

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE 11TH PARLIAMENT FROM MAY 2021 TO MAY 2022

**Compiled by:
Office of the Leader of Government Business**

FOREWORD

In accordance with Rule 220 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, I have the honour to submit before this August House the Action Taken Report on Resolutions of the 1st Session of the 11th Parliament (May 2021 – May 2022).

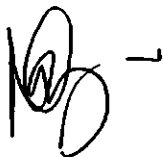
This report outlines the actions taken by the ministries, departments and agencies of Government in regard to the resolutions of Parliament for the said period.

Some of the pending resolutions require legislation and policy formulation. To that effect, Government is in the process of initiating the necessary legislations and policies so as to facilitate their implementation. This report excludes resolutions to authorize Government to borrow, and resolutions to pay tribute.

I, therefore, wish to inform Parliament that this is the first Action Taken Report to be presented before the 11th Parliament by the Executive. This clearly affirms Government's commitment to Parliament in ensuring the timely, efficient and effective delivery of services to the people of Uganda, in a bid to achieve sustainable development. Government of Uganda appreciates the oversight role that Parliament plays in ensuring effective service delivery to Ugandans.

It is, therefore, my pleasure, to present this report before Parliament and to reiterate Government's assurance in delivering timely responses to Parliament as we join hands in building this great nation.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.



Nabbanja Robinah, MP

Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business

OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

The Office of the Leader of Government Business in Parliament is mandated to lead and coordinate Government Business in Parliament as provided for under Section 6H of the Administration of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 2006 and Rules 15, 28, 41, 114 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda. In addition, the office is responsible for the welfare of Members of Parliament that belong to the ruling party in executing their duties both in the Committees of Parliament and during plenary sittings.



Rt Hon. Nabbanja Robinah (MP)
Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business



Rt Hon. Gen. Moses Ali (MP)
2nd Deputy Prime Minister &
Deputy Leader of Government Business



Hon. Obua Denis Hamson (MP)
Government Chief Whip

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

APC	Armored Personnel Carrier
ASTU	Anti-Stock Theft Unit
BAC	Blood Alcohol Content
BOU	Bank of Uganda
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EAC	East African Community
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
FGM/C	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
FY	Financial Year
GAPR	Government Annual Performance Report
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GOU	Government of Uganda
HQs	Headquarters
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFMS	Integrated Financial Management System
IGAD	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
ISO	Internal Security Organisation
JPCs	Joint Peace Committees
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
KDF	Kenya Defense Forces
LDF	Local Defense Forces

LDU	Local Defense Unit
LG	Local Government
LOs	Liaison Officers
M/VS	Motor Vehicles
MDAs	Ministries, Department and Agencies
MIS	Management Information System
MODVA	Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs
MOES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOICT&NG	Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and National Guidance
MOJ&CA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Mt	Mountain
NAB	National Association of Broadcasters
NCS	National Council of Sports
NDPIII	National Development Plan III
NHATC	National High Attitude Training Centre
NITA	National Information Technology Authority
NPESP	National Physical Education and Sports Policy
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
ODPP	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister

OVC	Other Vulnerable Children
OVC-MIS	Other Vulnerable Children Programme Management Information System
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PFMR	Public Finance Management Reforms
RISE	Response to Increased Demand in Government Service and Creation of Economic Opportunities in Uganda
TSA	Treasury Single Account
UAVs	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
UDHS	Uganda Demographic and Health Survey
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UMSWG	Uganda Media Sector Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNGAR	United Nations General Assembly Resolutions
UNITE	Uganda National Teachers Education
UNRA	Uganda National Roads Authority
UPDF	Uganda People’s Defence Forces
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
HF	High Frequency
VHF	Very High Frequency
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report outlines the actions taken by Government MDAs in regard to Parliamentary Resolutions made in the 1st Session of the 11th Parliament.

The report further includes actions from Committee reports' recommendations and Motions.

It should be noted that some resolutions require legislation and policy formulation. Government is in the process of initiating the necessary legislations and policies so as to facilitate the implementation process.

The success of Government in implementing resolutions of Parliament is dependent on timely compliance with Parliamentary directives.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Action Taken Report was prepared based on the resolutions of the 11th Parliament for the period between May 2021 and May 2022. This report emphasises the actions taken by Government MDAs regarding the parliamentary resolutions.

The report is in line with Rule 220 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, which provides that a Minister shall submit to Parliament an Action Taken Report detailing what actions have been taken by the Ministry following the resolutions or recommendations of Parliament or its Committees.

In light of the above, the Office of the Leader of Government Business in Parliament undertook to compile all resolutions of Parliament detailing actions taken by the Government MDAs on the Parliament resolutions from May 2021 and May 2022.

Table 1: Summary of Actions Taken

NO.	MINISTRY	NO. OF RESOLUTIONS	ACTION TAKEN	ACTION IN PROGRESS	PERCENT AGE (%)
1.	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs	4	4	0	• 100
2.	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries	1	1	0	100
3.	Ministry of Works and Transport	6	6	0	100
4.	Ministry of Health	7	7	0	100
5.	Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs	5	5	0	100
6.	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development	3	3	0	100
7.	Ministry of Education and Sports	15	15	0	100
8.	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	5	5	0	100
9.	Ministry OF Trade, Industry and cooperatives	17	17	0	100
10.	Ministry of Internal Affairs	2	2	0	100
11.	Ministry for the Presidency	4	3	1	60
12.	Ministry of Information and	1	1	0	100

	Communication Technology				
13.	Ministry of Water and Environment	1	1	0	100
14.	Office of the Prime Minister	2	1	1	50
Total Distribution		73	71	2	

1.1 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this report is to provide information to Parliament on Actions Taken by Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies in fulfillment of Rule 220 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament of Uganda.

1.2 SCOPE

The Office of the Leader of Government Business in Parliament considered the resolutions of the 11th Parliament from May 2021 to May 2022 and engaged the responsible Government MDAs on the actions taken by Government. The Ministries include:

- Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
- Ministry of Works and Transport
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education and Sports
- Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs
- Ministry for the Presidency
- Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
- Ministry of Information and Communication Technology
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Water and Environment

1.3 METHODOLOGY:

In considering the resolutions of the 11th Parliament, the Office of the Leader of Government Business in Parliament interacted with the Office of the Clerk to Parliament, and held meetings with the different Government MDAs. They also reviewed the following documents;

- a) The Hansard
- b) Correspondences from the Office of the Clerk to Parliament to the Rt Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business and the Government Chief Whip on resolutions of Parliament.
- c) Correspondences from relevant Government MDAs.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 ACTION TAKEN BY RELEVANT MINISTRIES

This chapter clearly outlines the date, title, resolution and action taken by the relevant Ministries. However, some of the pending resolutions require legislation and policy formulation and Government is in the process of initiating the necessary legislations and policies.

2.1 MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to address challenges facing the Girl-child and children in general in the digital era.

RESOLUTION 1

Government to implement the Trafficking in Persons Act, 2019 and the Anti-Pornography Act, 2014.

ACTION TAKEN

The Trafficking in persons Act 2019 is being implemented in accordance with the Law.

The Anti-pornography Act 2014 was a subject of the Constitutional petition where the court found Section 1 (2) on the definition of Pornography unconstitutional. An appeal against this decision has been filed.

Therefore, the implementation of the Act has been made difficult.

RESOLUTION 2

The Attorney General to present to Parliament the status of the implementation of the Penal Code Act intended to protect both the girls and boy-child against female genital mutilation, rape, defilement, child marriage and all other forms of child abuse.

ACTION TAKEN

The very nature of the Penal Code Act is to provide offences and punishment for those offences. Therefore, successful implementation of the Penal Code requires securing convictions on the offences committed.

The table below shows the statistics on the offenses that have been reported and how they have been handled to conviction

Offence /Case Process	Newly Registered Cases Files	Gender Disaggregation				Total Cases Files	Case Stage	Cases Concluded with Verdicts Disaggregated by Gender																	
		Adults		Juveniles				Verdicts by Gender																	
		Males	Females	Boys	Girls			Male	Female	Convicted	Acquitted	Withdrawn	Dismissed												
Rape	1036	1130	4	38	0	2	1	176	10	302	323	2	43	49	6	1	0	14	0	9	0	0	1	209	
Agg't Defilement	2995	3498	41	308	7	0	0	695	36	712	655	10	17	224	3	9	8	0	15	1	31	1	3	0	383
Simple Defilement	6965	6435	107	528	170	9	1	206	8	1644	68	89	1302	9	3	19	2	5	3	517	3	1	2	1392	

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to immediately stop cattle rustling and restore peace, security and stability in the subregions of Teso, Lango, Acholi, Karamoja, Bugisu and Sebei.

RESOLUTION 3

Government verifies and pays compensation to the people who have lost lives, livestock and property to the cattle rustlers.

ACTION TAKEN

Government commenced compensation for the cattle lost in Acholi, Lango and Teso sub regions. To date 17,687 claimants have been paid a total of UGX 49,345,708,595 with unspent 654,291,405 because of bounced payments as shown below

The Table below shows the Amounts paid to War debt claimants

ACHOLI SUB REGION		
No.	District/City	Actual Paid
1	Amuru	1,749,187,931
2	Kitgum	1,655,475,367
3	Nwoya	850,839,456
4	Pader	2,141,977,455
5	Gulu	1,512,037,931
6	Lamwo	2,896,707,980
7	Agago	1,129,037,834
8	Omoro	0
	Total	11,935,263,954

LANGO SUB REGION

No.	District/City	Actual Paid
1	Alebtong	1,474,237,931
2	Amolatar	743,400,000
3	Apac	1,450,050,000
4	Dokolo	1,968,750,000
5	Kole	1,540,350,000
6A	Lira	2,002,350,000
6B	Lira City	1,456,387,931
7	Otuke	3,145,800,000
8	Oyam	3,278,137,931
9	Kwania	1,419,600,000
	Total	18,479,063,793

TESO SUB REGION		
No.	District/City	Actual Paid
1	Amuria	1,573,987,931
2	Bukedea	2,488,500,000
3	Kaberaido	1,346,522,452
4	Katakwi	1,575,037,931
5	Kumi	0
6	Ngora	1,690,193,925
7	Pallisa	1,595,246,178
8	Serere	2,364,928,638
9	Soroti	1,593,937,931
10	Butebo	1,606,537,931
11	Kalaki	1,617,000,000
12	Kapelebyong	1,479,487,931
	Total	18,931,380,848

RESOLUTION 4

In accordance with Article 79 of our Constitution, a law be enacted to adequately and specifically criminalise, penalise and make raiding a very expensive and consequential venture to all its perpetrators and abettors.

ACTION TAKEN

Government is currently reviewing the Penal Code Act and, therefore, there is an opportunity to study the possibility of introducing offences related to cattle rustling in the Penal Code Act.

2.2 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

Government, in a measure to deter raids and ease the monitoring, tracking and recovery of any raided or stolen livestock urgently implements through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) a program to brand tag all livestock in Teso, Lango, Sebei, Bugisu and Karamoja Sub-regions

ACTION TAKEN

- MAAIF in collaboration with Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity Studies has developed a Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) to address cattle rustling, theft and animal health. The system is based on Radio Frequency Intermittent Device (RFID) Technology enabled by satellite. It involves tagging the livestock with a paired ear-tag (ordinary and electronic tag) in which a chip is embedded.

The chip bears all the information about the animal (biodata, ownership, and location).

Attributes of the system

- The chip enables identifying the individual animal and this information can be read by hand-held electronic reader and is also reflected at the District and central servers.
- It enables real-time tracking of the movement of the livestock. It also enables investigation and tracing the livestock wherever they are in case of being rustled or stolen. The chip also provides information on livestock

population, and livestock offtake / sale / change of hands. It therefore gives a trends analysis.

- The system enables authorities to trace origins of specific animal diseases by the trace-back of the source animals thereby being able to control disease from source and prevent further spread.

Progress / Time-frames

- The LITS software and hardware requirements have been developed / determined
- A plan and budget for piloting and later implementing the system is being developed for submission to Cabinet and Parliament for consideration.
- The system is planned to be implemented starting July 2023.

Government is formulating a law on Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS) that will make it mandatory for all livestock to be registered, tagged and reflected on a national livestock database.

Progress / Time-frames

- Principles for the LITS Bill are being developed for consideration by Cabinet

2.3 MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS FOR PROMOTING ROAD SAFETY IN UGANDA

Government increases funding for the road safety programmes and activities, specifically the Department of Transport Regulation and Safety in the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Directorate of Traffic and Road Safety in the Uganda Police Force for human resource and equipment.

ACTION TAKEN

The Department of Transport Regulation and Safety in the Ministry of Works and Transport is responsible for the regulation and promotion of effective, safe and efficient road transport services.

The Ministry is working together with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to identify additional funding of UGX. 20 billion per year for a period of 5 years for road safety programmes and activities.

The Ministry has finalised a Multi-Agency National Road Safety Action Plan 2021/22 - 2025/26 which is aligned with the Global Plan. The Plan will run for five years and will be used in mobilizing funds from both the Consolidated Fund and the Donor Community.

The Ministry of Works and Transport considers reducing the speed limit for urban areas, highly built up areas and school zones from 50KPH to 30KPH.

ACTION TAKEN

After the enactment of the Road Act 2019 the global action plan came in 2020 which necessitated the change of the speed limit from 50 to 30kphr. We commenced the domestication of this action plan but were interrupted by the Covid-19 restrictions. We have however commenced the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) to inform the formulation of the regulation by January 2023.

The Ministry of Works and Transport reduces the blood alcohol content (BAC) from the current 0.08 grams per 100 milligrams to 0.05 grams per 100 milligrams for general drivers and 0.02 grams per 100 milligrams for young and novice drivers and commercial drivers.

ACTION TAKEN

Regulations have been reviewed reducing the BAC from 0.08 grams per 100 milligrams to 0.05 grams per 100 milligrams for general drivers in accordance with the World Health Organization. This has been incorporated into the regulations.

The regulations also provide for 0.02 grams per 100 milligrams for commercial drivers. However, the restriction of 0.02 grams per 100 milligrams was rejected for novice drivers due to issues of practicability of enforcing it and discrimination.

Stakeholder consultations and validation workshops were held and this position was agreed upon. The draft regulations were submitted to Solicitor General for clearance.

The Ministry of Works and Transport in liaison with other relevant agencies such as Uganda National Bureau of Standards to consider setting acceptable standards for helmets, seat belts and child restraints to be allowed on the market.

ACTION TAKEN

The standard on helmet and seat belts is already in use. The Ministry of Works and Transport together with UNBS and other stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations are reviewing the standards on helmets and seat belts. The Ministry is also developing the standard on child restraints.

Regulations on seat belts were reviewed to include child restraints and are among the regulations have been submitted to the Solicitor General for clearance.

The Ministry of Works and Transport, Ministry of Health and Uganda Police Force should work concertedly to improve the collection and management of road crash data.

ACTION TAKEN

A Road Safety Performance Review was conducted in 2018 supported by the UN Special Envoy for Road Safety and recommendations made for proper and effective collection and management of road crash data.

The terms of reference for consultancy services for the completion of the development and operationalization of the National Road Crash Database were finalized in consultation with key stakeholders including Uganda National Roads Authority, Ministry of Health, Uganda Police Force and Kampala Capital City Authority.

The process of procuring the consultant is ongoing.

Government strengthens measures to curb corruption between traffic offenders and the law enforcers on the road.

ACTION TAKEN

- We are continuing to prosecute the culprits
 - We are working with the anticorruption agencies to sensitize the public not to bribe
 - Police is procuring body cameras
 - Cameras on the road have assisted us in identifying the culprits in addition to being a deterrent
- i. UNRA conducts Road Safety Audits for all new roads at the preliminary design phase, detailed design phase, construction phase and pre-opening phase. A road safety audit is a pro-active measure to road safety; it follows the principle that prevention is better than cure. The Road Safety Audit ensures that the designs provide the following: the safety needs for all road users especially the vulnerable users such as pedestrians, visually and mobility impaired; Influence the driver's choice of speed; that there are no nasty surprises; Guide, inform and warn the driver about the road ahead, consistency in signs and design elements, control the driver's passage through conflict points and other difficult sections and should forgive the driver's mistakes or inappropriate behaviour.

- ii. UNRA is working with the Ministry of Works and transport to provide alternative materials for traffic signs such as fibre glass for sign plates.

This has been motivated by the fact that there is rampant vandalism of the current steel and aluminium material since they are attractive to scrap dealers, leaving motorists without proper guidance, warning of hazards and information to navigate the road safely.

2.4 MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE

Resolution of Parliament to highlight the decline in ethical and moral values in the country and propose solutions for reversing the destructive decline.

Urges Government to rein in on the media, namely, television, radio, print news, which have become some of the biggest avenues and disseminators of immorality and fake news.

ACTION TAKEN

Enforcement of the media standards is undertaken by our Ministry through our delegated agencies to wit; the Media Council and Uganda Communication Commission

We continue to engage with the media houses whenever a complaint is raised and with the enactment of the computer misuse Act, the media practitioners who are were outside the ambit of the existing Law have now been addressed and increase our ability to bring them to book.

2.5 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS

TITLE.

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to immediately stop cattle rustling and restore peace, security and stability in the subregions of Teso, Lango, Acholi, Karamoja, Bugisu and Sebei

RESOLUTION 1

Government, in accordance with Articles 26, 209, 212 and 222 of the Constitution of Uganda urgently and adequately deploys security forces in Karamoja and districts bordering it from the subregions of Teso, Lango, Acholi, Bugisu and Sebei with adequate logistical, material and financial resources to stop cattle rustling that is illegally depriving people of their right to own property and subjecting people to torture, cruel and inhumane treatment and thereby restore peace and security.

ACTION TAKEN

- a) The UPDF has made commensurately robust deployment by enhancing troop levels. These have been further boosted by Local Defense personnel from various training wings of the UPDF. With these enhancements, each district in Karamoja has a force for zonal security supported by intelligence.
- b) In the neighbouring subregions, UPDF has enhanced troop levels in Kitgum, Agago, Abim, Otuke, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Kumi, Bulambuli, Kween, and Bukwo, to prevent and curtail incursions by cattle rustlers in the respective districts.
- c) While recognising that adequate security calls for the participation of the public as well as local leaders, we

have integrated into our operation the anti-cattle rustling mobilisation and sensitization.

Important to note, H.E. The President has traversed the subregions leading the mindset change effort by encouraging the population to engage in other productive activities such as goat keeping, etc.

RESOLUTION 2

Government, in accordance with Article 17(b-d) of the Constitution reinstates the LDFs from the affected districts as a permanent auxiliary force under the command and coordination of the UPDF with improved management and remuneration – trained, armed and deployed within their villages/communities – to support and work with the UPDF and Uganda Police Force (UPF) in deterring raids, protecting lives and property, plus tracking and recovering of stolen animals from the armed raiders.

ACTION TAKEN

With regard to reinstatement of LDFs, between April and June 2022, UPDF deliberately trained and passed out 11,440 LDFs who are deployed in Karamoja and the neighbouring affected districts.

RESOLUTION 3

Government takes steps to immediately remove all armed herdsmen moving within the subregions of Teso, Lango, Acholi, Bugisu, Sebei and Karamoja including all the armed Turkana, Toposa and the Pokot.

ACTION TAKEN

With the re-launch of the 'Usalama kwa wote' operations in July 2021, 631 guns were recovered by May 2022.

RESOLUTION 4

Government with immediate effect and in accordance with Article 22 of the Constitution relaunched and accelerates a comprehensive and sustained disarmament process in the Karamoja Subregion to remove all illegal guns from civilians and raiders.

ACTION TAKEN

'Usalama kwa wote' operations were relaunched in July 2021 and is still ongoing.

RESOLUTION 5

Government, within six months from the date of this resolution and in accordance with Article 22 of the Constitution, implements a mechanism to prevent the reacquisition and the proliferation of illegal guns within Karamoja Subregion and from the neighbouring countries.

ACTION TAKEN

On 6th April 2022, the Governments of Uganda and Kenya signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in defence and security, particularly, on combating cross-border animal rustling, small arms proliferation, as well as other transnational crimes.

UPDF in collaboration with the local leadership and their counterparts, especially across in Kenya, established a joint mechanism for prevention and curtailing arms proliferation. These include the formation of Joint Peace Committees (JPCs) to provide early warning and resolve any emerging and existential cross-border security issues.

In addition, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) maintain Liaison Officers on both sides of the border. UPDF has deployed three officers in Lokichokio (Turkana County), Kacheliba (West Pokot County)

and Kapsokwany (Bungoma County) in Kenya: While KDF officers are in Moroto, Amudat and Tororo, respectively. Similar initiatives are in the offing with the Government of South Sudan.

2.6 MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF PARLIAMENT

This is a report on actions taken in line with the resolutions of Parliament for the period May 2021 to May 2022.

Issue A: Government to provide free drugs to Ugandans suffering from Diabetes and High Blood Pressure.

Parliament made three (3) resolutions on the above subject matter, namely:

- 1. Free screening and treatment for retinopathy (which causes blindness), free blood lipid control (to regulate cholesterol levels), and provides screening for early signs of diabetes related kidney disease and treatment.**
- 2. Free drugs to Ugandans suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure.**
- 3. Prioritize investments in Non-Communicable Disease to provide free drugs to Ugandans suffering from such diseases and conduct extensive research so as to provide local solutions to their prevalence.**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

According to the Uganda 2014 STEP Survey, 25% of Adult Ugandans were found to have Hypertension and 4% had Diabetes, two of the commonest Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Uganda. Of the people found with Hypertension, 75% did not know their Hypertensive status and therefore were not on treatment. Diabetes and Hypertension, when not controlled can damage the Retina of

the eyes, a condition called Retinopathy that may lead to blindness if not treated in time.

The Ministry of Health has put in place strategies to control NCDs including Hypertension and Diabetes e.g Early screening, control of risk factors including regular physical exercises, improvement of diet, control of alcohol and prevention of tobacco use among others. In addition, the Ministry provides free medicines according to level of care starting from HC III to National Referral Hospitals (NRH). At NRHs and Regional Referral Hospitals, there are dedicated Specialized Clinics for the management of NCDs and their complications.

Government continues to increase awareness and sensitization on lifestyle modifications as the best option for the prevention and control of retinopathy related to diabetes and high blood pressure.

Free screening and treatment for retinopathy (which causes blindness), free blood lipid control (to regulate cholesterol levels), and provides screening for early signs of diabetes related kidney disease and treatment.

ACTION TAKEN

- i. The screening for Diabetes and high blood pressure related Retinopathy is a service offered **free of charge** by Ophthalmologists and Ophthalmic Clinical Officers in all Public Health Facilities from HC IVs and above. However, the emphasis of Ministry of Health is primary prevention of Diabetes and Hypertension and early treatment to prevent complications like Retinopathy.

When Retinopathy has already occurred, treatment is by Surgical intervention. This is a specialized treatment

only offered by ophthalmologists at Mulago National Referral Hospital, Mengo Hospital and Ruharo Hospital in Mbarara. This is because it requires specialized equipment and specialist in this area. In addition, this service is offered in some private facilities (Agarwal, ASG Hospital)

To increase access to these services, the Ministry of Health Eye Care Plan 2020-2025 proposes to extend these services to all Regional Referral Hospitals through equipping, training and recruitment of specialists. Plans are underway to procure the much-needed equipment and train at least 2 people per year. This has been hampered by unavailability of resources.

- ii. Blood Cholesterol (Lipids) is one of the body nutrients. However, when in excess, Cholesterol damages and blocks blood vessels. Given that monitoring cholesterol levels is an important component for patients on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) for HIV, this service is available from HC 4 and above as part of ART care across the Country. The services are free of charge in the public health facilities.

Although Government has built adequate capacity at National, Regional Referral Hospitals (RRHs) and District levels to conduct these tests, the main bottlenecks remain the shortage of reagents and laboratory supplies due to limited funding.

To address these gaps, we appeal to Parliament to increase the budget allocation for laboratory commodities to match the growing demands due to chronic diseases. (Total quantified laboratory requirement is 960billion as per MTEF. The total provided by GOU and Partners is 540b leaving a gap of

320b). Government continues to increase this funding in a phased manner.

The mainstay in the management of high blood cholesterol levels is dietary modifications. When this fails, then use of lipid lowering medicines (Rubostatin and Artovastatin) is advised. These are offered free of charge at the RRHs.

- iii. The screening for early signs of diabetes-related kidney diseases is available free of charge in all RRHs, General Hospitals and HC IV. The screening tests that are done include; the urine dipsticks which is available up to HC IIIs. Screening for Serum Creatinine and Proteinuria are available from the level of General Hospitals and above; while Serum micro-albuminuria, the gold standard test done at NRHs and RRHs.

The tests above may not be carried out routinely at all levels as required because of inadequate staffing and funding for reagents and supplies.

To address this challenge, Government started the process of revising the staff structures last Financial Year. To-date, the structures for the specialized, National Referral, Regional Referral and General Hospitals have been revised and submitted to Ministry of Public Service. The Ministries of Health and Public Service will conclude the structures of lower health facilities (HCIV, HC III and DHOs) within the coming weeks.

Free drugs to Ugandans suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure

Government, through the National Medical Stores (NMS), procures and supplies medicines for management of all conditions, including diabetes and high blood pressure free of charge to all public facilities. Funding for NCDs started off as a budget line catering for the supply of insulin free to all public hospitals in FY 2010/11 with an initial allocation of UGX 1billion. This was later incorporated into the wider NCD and Palliation budget line with the sub-components of; hypertension, diabetes, sickle cell disease, mental health and oral morphine for palliation.

The current funding for FY 2022/23 for NCDs is UGX 3billion as indicated in the table below.

S.No	NCD	Allocation (millions UGX)
1	Hypertension	607.8
2	Diabetes	622.6
3	Mental Health	472.0
4	Sickle Cell Disease	330.6
5	Oral Mophine	979.6
GRAND TOTAL		3,012.6

Public health facilities place their orders to NMS based on their procurement plans, guided by available funds, their needs and priority disease conditions. This budget has been

ring-fencing specifically for NCDs. Government is committed to increasing this funding as resources become available.

Prioritize investments in Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs) to provide free drugs to Ugandans suffering from such diseases and conduct extensive research so as to provide local solutions to their prevalence

Government is cognizant of the increasing burdens and mortality related to NCDs, and has undertaken the following steps to address the problem:

- i. Development of the NCD and Mental health investment cases, a resource mobilisation tool, which highlights priority areas of investments for the government and development partners;
- ii. Development of the national NCD demand forecasting tool for quantification of the medicines for managing high blood pressure and diabetes;
- iii. Revision of the Essential Medicines and Supplies Lists to include newer NCD commodities and medicines which are more effective and with less side effects.
- iv. Ministry of Health has integrated NCD care with HIV programs to maximize use of resources and benefits to patients living in chronic care.

All Government policies, strategies and guidelines are evidence driven and supported by Operational Research and clinical trials done in collaboration with Academia and Research Institutions.

Issue B: Resolution of Parliament urging Government to strengthen efforts to prevent, control and eliminate transmission of Malaria in Uganda.

Parliament made four (4) resolutions on the above subject matter, namely:

- 1. Urges government to increase the health sector budget for prevention, control and elimination of malaria in a predictable manner over the medium term.**
- 2. Government tracks all Malaria Support and Presidential Pledges for Malaria Control in Uganda.**
- 3. Government through the Ministry of Health, adapts and spearheads a clear multisectoral and relevant stakeholder coordinated mechanism to fight against malaria in Uganda.**
- 4. Government scales up malaria preventive Programmes and innovations including promotion of awareness among the malaria burdened areas.**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Malaria remains a serious public health problem in Uganda, accounting for 4% of the global malaria cases. Malaria is endemic in nearly all of Uganda where it is responsible for 30-50% of outpatient visits, 15-20% of hospital admissions and up to 20% of inpatient deaths. Despite this heavy burden, significant progress has been made over the recent past due to the substantial investment in malaria control. Reported malaria cases declined nearly 45% from about 16,000,000 in 2013 to 8,820,000 in 2016 and about 3,000,000 cases in 2019. The parasite prevalence in children

<5-years reduced from 42% in 2009 to 19% in 2014 and 9% in 2019 according to the Malaria Indicator Surveys. These gains are however fragile as evidenced by malaria resurgence in 2016, especially in Northern Uganda and in 2022 in Karamoja, Busoga and West Nile Regions.

Urges Government to increase the health sector budget for prevention, control and elimination of Malaria in a predictable manner over the medium term.

ACTION TAKEN

The Uganda Malaria Reduction and Elimination strategic plan budget guides funding needs and interventions over the next five (5) year period 2020 – 2025. The Medium - Term Expenditure Framework – MTEF (FY 2024/2025), projection is \$753m, of which the commitment by partners and GOU is \$386m, leaving a funding gap of \$367m. This includes funding for preventive services (LLINs, IRS, Larviciding and Behavioural Change Communication), diagnostics (RDTs, Lab reagents, microscopes), and Treat and Track (medicines and surveillance).

The budget estimate for 2022/2023 is \$319m, of which \$212m has been secured from GOU and Development Partners leaving a gap of \$107M. The rest of the budget detail for the MTEF is in the table below.

Table 2: Malaria funding projections for the medium term expenditure framework 2022-2025

Year	Budget need	Funding commitment	Gap
2022/2023	\$319m	\$212m	\$107m
2023/2024	\$214m	\$81m	\$133m
2024/2025	\$220m	\$93m	\$127m
Total	\$753m	\$386m	\$367m

Government tracks all Malaria Support and Presidential Pledges for Malaria Control in Uganda.

ACTION TAKEN

H.E the President has been very passionate and committed to Malaria control in Uganda since the NRM government came to power. In 1989, H E directed the establishment of the Malaria Control Program as a specialised and dedicated unit to focus on Malaria. The Malaria program has grown over the years from a unit to section and now a fully-fledged division.

The President also directed the formation of a Malaria Research Center (2006) and appointed a Presidential Advisor on Malaria Control (Prof. Mukwaya), which resulted in evidence creation that informed policy and introduction of more effective tools.

In 2004, H E the President attracted CIPLA Quality Chemicals to Uganda which commenced production of antimalarial and HIV medicines in 2007 with a capacity of 6 million pills daily.

In 2009, H E directed introduction of indoor residual spraying (IRS) using Government of Uganda funds. Implementation began in Kumi and Ngora districts with a budget line of one billion. IRS has now been expanded to cover West Nile, Northern and Eastern Uganda.

Furthermore, in 2009, H E directed the introduction of larviciding. Research in this intervention was undertaken and larviciding is now being implemented in 5 districts with a budget of one billion annually.

In 2009, H E the President created the State House Monitoring Unit to track availability of antimalarial drugs and follow up on stock outs and theft. In this regard, a software system, MTrack was created and is in use to track Malaria cases and medicine stocks in the health facilities.

In 2018, H E the President launched the Uganda Parliamentary Forum and Mass Action Against Malaria.

The Ministry in collaboration with Private sector formed the Malaria Free Uganda.

The Malaria program has three main sources of funding; Government of Uganda, the Global Fund (GF) and USAIDS' President's Malaria initiative (USAID PMI.)

USAID PMI over the past ten years has made available about 31 million dollars annually; with about \$17m going to IRS and the \$14M is used to purchase malaria medicines, test kits and mosquito nets for faithbased health facilities by implementing partners.

The global fund is our biggest funder providing funds through 3 year grants called new funding model, NFM.

Year	Funding commitment (\$M)
2015 - 2017	143.7
2018 - 2020	270
2021 - 2023	270
Total	683.7

A total of 85% of this funding remains with Global Fund to supply antimalarial, test kits, mosquito nets and chemicals for IRS while 15% goes to the Ministry of Health to support operations including handling costs of National Medical Stores and regulation function of National Drugs Authority.

The government of Uganda provides UGX 12 billion annually (UGX 10 billion for purchase of antimalarials and UGX 2 billion supports larviciding and IRS).

Other Malaria funding agencies include; Against Malaria Foundation which provides mosquito nets worth USD 35 million dollars every 3 years.

The UK government used to provide 10 million pounds annually (2014 – 2020) to support IRS and human resource for IRS. However, this stopped two years ago with Brexit.

UNICEF supports Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) of Malaria, Pneumonia and Diarrhea to the tune of 1 million dollars annually. This is done through provision of test kits, tools and support to VHTs in 69 districts.

The US National Institute of Health and the GATES Foundation supports research through Universities and research institutions.

Government through the Ministry of Health, adapts and spearheads a clear multisectoral and relevant stakeholder coordinated mechanism to fight against malaria in Uganda.

ACTION TAKEN

Government employs a multisectoral approach in the fight against Malaria. The Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Academia and Development Partners play crucial roles in prevention and management of Malaria. The MOH coordinates all these efforts as highlighted below;

The MOH implements several interventions in close collaboration with other Stakeholders as shown by examples below

- Distribution of mosquito nets (LLINs), Indoor Residual Spraying of Mosquitoes (IRS) and Larviciding of mosquito breeding sites - CSOs, Private Sector and Parliament
- Community diagnosis and treatment of Malaria by working – Government, Partners and VHTs
- Increasing access to Malaria treatment through subsidized drugs – Government and Private Sector
- Support supervision and training – Government and Partners
- Research – Academia, Partners and Government

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MOFPED), through its Budget Call Circulars (BCC) of 2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 FYs directed all MDAs to include Malaria control activities as a cross cutting issue in all their budgets. MOFPED is putting in place mechanisms to monitor compliance to this directive.

The Parliament of Uganda through the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Malaria (UPFM) undertakes high level national and international advocacy. Furthermore,

Parliament approved the Public Health Act amendments Bill which provides for mandatory IRS for Hotels, Schools, Hospitals, Prisons and Barracks.

The Prime Minister chairs the Uganda Malaria Multisectoral Framework where the Malaria response is planned for.

The Ministry of Education and Sports, through its new Curriculum has included the Mass Action Against Malaria (MAAM) as a learning guide. Furthermore, Schools have included Malaria control messages in Music Dance and Drama competitions.

The Ministry of Local Government supports development and enforcement of by-laws and ordinances geared towards elimination of Malaria. e.g. ensuring the filling up of ditches created through Brick making, Roads and housing Construction works, drainage channels and culverts, irrigation schemes that are responsible for mosquito breeding.

The MOH in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology are supporting research on Mosquito repellents manufactured from locally available plants.

The MOH in collaboration with the Private Sector have set up a Malaria Free Uganda, CSO to leverage funding through corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Government scales up malaria preventive Programmes and innovations including promotion of awareness among the malaria burdened areas.

ACTION TAKEN

Government has undertaken a number of interventions to scale up Malaria prevention programs and innovations to promote awareness among the Malaria burdened areas

- a) Seasonal Mass Drug Administration of Malaria among Children under five (5) years. This strategy called ‘Seasonal Malaria ChemoPrevention’ and has just been completed in Karamoja Region.
- b) Indoor residual spraying in Northern, Eastern and West Nile parts of Uganda. Spraying in Eastern Uganda was completed in April 2022, and is currently ongoing in the other parts of West Nile and parts of Northern Region.
- c) Mass Distribution of LLINs takes place every 3 years since 2013. The next is planned for 2023.
- d) Provision of mosquito nets to all Children treated for severe Malaria and pregnant women in Antenatal facilities
- e) Annual Commemoration World Malaria Week to increase advocacy
- f) Continuous engagement of cultural, religious and political leaders to promote prevention
- g) Mass media messages on radio, print, TV and social media
- h) Door-to-door sensitization by Village Health Teams

2.7 MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Colleagues, the following is the progress made in implementing the recommendations of Parliament on Soroti Fruits Factory Limited.

Committee Recommendations and Actions Taken

1. Issue of UGX 200,000 that was charged on farmers for the supply of a pump by the cooperative

That Teso Farmers' Cooperative Union (TEFCU) refunds, to all the farmers, the money amounting to UGX 200,000 that was charged per pump on all the concerned farmers.

ACTION TAKEN

The Cooperative has agreed to refund the money in a phased manner beginning with this fruit season.

2. Supply of fruits

The supply of fruits be opened up to other organized farmer groups and individuals to eliminate the monopoly of TEFCU.

ACTION TAKEN

The supply of fruits has been opened up to all organized farmer groups in Teso region and other neighbouring districts. The purchase of fruits by the factory is at market price.

Currently, TEFCU supplies 20% and other organized farmer groups 80% of the required quantities.

3. Constitution of the board of Teso Fruit Factory

A fully constituted Board of 5 members be appointed with immediate effect as opposed to the current interim board consisting of 3 members who have served over 2 years on interim basis.

ACTION TAKEN

UDC board approved five (5) new nominated UDC representatives to the Soroti Fruits Limited (SOFTE) board. These await the Annual General meeting (AGM) scheduled December 2022 for approval by the shareholders of SOFTE in line with good corporate governance requirements.

4. Investigating the conduct of the CEO

The IGG should investigate the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (Mr. Ndawula Douglas) and the entire management of SOFTE for possible inflation of the cost of operations and other related expenditures in FY 2020/21.

ACTION TAKEN

The CEO (Mr. Ndawula Douglas) has since stepped down from the company. We await for the IGG to start the investigations.

5. Securing a weighbridge for the factory

Government should immediately avail the factory with funds to purchase a weighbridge.

ACTION TAKEN

Government through a supplementary provided funds for the weigh bridge and this has been procured and installed at the factory with a capacity of 100 tons. The certification process of the weigh bridge is being concluded by UNBS.

6. Starting an Orange Processing Line

Government should provide the factory with funds to start the processing of oranges which are predominantly grown by farmers in the Teso sub-region.

ACTION TAKEN

Cabinet has recently approved the capitalisation of UDC from UGX 500bn to UGX5 trillion and a request has been submitted to

MFPEd for more funding of UDC. The orange processing line is part of the priorities if the financing comes available.

7. Terminating the contract between UDC and TEFCU

UDC should terminate the contract between UDC and TEFCU where a shareholder gifted another shareholder with a contract to monopolize and supply fruits.

ACTION TAKEN

This is of no consequence because there is no monopoly by TEFCU whose contribution is 20% of the required supplies.

8. Separation of powers between UDC and TEFCU

The enforcement of separation of power so that there is a clear distinction between the management of UDC and TEFCU in order to foster good corporate governance as stated in the shareholder agreement.

ACTION TAKEN

This has been fully achieved with the appointment of the new board members and management.

9. Forensic audit on execution of some contracts

A forensic audit should be instituted to interrogate the management on how they executed the contracts for construction of perimeter wall and road works, and how they executed services and supplies to SOFTE.

ACTION TAKEN

The Auditor General is currently undertaking the audit and we are waiting for his Report to take action.

10. Distributing shares to farmer cooperatives

The 20% shares in SOFTE allegedly owned by TEFCU be opened up to other farmer cooperatives and unions in Teso sub-region for subscription and acquisition of interest in the company.

ACTION TAKEN

A new board will advise on the future structuring of the investment and shareholding.

11. Contract reviews and performances for staff

All the staff starting with the CEO should have their contracts reviewed and given performance contracts, so as to attain the strategic objectives of the establishment.

ACTION TAKEN

Soroti Fruits Limited has developed a strategic plan where Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and targets have been set.

All staff KPIs are being reviewed including vacant positions that are to be filled.

12. Investigating the Project manager for the Perimeter wall and road

The project manager (Masiko Jude Benda) in charge of the contract for completion of a perimeter wall and construction of marram road be investigated with a view of prosecution on allegation of causing financial loss.

ACTION TAKEN

Mr. Masiko Jude is no longer an employee of UDC since 2016. IGG is following up the matter of allegation of causing financial loss.

13. Value for money audit on the factory

The Auditor General should carry out a value for money audit into the management of Soroti Fruits Factory and report back to Parliament.

ACTION TAKEN

The annual audit is currently on-going and Auditor General will report to the Parliament accordingly.

14. Shareholders should meet their contributions

In order to grow the Company and ensure that Soroti Fruits factory meets the demand of the farmers; all the shareholders should make their fair contribution towards the capitalization and administration costs of the Company.

ACTION TAKEN

Capital restructuring of SOFTE has been approved by UDC board. Mobilisation for more capitalization is being done by the shareholders.

15. Incorporating corporate governance in the running of the factory affairs

UDC, being the majority shareholder in Soroti Fruits Limited should adopt corporate governance in the management of the Company so as to ensure that Government Commercial interests in the Company are secured.

ACTION TAKEN

This has been achieved with the appointment of the new SOFTE board.

16. Securing a fully mechanised packaging line

SOFTE should be given funds to procure a fully mechanized packaging line to improve efficiency and effectiveness of production.

ACTION TAKEN

SOFTE through a supplementary budget was given funds amounting to UGX 5.5b of which UGX 5.2 was to cater for the packaging line. The process of procurement to acquire a new line is ongoing. In addition, more land has been acquired from Uganda Investment Authority in the Soroti Industrial and Business Park for the expansion plan.

17. Officers to step down for investigation

The officers that are said to have misappropriated the funds that were appropriated and invested by UDC in the Soroti Fruit Factory step aside; as investigations are carried out, and if they are found not guilty, they can be re-instated to their offices.

ACTION TAKEN

Mr. Masiko Jude is no longer an employee of UDC since 2016 and CEO of SOFTE (Ndawula Douglas) stepped down.

2.8 OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF PARLIAMENT

TITLE

Resolution of Parliament to highlight the decline in Ethical and moral values in the country and propose solutions for reversing the destructive decline

Urges Government to take urgent practical steps to address the increased decline of the moral and ethical values in order to place Uganda on a pedestal of moral stability, peace, security, unity as well as prosperity

ACTION TAKEN

1. THE NATIONAL ETHICAL VAUES POLICY

His Excellency the President launched the National Ethical Values Policy in October 2013. The objective was to integrate and mainstream ethical values in all social-economic and development activities. The ten National Ethical Values are:

- i) Respect for humanity and environment
- ii) Honesty, uphold and defend the truth at all times
- iii) Justice and fairness in dealing with others
- iv) Hard work and self-reliance
- v) Integrity, moral uprightness and soundness of character
- vi) Creativeness and innovativeness
- vii) Social responsibility
- viii) Social harmony
- ix) National Unity
- x) National consciousness and Patriotism.

The Directorate for Ethics and Integrity (DEI) is disseminating the National Ethical Values countrywide, in Institutions of Learning, MDAs and Local Governments. DEI partnered with the Ministry of Education & Sports and the National Curriculum Development Centre to incorporate the National Ethical Values into the Secondary School curriculum; and for the Senior Women and Senior Men Teachers to rebuild morals and ethical conduct in Primary Schools. DEI together with the Pornography Control Committee partnered with Cultural Institutions and Civil Society Organisations, to sensitise the youth about the dangers of promiscuity, pornography, alcoholism and drug abuse. We all need to work together to rebuild morals and ethical conduct in society.

Urges Government to wholeheartedly step up efforts to stop theft of public resources, apprehend and punish lawbreakers as well as oppose emergency of obnoxious practices such as homosexuality.

ACTION TAKEN

THE ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION POLICY

His Excellency the President launched the Zero Tolerance to Corruption Policy on 4th December 2019. One of its objectives is to inculcate a culture of integrity, accountability and patriotism at all levels of society. Government cannot achieve this alone. The strategy is to strengthen partnerships, synergies and formal coordination between Government and non-state actors, which are Religious and Faith Organisations, Civil Society, Development Partners, Cultural Institutions, the Private Sector and Media Institutions, for joint action against corruption and moral

decadence. A Steering Committee was constituted consisting of the above categories of stakeholders, to ensure effective Policy implementation. It is chaired by Bishop Joshua Lwere, a member of the Council of Presidents to the Inter Religious Council of Uganda. The Religious Institutions have structures all over the country right from village level to national level, and have expressed commitment to this cause. From the pulpit, they communicate to millions of Ugandans every week. Government should in turn commit finances, so that this partnership is effective in fighting corruption and moral decadence.

Government put in place a strong legal and institutional framework to combat corruption and theft of public resources. Laws such as the Inspectorate of Government Act 2002, the Leadership Code Act 2002 and the Anti-Corruption Act 2009 were enacted; and Institutions such as the Inspectorate of Government, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the Auditor General and CID were established to enforce those laws. However, the public has neglected its constitutional duty to expose and combat corruption. Corruption is so entrenched in society to the extent that corrupt individuals with ill-gotten wealth are cherished and recognised as hard working and successful persons in society.

One of the strategies that Steering Committee for the Zero Tolerance to Corruption Policy has embarked on is to sensitise and empower the citizens to monitor service delivery, and to demand for accountability from duty bearers. This Strategy for the promotion of social accountability is still in its infancy, and its success requires support from Government and Development Partners.

Regarding the obnoxious practices such as homosexuality, members are aware that the Anti-Homosexuality Act which had been enacted by Parliament in December 2013 was nullified by the Constitutional Court, on the grounds that it had been passed with the necessary quorum as required by law. However, it is important to note that Article 31(2) of the Constitution prohibits marriages between people of the same sex, and section 145(a) of the Penal Code Act makes it an offence for any person to have carnal knowledge against another person against the order of nature.

It is a generally accepted fact that prevention is better than cure. It is more effective for us to prevent those offensive practices other than handling them post-mortem. It is our duty as parents to counsel our children against such practices. As the Bible says in the Book of Proverbs Chapter 22 verse 6,

“Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Let us as parents, play our role in preventing those offensive practices in our families and communities. That will be an effective way of opposing those practices.

Urges Government and religious institutions to set up peer review structures, mechanisms and departments to foster ethics and morality

ACTION TAKEN

The Directorate for Ethics and Integrity has, since 2016, been spearheading development of the Religious and Faith Organisations (RFO) Policy through a wide consultative process. The Policy seeks to address the problem of

manipulation and exploitation of Ugandans through misrepresentation of faith, and lack of transparency and accountability framework in some RFOs. The Policy Objectives are:

- i) Promote a culture of accountability among different RFO players in Uganda.
- ii) Provide a framework for the registration of all RFOs in Uganda.
- iii) Provide for legal, policy and procedural changes that will enable RFOs to contribute to National and District development in a harmonized manner.
- iv) Promote unity in diversity among RFOs in Uganda.

Unfortunately, the Countrywide consultative process was halted in 2020 due to measures put in place by the Ministry of Health to curb the spread of Covid-19, which suppressed workshops and seminars. The Directorate is resuming the consultative process in July this year, with a view to submitting the draft Policy to Cabinet for approval before the end of the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

One of the expected Policy outcomes is to strengthen mechanisms through which RFOs contribute to Uganda's development, and to strengthen mechanisms through which RFOs can partner with Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Policy will also enable peer review, and foster peaceful coexistence.

2.9 MINISTRY OF GENDER, LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to address challenges facing the Girl-child and children in general in the Digital era.

RESOLUTION 1

The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development working with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and National Guidance to establish mechanisms to eliminate online and technology-facilitated, gender-based violence and discrimination.

Background and Introduction to Actions Taken

In line with the vision of His Excellency, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Uganda and that of the NRM Government, to spur our Country into the digital era, Uganda's Vision 2040 underscores the potential of ICT towards accelerating development, creating jobs and increasing productivity. The Vision calls for a comprehensive skills development plan (in addition to investment in ICT infrastructure and innovation):

“Uganda shall develop digital literacy by adopting globally-benchmarked, industry-rated skills assessment, and training and certification standards. The curricula and learning content will also be progressively reviewed and developed in order to align what learners are taught and what industry globally requires. These efforts will be coupled with international industry collaboration in testing and certification standards. ICT shall be mainstreamed in education to take advantage of ICT-enabled learning and to prepare future generations of ICT-savvy workers, and ensure their effective utilization”

Through the current National Development Plan III 2020/21-2024/25, Government of Uganda has identified strategies to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Innovation as well as ICT. These include; prioritizing strengthening of the legal framework around innovation to increase technology adaption and diffusion, strengthen the framework and mechanisms for guiding and coordinating research, innovation, and development of appropriate technology. In particular, special focus will be given to ICT by:

- i. Establishing ICT incubation centers
- ii. Increasing internet access and bandwidth
- iii. Increasing investments in ICT services to increase coverage as well as usage, down to the household level for increased productivity, especially in agriculture and the informal sector.
- iv. The National ICT Policy 2014 aims at supporting the realization of the national vision. The broad policy objectives of the national ICT policy are to build a knowledge based human capital, promote innovation in economic and social systems and expand ICT infrastructure and ensure its integration throughout all sectors.

Other legal frameworks for ICT in Uganda include; The Computer Misuse Amendment Act, 2022, Electronic Signatures Act 2011, Electronic Transactions Act 201, Electronics Transaction Regulations, 2013 and Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019.

ACTIONS TAKEN

Government has supported global, regional and national legal and policy frameworks and programmes that cherish

and foster the realization of the four broad rights of a child: Survival, Development, Protection and Participation.

This is testified by Uganda's ratification of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990; The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995 - Chapter 34 on the Rights of a Child) and the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016 among many other legal and policy frameworks.

Over years, Government of Uganda under the stewardship of the MGLSD in collaboration with other MDAs and support of Development Partners have executed the following actions.

- a) The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development is the current Chair of the National Task for Online Child Exploitation and Abuse which consists of members from other line MDAs including CSOs such as MOIA, ODPP, MOFA, MOES, UCC, Cyber Unit-Police, Interpol, and MOJ&CA. There is a multi-sectoral working group promoting Online Child Protection that educates children and other users on how to engage the internet responsibly.
- b) The National Information Technology Authority is creating awareness on child online safety and has developed the National Information Security Strategy addressing security challenges for children seeking or sharing information online.
- c) The Computer Misuse Act, 2011 criminalizes child pornography, cyber stalking and electronic communication with the intent to disturb the peace, quiet or right to privacy of any child. The National Information Technology Authority (NITA) and the Internet Society of Uganda are disseminating the Online Safety Educational

Toolkit that helps children to recognise potential risks online and offline and to prevent and address intrusions or victimisation caused by online activities. The kit provides children with information on where to report incidences of child online sexual abuse and how to seek assistance.

d) The Government through MGLSD working with CSOs and development Partners such as UNICEF and UNFPA provides a 24/7 National Helpline service called SAUTI-116 which uses a toll-free line to enable the public report cases of child abuse from across the country. As of 2021, The helpline was upgraded to handle both Violence Against Children and Gender Based Violence (Adult cases). The Government of Uganda helpline has been very successful because of the enabling environment created by the Ugandan government. The following are some quick data sets as received by helpline:

- i. Most of the calls are made from the central region and child neglect tops the list of cases, followed by sexual and physical abuse.
- ii. Helpline receives on average 1775 calls per day and currently is handling both children (VAC) and Adults (GBV).
- iii. **32.2%** of callers are male vs. **62.5%** female
- iv. **20%** of callers are children reporting cases
- v. Child neglect is the most reported form of child rights violation (**36%**) followed by sexual abuse (**26.4%**) then physical abuse (**29.4%**) while **7.2%** others
- vi. **80%** of perpetrators are male vs. **20%** female
- vii. **61%** of VAC victims are girls vs. **39%** boys.
- viii. Order of most calls/cases by region is (Central, Western, Eastern and Northern)
- ix. Case closure rate is **40%** as per 2021 from **34%** in 2020

Summary of the work handled by the SAUTI-116 Helpline staff

Year	Calls received	Cases handled
2014	338,052	3820
2015	239,420	3008
2016	238,629	2878
2017	201,153	2844
2018	213,667	3055
2019	219,202	3037
2020	359,650	6061
2021	410,784	4133
2022 up to September	321,370	7332
Total	2,541,927	36,168

- e) The Ministry of Gender ,Labour and Social Development with support from UNICEF is developing Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) Chatbot project which is a well-researched solution that seeks to build on a common infrastructure of RapidPro, U-Report and Child Help Line to increase availability of Mental health and psychosocial support (services through leveraging artificial intelligence to automate key functions within the existing Child Helpline services, including:
- i. Ensure immediate and empathic response increasing rate of engagement of Youth.
 - ii. Provide children with helpful, self-care and supportive advice and option to speak with a trained counsellor.
 - iii. Help screen/triage messages to be able to identify those requiring an immediate focused psychosocial support (PSS) response

- f) **SAFE PAL App:** In 2020, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development working with young people developed an interactive online mobile application (app) called SAFE PAL that targets young people and is used to report Gender Based Violence cases. The app is also used for disseminating digital messaging and promoting information exchange on HIV/AIDS, Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), malaria and tuberculosis (TB) amongst adolescents and youth.

The Safe Pal app is directly integrated to the SAUTI 116 Helpline and has the capability to support the use of feature phones (locally known as “*kabiriti*”) through the use of SMS/USSD functionality on *260*6#. The implementation of this feature has enabled the use of the app among the youth that may not afford smart phones.

The development of the app supported by UNFPA, Global Fund and NITA-U that provided hosting services in the National Data Center in addition to the SMS Gateway to support the use of the SMS functionality.

- g) **Spot light Initiative Programme :** H.E President Yoweri Museveni launched the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative on ending violence against women and girls on 8th March 2019. The programme supported by UN fraternity and GOU is being implemented at the national level among over 21 MDAs, Kampala Capital City, CSOs, Private Sector, Traditional Cultural and Religious Institutions and in 8 Districts of Kasese, Kyegegwa, Tororo, Amudat, Moroto, Kitgum, Arua and Terego. The programme focuses on addressing girl child vulnerability at all levels. The following are among the key milestones of the programme:

- i. High-level and strategic engagement between the Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, EU Ambassador, UN Resident Coordinator, and respective UN Country Representatives which has given us a new strategic direction of the programme including deliberate resource mobilization to support the programme continuity.
- ii. Renewed advocacy and collective actions on ending teenage pregnancy and child marriages in Uganda that made it possible for the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet Museveni to launch the National Campaign on Ending Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy and promoting Positive Parenting.
- iii. Construction of GBV Shelters e.g in Amudat, Moroto and Terego which contribute to improved GBV response services in districts. We count on District Local Governments to keep the GBV Centres fully operational.
- iv. Conducting studies. Uganda Bureau of Statistics with support from the MGLSD and development partners conducted the first ever *National Survey on SGBV across the life cycle* and also other recent studies that include: a study on the *Cost of Inaction: The Economic and Social Burden of Teenage Pregnancy*, and the *Study on Financing GBV Prevention and Response in Uganda*. These studies have provided up to date evidence on SGBV and insights to inform planning and budgeting, decision making and evidence-based advocacy in Uganda.
- v. Adopting “Second Chance Education” for child mothers which is in line with a child’s right to education provided for in global, regional and national legal frame works. This decision taken by Cabinet chaired by H.E, the President is a clear demonstration of Government

commitment to improve on the well-being of vulnerable children to enable them live to their full potential.

- h) The Pornography Control Committee was established in 2017 to monitor adherence to the law against pornography.
- i) The Uganda Computer Emergency Response Team of the Uganda Communications Commission also works on issues of child online abuse.
- j) The National Children Authority has carried out a series of engagements in sensitizing and skilling the media in ethical reporting on matters affecting Children and their wellbeing against all forms of violence including GBV.
- k) The National Children Authority has trained/oriented newly elected Local Council Authorities on Child protection inclusive of GBV issues aimed at empowering and strengthening the existing Child wellbeing structures. Local Council Authorities are required by law (the Local Government Act (amended) Act 2005, to protect children who are under threat or risk of potential harm.
- l) The National Children Authority in collaboration with other actors is running sensitization campaign on 'positive parenting' including preventive measures on Violence Against Children (VAC) through media including, TV/FM Radios and community dialogues targeting parents, LCs, Religious and Cultural leaders aimed empowering parents, the family and community structures to effectively nurture children so that they can realize their full potential

RESOLUTION 2

Government to engage with multiple partners to build coalitions and make necessary connections to advance gender equality in the digital era.

Introductions to Actions taken to Resolution 2

In 2020, the UN Secretary General listed technology and innovation as one of the five areas in which achieving gender equality can transform our world. By singling out innovation and technology as one of the six Action Coalition themes, the Generation Equality Forum's conveners are urging the world to focus on harnessing technology to advance gender equality.

Government of Uganda recognizes that supporting girls and young women develop digital skills translates into stronger girls, stronger women, stronger families, stronger communities and better technology. Digital skills are no longer optional, but rather essential life skills required for full participation in society. They are crucial for ensuring girls and young women's safety both online and offline, they increase their ability to participate in government, politics and engage more actively in communities. They enable young women to enter into the labour market with the requisite skills, reducing the gender wage gap, increasing profits, productivity and innovation for technology companies.

ACTIONS TAKEN

- 1. Creating awareness to enhance digital inclusion.** On 11th October, 2021, Uganda celebrated the International Day of the Girl Child at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds whose Theme at Global level was **"Digital Generation, Our Generation"**. This theme was adopted by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development as it fitted directly within the context of Uganda's technological advancement. It was a key moment for advocacy with and for girls that represented a critical moment for engagement, an opportunity to hear the voices of a new generation of girls and gender advocates and to unite towards bold, collective solutions that enable girls and young women to fully participate in the digital revolution. The Chief Guest was the

1st First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet Kataha Museveni.

2. Integration of ICT in Education

Ministry of Education and Sports in collaboration with the Rural Communication Development Fund implemented the ICT in Education Programme. Through this programme, over 1,300 ICT laboratories were established in Government aided secondary schools, 43 in tertiary institutions and teacher's colleges, 9 in Universities and 7 in health training institutions. Internet connectivity was also provided for 816 ICT laboratories. Additionally, 930 ICT teachers were retooled for each laboratory and virtual science content installed for 634 ICT laboratories. Over 62,000 attended community ICT trainings conducted at the labs. ICT has been fully mainstream into educational curricula as well as other literacy programmes to provide for equitable access for all students regardless of level.

3. Promotion of Local Content, Research and Innovation

To foster the development of local content, Government of Uganda designed a National ICT Initiatives Support Programme (NIISP) to facilitate the creation of an ICT innovation ecosystem and marketplace for Ugandan innovative digital products. A National ICT Innovation hub has been constructed by the Ministry of ICT to incubate the youth to develop local products that can be consumed locally and even exported regionally and internationally

4. ICT in Education.

An ICT in Education Policy was submitted to Cabinet, if approved it will provide clear procedures for schools and

Institutions to evaluate progress and measure how they stand against benchmarks of effective and highly effective practice using digital technologies in teaching and learning.

5. Coding Girls

On August 28th 2019, Coding Girls Kampala Chapter was officially launched to inspire and empower girls and women to get into technology and develop a tech-careers. A number of programmes targeting girls are provided such as meet ups, workshops, coding courses, panels and fire-side chats, hackathons and coding career matching.

6. Kolibri

The National Information Technology Authority Uganda (NITA-U) partnered with UNICEF to introduce Kolibri; a free e-Learning platform to assist children during the school shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Uganda National Council of Higher Education issued guidelines for adoption of an emergency open, distance and e-learning (ODEL) system by the Higher Tertiary Institutions (HEIs). Several education institutions adopted ODeL as a method of learning especially in the Covid-19 lockdown period. The teaching was undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. In response to significant demand, many online learning platforms are offering free access to their services. There are, however, challenges to overcome in the adoption of ODeL. Some students without reliable internet access and/or technology struggle to participate in digital learning.

7. Seeds for the Future

Launched in 2016 by Huawei and Government of Uganda, the program seeks to develop local ICT talent, enhance knowledge transfer, promote a greater understanding of and interest in the ICT sector, and improve and encourage

regional building and participation in the digital community. A number of girls and young women have benefited from training and exposure through the program.

8. Humanitarian Settings U-Learn

The Uganda Learning, Evidence, Accountability, and Research Network (U- Learn) program is delivered in Uganda by the Response Innovation Lab in consortium with IMPACT Initiatives and the International Rescue Committee. It is designed to promote improved outcomes for refugees and host communities in Uganda. In collaboration with the Government and a wide range of implementers and stakeholders, U-Learn specializes in Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Research, and Learning. U-Learn delivers a range of assessments, convenor events, training, resource curation, and technical assistance to support actors across the response.

9. The National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy 2014/2015 – 2019/2020 sought to address the situation of early and forced child marriage as well as the elimination of teenage pregnancy. The MGLSD with support from UNICEF revised this strategy and came up with The National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy 2022/2023-2026/2027 which was launched on 16 June 2022 in Butaleja District, during the commemoration of the Day of the African Child.

10. The National Action Plan for Child Wellbeing (2016-2021) links to the five sustainable development goals of survival, development, protection, participation and implementation.

- 11. The Gender in Education Policy (2016)** provides guidance on effective mainstreaming of gender throughout the education and sports sector in order to achieve gender equality in education and sports learning outcomes. This will enhance equal access and participation for girls and boys in the sector.
- 12. The National Disability Inclusive Planning Guidelines for Uganda (2017)** seek to address issues of disability in Uganda. Uganda has officially recognised local sign language to enable children with disability overcome communication barriers. The Special Needs Education and Non-Formal Education Policy (2013) promotes broader learning frameworks for children and young persons with disabilities.
- 13. The National Child Participation Strategy 2017/18-2021/22** will ensure that children are given voice and agency to articulate their views and perspectives at all levels of Government.
- 14. National Child Policy (2020)** and its Implementation Plan, 2020/2021-2024/2025 which focuses on the holistic well-being of a child from survival, development, protection and participation. Additionally, it also addresses system strengthening for enhanced child-care and protection at national and sub-national levels.
- 15. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development** in partnership with the Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) launched the 50Million African Women Speak Networking Platform on 18th September 2020, an online platform to

support women in businesses access African continental markets and increase their productivity and growth.

RESOLUTION 3

The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development to present to Parliament the status of the implementation of the various laws intended to protect both the girls and boy-child, indicating challenges and the plans to address them.

ACTION TAKEN

Status of Implementation of laws

- a) The **Uganda Constitution, 1995** expressly states that; “No person shall be subjected to any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012 prohibits acts of torture carried out in official or private capacity. Torture of a child can lead to a sentence to life imprisonment.¹ This is further augmented by the Children Amendment, Act 2016 that prohibits any employment of children that can be deemed torturous or abusive in any way. Additionally, Article 34 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda stipulates the rights of a child and responsibilities of parents or care-givers. Article 17 brings out duties of a citizen, among which, nurturing children to become responsible and productive citizens is clearly stated. The Ministry through its structures at subnational level with support of development partners and CSOs continues to educate community members on these key statutory provisions.

¹ Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act of Uganda, sections 2,3,4 & 5.

- b) The Children Act (CAP 59) was amended in 2016** to align it more closely to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The Children (Amendment) Bill was passed into law with the objective of enhancing the protection of children and to consolidate provisions hitherto scattered in other legal frameworks and policies on children's rights. District Probation and Welfare Officers have been trained on child related laws and policies to enhance their capacity to deliver services.
- c) The Anti-Pornography Act** was passed in 2014 to criminalize all acts of pornography. It also includes specific provisions on combating child pornography. This was further reinforced by the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016, which contains prohibitions on pornography, sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. Police has been strong on enforcement of this law to protect children at all levels.
- d) The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010** prohibits the harmful cultural practices against girls. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in Uganda is mainly practiced by particular ethnic groupings. These include the Sabiny in Kapchorwa and Bukwo districts; the Pokot, Tepeth, and Kadama in Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Moroto districts within the Karamoja sub-region and; some migrant communities in other parts of the country. The practice of FGM/C is recognised as a violation of the human rights of girls and women as enshrined in various international treaties and conventions. Uganda adopted the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/146 on "intensifying global efforts for the elimination of Female Genital Mutilations". Other key international and regional instruments that Uganda has ratified and regularly reports on are; the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol).

Uganda has domesticated the above international and regional instruments through the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2010 and its Regulations (2013) as well as the Domestic Violence Act (2010) and its Regulations (2011). Other relevant frameworks include the Uganda Gender Policy (2007) under review and the National Policy on Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (2016) and its attendant Action Plan, 2016. It is the overall framework for addressing Gender-Based Violence with three priority areas namely; prevention, response and ending impunity. The Policy addresses all forms of violence including Female Genital Mutilation. Further the Penal Code Act and the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016 protect children from violence and harmful practices including FGM/C.

According to UBOS FGM Survey Report, 2017, community sensitisation and community surveillance activities focusing on the provisions in the FGM Act, 2010 and its Regulations (2013) have been conducted targeting majority of the community members in the practicing districts. Women constitute the highest number of community members sensitized at 84% with the highest in Nakapiripirit (74%). According to UBOS FMG Survey Report, 2017, it was indicative that 97% of women that had ever heard about the law stated that FGM/C is illegal with the highest proportion being among the married women (85%). Several approaches have been utilised in creating awareness such as community dialogues, community outreaches, community policing, community informants and community surveillance conducted by the Uganda Police Force.

Community awareness on FGM/C has been strengthened through commemoration of national and international advocacy days such as the International FGM Zero Tolerance Day, the 16 Days of Activism Campaign against GBV and the local cultural days which include the Pokot,

Tepeth and Sabiny Cultural Days. These provide a forum for increasing sensitization and soliciting for political commitment for FGM/C abandonment.

Despite the achievements, the end of the year 2018 and the beginning of the year 2019 witnessed an escalating number of women undergoing female genital mutilation with new trends of adult women voluntarily undergoing cutting. The Government has strengthened community policing and surveillance activities within FGM/C hotspots in the practicing districts. And established a coordination mechanism for FGM at national, regional and district levels. Alliance meetings offer a platform to share good practices, identify emerging challenges and devise strategies for addressing them.

- e) **Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009** and in 2016 amended the Children Act, Cap 59 to prohibit trafficking in children by any person or entity. These laws as well as various institutional strategies and programmes reflect Uganda's efforts to implement the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
- f) **The Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019:** Uganda passed the Data Protection and Privacy Act, 2019 which safeguards the use of personal data of persons including that of children by regulating the collection, processing of personal information and to provide for rights of the persons whose data is collected and obligations therein.
- g) **The Local Government Act, Cap 243, Schedule II** decentralizes child-care and protection services. Local Governments since 2010 have recruited Probation & Welfare Officers stationed at district level and Community Development Officers at lower Local Government level (from 37% in 2010 to 89% in 2022 in average). This has

boosted case management service delivery that focus on addressing GBV and violence against children.

- h) **Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 2007.** In 2006, the Ministry of Education and Sports banned corporal punishment in schools and disseminated a handbook on 'Alternatives to Corporal Punishment' to raise awareness on the ban. Corporal punishment was abolished for all persons under the Penal Code (Amendment) Act, 2007 and prohibited for children specifically under the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016. The Ministry of Education and Sports is taking measures to implement the ban on corporal punishment in schools, as well as implementing the Strategic Plan on Violence against Children in Schools. Probation Officers and Community Development Officers are sensitizing schools and teachers' association to avoid this harmful practice.
- i) The **Prevention and Prohibition of Human Sacrifice Act, 2021** aims to provide for the crime and offence of human sacrifice, fines and penalties for the offence of human sacrifice.
- j) The **Succession (Amendment) Act, 2021** protects the boy- and the girl-child equally in regard to inheritance of property of their deceased parents.

k) Public Finance Management Act, 2015:

In Feb, 2015, the Government of the Republic of Uganda strengthened its commitment to realize Equal Opportunities in Planning and budgeting by amending the Public Finance Management Act, 2015. To this effect, it is now mandatory for Sectors, MDAs and Local Governments to comply with Gender and Equity Requirements during Planning and budgeting so as to be issued a Certificate of Compliance with Gender and Equity requirements. This Certificate is issued by the

Minister responsible for Finance planning and economic development after a thorough assessment of plans, budgets and reports of all government MDAs and Local Governments. The process of addressing Gender and equity concerns in plans and budgets arises out of inequalities and inequities amongst regions, socio-economic groups as well as women, men, boys and girls. Therefore, the gender and equity assessment exercise is done by MGLSD through the Equal Opportunities Commission to ensure that key concerns of boys and girls are addressed in budgets and plans.

Institutional Development

1. The National Children Authority was established as an autonomous body pursuant to the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016. It has an expansive mandate in the protection and promotion of children's rights in Uganda. Composed of a multi-sectoral governance body, it advises on and monitors all activities, programmes, policies and measures relating to the protection and promotion of children's rights. The Authority is still in its formative phase. The Authority is mandated to coordinate and evaluate the implementation of the CRC and its optional protocols, and develop a national plan of action in that regard.
2. The National Children's Authority is also mandated to provide advice, monitor and supervise activities, programmes, policies, strategies and plans on promotion, protection and realisation of children's rights.
3. Uganda Human Rights Commission - Vulnerable Persons Unit monitors the rights and welfare of children

under the Vulnerable Persons Unit and has consistently reported on various issues regarding human rights to Parliament. In addition, the tribunal handles cases of violation of children's rights based on the principles of the best interests of the child.

4. Uganda Equal Opportunities Commission was established in 2010 and seeks to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons including children in Uganda. It conducts research, monitors the implementation of Government interventions and identifies gaps in Government policies and programmes that may perpetuate discriminatory tendencies towards children and other marginalised groups.
5. The Uganda Police Force has a dedicated Child and Family Protection Unit and is a key partner in the prevention of trafficking in children and other persons. The Police Information Resource Centre has an online list of Licensed Private Employment Agencies that operate within the provisions of the law and not allow recruitment of children under the externalisation of labour.
6. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) established the Children, Gender and Sexual Offences Department in 2015. State attorneys and prosecutors have received training on handling child witnesses and victims of crime as well as children suspected or in conflict with the law.
7. Courts of Judicature: The Family and Children Courts handle cases of children accused of crime, as well as

care proceedings. The Magistrates Grade 1 Courts have been mandated to handle cases of children by constituting themselves as a Family and Children Court. The High Court has jurisdiction over cases of adoption and cases where children are accused of capital offences.

8. Uganda Bureau of Statistics takes charge of, collects and collates child-related data that feeds into periodic surveys for Government to base important decisions and planning, including resource allocation. The surveys undertaken include; the National Population and Housing Census (the most current being 2014); Uganda National Household Survey (UNHS) (the most current being 2016/2017); Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) - the most current being 2016.
9. The National Child Protection Working Group is a multi-stakeholder coordination forum for child rights protection established in September 2009. Its membership comprises representatives of Government ministries and departments and civil society organisations as well as development partners. It clears all new policy frameworks on children under the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD).
10. The Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children was initiated in the Seventh Parliament (2001-2006). It lobbies for children's rights at the national assembly level and ensures that children's issues are considered in the processing and revision of existing laws.
11. Development of a National Child –Wellbeing

Management Information System (Changing from Orphan and Other Vulnerable Children Management Information System OVC-MIS). This OVC MIS-web-based system established in 2009 being upgraded to a National Child Well-being MIS under the National Child Policy 2020 and is to be rolled out to all the districts in Uganda. The Child well-being MIS has promoted improved planning, coordination, transparency and accountability by Government agencies charged with child-rights protection for vulnerable children and their communities.

12. The National Child Well-being Inter-Ministerial Committee (2020) whose membership comprises representatives from MDAs, Development Partners, CSOs, the private sector, religious and cultural institutions, and academic institutions. It oversees implementation of the National Child Policy 2020 and its Implementation Plan 2020/21-2024/25 under stewardship of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.



Challenges that constrain enforcement of laws that protect children include:

- i. Limited capacity of duty bearers and actors at all levels
- ii. Inadequate funding
- iii. Weak coordination
- iv. Corruption

- v. Increasing vulnerability at community level
- vi. Cultural practices that infringe on rights of a child
 - a) Strengthening the coordination of a multi-sectoral prevention and response programme at both national and sub-national levels, with a focus on most at-risk children.
 - b) Developing a costed model of successful district- and community-based prevention and response systems to inform the roll-out of more laws and policies. This entails integrating child care and protection interventions in plans and budgets of districts and Lower Local Governments
 - c) Enactment of child protection Ordinances and Bye-Laws as KCCA has done on criminalising commercial begging as one of the key strategies to contain the street children phenomenon in 2022.
 - d) Consolidating and expanding the coverage of the national child helpline to all districts, as a system for reporting and managing cases of child victims or those at the risk of violence.
 - e) Developing the capacity of the social welfare workforce, building on successes of implemented projects/programmes like USAID/SUNRISE-OVC (2010-2015) and UNICEF/MGLSD Social Welfare Officers supported pilot projects in nine districts of Kasere, Terego, Adjumani, Kitgum, Kaabong, Amudat, Tororo, Iganga and Kamuli (2019-2020).
 - f) Developing a comprehensive and integrated management information system (MIS) on violence against children, linked to the gender-based violence MIS, to track cases of children entering the child protection system and to strengthen accountability for results.

- g) Developing an evidence-based national communication strategy to address social norms that perpetuate violence against children.**
- h) Pursuing strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies, faith-based organisations and other civil society organisations.**
- i) Strengthening the capacity of national institutions to coordinate a response to emergency situations, and ensure that children affected by emergencies receive appropriate care and support.**
- j) Public-private partnership to support the roll-out and awareness raising on the various laws and policies.**
- k) Mobilise funds through activism and lobbying development partners to support the process.**
- l) Use evidence and best practices to find resource-efficient interventions, such as foster care instead of institutional care.**
- m) Integrate child-focused violence prevention and response components to existing service delivery trainings such as social services, health and justice personnel.**
- n) Develop a scale-up strategy in the early designs of the programme.**
- o) Create mechanisms to constantly monitor implementation.**
- p) Actively engage children's opinions and feedback during implementation.**

2.10 MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Action Taken Report in regard to the Recommendations of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the Petition in the Matter of Kasoli Tenants SACCO Ltd/Kasoli Housing Project

1. Rt. Hon. Speaker, on Thursday 19th May 2022, the Committee on Physical Infrastructure presented a report on the Petition in the matter of Kasoli Tenants Sacco Ltd/Kasoli Housing Project.
2. Rt. Hon. Speaker, after the presentation and debate on the Report, you directed that the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development should present an Action Taken Report in regards to the Committee recommendations on 19th July 2022.
3. Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, after receiving the resolutions of Parliament on the Report of the Committee on Physical Infrastructure on the Petition in the Matter of Kasoli Tenants Sacco Ltd/Kasoli Housing Project, on 16th June 2022, I communicated the resolutions to the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; the Minister of Works and Transport and the Executive Director, Standard Gauge Railway for appropriate action.
4. Rt. Hon Speaker and Hon. Members, the following actions have been taken on the Committee recommendations on:

A)The Government should as a priority clear the outstanding mortgage with DFCU Bank and get back the land title to avoid accumulation of interest.

5. Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, my Ministry has engaged the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Standard Gauge Railway to prioritise compensation for the DFCU Bank outstanding mortgage to avoid further loss to Government in accumulated interest.
6. Rt. Hon. Speaker, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development also engaged DFCU Bank to halt the sale and eviction of Kasoli Housing Project Tenants. The Bank agreed to halt the sale and eviction of tenants subject to availing it a Letter of Comfort on payment of the mortgage with clear timelines.
7. SGR wrote to MFPED for compensation funds which were not provided. Also SGR could not provide the commitment letter to DFCU without commitment from the MFPED to provide funds.
8. SGR is constrained and cannot clear the loan. Parliament should compel MFPED to reprioritize and provide funds for repayment of the loan since it accumulates interest annually.

B) The SGR be provided with UGX 4,231,292,975 to cover the verified PAPs as per the valuation report as follows:

- (i) **PAPs in 92 houses & 1 project office:
3,770,465,738**
- (ii) **PAPs in the 90 structures in existing slum:
817,068,304**
- (iii) **7 freehold offers from Pool housing Committee:
143,557,180**

9. Rt. Hon Speaker and Hon. Members, The Ministry of Works and Transport/SGR agreed to prioritize compensation of the outstanding DFCU Bank mortgage in

this FY 2022/23 budgetary allocation for compensation under the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). This will enable urgent recovery of the land title and also avoid further loss to Government in accumulating interest. The next phase of payment will deal with compensation of the rest of the PAPs.

10. There were 59 PAPs who were not valued by SGR because they were never found on the ground at the time of valuation. These PAPs were part of the initial project and their properties were demolished during the initial phase and they were never valued. However, the Chief Government Valuer, provided a value of the demolished properties (**UGX 636,915,708= (Six hundred thirty six million, nine hundred fifteen thousand, seven hundred eight shillings only)**). We request Parliament to allow for the compensation of the 59 PAPs and they be paid through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

C)The UGX 3,270,667,491 for the mortgaged land (9.318acres) as valued by SGR and approved by CGV should only be paid to MLHUD for land acquisition if government is going to replicate the project elsewhere; otherwise government cannot pay itself.

11. Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, the overall objective of the Kasoli Housing Project was to pilot a new initiative of packing low-income mortgages for poor households through partnerships of several parties to minimize risks while aiming at full cost recovery. Other objectives were: to test bringing housing finance to the low-income segment, to provide security of tenure for the poor, to enhance the skills and incomes of slum dwellers, to promote the culture of saving among the population with the overall goal of improving living conditions and the urban environment within Tororo Municipality. This is in

line with the Government policy on Housing. It was envisioned that upon successful piloting, this model would be replicated in other slums across the Country. Unfortunately, the objectives of the Project were never attained.

12. Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, in light of the above, and given the urgent need to address the challenges of slums and mitigate the acute housing deficit of about 2.4 million housing units, the Ministry intends to replicate this Project elsewhere. The Ministry has embarked on the process of identifying a slum for a similar project.

D)The compensation awards for the structures on the Kasoli land should be deposited on the individual accounts of the respective beneficiaries. The SACCO should be notified about the direct payment so that it deals with its members individually.

13. Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members, the Ministry communicated the Parliament resolution to SGR for appropriate action. SGR has indicated that the compensation award will be paid on the Kasoli Housing SACCO account. After offsetting the mortgage then the balance will be paid to individual accounts and the SACCO will also be notified.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF PARLIAMENT ON THE NAGURU-NAKAWA LAND ALLOCATIONS 2022

Introduction

The Parliamentary Adhoc Committee on Nakawa-Naguru Land Allocations presented a report with recommendations to Parliament on Wednesday 18th May, 2022. Parliament passed resolutions regarding the Naguru-Nakawa land allocations.

The Clerk to Parliament communicated the Parliamentary resolutions to the Rt. Hon. Minister/Leader of Government Business and requested her to present to Parliament an Action Taken Report on the Resolutions of Parliament.

Below are the Parliament resolutions and status update on the implementation of the resolutions.

Given the irregularities that surround the allocation of the Naguru-Nakawa land to the so called investors, all the titles already issued should be cancelled and the entire land reverts to Government.

Status Update

Government takes note of the concerns of Parliament, however the allocatees have binding leases with Government subject to the development conditions.

The UGX 17 million ex-gratia UGX 17,797,079 planned to be paid to the former sitting tenants of Naguru-Nakawa land

should be revised upwards to reflect the current market value and be expeditiously paid to the beneficiaries.

Status Update

Government takes note of the concerns of Parliament; however ex-gratia payments are discretionary in nature and are not based on market value.

Government should maintain the original land use purpose of Naguru-Nakawa land as a residential area in conformity with the 2013 Kampala Physical Development Plan.

Status Update

Government takes note of the Parliament resolution. The development of Naguru-Nakawa land shall take place in accordance with the Kampala Capital City Authority approved development plan.

All those political leaders/Ministers and Technical officers mentioned in the Adhoc Committee report on the Naguru-Nakawa who acted contrary to the public interest and in disregard of the law on the basis of the alleged presidential directives must be held personally liable.

Status Update

Government has noted the concerns of Parliament and the matter will be brought to the attention of the appointing authority for appropriate action.

Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi, Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury should be held responsible for making payments to a third party (ROKO) without any lawful basis.

Status Update

Government has noted the resolution of Parliament and the matter will be brought to the attention of the appointing authority for appropriate action.

Government should recover the payment made to ROKO construction Ltd (UGX 15, 720,305, 440) given that there was no contract between Government of Uganda and ROKO Construction Ltd.

Status Update

Government takes note of the resolution of Parliament; however Government is now a shareholder in ROKO Construction Ltd.

The Secretary Uganda Land Commission, Ms. Barbra Imaryo, be held personally liable for fraudulent activities in the allocation of Naguru-Nakawa Land.

Status Update

Government has noted the resolution of Parliament and the matter will be brought to the attention of the appointing authority for appropriate action.

Uganda Land Commissioners should be held accountable, retired in public interest and replaced for abuse of Authority and violation of the executive authority in Uganda.

Status Update

Government has noted the resolution of Parliament and the matter will be brought to the attention of the appointing authority for appropriate action.

Hon. Persis Namuganza should be held accountable for abuse of office for misleading ULC into allocation of land to individuals and entities following Presidential Directives which were non-existent.

Status Update

Government has noted the resolution of Parliament and the matter will be brought to the attention of the appointing authority.

M/s Opec Prime filled an application for contempt of court against the Attorney General, ULC, Hon. Rukutana Mwesigwa, Hon. Betty Amongi and Hon. Baguma Isoke which was successful and the respondents ordered to pay a fine of UGX 50,000,000 each but was paid by Government. The monies that were ordered by Court to be paid by individual Ministers but was paid by Government should be recovered from the affected Ministers/Individuals.

Status Update

Government takes note of the resolution of Parliament and waits for guidance from the Attorney General on the matter.

All government land should be identified, surveyed and titled and a comprehensive public land inventory and register established under the supervision, management and administration by the Uganda Land Commission.

Status Update

Government takes note of the resolution of Parliament; however this activity requires huge financial resources which Uganda Land Commission does not currently have. A Project proposal has been prepared and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to provide funds for surveying, demarcation, registering and titling all Government land.

Additionally, ULC has also embarked on updating the Government Land Inventory, detailing all the government land. The following actions have so far been done;

- i. Updating the register of all leases issued by ULC.*
- ii. Written to MDAs to have all their land registered.*
- iii. Conducting visits to MDAs to ensure they have registered and titled all land under their jurisdiction.*

Since Uganda Land Commission lacks both financial and Human Resources capacity to satisfactorily execute its mandate and has often relied on the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to second personnel to help it out in technical aspects of land management leaving it very vulnerable to unscrupulous land dealers, the personnel, their technical capacity and financial capacity of the Commission be strengthened.

Status Update

- i. *Government takes note of the resolution of Parliament.*
- ii. *The vacant positions in the staffing structure have been cleared by the Ministry of Public Service and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for filling.*
- iii. *Uganda Land Commission is engaging the Ministry of Public Service for the review of the structure.*
- iv. *A training and capacity building program has been developed to enhance capacity of Uganda Land Commission staff.*
- v. *Government is also engaging the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to enhance the budget ceiling for Uganda Land Commission.*
- vi. *A Uganda Land Commission Bill is in the offing and when the Bill is enacted into law, it will expand and regulate the mandate of the Commission and its relationship with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, District Land Boards and key other players in the Land Sector. The Bill will ensure autonomy of the Commission and also provide appropriate structures at the headquarters, regional and zonal areas.*

Appointment of a more technically competent commission with exposure and experience in land management be done.

Status Update

Government will take into consideration the resolution of Parliament while recruiting technically competent staff for the Commission.

2.11: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS**TITLE**

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to address challenges facing the Girl-child and children in general in the digital era.

RESOLUTION 1

Government to provide the necessary resources and develops programmes to skill the girl-child whose education has been affected by teenage pregnancy or child marriage.

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry of Education and sports developed the sexuality education framework in 2018. The framework was intended to provide age appropriate information and skills to children of different age groups on their growth and sexual maturation challenges. The ministry is currently conducting further consultations with the top leadership of faith based organisations on the review of the framework. Once this is finalised, the framework will be printed and shared among all education stakeholders.

The Ministry has developed a life skills toolkit to provide young people with skills to manage a number of challenges including challenges that were presented by the Covid 19 pandemic. The Life Skills toolkit is part of MoES's ongoing efforts to expand, re-think and transform education and the learning system in Uganda to provide children and adolescents especially the most marginalized with quality learning opportunities that include the skills they need to succeed in school, work and life.

The life skills toolkit has already been rolled out to teachers in Karamoja, West Nile and Western Uganda including in refugee and host districts.

Government of Uganda is implementing adolescent health Education interventions in the districts of Luuka and Butalejja in eastern Uganda. These are some of the districts which had the highest cases of teenage pregnancy during the covid 19 pandemic.

The Ministry has developed messages targeting parents, teachers and learners on critical drivers of teenage pregnancy including menstrual health, violence against children, HIV and AIDs, Mental health among others.

A national campaign to address defilement, teenage pregnancy, child marriage and promotion of positive parenting is ongoing across the country. Through this campaign, key stakeholders, including district officials, teachers and parents have been engaged in the support and protection of girls and support provision of a second chance to child mothers.

Messages on positive parenting and child protection are being disseminated to stakeholders.

RESOLUTION 2

Government to approve the draft School Health Policy.

ACTION TAKEN

The draft school health policy is ready and is awaiting presentation to and approval by the Ministry's top management and subsequent submission to and approval by cabinet.

When approved, the policy will provide for standards of quality health in schools and surrounding communities in order to promote education for all. It will streamline various school health interventions in a coherent and elaborate framework to leverage all stakeholder interventions in relation to school health.

RESOLUTION 3

Government to ensure there is continuity of learning and considers the immediate safe reopening of schools.

ACTION TAKEN

Continuity of learning was ensured through lessons conducted on radio and television stations, home-study materials and online teaching. The schools were finally opened on 10th January 2022.

RESOLUTION 4

Upon reopening of schools, the Minister of Education and Sports to present a comprehensive report to Parliament on the number of girls that will have dropped out of schools due to pregnancy and the action taken to assist them.

ACTION TAKEN

This has not been undertaken due to resource constraints. However, the Ministry has continued to disseminate the guidelines for the prevention and management of teenage pregnancy in schools settings, engagement of various stakeholders to support re-entry of child mothers.

TITLE

Resolution of Parliament to highlight the decline in ethical and moral values in the country and propose solutions for reversing the destructive decline

RESOLUTIONS 5-6

1. Urges Government to ensure that the education curriculum emphasises character education, which is examinable in our education institutions. Alongside this, should be a focus on teacher training institutions since importing moral values relies on role-modelling and interaction.

2. Urges Government to introduce universal moral education whereby knowledge of how to share and be human will become an integral part of our lives.

ACTION TAKEN

The primary schools use the thematic curriculum which emphasises use of local languages to enable the learners get acquainted with community and cultural issues.

At secondary school level, the teaching is through the competency-based curriculum which emphasises three areas:

- a) Language competence, where learners should be able to communicate in their local languages and English.
- b) Knowledge competence, where learners are expected to acquire knowledge and apply it practically in their daily life.
- c) Values - these are normal spiritual values (character). The learner is expected to acquire knowledge on how to care and live with other people.
- d) Skills where the learners are expected to acquire cognitive knowledge, morals and skills making him or her a whole person.
- e) It emphasises group work where the learning is no longer teacher- but learner-centred.

The teacher training curriculum, especially the one being developed for Uganda National Teacher Education (UNITE) caters for role modelling where by 60% of the training is practical and 40% theory.

TITLE

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to immediately stop cattle rustling and restore peace, security and stability in the subregions of Teso, Lango, Acholi, Karamoja, Bugisu and Sebei

RESOLUTION 7

Government provides free compulsory primary and secondary education to Karamoja for a period of 10 years, as

a mind-set change strategy against the culture of cattle rustling and raiding.

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry implements a policy of free universal primary and secondary education in all parts of the country including Karamoja.

In addition, Government has put in place the following interventions in Karamoja sub-region:

- a) Construction of boarding facilities, saving the children long walking distances.
- b) Schools feeding programme where food is distributed to schools thereby attracting learners to schools.
- c) Construction of water facilities (valley dams and tanks) thereby saving the children from searching for water for animals and creating time for them to be in school.
- d) Coding of schools. The ministry has coded more schools in the region.
- e) The ministry has further constructed seed schools in most of the sub-counties.
- f) Date when the resolution was taken: 3rd/11/2021

TITLE

Resolution of Parliament to congratulate the Uganda Olympics team for its excellent performance at the 2020 summer Olympics in Tokyo.

RESOLUTION 8

Urges the Ministry of Education and Sports to present to Parliament for approval a performance reward policy for athletes that represent Uganda and excel in the various sports disciplines and international competitions.

ACTION TAKEN

A framework to guide on the performance reward scheme for excelling athletes has been considered within the draft National Physical Education and Sports Policy (NPESP) which is being developed by the Ministry of Education and Sports. The draft policy is in place and will be submitted to cabinet for clearance.

RESOLUTION 9

Urges Government to fast-track the;

- a) Completion of the Teryet High Altitude Training centre

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry is fast-tracking the completion of phase one of the National High-Altitude Training Centre (NHATC) in Teryet, Kapchorwa despite several challenges. We are aiming to finish phase one by 31st December, 2022. The project is now at 93% towards completion of phase one.

- b) Renovation of Mandela National Stadium

ACTION TAKEN

Part of the Funds for renovation of Mandela National Stadium were released and works commenced starting with the perimeter wall whose works are now at 98%, expected to be completed by 31st December, 2022. Other works for renovation also commenced on 1st August, 2022. The progress was at 14.8% as at 30th October, 2022.

- c) Acquisition, renovation, construction and maintenance of regional, national and international standards sports facilities;

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry carried out environmental impact assessments, developed designed drawings and BoQs and prepared tender documents for six regional studia namely; Kabale, Masaka, Kakyeka, Bugembe, Pece and Mbale. Procurement of contractors to carryout rehabilitation and renovation could

not commence due to budgetary constraints. NHATC was prioritised then.

d) Complete the Akii-Bua Stadium

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry undertook detailed feasibility studies, concept designs, environmental and social impact assessments for two regional stadia Akii Bua in Lira and Buhinga in Kabarole. The two reports for these two were submitted to and accepted by MoFPED to be priority projects under FOCAC funding. We are still waiting to hear from MoFPED about the availability of funds in order to start on construction works for the two. The consultants then estimated costs of USD 48M for Akii Bua and USD 65M for Buhinga.

RESOLUTION 10

Urges Government to fulfil its commitments and pledges made to all sports personalities, who won medals prior to 2021 particularly current world champion Ms Halimah Nakaayi and Mr Davis Kamoga.

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry is following up these pledges with the relevant offices from the Office of the President.

RESOLUTION 11

Government presents to Parliament by the end of August 2021 a strategic investment plan on sports.

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry of Education and Sports developed an Education and Sports Sector Strategic Plan (ESSSP) 2020/2021 – 2024/2025 in which sports is part.

RESOLUTION 12

Government considers including those who participated at various levels prior to 2020 Olympics.

ACTION TAKEN

MOES is following up these pledges with relevant offices from the Office of the President.

TITLE

Resolution of Parliament to congratulate the men's national basketball team (the "Silverbacks") and the under-16 boys and girls national basketball teams.

RESOLUTION 13

Government raises the funds to facilitate both teams for the continent basketball tournaments.

ACTION TAKEN

Government of Uganda funded these activities through the National Council of Sports.

RESOLUTION 14

Government urgently facilitates both teams to report for camp in selected locations to sharpen their preparation for the continent tournaments.

ACTION TAKEN

Government of Uganda facilitated this exercise through the National Council of Sports (NCS) and continues to support the teams in their many sports tournaments.

RESOLUTION 15

Government presents to Parliament a strategic plan on investment in sports as a matter of national interest.

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry developed an Education and Sports Sector Strategic Plan (ESSSP) 2020/2021 – 2024/2025 which also includes the plans for the Sports Sub Sector.

The Ministry plans to do among others the following;

Increase access to public physical activity areas & mass sports

Enhance inclusive Physical Education and Sports development to cater for children with Special Needs

Stakeholder mobilization & sensitization to promote PES

Protect school sports grounds and community playgrounds

Enhance collaborations and partnerships

2.12. OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Government in accordance with Objective XXIII of the constitution of the Republic of Uganda through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) immediately provides relief to the affected and displaced people in affected areas whose normal lives have been disrupted by perpetual cattle raiders.

ACTION TAKEN

The Office of the Prime Minister, under disarmament programme, whose major objective was to restore total peace across Karamoja region named “**Usalama kwa wote**”, undertook additional peace building and empowerment initiatives including alternative livelihood interventions especially for the (karachunas) who had surrendered their guns from being recruited back into warrior hood, and other vulnerable groups.

The Goats were provided to the youth and women as one of the \had ready market and were easy to feed. To date, 74,400 goats have been delivered and distributed to the beneficiaries and distribution of 85,044 pieces of G28 Iron sheets is ongoing.

In the same vein, since January 2022, the Office of Prime Minister through the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management has provided relief food to the vulnerable persons in Karamoja, Teso, Acholi and Lango sub regions. The food distribution to the people of Karamoja and neighboring sub regions to date is summarized below:

Food distribution to Karamoja and neighboring regions Jan- Nov 2022

Region	Maize (kgs)	Beans (kgs)
Karamoja	6,271,600	3,135,800
Teso	486,000	243,000
Acholi	60,000	30,000
Lango	60,000	30,000

Non-state actors such donors, development partners and Faith based organizations have also provided support to the causes in Karamoja and government appreciates these efforts.

2.13 MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

TITLE

Resolution of Parliament urging Government to operationalise the Tree Fund to facilitate the promotion of tree planting and growing at national and community level.

RESOLUTION 1

Government operationalise the Tree Fund to facilitate the issuance of directions for the planting and growing of trees in accordance with Section 39 of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003.

ACTION TAKEN

The Ministry has arranged to have a designated day for Tree Growing.

Cabinet considered and approved the operationalization of the Tree Fund with effect from FY 2023/2024.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF PARLIAMENT

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development would like to present a report on the actions taken in line with the Resolutions of Parliament for the period May 2021 to May 2022.

1. Resolution of Parliament to urge Government to reverse the directive requiring Local Governments to remit all local revenues to the consolidated fund

a)Parliament urges Government to reverse the directive by Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury requiring Local Governments to remit all local revenues to the consolidated fund.

ACTION TAKEN

Section 30 (1) of the PFMA requires that “all revenues or other money raised or received for the purpose of the government, shall be paid into and shall form part of the Consolidated fund except the revenue specified in section 29 (2) (b) and 29 (3)”.

In accordance with Regulation 10 of the PFMR, 2016, MoFPED issued the Second Budget Call Circular for FY2020/21, in which local government Accounting Officers

were directed to remit all local revenue collections to the Consolidated Fund.

Under this arrangement, local governments (LGs) prepare and submit their local revenue estimates as part of the total local government budget estimates for a given financial year. The respective local government Budgets are then consolidated and submitted to Parliament for Appropriation.

This process is premised on the principle of transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of all revenues and expenditures for effective service delivery.

LG Revenue Performance

Following issuance of the PFMA Regulations 2016, the Local Revenue Remittance Reform started with 43 Local Governments in FY 2017/18. With additional capacity building, this PFM Reform increased to a coverage of 102 Local Governments in FY 2018/19 and later to 175 Local Governments in FY 2019/20. As a result, there has been improved revenue performance ever since the Ministry implemented Section 30(1) of the PFMA. As illustrated in the table below, the LGs have been realising substantially higher revenue ever since they started remitting to consolidated fund.

Table showing Remittances of Local Governments to Consolidated Fund

Financial Years	No. of Votes Remitting to Treasury	Revised Budget (UGX)	Funds Remitted to Consolidated Fund (UGX)	%Remitted to Budget
FY2017-18	43	47,938,763,704	11,574,895,758	24%
FY2018-19	102	193,498,820,309	60,708,448,140	31%
FY2019-20	175	201,110,769,962	69,983,588,908	27%
FY2020-21	175	217,379,354,684	104,105,837,988	48%
FY2021-22	176	231,540,390,115	125,705,552,937	54%

Source: Accountant General, MoFPED

In comparison to their Revised Budget estimates, LG revenue collections have grown steadily from an average of 24% in FY 2017/18 to an average of 54% in the just concluded FY 2021/22. This growth in collections has remained stable in spite of a familiar startle in FY2019/20 elicited by COVID-19 effects on the economy. This improvement denotes efficiency in revenue administration, and is projected to continue on rising path in the medium term and beyond if the policy stays.

Challenges and Review of LG Revenue Business Process

It is true that during FY 2019/20 and 2020/21, there were challenges and delays in the way LGs accessed their LG

revenues. MoFPED reviewed the business processes for collection and accessing LG revenues. The review identified the following causes for the delays;

- i) Poor/non-budgeting by LGs for local revenue leading to delays in securing supplementary budget approvals from Parliament before funds would be released
- ii) Poor communication between LGs and MoFPED regarding revenue remittances and failure by some LGs to provide documents to support requests for release of their local revenue
- iii) Lengthy business processes for accessing LG revenues, some of which were non-value adding
- iv) The LG revenue expenditure limits were processed on a quarterly basis, leading to delays in access.
- v) Manual revenue transfer processes in commercial banks, despite the fact that similar processes in BoU are automated.

Based on the above analysis, the non-value adding processes were eliminated, and the LG revenue business process was re-engineered. Currently, the Accountant General issues an expenditure limit for LG revenue within 48 hours. The local government can access the LG revenue funds immediately after initiating and approving the Accounting Warrants for local revenue on IFMS.

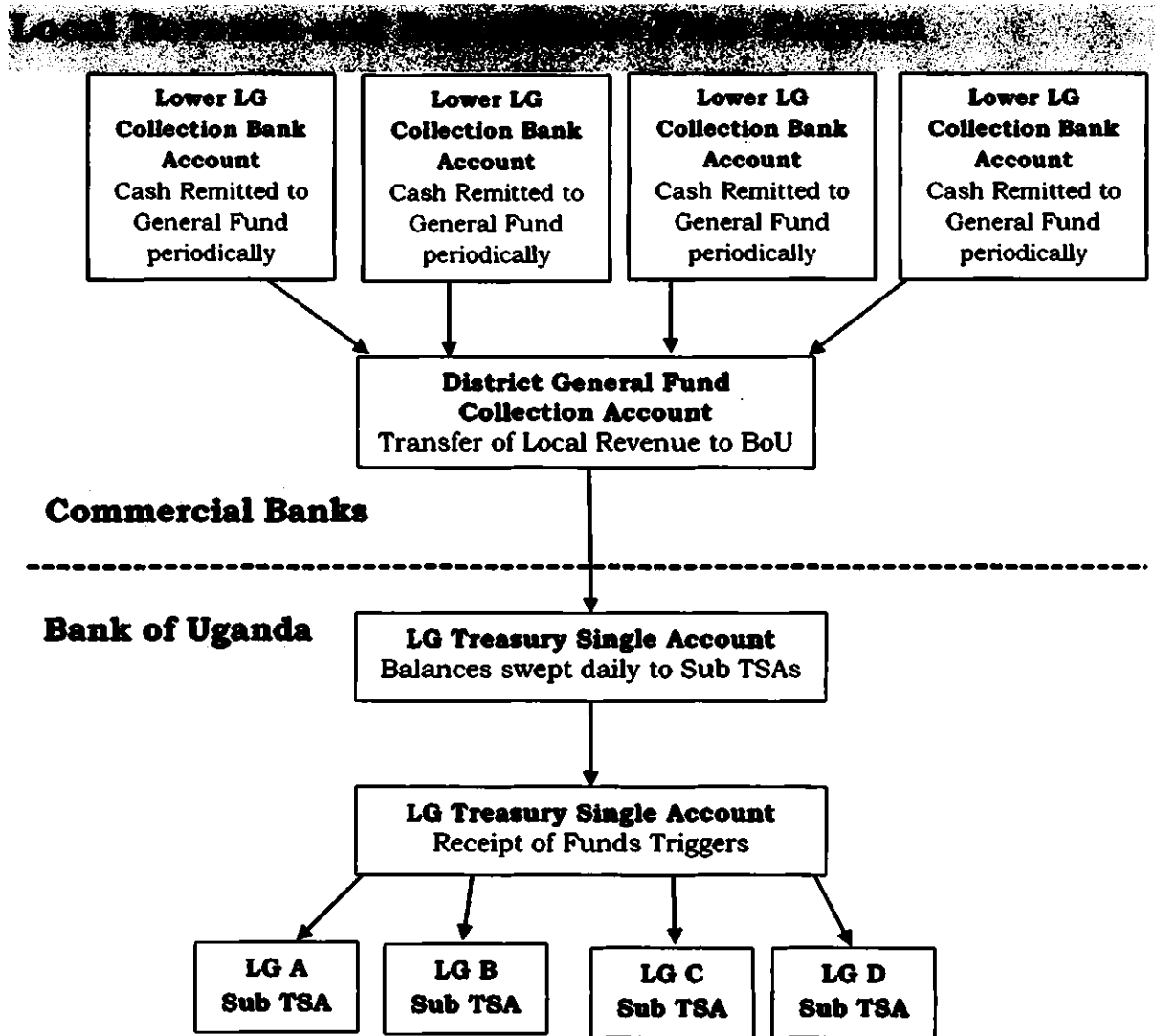
Current Business Process for LG Revenue

As guided by the Budget Execution Circular, the local revenues collected are deposited on collection accounts in Commercial banks by the LGs and remitted to the respective local government revenue collection account in Bank of Uganda.

The amounts in revenue collection accounts in Bank of Uganda are swept on a daily basis to the Treasury Single Account (TSA) to facilitate the issuance of expenditure limits by the Accountant General to the respective LG Accounting Officer. The local government Accounting Officer then prepares an accounting warrant basing on the issued expenditure limit. The initiation and approval of Accounting Warrants for local revenue starts and ends with the respective local government Accounting Officer.

The transfer of all local revenues to their respective local revenue collection accounts in BoU ensures an up-to-date record of each LG's revenue budget performance is available in real-time. In addition, all LG revenue financed expenditures are processed through the TSA using the IFMS for tracking and reporting purposes.

It is important to note that all the local revenue transfers to BoU are disbursed 100% to the respective LG with no funds retained and utilised by the Central Government.



***Foot note**

1. Accountant General issues expenditure limit on daily basis to respective LGs for the amount swept to the LG TSA.
2. Accounting Officer initiates and approves the local revenue accounting warrant.
3. Accounting Officer initiates and approves payments on the IFMS.

The new LG revenue policy implementation brought the following benefits:

- i) An up-to-date record of all Government revenues, including local revenue, giving the overall revenue picture at the national and sub-national level, to facilitate decision making, as opposed to the previous system where the revenues were used at source with no reliable mechanism to record and track
- ii) Government budgets, including local revenue estimates, are appropriated by Parliament. This enhances budget credibility as well as facilitating the timely consolidation of budgets and financial statements. It has also addressed the compliance with the PFMA, 2015 and aligns with international best practices
- iii) The policy brought about proper planning and transparency on the use of LG revenue funds. All stakeholders can track and access real-time information on actual revenue collections and expenditures financed by these revenues through the IFMS, which provides an audit trail on all transactions.

Implications of the reversal of the policy

- i) This decision will have far-reaching effects on existing Treasury Single Account, payment processing and reporting systems. The LG revenues and expenditures would be extra-budgetary (outside the TSA).

- ii) Government will be reverting to the previous position where no reliable information on Local revenue sources was available, negatively impacting planning and budgeting at the national level.
- iii) In order to implement the Parliamentary resolution, Section 29 and other sections of the PFMA will have to be amended to specifically allow local governments not to remit local revenues to the Consolidated Fund and spend the funds at source.

Conclusion

The resolution of Parliament urging the Government to reverse the directive requiring local governments to remit all local revenues to the Consolidated Fund may have been reached based on incomplete information or based on the LG revenue business process as it was prior to FY2021/22.

Government having recognised the challenges and delays that LGs faced in accessing local revenues in FY 2019/20 and FY 2020/21, and having carried out the following reform effective 01st July 2021;

- i) reviewed the entire business process for accessing LG revenues
- ii) eliminated non-value adding processes to enable local governments access LG revenue funds, and

- iii) immediately after completing the initiation/approval of LG revenue accounting warrants

The current LG revenue business process should be allowed to operate and its performance closely monitored during FY 2022/23 before a decision on this matter can be taken.

2. Resolution of Parliament to highlight the decline in ethical and moral values in the country and propose solutions for reversing the destructive decline

b) Urges Government to ensure increased budgets to accountability Agencies such as the Judiciary, Police and Inspector General of Government.

ACTION TAKEN

The budget for Judiciary, Uganda Police Force and Inspectorate of Government was enhanced as detailed below.

- **Judiciary**

In addition to the enhanced funding of Shs. 177.53bn to the budget for Judiciary in FY 2021/22 for recruitment of Judicial Officers and facilitate them to effectively execute their duties, Government provided additional Shs. 5Bn for FY 2022/23 for Construction of Court Buildings.

- **Uganda Police Force**

The budget for FY 2022/23 for Uganda Police Force was enhanced by Shs. 62.397Bn as follows:

- i. Shs. 1.5Bn for the Directorate of Crime Intelligence to enhance their capacity to scale up the human intelligence collection capabilities with the support of other Policing operational units to curb crime.
- ii. Shs. 23.897Bn for settlement of Domestic Arrears;
- iii. Shs. 3Bn for renovation of existing Barracks;
- iv. Shs. 20Bn to cater for shortfalls in classified operations
- v. Shs. 14Bn to cater for operational shortfalls (Fuel, food and maintenance)

• **Inspectorate of Government**

The budget for FY 2022/23 for the Inspectorate of Government was enhanced by Shs. 26Bn to strengthen Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption interventions.

3. Resolution of Parliament urging Government to operationalize the road fund

- c) *The Minister responsible for Finance should operationalize the Road Fund in accordance with Section 49 of the Act by the end of the Financial Year 2021/2022.*
- d) *The Minister for Finance should ensure that funds collected by the Uganda Revenue Authority as road user*

charges are remitted directly to the fund as stipulated in Section 21(3) of the Act.

e) The Minister presents to Parliament the Regulations made under section 49 of the Act by June.

ACTION TAKEN

Whereas the Constitution and PFMA, 2015 allow the creation of Special Funds, operationalizing these funds is not tenable given the current trends, various PFM reforms introduced by Government such as the Treasury Single Account coupled with the potential negative consequences associated with Special Funds.

In addition, Special Funds are;

- Inconsistent with the principles and strategic priorities of Programme based Planning and budgeting approach under NDPIII;
- Prone to evasion of budget scrutiny, allocation inefficiency of resources and devoid of transparency
- Fiduciary risky and pose accountability challenges, for instance Uganda Road Fund (URF) is not accountable for the road maintenance funds released to it but rather the executing Agencies.
- Require governance structures that would be contrary to the spirit of rationalization of government agencies. Uganda Road Fund (URF) is one of the agencies

earmarked for transfer to the Ministry of Works and Transport.

National Road Maintenance should be funded through the normal budget appropriation process under the Consolidated Fund as it is the case today and government is committed to progressively enhance the road maintenance allocations to address existing funding challenges.

The Ministry is preparing to submit a Cabinet Memorandum to seek Cabinet concurrence and approval that special Funds should not be operationalized because of the potential negative consequences.

CHAPTER THREE

Government is committed to working closely with Parliament to ensure the quick implementation of resolutions of Parliament in a bid to deliver services more efficiently and effectively, so as to achieve sustainable development in Uganda.

In addition to Bills and policies that will be tabled in the House from time to time, Government, by way of the Action Taken Report, will continue to update Parliament annually, on action taken and the extent of implementation of resolutions of Parliament.