

PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE ON THE MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENT AND BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FY 2023/24

OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO PARLIAMENT

**APRIL 2023** 

## **ACRONYMS**

bn Billion

BPO Business Process Outsourcing

ICT Information, Communication Technology

**EOC** Equal Opportunities Commission

FY Financial Year

GoU Government of Uganda

IFMS Integrated Financial Management System

MDAs Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MoICT&NG Ministry of Information Communication Technology and National

Guidance

MoFPED Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development

MPS Ministerial Policy Statements

NBI National Backbone Infrastructure

NDP National Development Plan

NITA-U National Information Technology Authority- Uganda

NPA National Planning Authority

PDMIS Parish Development Model Information System

PFMA Public Finance Management Act

PWDs Persons with Disabilities

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

tn Trillion

UBC Uganda Broadcasting Corporation

UCC Uganda Communications Commission

UICT Uganda Institute of Information Communication and Technology

UGX Uganda Shillings

UPL Uganda Posts Limited

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members

The Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance laid before Parliament, the Ministerial Policy Statement for the FY2023/24 for the Digital Transformation Programme (Programme 11) in accordance with Section 13 (15) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and Rule 146 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament on 15th March 2023. Relatedly, pursuant to Rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Shadow Minister of Information, Communication Technology and Anti-Corruption presented the Alternative Policy Statement for Information, Communications Technology for FY 2023/24 on 31stMarch, 2023. Parliament thereafter referred these Policy Statements to the Committee on Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance for scrutiny and report to the plenary, in accordance with Rule 146 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament. Guided by Article 155(4) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 and Rule 189 (a) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Committee:

- i. Examined and now comments on policy matters affecting Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) under the Digital Transformation Programme; and
- ii. Examined critically Government recurrent and capital budget estimates and has made recommendations for general debate in the House.

The Committee hereby reports;

## 1.1 Background

The Committee on ICT& National Guidance premised on policy documents enshrined in the National Planning Framework and in accordance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act Section 13 (15), analyzed the budget performance of the institutions under the Digital Transformation Programme. The Committee also reviewed policies that were approved by Parliament as contained in the Appropriations Act 2022, as well as the proposed strategic policy programmes direction as prioritized by the agencies for the FY 2023/24.

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The Committee was further guided by section 12 (1) and (2) of the PFM Act 2015, where Parliament is required to analyze policies and programmes that affect the economy and the national

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annual budget and where necessary make recommendations to the Ministry on alternative approaches to the policy or programmes.

In facilitating the Budget approval process of Parliament, the Committee conducted in-depth analysis of the Policy statements to highlight topical issues for the consideration in the Budget and matters of the economy in line with Rule 149 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The Sectoral Committee on Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance catered for in Rule 187 (n) covers the following votes.

- Vote 020: Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and National Guidance
- ii. Vote 126: National Information Technology Authority Uganda

The non-vote agencies (public corporations and state enterprises) include:

- i. **Uganda Communications Commission**
- ii. Uganda Broadcasting Corporation
- iıi. Uganda Posts Limited
- Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology iv.
- v. Uganda Media Council
- Uganda Media Center vi.
- vii. Vision Group

#### 2.0 METHODOLOGY

In preparing this report, the Committee:

- Reviewed and analyzed the following documents: (i)
  - i. The Public Finance and Management Act, 2015;
  - ii. The ICT&National Guidance Ministerial Policy Statement FY2023/24;
  - 11i. National Budget Framework Paper(BFP)FY2023/24-2027/28;
  - iv. Report of the Auditor General to Parliament for the Financial Year ended June 30 2022:
  - v. The Semi Annual Budget Performance Report FY2022/23;
  - vi. The Presidential and Policy directives issued by the MoFPED;

- vii. The Annual Budget Performance Report FY 2021/22;
- viii. The National Development Strategies Vision 2040, NDP III and the NRM Manifesto (Manifesto on ICT Priorities);
  - ix. The ICT & National Guidance Ministerial Policy Statement FY 2022/23
- (ii) Held meetings with the following officials:
  - i. Minister of Information, Communication Technology& National Guidance;
  - ii. The Executive Director Uganda Communications Commission;
  - iii. The Executive Director National Information Communication Technology;
  - iv. The Managing Director Uganda Broadcasting Corporation;
  - v. The Managing Director Uganda Posts Limited;
  - vi. The Principal Uganda Institute of Information and Communication Technology;
  - vii. The Executive Director Uganda Media Centre;
  - viii. The Chairperson Media Council of Uganda; and
  - ix. The Chief Executive Officer Vision Group.

#### 3.0 COMPLIANCE OF THE MINISTERIAL POLICY STATEMENTS

#### 3.1 To the Law

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

The Committee recommends that the Minister should prioritize reporting on the actions taken to implement the Parliamentary recommendations in respect to the Auditor General's report of the preceding financial year.

## 3.2 Annual Budget Compliance to NDPIII

The Public Finance Management Act, 2015 section 13 (6) requires the annual budget to be consistent with the National Development Plan, Charter for fiscal Responsibility and the Budget Framework Paper. Keeping with the provisions, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic

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Development conducts an annual compliance assessment of the previous annual Budget to the NDPIII aimed at entrenching the implementation of National Development Plan objectives in the annual budget.

In line with the above legal requirement an assessment was conducted that revealed that overall at macroeconomic level the annual budget for FY 2022/23 was only 66% compliant with the NDPIII compared to 75% in FY 2021/22.

The average compliance for all programmes stood at 64.7% compliant to the NDPIII for the FY 2022/23 an improvement from 59.9% in the first year of NDPIII and the NBFP FY 2023/24 recorded attainment of 66%.

Specifically for the Digital transformation Programme, it was scored on assessment of 62.8% falling below the overall average for all the programmes assessment that resulted into the category of moderately satisfactory and compliance of the Digital transformation at the NBFP for FY 2023/24 turned out to be only 50% which is moderately satisfactorily.

## 3.3 Gender and Equity Compliance

In accordance with Section 13 (11) (e) (t) & (4 of the Public Finance Management Act (2015), the Minister responsible for Finance, Planning and Economic Development in consultation with Equal **Opportunities** Commissions (EOC). is supposed to issue certificate: a) Certifying that the Budget is gender and equity responsive, and b) Specifying measures taken to equalize opportunities for men. women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.

In fulfillment of the requirement under Section 13 (11) (e) (r) and (ii) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, the Draft Budget Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial 2023/2024 were assessed in order to:



- i) Establish the extent to which Programs have actually allocated funds to gender and equity responsive interventions;
- ii. Ascertain the extent to which respective Vote objectives focus on inclusive growth as provided for in the Third National Development Plan. (NDPIII).

ii) Examine the level of compliance of Votes with Gender and Equity requirements when reporting on past performances and their medium-term commitments;

Overall, the gender and equity compliance of the Budget for FY 2023 /2024 stands at 67%, graded as good performance by the EOC, and an improvement from 65.2% in FY 2022 /2023.

According to the results of the assessment both votes were qualified to attain the certificate of gender and equity compliance albeit at a declining trend.

The Committee recommends that the Digital Transformation Programme entities;

- i. Extend broadband ICT infrastructure coverage countrywide in partnership with the private sector and all Government entities and also implement last mile connectivity to key areas (Districts, sub counties, schools, hospitals, post offices, tourism sites, police, and LGs)
- ii. Deploys Wi-Fi hotspots to cover the fifty (50) sites across the country.
- iii. Conduct stakeholder awareness campaigns to increase awareness and enhancement on Gender Equality.

#### 3.4 Environmental issues

The Digital Transformation Programme entities have enhanced efforts in the; Implementation of the E-waste Management Policy; Continuously supported the development and adoption of technologies that save energy, recycle e-waste and minimize emission of greenhouse gases; Promoted the use of non-environmental destructive methods; Ensured environmental conservation and preservation.

The Committee recommends that:

- i. The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance manages grievance redress mechanism for all NITA-U and private sector ICT infrastructure implementation projects.
- ii. The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance conducts stakeholder engagements focusing on environmental issues.

## 4.0 OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL BUDGET RESOURCE ENVELOP FY 2023/24

The preliminary Budget resources envelope for the FY 2023/24 is UGX. 50,871bn up from UGX. 48,130.7bn of the FY 2022/23, hence an increment of UGX. 2,740.3bn, these comprises of locally

raised tax revenue to be collected amounting to UGX. 28,922bn (57%) and UGX. 11,341bn externally mobilized for budget and project support (22%). On domestic borrowing UGX. 2,010bn is planned to be raised while the different Government agencies are expected to raise NTR of UGX. 90.39bn and the Local Governments will raise AIA amounting to UGX 238.5bn.

The government has earmarked domestic refinancing or rolling over of UGX. 8,358bn equivalent to 16% of the total budget. These are debts that the economy can't settle in the meantime hence the rollover.

Table 1: National Budget Overview for FY2023/24

SN	Source	Approved FY 20222/23	Draft Estimate 2023/24	Variance	Y2Y % Changes
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Domestic Resources	25,550.8	28,921.5	3,370.7	13%
2	Petroleum fund	-	•		0%
3	Budget support	2,609.2	2,471.7	(137.5)	-5%
4	Domestic Financing (Borrowing)	5,007.9	2,010.6	(2,997.3)	-60%
5	Project support(External financing)	6,716.2	8,870.6	2,154.4	32%
6	Domestic Refinancing (Roll over)	8,008.0	8,358.0	350.0	4%
7	Local Revenue for Local Governments	238.5	238.5	-	0%
8	Total Resource. In flow	48,130.7	50,871.0	2,740.3	6%
9	External Debt Repayment(Amortization)	2,412.2	2,735.1	322.9	13%
10	Project support(External financing)	6,716.2	8,870.6	2,154.4	32%
11	Domestic Refinancing (Roll over)	8,008.0	8,358.0	350.0	4%
12	Domestic Arrears	661.9	200.0	(461.9)	-70%
13	AIA	238.5	238.5	-	0%
14	GoU MTEF	30,093.9	30,468.7	374.8	1%
15	Interest payment	4,691.9	5,995.7	1,303.8	28%
16	Domestic Debt Payment (BoU) and Recapitalization	-	1,468.0	1,468.0	0%
17	GoU Discretional Resources (MTEF less interest payment)	25,402.0	23,005.0	(2,397.0)	-9%

Source: MoFPED

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## 5.0 THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The Digital Transformation Programme brings together nine (9) Government Agencies responsible for increased ICT penetration and usage for social and economic transformation and contributes to the NDP III objective 2 which is to strengthen the private sector capacity to drive economic growth and create jobs.

Digital Transformation Programme aims to increase ICT penetration and use of ICT services for social and economic development. The expected results relate to: increased ICT penetration; reducing cost of ICT devices and services; creating more direct jobs in the sector; and increasing government services online. The Programme will be pursuing the following strategies to contribute towards the NDP III: to promote ICT innovation, to enhance ICT skills and vocational development, to promote development-oriented mind-set and to increase government participation in strategic sectors.

## 6.0 VOTE 020: MINISTRY OF ICT& NATIONAL GUIDANCE

## 6.1 Budget Performance

Table 2: MOICT Budget performance for the first Half of FY 2022/23

Vote Budget Performance FY 2022/23 (UGX.bn)

		The same of				
<b>5</b>	West	6.778		6.778	5.158	76.10%
Machinent	Non-Wage	53.709		53.709	22.752	42.36%
Phone 1	Cost	33.680		33.680	14.829	44.02%
FIRMS.	粉丝 Pta	0.000		0.000		
	Coll Tool	94.168		94.168	42.739	45.39%
Total	Gold bat Min (MITER)	94,168		94.168	42,739	45.39%
	Arrende	74.539	39.200	113.738	113.738	100.00%
	Total Bridge	168.718		207.918	156.477	75.23%
M. et	ALA TON	0.000		0.000		
	Carried Total	168.718		207.918	156.477	75.23%

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Total Vote Businet Buckering Access

94.168

39,200

94.168

42.739

45.39%

## Source: MOICT Policy Statement and PBO computation

- The vote's budget falls under two programmes of Digital transformation and that of Community mobilization and mindset change. Accordingly, the digital transformation accounted for 85% of the resources while community mobilization was 15%.
- ii. The Budget performance as at the end of first half of the FY, notably under programme of digital transformation, sub-programme of enabling ICT environment development regulation that had an allocation of UGX. 12.579bn, for the period under review only UGX. 1.164bn was released to the vote of which only UGX. 0.671bn equivalent to 5.5% was spent.
- iii. While the sub-programme of effective communication and national guidance under the community mobilization and mind change had an approved budget of UGX. 24.765bn for the period under review only UGX. 5.185bn had been released to the vote of which UGX. 4.769bn was spent posting an absorption capacity of 19.3% of the budget.
- iv. On the other hand, the wage component performed to target registering 76% budget release and absorption of 92% and this falls under the sub-programme of policy, planning and support services which also accounted for 80% of the vote's budget.
- v. The development budget underperformed with 44% of the budget resources released of the target. The budget's underperformance implies no service provision to the population for the various programme objectives.

Table 3: Budget Performance by Department FY 2022/23 (UGX.bn)



Department	Approved Budget	Baltanial by and March	Age related
Communication and Information Dissemination	23.283	10.339	44.4%
National Guidance	1.485	0.474	31.9%
Data Network Engineering	0.427	0.296	69.2%
E-Services	0.515	0.282	54.8%
ICT Infrastructure Development	0.373	0.219	58.7%
Research & Development	11.264	2.712	24.1%









Finance & Administration	136.891	127.394	93.1%
Retooling Project (GoU Dev't)	33.680	14.829	44.0%
Grand Total Vote Budget	207.918	156.478	75.3%

As can be noted in the table above, despite National Guidance having the least allocation it also performed the poorest. This has been attributed to lack of a functional structure to populate staff so as to absorb the allocated wages.

The committee strongly recommends that the Ministry makes the necessary provisions for the functioning of the directorate of National Guidance with its full structure for the country and the population to get better guidance at personal and on national development.

Table 4: Analysis of the Budget Cuts FY 2022/23 AND FY2023/24

6.778	6.877	†0.0 <del>9</del> 9
53.709	47.731	5.978
33.680	1.081	32.599
0.000	0.000	0.000
94.168	55.689	38.479
94.168	55.689	34.479
74.550	51.489	23.064
168.718	107.178	61.54
94.168	55.689	34,479

The committee noted with concern the drastic fall in the budget allocation to the Ministry and yet in the strategic priorities it's listed among the key drivers of the economy to full recovery. The allocation cannot support the much needed infrastructure development and maintenance to spur ICT penetration and usage for the private sector to deepen the application of ICT.

The Committee accordingly recommends that Government walks the talk by allocating sufficient funds to the prioritized programs in its budget allocations.

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## 6.2 Key Achievements by the Ministry

Key among the achievements highlighted by the Ministry are;

- i. Extension of the National Backbone Infrastructure countrywide under the last mile Connectivity, a total of thirty MDAs and DLGs and target user sites had been connected to the NBI. This particular program is cross cutting with the bulky of the works being undertaken by NITA-U.
- ii. Continued to facilitate innovators and innovation hubs with grants under the National ICT Initiatives Support Programme-NIISP.
- iii. The Ministry reported the final transfer of all assets and liabilities of the old UTL to the new Uganda Telecommunications Corporation Limited where all digital infrastructures is going to be managed.
- iv. As an emerging policy in order to mainstream the ICT Cadres across Government, the Schemes of Service and Norms of ICT cadres across government have been drafted

## 6.3 Key Challenges during Budget execution

The challenges in the execution of the 2022/23 budget were;-

- i. Insufficient/Inadequate releases of funds during Q1 and Q2 that left critical activities not undertaken. Case in point was UBC where: Acquisition of critical broadcasting and communication equipment for Television and Radio stations was affected.
- ii. Delayed payment of staff salaries from the internally generated revenue at the Corporation.
- iii. Non-payment of Satellite charges and fees to Intelsat due to reduced performance of internally Generated revenue by the Corporation.
- iv. Insufficient funds to maintain feeder roads to transmission sites across the country.
- v. Inadequate students for UICT
- vi. Human resource and skills to deliver on the Strategic Plan/Master plan.
- vii. Under capitalization
- viii. Dynamic technological Environment

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- ix. Costly Universal Service Obligation
- Delay in the implementation of the National Addressing and Postcode project x.
- xi. **Debt from Government owned Operators**
- Transition of Broadcasters to the new licensing framework xii.
- xiii. Post COVID-19 Economic recovery has been slow
- xiv. Unforeseen budget cuts have the potential to impact the execution of planned activities and the delivery of services.

#### MOICT&NG proposed Budget for the FY 2023/24 6.4

Table 5: Vote 020 MOICT&NG Proposed Budget Allocation for FY 2023/24

Budget item	Approved FY 2022/23	NBFP Proposals FY 2023/24	Draft Estimates FY 2023/24	Y2Y Changes in FY 2023/24 Vs 2022/23	% Budget Share 2023/24
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total Recurrent	60.49	30.22	38.0	-37%	79%
Wage	6 <i>7</i> 8	6.73	6.7	-1%	14%
Non-Wage	53.71	23.49	31.2	-42%	65%
Total Development	33.68	19.55	10.3	-69%	21%
Dvt GoU	33.68	19.55	10.3	-69%	21%
External Support	-	-	-	0%	0%
GoU	94.17	49.76	48.3	-49%	100%
MTEF(GoU+E xt Fin)	94.17	49.76	48.3	-49%	100%
Arrears	-	-	-	0%	0%
A.I.A Total	-		-	0%	0%
Grand Total	94.17	49.76	48.3	-49%	100%

## Source MOICT Ministerial policy statement FY 2023/24

- (i) The budget allocation to the Ministry has fallen by almost half at 49% from the FY 2022/23 allocations without arrears. In absolute terms a sum of UGX. 48.3bn has been provided compared to the current budget of UGX. 94.17bn without arrears.
- (ii) The above reductions are attributed to declines in the non-wage recurrent at 42% and development budget at 69% of their current allocations.
- (iii) In terms of programme funding the Digital transformation will account for 92% of the vote's allocation while community mobilization and mind change will have 8% of the allocation down from the 15% allocation it had in the FY 2022/23.
- (iv) Whereas the Ministry has a recruitment plan to cost UGX. 771.8 million, its wage provision has not attracted any increment. This will call for supplementary expenditure during the course of budget implementation
- (v) The Ministry has no provision for AIA and yet UCC, UBC and the others generate own resources and spend as per Section 29 (3) (a) of PFMA. These resources constitute public resources and ought to be appropriated by Parliament to be retained.

## 6.5 Key policy and programs to be undertaken by the vote

- i. Development of PDMIS system
- ii. Under enabling environment for ICT Development and Regulation, the vote intends to carry out GIS addressing and postcode database developed. This is only planned to cover Kampala at a cost of UGX 897M
- iii. The Ministry has planned to invest at least UGX 5.1Bn for Public and Private institutions supported to review, re-engineer their processes, automate and deliver services online

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## 6.6 Budget Performance of other agencies under Vote 020

#### 6.6.1 UGANDA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Table 6: Half Year Budget Performance FY 2022/2023

Revenue Sources	Approved Budget	Q1 FY 2022/23	Q2 FY 2022/23	Percentage rolease
GoU	24.047	0.947	2.526	14%
NTR	10.000	1.167	1.500	38%
Total	34.047	2.114	4.026	26%

The Corporation has an approved budget of UGX. 34.047bn for the FY 2022/23; of which, only UGX. 3.473bn has been received from the Government of Uganda subvention, and UGX. 2.667bn has been realized from internally generated revenue for the last two quarters. These funds were approved under the Digital Transformation Programme for the FY 2022/23 to help the corporation to achieve its mandate of becoming a sustainable national public broadcaster.

The Corporation was thus not in position to implement any activities in the Development work plan, including upgrading and replacing outdated and obsolete transmission equipment at the Kololo transmission site which has greatly affected the operations of the corporation especially the delivery of Digital signal transmission countrywide.

Table 7: Budget Estimates for UBC FY 2023/24:

Revenue 3ources	ANNUAL BUDGET	Q1 cash requirement	%age budget	Q2 cash requirement	%age	Q3 cosh requirement	%	Q4 cash	% Budget
WAGE RECURRENT	(6.523)	1,631	25	1.631	25	1.631	25	1.631	25
GoU NON-WAGE	1.51	0.453	30	0.453	30	0.302	20	0.302	20

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NTR	10.00	3.00	30	3.00	30	2.00	20	2.00	20
rotal .	15.298	5.084		5.08 <del>4</del>		3.933		3.933	

## 6.6.2 UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATION

Table 8: Budget Performance FY 2021/22, 2022/23 and Budget estimates 2023/24:

		20	21/22	200	2023/24				
DETAILS		DETAILS		APPROV ED/ REVISED BUDGET (UGX BN)	END OF YEAR PERFOMA NCE (UGX BN)	APPROVE D/ REVISED BUDGET (UGX BN)  HALF YEAR PERFOMA NCE (UGX BN)		PROPOSE D BUDGET (UGX BN)	
REVENUE	REVENUE	171.61	154.26	168.1	67.21	207.69			
RECURRE	WAGES	42.41	35.35	42 13	18.62	45.85			
NT	NON-WAGE	35 <i>.7</i> 5	34.50	34,11	13.14	44.00			
	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE & UCUSAF SUBSIDIES	43 02	23.71	46 07	5 19	59.78			
DEVELOP MENT	REMITTANCE TO CONSOLIDATE FUND	41 42	45.61	38.04	0.58	48.65			
	REMITTANCE TO MOICT&NG	6.50	5.97	5.59	2.79	6.79			
	REMITTANCE TO UICT	2.50	2.51	2 15	1.08	2 61			
GRAND TOTAL		171.61	147.65	168.1	41.4	207.69			

The Budget of UCC is entirely funded from levies on the operators of the media (radios stations, Mobile phone operators, Television operators and online platforms and this is supposed to be scrutinized for the guidance of the entity on its priorities.

# 7.0 VOTE 126- NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AUTHORITY UGANDA(NITA-U)

The Mission of the Authority is to create a technical and regulatory environment for delivery of reliable and secure e-services.

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It's Strategic Objectives include; Provision of high quality information technology services to Government; and promotion of access to and utilization of information technology by all groups

## 7.1 Budget performance for the first Half of FY 2022/23

- (i) The approved annual budget for FY2022/23 is UGX 56.295bln of which GOU was UGX. 46.289bn equivalent to 83% of the vote's budget while external financing was UGX 3.687. During the first half of the year, 43% of the total approved budget was released and 82% of the release was spent.
- (ii) To note wage despite receiving its full target of the first half of the FY, only 76% was spent implying there were staff planned for but not recruited during the period under review
- (iii) The recurrent budget towards non-wage or operational funds of the entity realised only 28% of the target this cripples the functioning and operations of the vote as they could do little to achieve with less funds especially to facilitate the running of the different programs including development undertakings.

Table 9: Budget performance for the first Half of FY 2022/23 (UGX.bn)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Wage	11.211	5.605	4.252	50%	76%	
Non - Wage	29.80	8.840	8.246	28%	95%	
Total Recurrent	41.013	14.446	12.520	35%	87%	
GoU Devt	5.275	1.758	1.136	33%	65%	
External Financing	3.687	1.843	-	50%	0%	
Total (Gou)	46.289	16.205	13.656	35%	84%	
Domestic Arrears	6.328	6.318	6.305	100%	100%	
Grand Total	56.295	24.367	19.962	43%	82% ,	

Source NITAU MPS 2023 and PBO Computation

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## 7.2 Key achievements registered by the vote

The vote registered the following milestones during the period under review,

- i. A total of twenty-nine (29) additional MDA/DLG and target user sites were connected to the NBI bringing the total number of sites connected to thirty (30) MDA/LG sites by the end of the quarter.
- ii. By the end of Q2 additional twenty-eight (28) applications had been hosted at the National Data Centre (NDC) bringing the cumulative number of applications and MDAs hosted to forty-four (44) from ninety-nine (99) entities respectively for the half year
  - 3. By the end of Q2, service uptime on the NBI was recorded at 99.8%.
- iii. By the end of Q2, twenty-five (25) entities had been on-boarded onto the UgHub platform bringing the cumulative number of entities integrated and using services on the platform to thirty-three (33) entities on-boarded during the first half of the FY.
- iv. By the end of the Q2 period, NITA-U had developed six (6) additional Local Government website making a total of seven (7) websites developed during the half year.
- v. Sixty seven awareness engagements were conducted in the public and private sector to promote awareness on the Data Protection and Privacy Act.

Table 10: Vote 126 NITAU Proposed Budget Allocation for FY 2023/24

Budg <del>et</del> item	Approved FY 2022/23	NBFP Proposals FY 2023/24	Draft Estimates FY 2023/24	Y2Y Changes in FY 2023/23 Vs 2022/23	% Budget Share 2022/23
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Total Recurrent	41.013	46.86	45.414	11%	32%
Wage	11.211	11.211	11.211	0%	8%
Non-Wage	29.802	35.649	34.203	15%	24%

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Total Development	8.964	84.603	96.044	971%	68%
Dvt GoU	5.276	4.785	4.538	14%	3%
External Support	3.688	79.818	91.538	238%	65%
GoU	49.977	51.645	49.953	-2%	35%
MTEF(GoU+Ext Fin)	49.977	131.343	141.459	183%	100%
Arrears	6.318	-		0%	0%
A.I A Total	-		+	0%	0%
Grand Total	56.295	131.463	141.459	152%	100%

Source NITAU MPS 2023 and PBO Computations

- (i) The vote's proposed budget allocation is projected to increase from the UGX.49.97bn approved for FY 2022/23 to UGX.141.46bn in FY2023/24 representing an overall increase of 183%. The increase in the vote's funding is attributed to a more than two folds increase in external financing for the project component under the vote budget.
- (ii) On the Other hand, the non-wage component of the vote will increase by a modest 15%, however this is on the backdrop in the allocation at NBFP that stood at UGX. 35.649bn to UGX. 34bn in the budget estimates.
- (iii) The vote has prepared a recruitment plan to recruit 14 new staff at an additional annual budget requirement of UGX. 1.104bn, however as it may be noted from the proposed budget there are no provisions in the new budget for the increase in funding
- (iv) As noted in (i) above the bulky of the vote's budget will go towards capital investment under external financing from the loan procured for the extension of the NBI under the last mile connectivity to public institutions including administrative units, hospitals and schools. Under the same initiative the vote intends to upgrade the National Data center.

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## 7.3 Vote's key priority areas for FY 2023/24 and the Medium Term

In order to achieve the digital transformation vision, NITA-U will focus on the following;

- i. Extension of the NBI (Connecting MDAs, LGs and Priority User Groups) Last mile connectivity and missing links;
- ii. Integration of ICT Systems and promotion of e-Government (e-GP, Systems Integration, e-Payment Gateway, UMCS, IT service desk, and e-Services portal);
- iii. Delivery of services (Internet, leased lines, IFMS and Data centre) to facilitate affordable access to e-Services;
- iv. Certification of Information Technology (IT) services, Institutions and Professionals;
- v. Creation of an enabling Environment through development and awareness creation of the existing IT laws, regulations and policies;
- vi. Conduct research in key priority IT areas;
- vii. Foster innovation through the creation of partnership and provision of support to innovation hubs/ centers;
- viii. Enhancement of Capacity building to bridge the skills gap in IT across Government; and
- ix. Secure infrastructure and services.

#### 8.0 MATTERS INCIDENTAL TO BUDGET PERFORMANCE

## 8.1 Arrears

## 8.1.1 Uganda Broadcasting Corporation

The Corporation has outstanding obligations to the Tune of UGX 87 Billion as reflected in the table below;

Table 11: List of UBC Arrears

	ITEM DESCRIPTION		AMOUNT	
1	Legal Compensation- Claims		Maria	1,911,091,529
	Logie	22		P

	ITEM DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
		1 14 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
1	National Social Security Funds	46,492,180,713
5		
ο	Umeme Power Bills (All sites)	7,091,012,098
94	Intelsat Satellite services	3,803,800,000
10	National Information Technology Authority	77,526,000
11		
	GRAND TOTAL	87,919,842, <b>4</b> 05

## 8.2 ICT Consumption items

ICT expenditure across the Government MDAs continues to be procured, maintained and charged by the different vote levels whereas Government has prioritized the use of e-services under the e-governance. The Budget items consumed on ICT related services have not translated into the desired savings given the investment and strategic direction in revolutionizing the digitalization of the economy.

Table 12: Shows the direct expenditure on those items for the last three FYs

CODE	Item	FY 2020/21	FY 2021/22	FY 2022/23
221001	Advertising	86,361,490	71,203,428	93,799,127
221008	Computer Supplies and IT	138,176,894	182,830,681	167,463,888
	Printing Stationery and			
221011	Photocopying	283,105,128	142,928,523	123,066,019
222001	ICT communication	37,431,837	37,262,733	82,054,240
222002	Postage and Courier services	2,510,939	2,608,296	3,018,870
222003	ICT Supplies	78,272,557	75,414,524	

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Total item Budget (Thousands)	625,858,845	512,248,185	469 <i>,</i> 402,145
Total Budget(Thousands)	45,493,727,341	44,010,962,167	48,130,676,075
Item Budget % of the total Budget	1.38%	1.16%	1%

The Committee recommends that ICT budget items be recentralized and given prominence in acquisition, maintenance and disposal through the appropriate government agency that is ICT dominated.

## 9.0 OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 9.1 VOTE 020: MINISTRY OF ICT& NATIONAL GUIDANCE

## 9.1.1 Gross underfunding of the Digital Transformation Programme

Whereas the digital transformation programme is one of the three key priority areas of focus for government under the NDP III and is fundamental in the realization of economic and social transformation in improving service delivery, creating opportunities for youth employment and strengthening domestic revenue, it remains grossly underfunded. This is worsened with the subjection of the meager allocation given to the Ministry to budget cuts leaving the ICT sector with literally no resources to undertake activities under the programme.

The Committee also notes and decries the failure by the MoFPED to release funds appropriated by Parliament for the FY2022/23 for the programme which has further affected the already poor performance of the sector.

For the FY 2023/24, the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance has indicated a shortfall of UGX. 4.92bn in the most critical areas of Digital Transformation Programme. This deficit relates to operational cost under finance and administration (UGX. 0.62bn), e-government systems (funds to innovators) (UGX. 2.8bn), centralized media buying services (UGX. 1.0bn) and other contractual obligations.

Committee Recommendation

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The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX 4.920bn to the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance to boost the Digital Transformation Programme.

## 9.1.2 Funding gap in the Directorate of Information Dissemination and National Guidance

The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance is responsible for; providing professional media and communication services to all government departments; foster a communication environment between government and the media; and to integrate the international marketing of Uganda into the broader communication strategy of government, all of which require adequate funding. For the FY 2023/24, the Ministry intends to enhance effective mobilization of families, communities and citizens for national development through various campaigns. Unfortunately, the Non-wage recurrent budget of the Directorate of Information Dissemination and National Guidance under Community Mobilization and Mindset Programme was not allocated any resources. Further, the wage for the Directorate was also under funded. The Ministry therefore requires UGX 23.77bn under its Non-wage recurrent budget for FY 2023/2024.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 23.77bn to the Directorate of Information Dissemination and National Guidance for the FY 2023/24.

#### 9.2 UGANDA BROADCASTING CORPORATION

## 9.2.1 Enhancement of Financial appropriations to UBC

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation intends to expand the Digital Terrestrial Television and Radio Broadcasting network; Digitize, archive and commercialize Local Content and data by acquiring equipment for additional Digital Terrestrial Transmission (DTT), upgrade the existing Television and Radio transmission sites to ensure redundancy, establish regional television channels, build additional four television and seven radio studios, establish archiving systems and Digital repository infrastructural for MDAs and LGs, and establishment of a regional centre to get additional information and requires UGX. 66.6bn for this expansion and improvement of the

network.

Relatedly, the need to enhance financial releases to UBC was stated by H.E the President in a letter to the Minister of Finance Planning and economic Development on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 where he had directed that UBC is allocated UGX. 30bn annually, and a follow-up to this on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to the Rt. Hon, Prime Minister.

The Committee also observed that UGX. 9.0bn was appropriated for FY 2022/23 for the purpose of installing the DTH, and renovation and reequipping the master control centre in Kololo for the free to air signal distribution but has since not been released by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. This has resulted into Ugandans being subjected to an indirect television tax by the private carriers for the FTA channels.

#### Committee Recommendation

## The Committee recommends that;

- use of SIGNET) for the implementation of DTH.
- ii. UGX. 30bn is provided for in the FY 2023/24 to UBC to enable it improve and expand its services to the Country so as to enhance the performance of the national broadcaster.

## 9.2.2 Wage Increment of UGX. 6.523bn annually

In the FY 2018/19, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation started receiving a wage budget of UGX. 3.788bn from the MoFPED as payment for part of the staff. The funds were included in the MTEF of the Ministry and continue to be paid to date. In the same year, the Corporation received a recurrent budget of UGX. 12.000bn for its MTEF. This was to be received as a subvention from the MoICT&NG to UBC to cover the remaining part of the wage, and other recurrent expenditures. That was until FY 2022/23 when the releases to the corporation reduced. The reduction in the wage releases to the Corporation has in effect led to inability to pay wage to the staff, with a resolution of wage payments using internally generated revenue (NTR), a source that is unreliable for such a crucial item that has also affected operational funds of the Corporation. As such, the staff paid from the Corporation barely receive their salaries in time due to the untimely collections of the internally generated funds.

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The Corporation therefore, requests that UGX 6.523bn be provided for in the FY 2023/24 and the MTEF as wage for UBC, and if possible, be paid through the MoICT&NG to enable timely payment of the Corporation staff salaries and the associated benefits.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government enhances the wage bill for UBC by UGX. 6.523bn from FY 2023/24. This payment, the Committee further recommends be paid through the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance.

## 9.2.3 Provision of a Vote Code

The Uganda Broadcasting Corporation is a National Broadcaster fully owned by the Government of the Republic of Uganda with a mandate to inform, educate, and entertain the population on matters of National importance, operating as a subvention under the Ministry of Information, Communication Technology and national Guidance.

Efforts to have UBC allocated a Vote Code trace back to 16th June 2020 to a letter from the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance to the PS/ST on the need to provide UBC with a Vote Code, a letter of even subject was written on 20th February 2023 for a Vote code, which was unfortunately rejected by the PS/ST.

The Committee is however of the considered opinion that availing a Vote code to the Corporation will allow ease of resource mobilization and acquisition, recognition by the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, the Parliament of Uganda, and proper identification during planning, budgeting, and budget execution and therefore partly address the challenge of poor performance. Having a Vote code will enable UBC to be self-accounting, enable efficient utilization of resources, and ensure consistency of funding from the Government, as well as implement development projects with development partners.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Uganda Broadcasting Corporation is provided a Vote code from FY 2023/24 to enhance performance and productivity.

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## 9.2.4 Management of the Debt at UBC

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation has over the years accrued a debt that currently stands at UGX. 87bn (as indicated on Table 11: Arrears at UBC). This has affected operations and consequently service delivery at the Corporation. The liability arises from tax arrears to URA and penalties there-of, staff savings unremitted to NSSF with attendant penalties and utility bills from UMEME and National Water and Sewerage Corporation, which debts are carried forward including those from the old entity-Radio Uganda/ Uganda Television.

It should also be appreciated that UBC has not been allocated funds to cover these obligations, the Committee therefore recommends as follows;

- i. The tax arrears UBC owes to URA and the penalties there-of should be ascertained and written off.
- ii. The penalties NSSF imposed on UBC should be ascertained and written off.
- iii. Government should take over the remaining UBC debts, and work out schedules and timeframes of payment of outstanding liabilities as is indicated in H.E., the President's letter to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament in a letter dated 6th March 2023 on the Issues at Uganda Broadcasting Corporation.

## 9.3 UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

#### 9.3.1 Establishment of the Communications tribunal

The Communications Act 2013 envisaged the need for a tribunal to mediate between the market regulator and the licensees. This has however not been operationalized, which is against so many efforts to implement the tribunal including a Presidential directive in FY 2016.

The delay in establishing the tribunal has limited the ability of the aggrieved citizens, the media, and telecom service providers to expeditiously contest some of UCC's and the Ministry of ICT& National Guidance pronouncements, as the tribunal would play an important role of telecommunication policy and regulation, and would enhance the introduction of new services and infrastructure.

Committee Recommendation

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The Committee recommends that Cabinet expedites and fast tracks the process of approval of the communications tribunal.

## 9.3.2 Levy on Gross Annual Revenues of Licensed Operators

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

This revenue is shared between information communication technology development and rural communication. The Committee observes that UCC collects 2% of the gross annual revenue, 50% of which is always remitted to the consolidated fund.

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

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that the levy collected by UCC in this regard be earmarked and ring fenced for purposes of ICT development and rural communication as provided for in the Uganda Communications Act.

#### 9.3.3 Cost of Internet

The cost of internet to the public sector has reduced over the years, as a result of the extension of the National Backbone Infrastructure across the country.

While cost of internet supplied by NITA-U to Government is USD 70 per mbps, this is still viewed as expensive in relation to the private internet connectivity providers. The Committee was informed that the cost of internet would reduce to USD 35 in the FY2023/24.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that;

- i. The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance through the UCC should put in place Guidelines to operationalize the National Broadband Policy to ensure infrastructure sharing especially among the Internet Service Providers in both the private and public sector.
- ii. There should be deliberate inter-programme coordination between digital information and the energy development programme to ensure that electricity is extended to most of the

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areas of the country as a measure to address the lack of access to electricity in some areas of the Country that has spiked the cost of internet.

#### 9.4 UGANDA POSTS LIMITED

## 9.4.1 Establishment and Operationalization of the Service Centre Uganda

Cabinet in the FY 2019/20 approved the creation of a multi-agency programme called the "Service Centre Uganda" as a mechanism of forging on excellence in customer service, which revolves around improving transparency, efficiency and integrity, thus an important step in enhancing accessibility and non-discrimination of public services.

Uganda Posts Limited was earmarked to implement the establishment and operationalization of the service centres due to its strategic location in over eighty (80) districts across the Country over a four (4) year period beginning with FY 2020/21.

The project was valued at UGX. 23.679bn and funding was to be spread over the four (4) year period of establishment and implementation, thus clustered as follows: UGX. 7.240bn in Year 1, and UGX. 5.479bn in the subsequent three (3) years. The funds were for; the development of the Postal Policy; conducting a study on the viability of Community (last mile) Postal Networks; and support the deployment of e-services through service centers and the postal network. To date however, this project has not commenced due to lack of funding. This has affected what would have been seamless access to public services and revenue generation to Government.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Uganda Posts Limited is allocated UGX. 7.240bn for the FY 2023/24 to roll out the establishment and operationalization of the Service Centre Uganda, and also commitment be made by MoFPED to further fund the subsequent three years of this intervention.

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## 9.5 UGANDA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

## 9.5.1 Operationalization of the specialized centre for excellence

The Ministry of ICT& National Guidance together with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) are jointly setting up a specialized training infrastructure with the objective of facilitating improved teaching and learning for especially Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation (STEMI) subjects at UICT with a specialized regional training centre and infrastructure to be accessed and used by other institutions and stakeholders. This specialized training infrastructure facilitates the teaching, learning and assessment of STEMI subjects using Fourth Industrial Revolution Technologies (4IR) specifically Augmented, Virtual and Mixed Reality. The financing of the budget is proposed to be through a grant and counter-part funding. The MoICT & NG and MoES have identified EON INC an international corporation a world leader in Virtual Reality (VR) - and Augmented Reality (AR)-based Knowledge Transfer in Education and Industry to provide funding through a Grant Guarantee Program (GGP). This will however require the Government to counter fund to a tune of UGX. 6.60bn for the grant to be released.

## Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that UGX. 6.60bn is allocated to UICT for the full operationalization of a specialized centre for excellence.

## 9.5.2 Enhancement of infrastructure capacity for ICT skills Development

UICT seeks to develop ICT centres of excellence and vocational institutions by commissioning specialized ICT training infrastructure. This will enhance the infrastructure capacity of the institute to support specialized ICT training, ICT labs upgrade, enhance the infrastructure capacity of the institute to support specialized ICT training, equipping of lecture rooms with smart technology, supporting establishment of basic environment/readiness for commercialization of research and teaching/learning. They also seek to address the human resource and skills gap which presently is at 70% to deliver on the Strategic Plan/ Master plan. Specifically, the institution plans to upgrade one (1) ICT laboratory, set up a lecture room(s) equipped with smart technology, and one (1) indigenous knowledge product commercialized. UICT requires UGX. 2.0bn for the above

intervention.

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#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that Government allocates UGX. 2.0bn towards ICT skills development and initiatives.

## 9.6 VOTE 126: NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

## 9.6.1 Operationalization of the Data Protection Office

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, services that used to be provided through traditional means have since gone online, and this also comes with the requirement or the need to strengthen Data Protection and Privacy for service provided through public and private domains to prevent potential loss or misuse of data during online transactions.

Therefore, there is need to fully operationalize the Personal Data Protection Office to ensure issues related to Data Protection and Privacy are handled to mitigate potential loss of personal data as a result of taking these services online.

Under the Act, NITA-U is required to establish a Personal Data and Privacy Office (PDPO) to implement the Act. The operations of the Office commenced in this FY, however, there is need for funds to cater for the operations of the Office and cover the Registration System, Mass awareness campaign, Development of toolkits and Office Tools. Presently, the office has only four (4) staff out of the required thirty five (35) representing only 14%. NITA requires UGX. 4.344bn to fully operationalize the Data Protection Office.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that UGX. 4.344bn is allocated to NITA for the operationalization of the Data Protection Office.

## 9.6.2 Enhancement of the National Data Center

NITA-U is currently hosting two hundred thirty eight (238) critical Government applications for ninety nine (99) MDAs. The establishment of the National Data Centre and Disaster Recovery (DR) sites was to consolidate all Government hosting requirements to eliminate the duplications and wastage of resources.



The increasing automation of Government services by the MDAs over the COVID-19 period and post COVID-19 period, triggered an increase in demand for hosting services in the National Data Centre and the Disaster Recovery (DR) site resulting into over utilization of Data Centre resources such as storage and compute.

Therefore, the provision of these resources will enable the enhancement of the National Data Centre and the Disaster Recovery Site to host more Government applications and system. NITA-U requires UGX. 12.0bn to enhance the National Data Centre.

#### Committee Recommendations

The committee recommends that;

- i. UGX. 12.0bn is allocated to NITA-U for the enhancement of the National Data Centre.
- ii. Government should put in place a policy that ensures that NITA-U hosts all applications and systems as opposed to current arrangement where MDAs build private data centres and instead centralize application and systems management, with NITA-U in charge of all these finances. This will cut costs in data management and recovery, and also ensure adequate supervision of this information.

#### 9.6.3 Provision of ICT services to additional 700 sites connected

Government through the MOFPED has from FY2016/17, consolidated ICT to a tune of UGX. 15.287bn under NITA-U for the provision of services to MDAs, such as; Internet Bandwidth, Data centers hosting services, and software licenses etc.

However, with an additional seven hundred (700) sites (MDA/LGs, Hospitals, schools, sports stadiums and tertiary institutions) that are connected under the last mile project, NITA-U will require an additional consolidation of UGX. 22.726bn to cater for service provision for these sites connected to the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) and to also avoid the accumulation of arrears.

#### Committee Recommendation

The Committee recommends that UGX. 22.726bn is allocated to NITA-U for the provision of ICI services to additional seven hundred eighty one (700) sites connected

## 10. SUPPLY TABLE

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members in light of the above, the Committee therefore recommends that the House do adopt the report and approves the budget estimates for the Ministries, Departments and agencies under the Digital Transformation Programme contained herein for the FY 2023/24 as follows below;

VOTE 020: MINISTRY OF INFO AND NATIONAL GUDIANCE	DRMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
Expenditure Item	Proposed Budget UGX.(000)
Recurrent	93,766,045
Development	1,081,046
TOTAL	94,847,091
<b>VOTE 126 NATIONAL INFORM</b>	MATION AUTHORITITY UGANDA (NITAU)
Expenditure Item	Proposed Budget UGX.(000)
Recurrent	43,172,491
Development	96,043,970
TOTAL	139,216,461

## 11. CONCLUSION

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. members, it is the Committee's humble prayer that the funding needs for the Digital Transformation Programme are considered for appropriation as this will increase ICT penetration and use of ICT services for social and economic development in the Country and also ensure the achievement of the NDP III.

I beg to report.

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

NO	NAME	CONSTITUENCY	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Magogo Moses Hassim (Chairperson)	Budiope East County	they so
2	Hon. Igeme Nathan Nabeta Deputy Chairperson)	Jinja City East	recelle
3	Hon. Elotu Cosmas	Dakabela County	
4	Hon. Tinkasiimire Barnabas	Buyaga West County	•
5	Hon. Ndeezi Alex	PWDs Representative	
6	Hon. Chemutai Phyllis	DWR Kapchorwa	2
7	Hon. Kambale Ferico	Kasese Municipality	\$ 30 ·
8	Hon. Acon Julius Bua	Otuke East County	*
9	Hon. Lolem Micah Akasile	Upe County	
10	Hon. Mutiwa Geoffrey	Bunyole West County	-11-
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14	Hon. Kamusiime Caroline	DWR Rukiga	
15	Hon. Kinobere Herbert	Kibuku County	_
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17	Hon. Ojok Andrew Oulanyah	Omoro County	
18	Hon. Afoyochan Esther	DWR Zombo	The state of the s
19	Hon. Tumwine Anna Mary	DWR Ntoroko	
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