



**OPENING REMARKS FOR THE TRAINING ON THE RECENT
REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (PIMS) FRAMEWORK**

BY

**Ag. DIRECTOR BUDGET
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

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CSMA

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The Chairperson, Development Sub-Committee,

Members of the Development Committee,

Colleagues from MoFPED,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

1. On behalf of the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury, I warmly welcome you to this training on the recent reforms to strengthen the Public Investment Management System framework in Uganda.
2. This training has been organised specifically for members of the Development Committee (DC) because of the central “**gatekeeping role**” you play in guiding project appraisal, enforcing the quality of projects at entry, and safeguarding the credibility of the Public Investment Plan (PIP).
3. The effectiveness of our Public Investment Management System depends largely on the quality, consistency and discipline applied by the DC members.
4. Over the two days, we will reflect on the following key reforms and operational issues that are directly relevant to your mandate:
 - i. **The National Public Investment Management Policy (NPIMP), 2024**, which provides the overarching policy direction for the entire public investment cycle. It reinforces the need for efficiency, value for money, stronger planning and appraisal, implementation discipline, operation and maintenance of assets, and accountability for results.
 - ii. **The revised Development Committee (DC) Guidelines, 2025, which strengthen the gatekeeping mandate under PIMS.** They provide clearer guidance on the review of projects at the profile, pre-feasibility, feasibility, and proposal stages, while also addressing implementation, monitoring and evaluation, climate change, gender and equity, off-budget projects, emergency projects, programme appraisal, and the
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- iii. **The revised Project Selection Criteria, 2025, which strengthen the basis for admitting projects into the PIP after appraisal.** The criteria is intended to ensure that only appraised, ready and resource-backed projects move into the budget, while also incorporating climate risk, gender and equity, environmental and social safeguards, regional benefits, jobs, project efficiency and strategic alignment into the sequencing process.
- iv. **The strengthening of the regulatory function of MDAs through Institutional Development Projects (IDPs).** As you are aware, under the NDP III, many MDAs implemented retooling projects aimed at providing tools, equipment and infrastructure to support service delivery. However, the portfolio reviews established that, whereas these interventions improved operational capacity, they did not sufficiently strengthen the regulatory function of MDAs. It was also noted that weak regulation has remained a key constraint on investment, productivity, competitiveness and the formalisation of the economy.

It is against this background that retooling projects were reset to Institutional Development Projects (IDPs) under the NDP IV, so that MDAs can better address gaps in regulation, oversight, enforcement, systems and institutional capacity.

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- v. **Strengthening Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in PIMS.** As you are aware, ESIA is a mandatory requirement under Uganda's environmental and social regulatory framework and is intended to be integrated at the earliest stages of project planning and design so that environmental and social issues are identified and addressed before project implementation. Recent review of the draft ESIA Guidelines has, however, highlighted the need for clearer alignment with the PIMS framework and the DC appraisal process, particularly in relation to the integration of environmental and social considerations at pre-feasibility and feasibility stages.

The presentation on this reform is, therefore, intended to deepen your appreciation of the role of ESIA within project appraisal, clarify its place in the PIMS cycle, and strengthen the capacity of the DC to ensure that environmental and

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social issues are adequately addressed as part of project appraisal quality and project readiness.

5. The delivery of the reforms and operational issues in this training is intended to strengthen the basis upon which you assess projects and make appraisal decisions. Taken together, they are intended to support the DC to apply more consistent standards, assess project readiness more rigorously, and better identify institutional, environmental, social and fiscal risks before projects are admitted into the PIP.
6. It is, therefore, expected that, by the end of this training, you will have a clearer understanding of the recent reforms, their practical implications for the appraisal process, and the actions required to apply them effectively in your day-to-day work. We also expect that this engagement will provide an opportunity to share experiences, identify operational challenges, and generate constructive feedback to further strengthen the Public Investment Management framework.
7. I, therefore, encourage you to participate actively, engage openly with the presentations, and raise any issues that require clarification. Your experience and feedback are important in ensuring that these reforms and operational improvements translate into stronger project appraisal, better investment decisions, and improved public sector results.
8. I thank you for your continued commitment to strengthening Public Investment Management in Uganda, and it is now my honour to declare this training officially open.