERALL SUMMARY

Vote		2021/22		MTEF 2022/23		Committee 2022/23 (Re-allocation)	Gap-Committee 2022/23 (Consideration)	Remarks
		Govt	Own Rev	Govt	Own Rev			
1	NITA-U (Vote 126)	140.788	0.000	51.300	0.000	51.300	46.300	
2	MolCT&NG (Vote 020)	79.070	0.000	165.890	0.000	165.890	30.000	Presidential Directive
	Wage	6.073	0.000	6.778	0.000	6.778	0.000	
	Arrears	0.820	0.000	113.755	0.000	74.550	0.000	Instead of paying 53.3%, 35% paid and rolled over 3 years
	PDM	8.800	0.000	5.280	0.000	22.538	53.342	Reduce from 70.6bn
	BPO	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.000	5.800	0.000	Reduce from 5bn
	Digitisation & Innovation	12.000	0.000	7.000	0.000	7.000	26.900	Reduce from
	NG & Communication	28.870	0.000	18.870	0.000	21.870	9.100	Reduce from 12.1bn
1	Vision Group	0.000	Not Disclosed	0.000	Not Known	2.900	0.000	Important for Vernacular Papers that are not commercially viable
2	UBC & SIGNET	22.030	11.790	15.020	10.000	26.490	0.000	Provide for NOC and DTH
3	UICT	2.387	9.007	2.387	9.007	2.387	0.000	
4	UCC	0.000	171.610	0.000	168.097	0.000	0.000	
5	Uganda Posts	0.000	19.234	0.000	23.536	0.000	0.000	

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12.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 MINISTRY OF ICT& NATIONAL GUIDANCE

12.1.1 Operationalization of the Parish Development Model Information System (PDMIS)

The Parish Development Model (PDM) is the new strategy government will use to remove households from the subsistence economy. It is expected that the PDM will be fully rolled out into operation in the fourth quarter of FY2021/22. The Ministry of ICT & NG is spearheading Pillar 6 - Community Data (Community Information System). The Ministry designed the Parish Development Management Information System (PDMIS) to track the PDM. It is the PDMIS which will collect data of all the other six (6) pillars of the PDM and validate the information of the beneficiaries, their location, needs assessment as well as economic activity to be financed for the transformation of their lives. On the governance and monitoring, the PDMIS will be vital for tracking the progress and performance of the different pillars so as to report real time implication of the programme. The economic contribution of the different pillars can be well estimated using the system.

Furthermore, the system will be used to evaluate people's livelihoods and living standards in the different regions of the country including their social life such as housing, cultural living, child marriage levels and poverty levels among others. The information will be used to inform Government planning and decisions on investment and future development programmes using verified data. The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance has developed the costed implementation roadmap for the four years amounting to UGX. 187.832bn for the full rollout of the PDM, of which, the Ministry has requested for UGX. 70.60bn for the FY 2022/23.

The success of the PDM implementation is hinged on the timely delivery of the PDMIS and the attendant data on Households and the other pillars of the PDM.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government provides an allocation of UGX. 70.60bn for the operationalization of the PDMIS in the FY 2022/23 if the impact of the PDM is to be measured and appreciated in real time.

12.1.2 Business Process Outsourcing (BPOs), Digitization and Innovation

The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance is mandated and committed to accelerate national digital transformation and create opportunities to the unemployed youths through Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Innovations initiatives.

The Ministry requires UGX. 31.90bn to implement this mandate, which funds will be used to; support innovators to develop solutions for digitizing government service delivery such as expanding the roll out of the e-procurement system, the e-document records management system, the integrated government asset information management system, and Develop and train human resource of ICT cadres to build capacity for government to effectively manage and support the digital transformation programme.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the Government provides UGX. 31.90bn towards Business Process Outsourcing, Digitization and Innovation by the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance for the FY 2022/23.

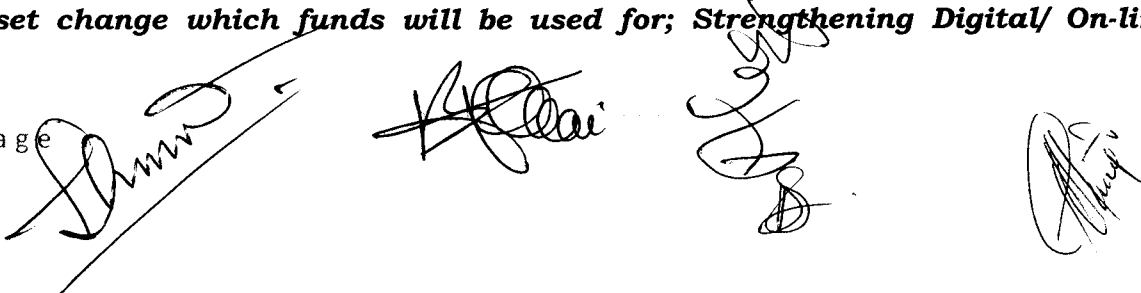
12.1.3 Communication and Mindset Change

The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance is responsible for providing professional media and communication services to government departments; foster a communication environment between government and the media and to integrate the international marketing of Uganda into the broader communication strategy of government, all of which require sufficient budgets.

For communication and mindset change a total budget of UGX. 12.1bn is needed to undertake massive public campaigns and dissemination of information on Government programmes. This is very critical if Government has to mutually account to the citizens on the implementation of manifesto and NDP; and mitigate the post effect of COVID pandemic on the economy.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 12.1bn towards mindset change which funds will be used for; Strengthening Digital/ On-line

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Engagement; Professionalizing & Capacity Support for the Communication Function; and Implementing of GoU Communication Policy, 2022.

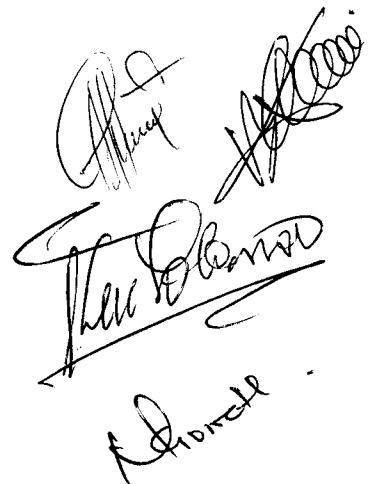
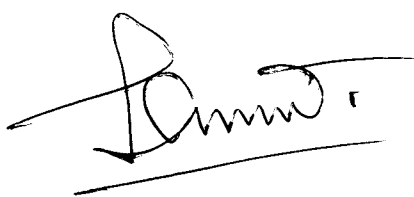
12.1.4 Deliberate Budgeting for Media Programs by Government/Institutions

It is evident that Government appreciates the role of the media in its various forms including; Television, Radio, Newspaper, and Online outlets in disbursing communications, awareness creation and sensitization of masses regarding its programs, policies and projects, there has however not been deliberate effort in the form of budgeting for every program to push these efforts to the masses.

This has resulted into the citizens being uninformed and unaware of government programs, initiatives, and developmental investments that have been established for their benefit. This is especially felt by the private media operators who upon Government directive to avail Government a weekly hour to promote its programs and initiatives yet most of them are barely breaking even. The Committee observes the need for every government program, project, and initiative having a budget component in every financial year for sensitization and awareness and this should be dedicated towards buying media across all platforms from Tv, Radio, Online and Newspapers such that citizens are updated on government projects.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that every Government program should have a 2-5% budget component in every FY for sensitization and awareness of masses. This is envisioned to not only increase awareness creation of the populace, but to also enhance the financial incomes and positions of these media houses to adequately meet the needs of their employees as well as boost the services delivered through enhanced equipment and signal.



12.1.5 Limited Network Coverage, ICT infrastructure, and poor gadgets limiting connectivity.

With the optic fiber network of 12,000 km covering only 49 percent of the districts and 24 percent of the sub-counties in Uganda, its broadband infrastructure is significantly poor quality. Poor quality terminal equipment and local Area Networks (LANs) worsen the uptake of services of some MDAs/LGs. This could explain why Uganda is the third least-connected country after Rwanda and Mozambique.

It is also deplorable that most of the Ugandans are connected to 2G and 3G networks, with only 47% of the people are connected to 4G network technology. It should also be pointed that about a third (30%) of the urban dwellers use the internet in Uganda while only nine (9%) of Ugandans living in rural areas have access to the same.

Whereas Government rolled out the last mile connectivity project to expand the NBI through laying 732km of fiber optic cable, adding more 700 sites to the NBI with more additional 300 Wi-Fi Hotspots, lack of electricity is responsible for the poor urban-rural internet use and mobile penetration rates in Uganda. Only 18% of the households in Uganda have an electricity connection. By June 2021, the total number of smartphone/internet-enabled gadgets connected to networks stood at 9.7 million gadgets, while the feature phones and basic phones connected to the network were 22.4 million gadgets. With less than half of the population owning phones, the majority of the phones can only support basic browsing applications leaving a huge gap in harnessing the potential for mobile broadband connectivity

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government;

- i. Through the Rural Electrification Authority fast-tracks rural electrification across the country. This will Improve ICT penetration proposed by National Planning Authority, as is envisioned in the rural electrification strategy and plan 2013 - 2022.**
- ii. Promotes demand stimulation of ICT Devices and services by shifting people from passive consumers to productive consumers of ICT devices and services by developing wider skillsets to improve entrepreneurship application of**

ICT services that creates jobs. This is paramount in steering progress in ICT device usage and services.

- iii. Enforce the use of ICT services in the country. Digital transformation can be supported by introducing and enforcing the use of digital (smart) health, agriculture, manufacturing, cities, online studies, to complement the already existing e-government online service delivery.**

12.1.6 Poor performance of the sector.

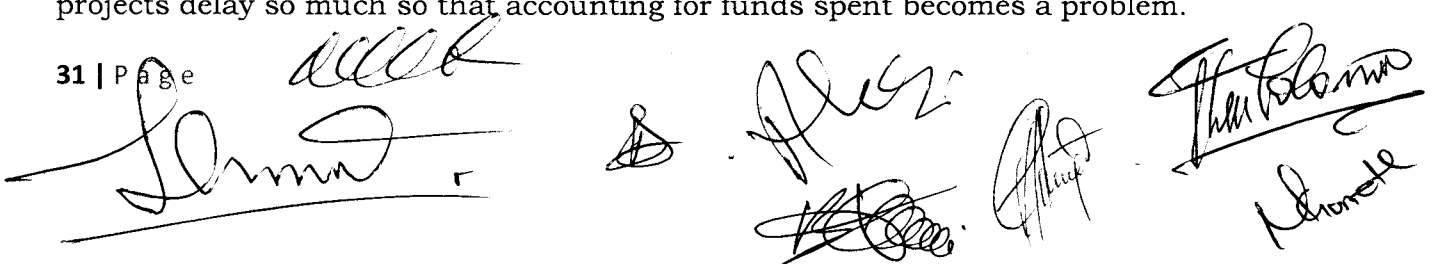
Science and Technology require heavy investment but unfortunately, Uganda has not invested adequately to develop the sector. Uganda's Gross Domestic Product expenditure on Research and Development is 0.7 which is embarrassingly low. This meagre expenditure puts its score low at the international level. The Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks Uganda at 119 out of 132 countries, compared to Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania ranked at 85,102 and 90, respectively. The current GII score deviates so much from the targeted GII score of 31 by NDP III projections for the FY2022/23. As a result, out of the expected 282 ICT innovation products developed and commercialized only 72 had been achieved by Uganda in the FY 2020/21.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends for the Introduction of an innovation tax whose proceedings should be pooled into an innovation fund purposely created for investment in science and technology. The pooled funds from the innovation tax added to other sources be it domestic or foreign can raise the required and projected Gross expenditure on Research and Development as a percentage of GDP envisaged in NDP III.

12.1.7 High innovation failure rate.

According to the Auditor-General's report 2021/22, 450 (88%) out of 512 government-funded projects at MUK, Kyambogo, and Busitema Universities were not completed. Similarly, 218 (62.3%) out of 350 donor funded grants from four (4) Universities were not completed in time. The rate of turning innovations into tangible outputs with the economic impact on development is worryingly low. The few completed funded innovation projects delay so much so that accounting for funds spent becomes a problem.

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Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that;

- i. Government embarks on a comprehensive program of supporting indigenous technology innovators and inventors who are already at some stage so that they can do better. The numerous indigenous skillsets together with the local available cheap resources can easily be upgraded to a comparative advantage. This should be strengthened by Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) for an assured market for local innovations.**
- ii. Identify and commit resources to the production of goods where the country has a comparative advantage including herbal medicine, agriculture, and ICT.**
- iii. Strengthen supervision of innovation projects and the performance of the grants.**

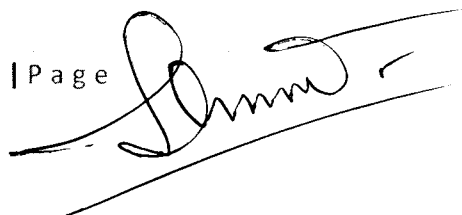
12.1.8 Inadequate policy on Counterfeit and E-waste management of ICT devices

World over, there has been an increase in counterfeits trade. A growing problem of dumping of substandard, counterfeit, stolen and illegal communications devices has been grossly reported in Uganda. This is increasingly becoming difficult to manage and control. On top of this, once the devices find their way into the country the other challenge becomes their disposal as the devices quickly reach their end-of-life hence becoming e-waste.

Uganda has a number of legal and regulatory measures to handle substandard and stolen, but not necessarily counterfeited communications devices. Among these measures include; Trademark Act 2010, National Environment Management Act, 2019, Uganda National Bureau of Standards Act 1983, and The Uganda Communications Act 2013.

Regarding E-waste, the Guidelines for E-waste Management in Uganda, 2015 were set. What remains critical is how effectively these tools are being used to lessen the continued spread of substandard communications devices, their effects and disposal.

The challenges in monitoring and controlling the challenges above are attributed to inadequate staffing levels especially reported by the UNBS at the border posts who are



too thin to manage the wide and porous borders. To make matter worse, the UNBS mandate only covers substandard products (shoddy and adulterated) and does not cover counterfeits.

It should further be noted that the proposed Anti-Counterfeiting Goods Bill, 2015 was withdrawn from Parliament, creating a vacuum in this area.

The lack of enabling anti-counterfeit and e-waste management laws; affect the capacity of the UNBS and UCC to prosecute based on counterfeits only; affected implementation and enforcement by the Ministry of ICT& National guidance; and lack of funding to date channeled towards efforts for anti-counterfeit and e-waste management developed in Uganda.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that;

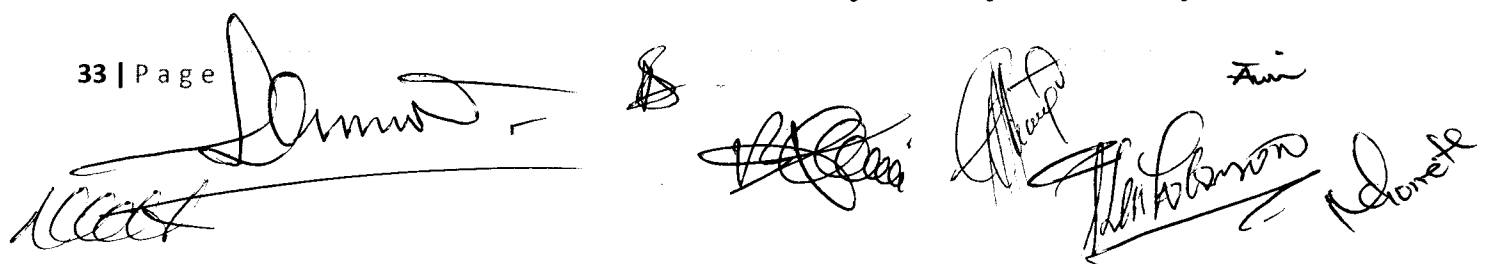
- i. Government should put in place a comprehensive enabling law on anti-counterfeit products and e-waste management.**
- ii. Government should strengthen the capacity of the UNBS and other relevant agencies to enable them manage and control the entry of counterfeits in Uganda.**
- iii. In the meantime, the UCC and UNBS could use the Equipment Type Approval and Centralized Equipment Identity Register guidelines to regulate these counterfeited, fake and substandard ICT devices.**

12.2 UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

12.2.1 Establishment of the Communications tribunal

The UCC Tribunal was provided for in the repealed 1997 Communications Act and in the UCC Act 2013 which rightly envisaged the need for a tribunal to mediate between the market regulator and the licensees. Twenty-five (25) years later, this has not been operationalized. This is against so many efforts to implement the tribunal including a Presidential directive in FY 2016 to undertake this within a period not exceeding six (6) months.

The call for comments on the draft UCC regulations which seeks to among other issues to address the UCC tribunal was issued on January 2021 by the Ministry of ICT &

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National Guidance, more than a year later, the final regulation is not out. The long delay in establishing the tribunal has limited the ability of the aggrieved citizens, the media, and telecom service providers to expeditiously contest some of UCC's and the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance pronouncements.

Policymakers and regulators should recognize effective dispute resolution as an important role of telecommunication policy and regulation without which the country will delay the introduction of new services and infrastructure, block or reduce the flow of capital from investors, limit competition leading to higher pricing and lower service quality and generally retard liberalization that comes with economic, social and technical development.

The Ministry of ICT & National Guidance has indicated that the Communications tribunal will require up to UGX. 5.46bn to meet the recruitment, emoluments and other personnel expenses, as well as to provide the requisite equipment, utilities, facilities and other operating expenses.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that;

- i. The Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, UCC, First Parliamentary Council, Office of the Attorney General and any other players expedite the process of constituting the communications tribunal. The approval of the communications tribunal should also be fast tracked at Cabinet.***
- ii. In the meantime, Uganda can officially make available various conflict resolution mechanisms given the differing conflicts requiring dispute resolution approaches. These include; Court adjudication; Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) policy; Negotiation and mediation; Arbitration; and Hiring a Consulting Firm to resolve conflicts.***
- iii. Government through the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development allocates UGX. 5.456bn for the establishment of the Communications tribunal in the FY 2022/23.***

12.2.2 Levy on Gross Annual Revenues of Licensed Operators

Under Section 68 of the Uganda Communications Act, 2013, the Commission may charge a levy on the gross annual revenues of licensed operators, which forms part of its funding majorly for the purpose of extending the Communications to rural and hard to reach areas.

This revenue is to be shared between information communication technology development and rural communication in a ratio of one to one. The Committee observes that UCC has been collecting 2% of the gross annual revenue, 50% of which is always remitted to the consolidated fund.

The Committee notes with concern that the resources remitted to the consolidated fund from the ICT operators are not directly ploughed back to facilitate ICT development but rather form part of the total national resource envelop yet the ICT sector which is grossly underfunded has areas under the programme that require funding.

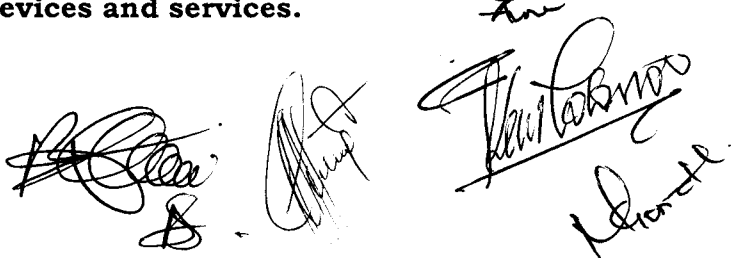
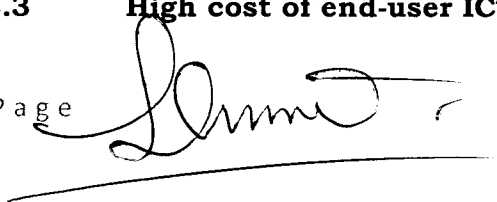
It should further be observed that at the time of enacting the law, it was clear that that the levy was meant for telecommunication companies and would never be applied to broadcasters. This however is not the case with UCC increasingly engaging the broadcasters on the payment of the levy including requiring books of accounting so as to levy the fee. This levy is inappropriate and unaffordable for broadcasters, as it will stifle growth in the broadcasting industry, and will negatively impact successful investment and development of the broadcasting industry which will ultimately deny Ugandans the cherished information and employment.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that;

- i. The levy collected by UCC in this regard be earmarked and ring fenced for purposes of ICT development and rural communication as provided for in the Uganda Communications Act.***
- ii. Ministry of ICT should enact a regulation that clarifies on the payment and the application of the 2% levy to telecoms as opposed to broadcasters and redefining the operators to whom the 2% levy was intended to apply. The provision requiring charging 2% of the gross revenues of radio and television broadcasters be revised (removed).***

12.2.3 High cost of end-user ICT devices and services.



The Telecommunications industry in Uganda is one of the heavily taxed sectors, with the current usage tax on pre-paid mobile services standing at 30 percent (including the excise duty) making it quite high by any standard. Added to this, is a universal service levy of 2% on top of the high company taxes. Mobile money customers are also charged a direct tax of 0.5% on the value of mobile money withdrawal transactions. All these taxes are borne by the end-user either directly or indirectly. In effect, there is limited utilization of ICT services due to high prices which are prohibitively expensive for payers and payees as a direct result of the tax. Reducing costs of end-user ICT devices and services by removing the taxes on ICT devices and services would reduce the costs of end-user ICT devices and services.

Low-cost devices and services would generate higher benefits in form of additional increases in penetration and investment, generating further gains in the wider economy as demand increases. This justifies the trade-off between the two government's key agendas, of domestic tax revenue mobilization and financial inclusion through the digitalization of the economy. This further is projected to enhance the elimination of withholding tax on income from mobile services which would reduce the tax burden on operators, leading to lower prices of mobile services and greater investment into mobile networks.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that;

- i. Provide tax exemptions to Telecom-related industries to lower their costs of production. Tax exemption should be given to Importers and retailers of low-cost phone devices to make them affordable. This policy encourages dealers to decrease prices across the handset market in order to qualify for tax exemption.***
- ii. Adopt import substitution strategy as a way of promoting the phones made in Uganda. Make the homemade phones affordable and readily available compared to the expensive taxed phones.***
- iii. Service providers should sensitize the general public about data usage. Often a time's mobile phone users don't disable the automatic upgrades on their phones.***

12.2.4 Cost of Internet

The Committee observes the importance of indispensability of internet to the attainment of the NDP III. The Committee further notes that the cost of internet to the public sector has reduced over the years, as a result of the extension of the National Backbone Infrastructure across the country.

While cost of internet supplied by NITA-U to Government is USD 70 per mbps per month, the cost of internet supplied by other players in the industry such as the telecommunication companies remains high, at USD 237 mbps per month to the general public.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that;

- i. ***The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance through the UCC should put in place Guidelines to operationalize the National Broadband Policy to ensure infrastructure sharing especially among the Internet Service Providers in both the private and public sector.***
- ii. ***There should be deliberate inter-programme coordination between digital information and the energy development programme to ensure that electricity is extended to most of the areas of the country as a measure to address the lack of access to electricity in some areas of the Country that has spiked the cost of internet in the past.***

12.3 UGANDA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

12.3.1 Funding for Government Sponsored Students

UICT is the official Government Institution that provides market driven and skills-based middle-level ICT training which are key to facilitating students/participants in acquiring competencies in utilization of Government Services, undertaking ICT driven businesses and job creation

UICT has been taken on for the Joint Admission Board (JAB) by Ministry of Education and Sports and so far 600 students have been enrolled pending funding. The institute requires UGX. 2.680bn to train these students.

It will be very embarrassing to Government to fail to provide funding and students miss out on benefitting from the skilling that should contribute job creation and improving service delivery through utilization of ICTs.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates the requisite UGX. 2.680bn to UICT for the FY 2022/23 for the students taken on under Government sponsorship.

12.3.2 Setting up a specialized training center

The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance together with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) jointly prepared a concept for setting up specialized training infrastructure that can be used for facilitating improved teaching and learning for especially Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI) subjects.

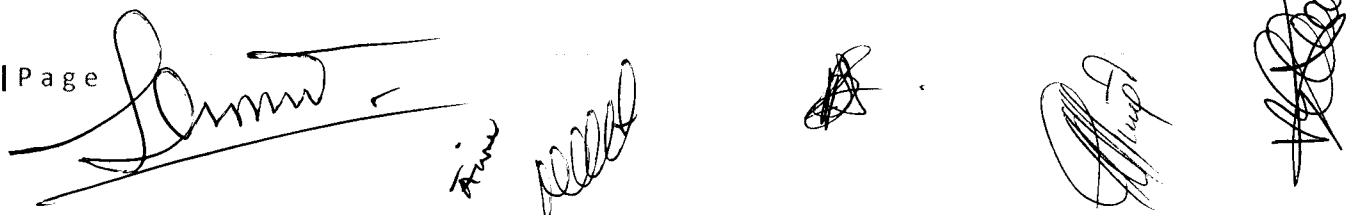
UICT was identified as the target institution that shall host the specialized regional center that shall be accessed and used by other institutions and stakeholders to develop STEMI content and access equipment, laboratories and expertise, requiring the setting up and operationalization of a specialized training center and infrastructure.

The amount required for setting up specialized training infrastructure to facilitate the teaching, learning and assessment of STEMI Subjects using Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies (4IR) specifically Augmented, Virtual and Mixed Reality is UGX. 4.20bn.

As part of sustainability, the center will be open to the private sector (both locally and regionally) and conducted as a commercial venture and in accordance with good commercial and industrial practice, which shall generate revenue for the country.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 4.20bn for the setting up of a specialized training center in the FY 2022/23.

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12.4 UGANDA BROADCASTING CORPORATION (UBC)

12.4.1 Strengthening of the SIGNET

UBC as a public services broadcaster (100% owned by GoU) is mandated to ensure that signals for both Radio and Television reach every part of the country so as to promote national guidance activities.

The national broadcaster seeks an additional UGX. 51.12bn which funds are meant to position UBC with its 11 Radio and 4 Television brands as the most widely listened to, viewed, and accessible media outlets in the whole country.

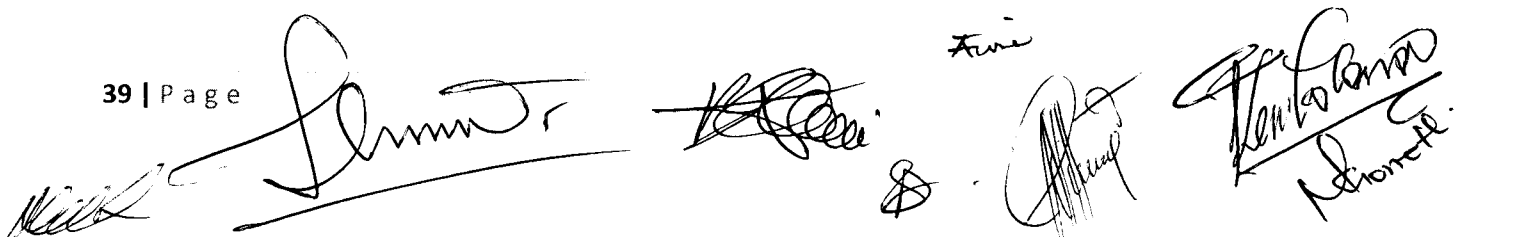
The funds are specifically earmarked for the; Expansion of the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and Radio Broadcasting network; Upgrade of the existing DTT and radio transmission sites to ensure redundancy and provision of local regional program stream insertions; Deployment of alternative audio-visual signal transmission platforms; Designing and deploying a national DTT/DTH hybrid broadcast system; Enhancing television and radio studio facilities; and Digitizing, archiving and commercialization of Local Content and data.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that;

- i. Government allocates UGX. 51.12bn for boosting the UBC signet in the FY 2022/23.**
- ii. SIGNET is legally disengaged from UBC by creating its own company fully owned by Government with its own mandate, deliverables, Board and Secretariat different from UBC.**
- iii. UGX. 2.5bn is allocated to SIGNET (and not UBC) specifically to upgrade the dilapidated National Television Operating Centre in Kololo.**
- iv. Until SIGNET is disengaged from UBC, the funds in (i, iii) above are withheld.**
- v. Once the funds are provided, SIGNET revises its charges from the exorbitant UGX. 12 million per month to UGX. 5 million.**

12.4.2 Deployment of Direct To Home (DTH) One Beam Free to Air Satellite Television Solution.

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Government in 2011, approved the Digital Migration Policy which provides a framework for the smooth transition to Digital TV Broadcasting with resources for the first two phases raised through the RCDF from UCC. Initial installations involved the deployment of one (1) content aggregation centre in Kololo and 17 transmission sites across the country with a combined national signal coverage of only 60%. Phase three (3) to be undertaken, includes the deployment of 11 new transmission sites and 40 gap filler sites across the country

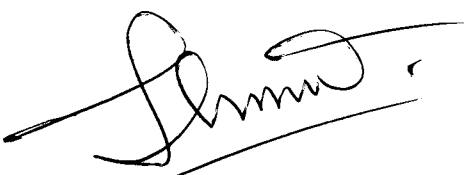
The “One Beam” Direct-To-Home (DTH) solution refers to the distribution and reception of satellite signals on a TV with a personal dish and decoder in an individual home. The One Beam DTH technology that UBC-SIGNET has adopted for delivery of Free to Air TV signal across the country has the following advantages:

- i. TV signal will be delivered evenly across the country including the border and hard to reach areas.
 - ii. Unlike traditional wideband satellite signal distribution, DTH is based on a narrow spot beam which makes the service less prone to inclement weather disruptions, in effect rendering the signal more reliable and stable.
 - iii. “One Beam” DTH transmission will eliminate signal distribution cost duplication.
- The whole project cost is estimated at UGX. 19.808bn. these funds have unfortunately not been provided for and UBC has requested for UGX. 9.0bn to have the skeleton equipment deployed and have the service up and running across the Country.

Committee Recommendations

The Committee recommends that;

- i. **Government provides the initial UGX. 7.5bn to SIGNET (and not UBC) to install the Direct to Home services for the Free-to-Air services in order for television services to reach each and every corner of the country.**
- ii. **Government provides incentives and reductions in taxes on DTH decoders and dishes to ensure that these are affordable and accessible which in the long run will cut on the cost of accessing television and also cut the monopoly of PAY TV**



12.5 POSTA UGANDA LIMITED

12.5.1 Revamping and operationalizing of Posta Uganda Facilities

Post Office facilities are strategically located in over 80 districts across the country and should be revamped into service centers that can be used to deliver services to the citizens in the areas closest to them.

A total budget of UGX. 7.24bn is required to; develop the Postal Policy; conduct a study on the viability of Community (last mile) Postal Networks; and support the deployment of e-services through service centers and the postal network.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 7.24bn for the revamping and operationalization of Posta Uganda facilities across the Country in the FY 2022/23.

12.6 VISION GROUP

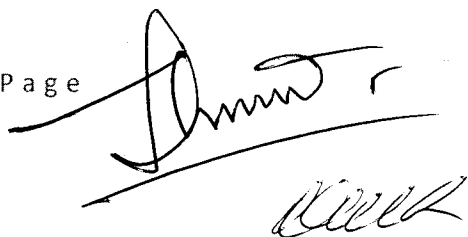
12.6.1 Vision Group Support to revamp Vernacular Papers (Orumuri, Etop and Rupiny)

There is a need to revamp the vernacular papers to facilitate communication to the locals on Government programmes to undertake massive public campaigns and dissemination of information on Government programmes. This is in line with the directive by H.E the President on 30th September, 2021 that the Vision Group be supported to revamp its vernacular newspapers that include; Etop, Orumuri and Rupiny.

The revamping of the vernacular newspapers is projected to cost UGX. 2.90bn for full operationalization.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that UGX. 2.90bn be allocated to the Vision group towards the reviving of vernacular Newspapers thereunder namely: Orumuri, Etop and Rupiny;



13.1 VOTE 126- NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY- UGANDA

13.1.1 Provision of ICT services to MDAs and LGs

The Government has over the years through the ICT sector spent USD125.8million to extend the Backbone to the MDAs/DLGs, Schools, Hospitals, Health Centres, Tertiary Institutions among others. To date, over 4000km of Optical Fibre cable (OFC) have been extended across the country. 1394 Government entities and other priority user groups have been connected to the National Backbone Infrastructure. However, as Government continues to roll out the Backbone to all MDAs/DLGs, one of the challenges that have been encountered especially with the provision of Connectivity services to the District Local Governments and other Administrative units is the inability to pay for the services due to limited funds yet the services are needed.

It is important to note that, whereas Government has over the years consolidated ICT funds (UGX15.7bln) under NITA-U to provide these services to MDAs, the number of sites connected and the demand for the services such as Internet Bandwidth, Data Centres hosting services, and software licenses and the provision of shared services have increased across Government hence the need for additional funds to be consolidated to provide these services. In the FY2020/21, Government allocated UGX15.2bln, for the provision of the above services. However, along the same FY, 53% of this Budget was again cut. This cripples the operations of NITA-U to provide shared services to Government.

Also, to note is that, the funds for the provision of the above-mentioned services especially to the District Local Governments, Sub counties, Town Councils and now the Parish models have not been provisioned or consolidated yet NITA-U is required to provide these services to all Government entities and other Administrative service units across the country.

Therefore, to enable Government MDAs/DLGs and other target user groups to fully use the Infrastructure additional resource of 27.264bn will be required.

Therefore, consolidation of funds will enable, MDAs, DLGs, TCs, MCs, and Parishes to continue using the NBI and not render it redundant since Government has already invested heavily in the development of the backbone.

Committee Recommendation



The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 27.264bn for the extension of Internet bandwidth to District Local Governments in the FY 2022/23.

13.1.2 Enhancement of the National Data Centre

The Government of Uganda through NITA-U built the National Data Centre and Disaster Recovery (DR) sites which is currently hosting a total of 169 Critical Government applications for 80 MDAs.

The establishment of the National Data Centre and Disaster Recovery (DR) sites was to consolidate all Government hosting requirements to eliminate the duplications and wastage of resources.

Over the last five years, UGX 1.165tn have been saved through centralized hosting of applications in the National Data centre.

It should also be noted that the demand for hosting services has increased over the COVID pandemic. Several Government entities are now demanding to host their services in the National Data Centre which provides cloud-based services, hence the need to upgrade both the Storage, Compute and License resources.

NITA-U has received applications to host additional twenty (20) applications at the National Data Centre; and provision of ICT services to additional seven hundred (700) sites connected which require adequate financing. In this regard the programme through NITA-U had identified a financing Gap of UGX. 20.0bn during the FY 2022/23, of which MoFPED has provided Ugx 18.0bn.

The provision of these resources will enable the enhancement of the Data Centre for the continuous provision of services to more Government entities to be hosted at the same time eliminating duplication of efforts in MDAs building their respective Data centres.

Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates an additional UGX. 20.0bn towards the data center operations and maintenance in the FY 2022/23.

13.1.3 Operationalization of the Data Protection Office

In 2019, the Data Protection and Privacy Act 2019 was assented to by H.E the President. This aims to promote the protection and privacy of personal data as enshrined under article 27 of the constitution. The Act will promote increased confidence by citizens when transacting in various forms especially where they may be required to disclose their personal data.

To do this, there is need to fully operationalize the Data Protection and Privacy Act to ensure issues related to Data Protection and Privacy are handled to avoid potential loss of Government data as a result of taking these services online. Under the Act, NITA-U is required to establish a Personal Data and Privacy Office (PDPO) to implement the Act. It is estimated that this will require UGX. 5.755bn which will go towards:

The Committee observes that the Data Protection Office is central to the implementation of the Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019. Further to this, the Committee is aware that NITA-U further Projects to generate UGX. 10.987bn over the next five (5) years from the Operations of the Personal Data Protection of Office (PDPO) specifically from the Registration of Data Controllers, Processors, and Collectors. In addition to that, revenues will also be generated from the accreditation of Data Protection service Providers/Practitioners, Training, Court fines, and Research among others.

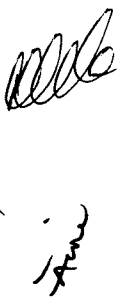
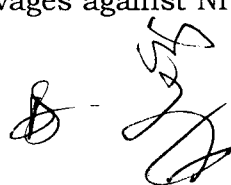
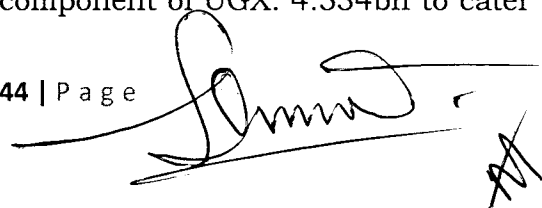
Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 5.755bn for the operationalization of the Data Protection Office in the FY 2022/23.

13.1.4 Fully operationalize the NITA-U staff structure

The institution has only been able to operationalize 41.3% (76) of its approved organization structure (184) as per the IT Service Delivery Model due to limited resources for the Wage bill ceiling. The current staffing levels were achieved in FY 2020/21, when the MoFPED approved the release of additional wage funds amounting to UGX. 794,094,000 lifting NITA-U's Wage MTEF for FY 2020/21 to UGX 7.44bn.

It should be noted that for a fully operationalized structure of 184 positions, NITA-U would require a wage component of UGX. 13.931bn and a non-wage (NSSF & Gratuity) component of UGX. 4.534bn to cater for staff wages against NITA-U's current approved



Wage MTEF funds amounting to UGX 7.44bn and the Non-Wage (NSSF & Gratuity) amounts to UGX 2.210bn. This therefore still points to a wage shortfall of UGX. 6.492bn needed to fully operationalize the NITA-U establishment.

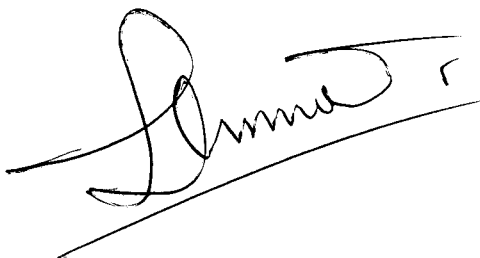
The provision of these resources will enable NITA-U to recruit additional resources to be able to build more systems internally to support Government initiatives and save the Government from outsourcing.

Committee Recommendation

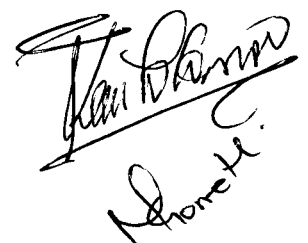
The Committee recommends that UGX 6.492bn be allocated to the NITA-U to cater for wage and non-wage respectively in order to fill the staffing gaps.



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KEY SECTOR UNFUNDED PRIORITIES FOR FY 2022/23

The Committee identified the most crucial key Unfunded Priorities for FY 2022/23 in the Program and are listed below;

UNFUNDED/UNDERFUNDED PRIORITIES

	ACTIVITY	Total Cost	MTEF Provision	Funding gap
MoICT				
1	Parish Development Model Information System rolled out and operationalized.	75.88	5.28	70.6
2	Support to Business Process outsourcing (BPO)- BPO /IT Enabled Services.	5.842	0.842	5
3	Digitalization and Innovation- support to Local ICT innovations and innovators and regional hubs.	33.9	7	26.9
4	UBC-Signet	51.12	0	51.12
POSTA UGANDA				
5	Development of "Service Center Uganda"	7.24	0	7.24
UICT				
6	Development of human resource capacity of ICT cadres in government to effectively manage and support the digital	2.681	-	2.681
7	Professional development and setting up specialized training infrastructure to facilitate the teaching, learning and assessment of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI) Subjects using Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies (4IR) specifically Augmented, Virtual and Mixed Reality.	4.2	-	4.2
UBC				
8	A national DTH hybrid broadcast system designed and deployed, phased.	9.00	0.00	9.00
9	Change of all Antenna satellite reception systems for C-Band to KU Band for 17 DTT sites to accommodate & transcode the DTH system & civil works for the antenna base	1.00	0.33	0.67
10	Eighteen Radio Transmitters with all the Accessories including Filters, Cables Power AVR plus installation	2.16	0.36	1.80
11	Development, Production, and dissemination of Local content for different sectors in English, Luganda, Luo and 4 R, National News gathering and Correspondence Programmes	12.00	1.47	10.53
12	Media publicity and Communication on Government programs	6.00	0.90	5.10
Grand Total		211.03	16.18	194.84

14.0 CONCLUSION.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members

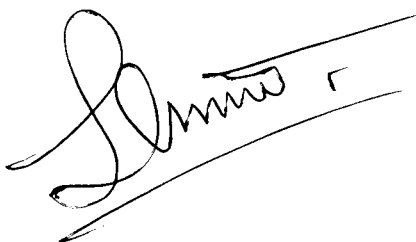
The Digital Transformation sector/ programme which aims to increase ICT penetration and use of ICT services for social and economic development is central in virtually all social economic and political activities of our daily lives.

It is therefore a fulcrum of development deserving the attention of all concerned as it is in the medium term expected that there will be increased ICT penetration; reduced cost of ICT devices and services; and creation of more direct jobs in the ICT arena.

There is therefore an urgent need to allocate enough resources to the sector; for inclusiveness, make the devices and services affordable by reducing the numerous taxes imposed in the sector; dispute resolution is crucial in a fast-moving developing sector, the formation of the Communications Tribunal is long overdue to address the numerous challenges in the sector.

There is also a need to: fast-track procurement processes; Programmes are delivered according to the approved budget work plans. Further, there is need for satisfactory and consistent statistics to facilitate monitoring and performance appraisal in light of the planning and budgeting modalities being pursued by government.

Based on the aforementioned observations and recommendations, the Committee recommends that the House approves the budget of the Votes under its jurisdiction as follows;

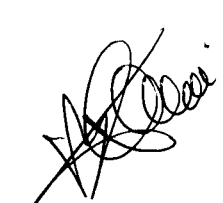


THE SUPPLY TABLE

VOTE 020: MINISTRY OF ICT and National Guidance	
Expenditure Item	Proposed Budget FY 2022/23 Ugx.
Recurrent	34,227,684,596
o/w Wage	6,778,466,203
o/w Non-Wage	27,449,218,393
Development	17,992,903,809
TOTAL	52,220,588,405
VOTE 126: National Information Technology Authority - Uganda (NITA - U)	
Expenditure Item	Proposed Budget FY 2022/23 Ugx.
Recurrent	36,013,588,903
o/w Wage	7,439,170,944
o/w Non-Wage	28,574,417,959
Development	8,963,295,966
TOTAL	44,976,884,869

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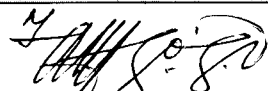
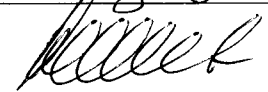
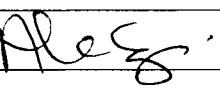
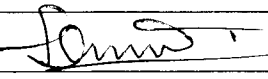
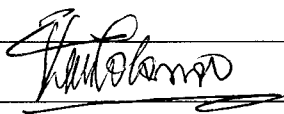

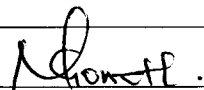


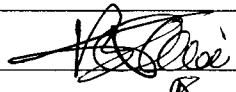
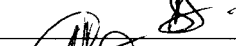








**COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND
NATIONAL GUIDANCE MEMBER SIGNATURE SHEET**

NO	NAME	CONSTITUENCY	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Magogo Moses Hassim (Chairperson)	Budiope East County	
2	Hon. Igeme Nathan Nabeta Deputy Chairperson)	Jinja South Division East	
3	Hon. Elotu Cosmas	Dakabela County	
4	Hon. Tinkasiimire Barnabas	Buyaga West County	
5	Hon. Ndeezi Alex	PWDs Representative	
6	Hon. Chemutai Phyllis	DWR Kapchorwa	
7	Hon. Kambale Ferico	Kasese Municipality	
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9	Hon. Lolem Micah Akasile	Upe County	
10	Hon. Mutiwa Geoffrey	Bunyole West County	
11	Hon. Chelangat Alinga Solomon	T'oo County	
12	Hon. Rugumayo Edson	Youth Rep. West	
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14	Hon. Kamusiime Caroline	DWR Rukiga	
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16	Hon. Feta Geoffrey	Ayivu Division East	
17	Hon. Afoyochan Esther	DWR Zombo	
18	Hon. Tumwine Anna Mary	DWR Ntoroko	
19	Hon. Baimomugisha Jane Kabajungu	DWR Ibanda	
20	Hon. Bagala Joyce Ntwatwa	DWR Mityana	
21	Hon. Namugga Gorreth	Mawogola South	
22	Hon. Kazibwe Bashir Mbazira	Kawempe South	
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25	Hon. Col. Charity Bainababo	UPDF	
26	Hon. Mpindi Bumali	PWDs Representative	
27	Hon. Abeja Susan Jolly	DWR Otuke	
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