

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development



ANNUAL ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT FY2022/23

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

MARCH, 2024



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FOREWORD

FY2022/23 marked the 3rd year of implementation of the Third National Development Plan (NDP III) and the second implementation year of the manifesto of the ruling NRM Government. It further provided for continuity in Government's response strategy to the economic and social challenges induced by COVID-19 and prevailing global uncertainties in the review period.

As a result of economic management policy measures, Uganda's economy resoundingly rebounded, with all three sectors of the economy (agriculture, industry, and services) weathering successive shocks to push growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 5.2 percent during FY2022/23 compared to 4.7 percent in the FY2021/22. In the review period, private consumption increased to 6.2 percent from 5.8 percent registered in FY2021/22, while public investment was scaled back as fiscal space narrowed and private investment retracted in response to a tight monetary stance throughout the fiscal year. With higher capital imports, primarily due to investments related to the country's crude oil development project, the current account deficit widened to 8.7 percent of GDP in FY2022/23 up from 7.9 percent in FY2021/22.

Economic growth in FY2022/23 was mainly attributed to recovery in services and agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors, along with consistent growth in the industrial sector, supported by government-driven initiatives targeted at strengthening private sector involvement and advancing increased regional trade.

Going forward, Uganda's economic trajectory presents a promising future with job growth on the horizon. With GDP growth rebounding from 3.0 percent in FY2019/20 to 5.2 percent in FY2022/23, and projected to grow at a rate of 7.0 to 10 percent in the medium term, employment opportunities are set to rise. This optimism is reinforced by recent recovery in economic activity and confidence in sustained output growth.

Ramathan Ggoobi PERMANENT SECRETARY/SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

This Annual Economic Performance Report provides an account of the country's annual macro and socioeconomic performance over the NDPIII period and details key interventions undertaken to achieve the macro and microeconomic targets of the NDPIII.

The report is comprised of five chapters discussed along the core functions of the Directorate of Economic Affairs. The key functions through which the Directorate contributes to the overall mandate of the Ministry include Macroeconomic Management, Economic Development Policy Advisory, Domestic Resource Mobilization, and Financial Sector Development.

The report makes use of the outturn data for FY2021/22 and FY2022/23 to provide an overview of the country's economic performance, the achievements and major challenges that affected economic growth, revenue mobilization, private sector development, and measures that were taken to address the challenges over the reference period. The report further provides insights and opportunities to address binding macro and microeconomic constraints in order to de-risk the economy for an improved investment climate, business environment and socially inclusive economic growth.

I take this opportunity to thank all staff for providing technical support and ensuring that the Ministry provides an account of the management of the economy.

Mayazja

Moses Kaggwa
Ag. DIRECTOR/ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NDP III	Third National Development Plan						
DEA	Directorate of Economic Affairs						
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics						
BoU	Bank of Uganda						
MFPED	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development						
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority						
IMF	MF International Monetary Fund						
ECF	Extended Credit Facility						
EGF	Economic Growth Forum						
IGC	International Growth Centre						
AfCTA	African Continental Free Trade Area						
MSMEs	MICRO, Small and Medium Enterprises						
EAMU	East African Monetary Union						
DRMS	Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy						
GDP	Gross Domestic Product						
VAT	Value Added Tax						
CET	Common External Tariff						
NTR	Non-Tax Revenue						
DC	Development Committee						
PIP	Public Investment Plan						
HCD	Human Capital Development						
UIA	Uganda Investment Authority						
UDC	Uganda Development Corporation						
EAC	East African Community						
PERD	Public Enterprises Reform and Divestiture						
SACCO	Savings and Credit Co-operatives Organizations						
PDM	Parish Development Model						
PWDs	Person's with Disability						



Overview

- 1.0 The Economic Policy framework for the NDP III period aims to restore economic activity to pre-pandemic levels and accelerate the pace of socioeconomic transformation. Boosting aggregate demand underpins Uganda's economic recovery, and will be achieved by restoring domestic consumption, private and public investment, and export promotion. This was to be achieved through complete vaccination of the vulnerable population and strengthening our health system to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and other ailments. In the medium-term, the diversification of the economy, including Uganda's exports, is key to returning to the planned economic growth trajectory. Increasing household incomes and the reduction of poverty is a major focus of our economic policy.
- 1.1 The Budget Strategy for FY2022/23 and the medium term accordingly sought to:
 - 1.1.1. Mitigate the COVID-19 impact on business activities and livelihoods to support the recovery of the economy back to normality by increasing access to capital, revamping health infrastructure and health systems; reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring access to education.
 - 1.1.2. Speed up socioeconomic transformation through re-prioritizing and delivering impactful investments and restructuring resources/budget to areas with more value for money.
 - 1.1.3. Sustain macro-economic stability, peace and security as key foundations for growth and development by keeping the exchange rate stable, controlling inflation control, maintaining an adequate reserve of forex; and mitigating emerging internal and external security threats.
- 1.2. Government accordingly adopted policy actions to accelerate interventions to end the health and social crisis posed by the covid-19 pandemic and recover the economy back to pre-COVID level. GoU also initiated measures, to maintain investments in the fundamentals for socioeconomic transformation necessary for the resilience of our people and a more inclusive economy that benefits all Ugandans.

Objectives

1.3. This report provides an account of economic management and performance in line with the mandate of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED), particularly the key policy outcomes that are under the function of the Directorate of Economic Affairs (DEA).

Data sources

1.4. Data for this report was obtained from Departments within the directorate and MDAs including Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Bank of Uganda (BoU) and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

Structure of the report

1.5. This report consists of five chapters: Chapter One is the general introduction of the report, Chapter Two covers macroeconomic management; Chapter Three analyses performance with regard to domestic revenue mobilization; Chapter Four assesses developments in regard to economic development policy advisory and investment; while Chapter Five provides an account of performance in financial inclusion and deepening.

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MACROECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER TWO: MACROECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

Overview

- 2.0 Under this section the Directorate is responsible for ensuring sound macroeconomic parameters that place the country on a positive economic growth trajectory.
- 2.1 In FY2022/23, the Directorate was able to coordinate delivery of the following measures:
 - a) Sustain negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the threeyear Economic Program that was adopted in 2021. The program which is expected to run until June 2024 is supported by the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
 - b) By end FY2022/23, the Directorate led four economic programme reviews and its completion enabled immediate disbursement of USD120 Million as further support towards economic recovery and boosting more inclusive private sectorled growth. This brought the aggregate disbursement under the ECF arrangement to USD750 million out of USD1 billion that was approved by the IMF Executive Board on June 28th, 2021. The key reforms under this program include; focusing on creating fiscal space for priority social spending, preserving debt sustainability, strengthening governance and reducing corruption, enhanced revenue mobilization and enhancing the monetary and financial sector frameworks.
 - c) The Ministry through Directorate of Economic Affairs and in partnership with International Growth Centre held the Seventh Economic Growth Forum (EGF) to inform the Budget Strategy for FY2024/25. The Forum was held under the theme; "Strengthening Uganda's competitiveness to foster accelerated economic growth." The discussions of the Forum were centred around five areas: global economic developments and economic growth in Uganda, domestic revenue mobilisation; boosting exports and firm productivity; climate change; and growth and technology as a key driver of economic growth. The following policy measures were raised to address the economic issues mentioned above.
 - i. Enhancing compliance and enforcement of process and product standards to reap benefits of regional market and international trade. This objective can be achieved by equipping laboratory facilities, accreditation procedures and facilitating implementation of standardized practices.
 - ii. Improving access to trade information for exporters and importers by creating databases and trade data portals
 - iii. Supporting research and innovation in climate smart technologies.
 - iv. Fostering inclusiveness by connecting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to national and regional value chains, to exploit existing and potential opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
 - v. Engaging with stakeholders and potential investors to identify opportunities for Ugandan firms to contribute higher value-added activities in multinational

supply chains

- vi. Continuing the development of production and market support infrastructure (soft and hard) including warehouses in key strategic markets, cold storage facilities, border export zones, and quality standards infrastructure and industrial parks
- vii. Investing in climate smart infrastructure such as climate smart railway transport.
- viii. Taking on climate adaptation strategies including; setting up efficient irrigation structures, water management infrastructure and adopting drought prone and flood prone crop varieties.
- ix. Exploring climate financing options such as developing insurance schemes for farmers to protect against climate change.
- x. Leveraging the Parish Development Model to connect farmers to markets through value chain engagements that allow farmers and other crucial value chain members to meet and agree on how they will work together.
- xi. Abolishing or rethinking the 10-year tax holiday given that recent findings have established that the 10-year tax holiday has not attracted sufficient foreign direct investments.
- xii. Capturing property taxes through property registration and investing in digital technologies to support property tax collections.
- xiii. Using modern technology to enhance VAT collections.
- d) The Directorate led MFPED's participation in the reviews of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) Road Map held occasionally through the financial year. The EAMU Protocol provides for a set of four primary convergence criteria which were supposed to be attained by 2021 and maintained by each Partner State, for at least three years before joining the Monetary Union. These reviews resulted in the adoption of new timelines for the development of revised medium-term convergence programmes.
- e) In a review held in May 2023, it was established that most Partner States were unable to achieve the agreed targets by 2021. This was partly due to the impact of COVID- 19 on Partner States' economies and the need to close the infrastructure gaps. Partner States were then directed to develop their revised Medium-Term Convergence Programmes (MTCPs) by September 2023;
- f) Facilitated production of Government Finance Statistics as follows:
 - i. Concluded the development of the 2014 fiscal framework. This is an updated framework from the 1986 fiscal framework. The transition from the 1986 framework to the 2014 framework was necessary to align Uganda to new international standards of reporting on Government Finance Statistics and was also a structural bench mark monitored under the ECF program with the International Monetary Fund.
 - ii. Used the Quarterly- in-year project profile tool to determine the quarterly fiscal profile for FY2023/24 and FY2023/24. The results from the tool are

used to inform the quantitative performance targets in the IMF program with government and the quarterly cash flow plan.

- iii. Produced high frequency government finance statistics in line with the GFSM2014 framework that facilitated preparation of monthly economic performance reports and the annual fiscal performance report for the period under review.
- iv. Coordinated production of a Public Sector Institutional Unit Table for FY2022/23. It is on the basis of this table that the Government Finance Statistics and Public Sector Debt Statistics for FY2022/23 were collected, compiled, and consolidated for the Public Sector.
- v. To ensure stability of the exchange rate and inflation, the Directorate;
 - a) Developed and managed a consistent Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) ensuring that set fiscal targets comply with the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility. Within this framework, the Directorate provided fiscal policy direction and strategy that enabled maintenance of public debt in sustainable levels and ensured coordinated fiscal and monetary policies resulting in price and exchange rate stability.
 - b) Issued quarterly macro fiscal cash limits to ensure that government expenditure levels support a stable macroeconomic environment (including inflation and exchange rate stability) as well as continued recovery of economic growth.



CHAPTER THREE DOMESTIC REVENUE MOBILIZATION

CHAPTER THREE: DOMESTIC REVENUE MOBILIZATION

Overview

- 3.0 The Directorate of Economic Affairs is responsible for initiating and guiding tax policy formulation in order to raise domestic revenues to finance development spending. In addition, the Directorate provides technical oversight over Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) in their mandate to ensure efficient tax administration and achievement of revenue targets set in annual budgets.
- 3.1 In line with the Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy (DRMS), government continued to focus its efforts on the strategic objectives of increasing domestic revenue to 18% of GDP over the medium term and improving effectiveness of fiscal incentives to support industrialization and the development of domestic value chains. The Directorate guided Tax Policy Management as follows:

Review of tax laws

3.2 Government did not introduce new taxes in FY2022/23 in order to facilitate speedy recovery of the economy and ensure stability and certainty of the tax regime which is critical for decision making. However, amendments were made to various tax laws with a view to supporting tax administration to enhance its efficiency and to promote voluntary taxpayer compliance. Some of the key amendments included the following;

3.2.1 Income Tax Act: The income Tax Act was amended to provide for the following;

- i. To expand the exceptions to the provision for limiting interest deduction under Section 25(3) to include micro-finance deposit taking institutions and tier 4 micro-finance institutions. Given that the above institutions deal in money in the same way financial institutions do, the amendment is aimed to create a similar treatment for both categories.
- ii. To clarify that income derived by a non-resident person from provision of digital services in Uganda is taxable in Uganda at a rate of 5%. The proposal is meant to majorly cater for taxation of soft digital infrastructure including platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.
- iii. To remove 50% deduction of cost base of initial property invested 50kms outside Kampala. The amendment is intended to align the depreciation of the capital cost of qualifying assets for tax purposes with economic depreciation, in order to reduce generous tax deductions. Consequently, this will improve on the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) revenue contribution.
- *3.2.2 Value Added Tax Act:* The Value Added Tax Act was amended to streamline a number of provisions as follows:
 - i. Provide for taxation of goods and services offered through electronic distribution platforms. There is growing trade through online market platforms such as eBay, Amazon, AliExpress, Netflix, AirBnB, booking.com among others.

It is currently difficult to tax the foreign platform operators under the current VAT law due to absence of a clear provision that imposes VAT on the foreign online platform operator. The amendment provides for the basis for taxation of these foreign operators.

- ii. To expand the definition of 'electronic services' by including; advertising platforms, cloud storage, data warehousing among others. The amendment was meant to provide equitable tax treatment of the various technologies involved in provision of remote electronic services.
- iii. To provide for declaration of VAT on imported services by Government and Large unregistered persons (e.g., NGO) within 15 days after the end of the tax period in which services were imported. The law did not impose an obligation on unregistered entities to file returns, which creates a revenue leakage.
- iv. To standard rate the supply of diapers. The VAT law deemed the supplies of diapers medical goods and consequently were VAT exempt. The purpose of the exemption was for medical reasons targeting elderly people.
- 3.2.3 Tax Procedures Code Act (TPCA): The TPCA was amended to:
 - i. Protect the integrity of the DTS system by imposing a specific penalty of five thousand currency points (in Uganda Shillings) if a manufacturer is implicated in unauthorized tampering with the DTS machines.
 - ii. Section 62(B) of the TPCA was amended to provide a penalty of five thousand currency points (in Uganda Shillings) or a term of imprisonment of five years for wrongful affixation of stamps i.e., affixation on a wrong product category, brand or volume. It should be noted that there were no penalties for the taxpayer for wrongful application of stamps on different products. This would account for false declarations by product category, brand and or volume which lead to under declarations in taxes
- 3.2.4 Excise Duty Act: The Act was amended to provide for the definition of "fruit juice", "un-denatured spirits" and "Vegetable juice" This is meant to promote value addition and use of locally sourced raw materials, and to address challenges in administering excise duty on spirits because of issues of definition of what amounts to neutral spirits and ready-to-drink spirits.
- 3.2.5 The Lotteries and Gaming Act: The key amendment under this act was to increase the tax on casino and slot machines from 20% to a rate of 30% in order to plug revenue leakages experienced under the previous method of withholding tax (WHT) on payments of winnings. In addition to the casino and slot machines activities, lotteries other than public lotteries will be liable to 30% gaming tax and no withholding tax.
- 3.2.6 Traffic and Road Safety Act: The Traffic and Road Safety Act, Cap. 361 was amended to provide for the regulation of speed to be reinstated in the Traffic and Road Safety Act in order to enforce the Traffic and Road Safety (Express Penalty Scheme) Regulations, 2013 in case of violation of speed limits instead of limiting the enforcement to Court prosecution only.

Studies on Taxation

3.3 In a bid to inform reform of tax laws, the Directorate undertook a number of studies in FY 2022/23. These included: A study on the effectiveness of Digital Tax Stamps (DTS) on firm ex-factory prices, sales revenues and government excise tax revenues; a study on the effectiveness of the 10-year income tax holiday; and a study on the effect of changes in excise tax rates on firms' sales revenue, firm profits, and government excise tax revenue.

Natural Resources Taxation

3.4 The Directorate reviewed the legal framework of Uganda's oil and gas sector, export levies on minerals, and the Crude Supply Agreement (CSA) leading to an increase in oil revenues. In addition, the fiscal regime for petroleum and mining that encourages investments in the sector and sustainable revenue flows was developed.

Regional Initiatives

- 3.5 In FY2022/23, the Directorate continued to monitor decisions under Regional and International initiatives like the Sectoral Council on Trade Industry Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) and other regional decisions. In addition, the Directorate participated in the Tripartite Free Trade Area negotiations, EAC AfCFTA, and consulted with the relevant stakeholders on Uganda's position regarding the EAC CET vis a vis AfCFTA Tariff offer. As a result, Partner States were directed to finalize national consultations on the outstanding tariff lines based on the agreed criteria by end 2024.
- 3.6 The Directorate also submitted proposals on the Income Tax Act, VAT and Excise Duty Act under the EAC Harmonisation framework and input into the EAC policy on tax harmonisation to facilitate harmonisation of excise taxes within Partner States
- 3.7 Further, EAC Pre-Budget Tax Proposals for FY2023/24 were developed and approved by the EAC Ministers of Finance for effective implementation with effect from 1st July 2023, and Gazetted (Under Gazette Notice Vol. AT 1 No. 11 dated 30th June 2023).

Domestic Revenue Performance

- 3.8 In FY2022/23, Government's objective was to increase revenue by 0.5 percent of GDP in line with the DRMS. The projected growth in revenue was on account of the growth in levels of economic activity and repurposing of the budget to focus on investments in strategic areas that generate economic output such as infrastructure and oil and gas. The main assumptions underlying the target were the following:
 - i. The base of Ushs22,425 billion the projected revenue collections of FY2021/22;
 - ii. Revenue gains of Ushs1,591 billion on account of increase in the level of economic activities (buoyancy); and

- iii. Revenue gains of Shs1,500 billion from improved efficiency in tax administration.
- 3.9 The overall net revenue collections for FY2022/23 has Shs25,302.92 billion against a target of Shs25,550.69 billion registering a shortfall of Ushs247.78 billion. This represents a growth rate of 15.9% (Shs3,471.74 billion) compared to the same period in FY2021/22 which is above the average growth of 10.9% for the last 4 Financial Years. From this, tax revenue amounted to Shs23,732.99 billion while Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) amounted to Shs1,569.92 billion.
- 3.10 Tax Revenue collections performed at 99.9 percent of the Shs23,754.86 billion target set for FY2022/23. The collections amounted to Shs23,732.99 billion implying a deficit of Shs21.87 billion. The near-target performance was mainly on account of direct domestic taxes which were above their target by Shs724.62 billion. The surplus registered under this tax category was close to offsetting the shortfalls registered under indirect domestic taxes (short of target by Shs559.81 billion) and taxes on international trade transactions (shortage of Shs136.05 billion).

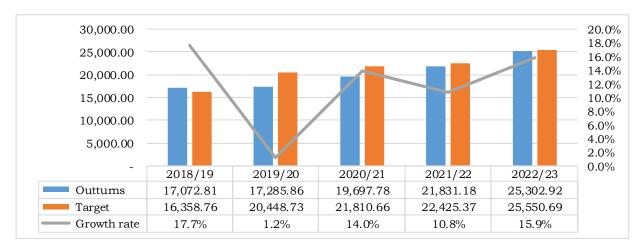


Figure 3.1: Revenue Performance in Uganda shillings from FY2018/19 - FY2022/23

Source: Tax Policy Department, MFPED

- 3.11 Over the past 6 financial years, Tax Expenditures in Uganda have grown in both the number of provisions and value of revenue foregone. The value of revenue foregone has increased from 1.02% to 1.80% of GDP between FY2016/17 and FY2021/22. The largest increase under any one tax head is the VAT, where revenue foregone rose from Ushs229.58billion to Ushs1,151.47billion between FY2016/17 and FY2021/22¹.
- 3.12 Overall government expenditure (excluding domestic debt refinancing and external debt amortization, as well as expenditure related to local revenue and AIA) amounted to Ushs34,967 billion, exceeding the budgeted amount by Ushs733.55 billion due to additional supplementary expenditures to various MDAs.

Revenue Strategy for FY2023/24

- 3.13 The Revenue Strategy for FY2023/24 focuses on boosting economic activity to generate sufficient domestic revenues to deliver essential public goods and services required.
- 1 Tax Expenditure report, 2022

- 3.14 In FY2023/24, Domestic Revenue is projected to increase to 14.4 percent of GDP from 13.6 percent of GDP in FY2022/23. In nominal terms, domestic revenue for FY2023/24 is projected to amount to Shs29,672.0 billion, of which tax revenue amounts to Shs27,423.9 billion while non-tax revenue is Shs2,248.1 billion. The increase in domestic revenues is expected to be supported by an anticipated increase in economic activity, improved governance of tax expenditures and enhanced efficiency in revenue collection by Uganda Revenue Authority.
- 3.15 Therefore, efforts are focused on the following strategic priorities:
 - i. Enhancing the effectiveness of URA by increasing efforts to curb non-compliant behaviour and ensuring that URA has the necessary capacities and capabilities to enforce compliance, strengthen the accountability and transparency of revenue administration by enhancing institutional capacity and human resource development;
 - ii. Improving tax transparency by publishing tax expenditures regularly to facilitate cost-effectiveness assessments, ultimately helping to reduce wasteful tax expenditures. As part of the legal framework and the DRMS, we have developed a Tax Expenditure Governance Framework to improve the transparency and accountability regarding tax incentives and the exercise of powers to vary the tax payable by any person;
 - iii. Implementing joint and individual action to combat tax-motivated illicit financial flows and tax avoidance by strengthening tax governance and fiscal transparency, reducing financial secrecy, and intensifying the exchange of information and technical expertise;
 - iv. Providing an enabling environment for taxpayers and tax practitioners to be meaningfully involved in tax and revenue formulation matters. This will strengthen their role in analysing tax policies, advocating for or against policy reforms, and raising awareness on tax rights and obligations.



CHAPTER FOUR: DEVELOPMENT POLICY ANALYTICS AND ADVISORY

Overview

- 4.0 The Development Policy Analytics and Advisory function under the Directorate of Economic Affairs generates and manages knowledge for effective formulation, implementation and communication of Uganda's Economic Development Policy and its results. In so doing, it has a threefold objective:
 - i. To foster a relevant and responsive national economic development policy agenda for superior economic outcomes;
 - ii. To strengthen alignment between national development priorities and public investment objectives for sustainable development outcomes; and
 - iii. To promote a conducive investment climate and business environment for a competitive national economy and private investment
- 4.1 In FY2022/23, the Directorate implemented a number of reforms and spearheaded a range of knowledge management processes and stakeholder engagements on Economic Policy and Strategic Management. A number of economic policy and strategic reforms were implemented to foster competitiveness and sustainable growth as elaborated below.

Microeconomic Management

- 4.1.1 Public Investment Management: As Chair of the Sub-Development Committee (DC), the Directorate provided strategic guidance on identification and appraisal of projects for the Public Investment Plan (PIP). During the review, the PIP had 351 projects with a total budget allocation of Shs13,005.4 trillion in FY2023/24. Of these, 45.6% were infrastructure projects, 39.8% were retooling projects, 14% social projects and 0.6% exploratory projects.² The review process resulted in the following³:
 - a) 61% of projects in the PIP (214 projects) valued at Ushs7,217.6 billion were established to be on track and retained in Public Investment Plan.
 - b) 4.3% of projects with a total project cost of Ushs1,5628 trillion were extended on account of existing contractual obligations and the defects liability period.
 - c) 22.5% of projects in the PIP were exited on account of project completion and expiration of the project life. These were valued at Ushs2,3451 billion.
 - d) 2.6% of projects were downgraded due to low funding and unprepared project implementation. These are valued at Ushs45.9 billion.

Project funding in FY2022/23 performed at 14.9% of the 5-year PIP project value. Government's fiscal consolidation strategy and the need to respond to emerging economic challenges resulted in low funding for projects, which is below the 20% threshold. This ultimately had a significant impact on project completion

- 4.1.2 Programme Spending and Service Delivery: The Directorate collected data and prepared a Programme Spending and Service Delivery (PSSD) Matrix for FY2021/22. The PSSD matrix is aimed at tracking performance of major socio-economic indicators in realisation of the interventions in the NDP III. The PSSD highlighted a significant disparity between the budget provisions outlined in NDP III and the actual funds allocated to various Programmes as indicated in **Annex 1**. This gap is significantly pronounced, with almost 90% of the NDP III provisions in numerous Programmes remaining unmet, with the exception of only two Programmes (Governance & Security and Development Plan Implementation). This notable funding shortfall can be attributed to the redirection of funds towards efforts aimed at mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitating economic recovery.
- 4.1.3 Industrial Transformation and Employment (INVITE): The Directorate played a pivotal role in securing Cabinet and Parliamentary approvals, in March and May 2023 respectively, for the funding of the INVITE project from the World Bank (IBRD/IDA). The overarching aim of the project is to stimulate private sector investment and foster employment growth in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, it seeks to create fresh economic prospects, particularly within refugee and host communities. The Directorate will assume responsibility for oversight of execution of various project activities, conducting needs assessments, managing risks, ensuring quality standards, and actively engaging and coordinating with stakeholders.
- 4.1.4 Human Capital Development (HCD) and Growth Review: As co-chair, the Directorate led MFPED's participation and facilitation of the review of Uganda's Human Capital Development and Economic Growth. The review aims to sharpen national effort to accelerate sustainable investments in human resource for equitable economic growth and development. This effort under the NDP III is still ongoing and the final report is expected within FY2023/24.

Private Sector Competitiveness

- *4.1.5 Trade and Investment*: The Directorate in collaboration with other MDAs, facilitated performance of trade and investment as follows:
 - a) Participated in the process of development of the Guidelines for greening Industrial Parks and Free Zones under the greening Uganda's Urbanization and Industrialization Project. This is in line with policy objective 1 of the National Industrial Policy 2020 of Establishing standards and guidelines for the development and management of industrial and business parks to facilitate industrial development.

- b) Declared 8 locations/premises as Private Free Zones, bringing the total number of Free Zones to 37. Of the 37 Free Zones, 33 percent are involved in Agro-processing activities, 7.4 percent in other manufacturing and 37 percent in primary agriculture with horticulture being the major business activity. Relatedly, the Directorate facilitated renewal of eleven (11) Operator Licenses in the same period. With these measures, the value of Free Zones exports grew by 11.2% from USD44.72million in FY2021/22 to 49.7m in FY2022/23 on account of gold trade and horticulture accounting for 9% of the national exports, total employment in Free Zones expanded from 9,861 workers in 2021/22 to 10,523 workers in 2022/2023, accounting for 6.7% growth.
- c) Facilitated the development of the public Free Zone at Entebbe International Airport currently estimated at 53% completion. It is projected to reach 80 percent by December 2023 and to be completed by end of FY2023/24. The Public Free Zone project is fully financed by Government of Uganda (GoU) at an estimated cost of Ushs60.157 billion.
- d) Conducted a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) of Free Zones in Uganda that is currently in its advanced final stages. The RIA intends to inform the review of the Free Zones Act, 2014 for purposes of amending specific clauses to promote export-oriented investments and competitiveness by widening the scope of Free Zones. The amendments are expected to expand the scope by, among others, adopting a Special Economic Zones framework and providing for clear exclusive incentives for Free Zone operators and developers within the Free Zones Law.
- 4.1.6 Business Environment and Enterprise Support Updates:
 - a) Functionalised the Uganda Business Registration Centre built by Government with funding from the World Bank.
 - b) The Credit Reference Bureau Regulations 2022 were passed in December 2022 to expand the scope of credit information and credit information sharing. Credit ratings will allow those with good ratings access lower interest rates. The Regulations allow credit information to be gathered from sources other than the traditional financial institutions, which means even Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that access credit from other sources can build their credit ratings and access credit at lower interest rates.
 - c) Online Business Registration System (OBRS) that allows online registration of businesses was launched by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).
 - d) The Area Based Commodity Development (ABCD) Portal: The Portal was developed to enhance local economic development at sub-regional level. This is a virtual platform that will aggregate performance data on key agriculture commodity exports for enhanced local economic development. This is currently being piloted with three (3) commodities: Coffee, Tea and Maize.

- e) Conducted targeted private sector player engagements with actors in the sugar value chain. This was meant to address the unregulated cane procurement that has caused millers to operate below capacity. These engagements informed the proposed amendments to the Sugar Act, 2020.
- f) Established a multisectoral high-level think tank platform to coordinate the national export promotion and import replacement (EXIM) agenda guided by the second National Strategy for Private Sector Development (NSPSD II). This EXIM Platform is co-chaired by MoFPED and MTIC and brings together all key players in the export development ecosystem.
- g) Strategy Implementation Group of the NSPSD II: Commenced coordination and consolidation all private sector competitiveness and development issues of the NDP III under the NSPSD II framework. The implementation of this framework is supervised by the Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) that was inaugurated by the Hon. MoFPED and Composed of Donors, Private Sector Associations, MDAs and Research institutions.
- h) Commodity Platforms; The Directorate held a number of meetings with key players in selected strategic commodity platform including; Cassava, Cotton, Coffee, Tea, Vegetable Oils, Feeds among others to exchange information on Business to Business opportunities. These platforms have enabled information flow and establishment of commodity clusters that are critical in boosting production, productivity and self-regulation within members.
- 4.1.7 *Industrial Infrastructure:* The Directorate in liaison with UIA Signed Agreements between Government (represented by UIA) and Tangshan Mbale IBP, MMP IBP and Liao Shen IBP Kapeeka to facilitate commencement infrastructure development in the parks.
- 4.1.8 Investment Missions and Investor Relations: The Directorate facilitated several missions and summits which have since contributed to a rise in FDI inflows and an improvement in the country's FDI ranking both regionally and globally. Key among the missions are:
 - a) Afro-Indian Investment Summit: The Summit attracted investment projects worth USD 169.5 million to sectors of mineral value addition (USD 75m), Beverage production (USD 38m), Manufacturing recycling paper waste and hygiene products (USD 20m) among others.
 - **b)** 2nd Uganda-EU Business Forum: This was held in October 2022 at Speke Resort Munyonyo under the theme, "Mobilizing quality investments and enhancing trade between Uganda and the European Union".
 - **c)** Global Lohana Indian Community holding Investment Summit: The Summit attracted at least 750 businesses and investors from the global Lohana Indian community who attended physically. The summit was key since

India is the second highest source country of Uganda's FDI stock. UIA has licensed 228 Indian investment projects valued at USD 464.5 million and created 20,000 direct jobs between 2015 and 2020 from such investors.

- d) Inaugural Uganda-South Africa Investment Summit: The Summit took place in South Africa with the objective of providing a platform for the private sector and government to freely exchange views, ideas, and information on how to facilitate investment, trade and tourism between both countries. The summit focused on promotion of trade and investment in agriculture and value addition, mining and mineral beneficiation, infrastructure development and services, amongst others.
- 4.1.9 Supporting Concessions and State-Owned Enterprises. The Directorate supported State-Owned Enterprises as follows:
 - a) Uganda Development Corporation (UDC): Facilitated the review of the Capitalization Cap which had earlier been set at UUshs500Bn provided for in the UDC Act, (2016). The cap was successfully reviewed and Cabinet approved its increase to a limit of Ushs5.0Trillion. As of June 2023, UDC had been capitalized to the tune of Ushs857Bn since its inception in 2016.
 - b) Uganda Telecommunications Company Limited (UTL): Facilitated establishment of the successor company to UTL Uganda Telecommunications Company Limited (UTCL). Government secured an investor for the new company and transferred UTL's assets to the same. The Asset Sale and Purchase Agreement was signed between UTL and UTCL and the old administration of UTL officially handed over the assets and businesses to UTCL at a cost of UUshs316 billion. The administration was extended by court from 2nd November 2022 to June 2023 for only residual matters and to receive amounts that remain unpaid under the Asset Sale and Purchase Agreement that was signed in February 2022.

Development Policy and Research

4.1.10 NDPIII Mid-term: The Directorate led MoFPED's participation in the Midterm review of the NDPIII, especially during the High-Level consultations on the review of the Private Sector Development (PSD) and Development Plan Implementation (DPI) Programmes. The review aimed at determining the extent of progress made at mid-point of implementation of NDPIII and the implementation strategy and financing plan for the remaining NDPIII period. The mid-term review results showed that the country attained only 17% of the targets set in the plan halfway into its implementation. This weak performance is attributed to challenges of COVID-19 effects and the existence of data gaps, full transitioning to the Programme-Based Budgeting approach, as well as weak planning and budgeting for core projects⁴. The priorities within the various programmes are summarized under NDPIII summary report on **Annex 2**.

⁴ NDPIII MTR Report, 2023

- 4.1.11 Programme-Based Planning and Budgeting: The Directorate led the preparation of Programme Implementation Performance Reports for FY2021/22 for the Development Plan Implementation (DPI) and Private Sector Development (PSD) programmes. The issues identified in the reports provided guidance towards budget policy formulation and preparation.
- 4.1.12 National Policy Research Agenda and Cabinet Forward Agenda for FY2023/24: Coordinated preparation and implementation of the Ministry's priority Policy Research areas under **Annex 3**, as input to the National Policy Research Agenda for FY2023/24 aimed at advancing National Economic Policy to inform strategic decisions of the Ministry.
- 4.1.13 Development Cooperation: Coordinated the Ministry's participation in Regional and International engagements aimed at promoting Uganda's development interests. This is in line with the NDPIII which identifies development cooperation as a key requirement to prioritize efforts aimed at identifying Uganda's market opportunities in global and regional protocols to which Uganda is signatory. These include EAC, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and UN Frameworks.
- 4.1.14 Development Communication: Managed the Ministry's Knowledge and communication content on development policy and performance using weekly and quarterly updates through the Development Policy and Performance (DPP) Portal. A total of 141 knowledge products and updates were shared with stakeholders and other users of the Portal. This can be accessed through the link: <u>https://development.finance.go.ug/</u>

Outlook for FY2023/24

- 4.2 The Directorate will continue generating and managing knowledge for effective formulation, implementation and communication of Uganda's Economic Development Policy and its results. Economic Policy Management will aim at facilitating competitiveness and sustainable growth. Specific strategic priorities include the following:
 - *a) NDPIV Preparation*: The NDPIII will expire in FY2024/25 and this Ministry through the Economic Affairs Directorate, will coordinate preparation of NDPIV. It will specifically prepare the NDPIV Economic Development Policy Statement aimed at highlighting the strategic Direction of the Plan in the medium term;
 - b) Human Capital Development (HCD) and Growth Review: Facilitate conclusion of the review of the NDPIII Human Capital Development and Growth research work aimed at sharpening national effort to accelerate sustainable investments in human resource for equitable economic growth and development;
 - c) Policy Agenda and Legal Reforms: Coordinate implementation of the Policy Research Agenda aimed at informing strategic National economic policy management. Key on the Agenda is the development of successor policy to the PERD Policy and PERD Act, 1993.

- *d)* Development Committee Business: The Directorate steered the Development Committee to provide strategic guidance on identification, appraisal and selection of projects for entry into the Public Investment Plan (PIP) for the FY2024/25 PIP;
- e) Zonal Analytics and Policy Advisory (ZAPA): Coordinate the formulation of 15 sub-regional economic planning and public investment frameworks that detail the competitive advantage, growth potential areas, demographics and public investment profiles of the respective sub-regions. This will stimulate the growth potential of the sub-regions in the growth opportunities (Agro-industry, Tourism, Beneficiation and STI).
- f) Development Cooperation: Coordinate the Ministry's participation in Regional and International cooperation engagements aimed at presenting Uganda's development interests. A case in point is the High-level Africa Regional review meetings on Low Least Developed Countries under the United Nations Framework, among others;
- *g) Project Oversight*: In a collaborative program between the Government of Uganda, the private sector and its development partners; the Directorate will provide technical support and leadership in the implementation of Investment for Industrial Transformation and Employment (INVITE), Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) and Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women (GROW) Projects. These projects are aimed to create private sector manufacturing jobs; export promotion and increase incomes across Uganda; and
- *h)* Development Communication: Manage the Ministry Knowledge and Communication content development policy and performance using weekly and quarterly updates on Development Policy and Performance (DPP) through the link: <u>https://development.finance.go.ug</u>





CHAPTER FIVE: FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND DEEPENING

Overview

- 5.0 This chapter provides an account of the measures undertaken by the Directorate of Economic Affairs to enhance access to and use of a broad range of quality and affordable financial services during FY2022/23. Government remained committed to developing a vibrant financial sector that supports inclusive and sustainable growth and development through the provision of a conducive legal and regulatory framework, mobilization of long-term investment capital, increasing access to greater financial inclusiveness, and making affordable capital available.
- 5.1 The performance is structured along four thematic areas of promoting financial inclusion; fostering financial sector stability; Ensuring access to long term financing; and De-risking the financial sector. Summarized below, are the measures coordinated by the Directorate in line with the key thematic areas above.

Promoting Financial Inclusion

5.2 Financial inclusion is a fundamental component of the broader financial sector. This is because financial inclusion facilitates inclusive growth and enables citizens' access to financial services thereby allowing them to smoothen out consumption and invest in their futures through education and health. Access to credit enables businesses to expand, creating jobs and reducing inequality. The Directorate continued to promote financial inclusion through implementing of the following initiatives:

a) National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS):

Implementation of the first NFIS was concluded in December 2022. The strategy mainly focused on reducing exclusion barriers, enhancing credit and digital infrastructure, deepening usage of financial products and economic empowerment of citizens.

The end term evaluation of the NFIS I indicates that there has been significant progress in expanding delivery channels and reducing exclusion barriers. A case in point is a rapid increase in financial access points from 548 per 100,000 adults in 2017 to 2,386 per 100,000 adults in 2022. This was attributed by a sharp rise in the number of active banking agents from 133 in 2017 to 25,635 in June, 2023. However, despite significant progress in access dimensions, more work needs to be done to expand usage and quality of formal financial services especially in the rural areas. In that regard, the challenges, achievements and the lessons learnt in implementing the NFIS I were used in the design of the new National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS 2023-2027).

The National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS 2023-2027) provides a road map for Financial Inclusion in Uganda over the next 5 years. The strategy is expected to guide government's interventions on financial inclusion over the period and it focuses on universal access and usage of a broad range of quality and affordable formal financial products and services delivered in a responsible and sustainable manner.

b) Parish Development Model (PDM):

Government launched the Parish Development Model (PDM) and embarked on a nation-wide program roll-out. In line with the PDM Financial Inclusion Pillar, the Directorate coordinated and implemented the following in FY2022/23;

- i. Formation of PDM enterprise groups after enterprise selection; Enterprise group registration; pre-registration training for interim PDM SACCO committees; PDM SACCO formation and registration; Bank account opening; signing of Project Readiness Financing (PRF) Agreements; Setting-up of PDM SACCOs on IFMS; and Capitalization of PDM SACCOs.
- ii. Developed the Master Payment Schedule and disbursed Shs1.0585 trillion (99%) directly to bank accounts of 10,585 PDM SACCOs out of the targeted 10,594 in all the 176 Local Governments and Kampala Capital City Authority. The SACCOs were fully funded with UUshs100 million each. Nine (9) PDM SACCOs were not funded because the responsible Local Governments did not provide the required information to facilitate transfer of funds;
- iii. The Directorate prepared criteria for initial access to the funds on the account which was approved by Cabinet. The criteria adopted included the following.

Step 1 – conduct First General Meetings (to orient PDM enterprise group representatives and elect vetting committee);

Step 2 – conduct Special General Meetings (to elect leaders, establish key committees and appoint bank signatories);

Step 3 – Training for PDM SACCO leaders on governance, Business Development Services and loan management; and

Step 4 – Training for PDM Enterprise Groups and households on selected enterprises and accessing loans.

- iv. By end of June 2023, 10,058 (95%) PDM SACCOs had completed step 1; 9,519 (90%) PDM SACCOs had completed step 2; 9,130 (86%) PDM SACCOs had completed step 3 and 5,065 (48%) PDM SACCOs had completed step 4. Commencing in December 2022, subsistence households started accessing and investing the funds from their PDM SACCOs, which had completed the 4-step criteria.
- v. Furthermore, the Directorate provided continuous technical support to MDAs and Local Government officers (PDM Secretariat, CAOs/TCs, PDM Focal Persons, DCOs, DPOs, DCDOs) on the Pillar 3 guidelines, IFMS registration and implementation of Pillar 3 activities; developed and provided input to the technical guide on operationalization of Pillar 1,3 and 6 at household level, facilitated the Training of Trainers (ToTs) for regional and Local Government core PDM teams from 176 Local Governments and KCCA and at household level;

vi. Conducted technical support sessions on e-registration and amendment of payment details of PDM SACCOs under IFMS for relevant Local Government officers from 98 Local Governments and developed and issued a framework for partnership with participating banks. The framework enhanced the role of participating banks under the PDM.

c) Emyooga

In FY2022/23, Government continued to operationalize the Presidential Initiative on Job and Wealth Creation (EMYOOGA) Programme for MSMEs in specialized trades. The objective of Emyooga program is to promote job creation and improve household incomes of Ugandans. The Directorate supervised and monitored the Microfinance Support Centre which is the lead implementing agency to implement the program and as of June 2023, the following were the achievements;

- Emyooga parish-based associations consisted of 1,858,762 active members. 205,100 Emyooga parish-based associations had been formed and 118,627 (58%) of the formed associations were already active. Relatedly 7,034 SACCOs had been registered and 3,998 have held annual general meetings. 378,640 employment opportunities had been created through these SACCOs, with a representation of 37% women, 22% youth and 4% PWDs.
- ii. As at end of March 2023, MSC had disbursed a total of Ushs259.1 bn to 6,721 Emyooga SACCOs for on lending to the SACCO members, and the total number of beneficiaries was 607,018.
- iii. The total savings mobilized by the Emyooga SACCOs amounted to Shs76.3 bn while the total repayments were Ushs80.28 bn. Despite the achievements, the programme is still affected by Limited market accessibility, Poor record keeping, lack of offices and office equipment, long distance to banks and Low rate of loan repayment.

No.	Item Description	Total
1	Number of Mobilized Associations	250,100
	Number of Active Associations	118,627
2	Total number of Active Members	1,858,762
	o/w Male	736,130
	o/w Female	674,977
	o/w Youth	394,312
	o/w PWD	53,343
3	Number of Registered SACCOs	7,034
4	SACCOs that have conducted AGMs	3,998
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5	Employment Opportunities Created	378,640
	o/w Male o/w Female	138,529
	o/w Youth	140,196
	o/w PWD	84,523
6	SACCO Leaders Trained	15,392 47,470
0 7	Local Leaders Trained	3,720
8	Client Relationship Advisors Deployed	313
9	SACCO Members Trained	709,184
	o/w Male	302,127
	o/w Female	254,656
	o/w Youth	133,894
	o/w PWD	18,507
10	Total Seed Capital disbursed by MSC	258.24Bn
	SACCOs that have received Seed Capital	6,714
	Associations that have received Seed Capital	81,245
12	Amount Daid back by Parrowara	64
12	Amount Paid back by Borrowers	04
13	Savings Mobilized	
	Value of Savings Mobilized	73.67Bn

Table 5.1: Emyooga implementation status as at end FY2022/23.

iv. Cumulatively, Government has disbursed seed capital amounting UUshs 258.24bn billion to Emyooga SACCOs across 6,712 SACCOs. The SACCOs had internally mobilized savings amounting to Ushs 73.67 billion. Ushs 64 billion has been paid back by the borrowers.

- v. To strengthen effective implementation of the program, monitoring and evaluation was prioritized in FY2022/23 including Ministerial countrywide visits to access progress of the Emyooga Program including accessing SACCOs that had received seed capital, member savings mobilized, loan repayments and implementation challenges.
- vi. In FY2023/24 Government will further support Emyoogas to reach their full potential. There has been strong recognition for the need to priorities scaling up promising occupational groups/enterprises through various interventions. The primary focus should be on helping these Emyooga to grow from small, unproductive groups into highly productive businesses capable of breaking through the various supply chains, become sustainable and transformational.

d) Microfinance Support Centre Ltd (MSCL)

The Directorate continued to monitor and supervise MSCL in FY2022/23. Additionally, a total of Ushs188bn was disbursed to MSC for onward lending, the Emyooga programme and training/business advisory services to the MSC clients who include: Cooperatives, Villages Savings and Loan Associations/ Groups, Microfinance Institutions, Youth and Women's Groups and Small and Medium Enterprises.

By end of 31st March 2023, MSC had supported 237 projects worth Ushs11.471billion. A total of 199 projects had been supported to a tune of Ushs9.851Bn under conventional financing and 38 Sharia compliant projects were supported to a tune of Ushs1.619Bn under Islamic financing.

e) Islamic Banking

- i. As part of the Financial Inclusion Strategy, Government in 2016 amended the Financial Institutions Act, 2004 to allow the offering of Islamic banking in the country. Islamic banking is an alternative form of banking that operates according to economic Shari'ah principles. It prohibits the payment or receipt of interest (riba) and promotes risk-sharing and ethical investment. It is intended to benefit all religions, especially the Muslims who, according to the 2014 census accounted for 14% of the Uganda's population.
- ii. In order to fully operationalize Islamic Banking, the Directorate in FY2022/23 coordinated and undertook a review of the Financial Institutions Act and the necessary tax reforms to effectively support implementation of Islamic banking in parity with conventional banking. The reforms are majorly intended to provide for equal tax treatment of Islamic banking transactions with conventional transactions.
- iii. Following the establishment of the necessary regulatory framework on Islamic banking, Salaam Bank Uganda Ltd has become the first commercial bank to acquire a license to offer Islamic banking services in Uganda.

f) Small Businesses Recovery Fund

Government established a UUshs200 billion Small Business Recovery Fund (SBRF) in 2021 as a public-private partnership between Government of Uganda and Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs).

The Directorate reviewed and amended the Memorandum of Agreement where the maximum annual turnover for a business to be eligible was raised to UUshs300 million and the number of employers were reduced from 5 to at least two people who are eligible to access this fund at any supervised financial institution in Uganda. In the amended Agreement, the Borrowers can also use part of the loans accessed from this Fund to pay off part of the existing loans acquired

As at 31st December, 2022, ten (10) financial institutions had disbursed Ushs 6.6 billion to 586 eligible businesses. In FY2023/24, efforts will be on to creating awareness, undertake targeted financial literacy trainings so as to improve the uptake of the Fund and ensure sustainable recovery of all businesses affected by Covid-19.

Fostering Financial Sector Stability

5.3 Government continued to develop and implement policies, laws, strategies and interventions towards fostering financial sector stability as discussed below:

a) Deposit Protection

Following the amendment of the Financial Institutions Act, 2004 in 2016 Government established the Deposit Protection Fund as a legal entity with three objectives: protect depositors from losing their savings if and when banks failed; maintain the stability of Uganda's financial sector and payments system; and to enhance public confidence in the Banking system and the financial sector. The Fund is a deposit insurance scheme for deposits held by customers in financial institutions regulated by the Central Bank.

In addition to the supervisory role, the Directorate through this Ministry provided guidance on remittance to al depositors in Entrepreneurship Financial Bank following its closure by Bank of Uganda. As of June, 2023, the assets of the Fund stood at Ushs1.5 trillion while investments increased to Ushs1,128 billion over the year. The current protection limit of Ushs10 million, covers 98 percent of the total number of accounts in the banking sector. The developments reflect amongst others, the growing confidence that the public has in the banking industry.

b) Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA)

Government established UMRA to promote stability of the microfinance sector, UMRA continues to regulate, license, and supervise Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions and Money Lenders in Uganda. The Directorate continued to monitor and supervise UMRA in FY2022/23. A total 50 complaints received by UMRA were resolved, 187 are pending resolution. The resolution of complaints has enabled the borrowers redeem their properties, excess monies charged and a fair charge. In addition, by

December 2022, institutions licensed by UMRA stood at 1,513 as indicated in the table below.

Category	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Moneylenders	190	611	755	1144	1180
NDMFIs	140	117	146	197	208
SACCOs	3	0	0	57	125
Total	239	728	901	938	1,513

Table 5.2: UMRA Licensed Institutions

Source: UMRA as at Dec 2022

a) Financial Compliance and Anti – Money Laundering (FC/AML)

Government continued to coordinate the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Action Plan for Uganda. Following its placement on the Grey List, Uganda was obliged to implement an Action Plan containing twenty-two (22) action items.

The Financial Action Task Force Plenary meetings held in October 2022 and February 2023 observed that Uganda had addressed fifteen (15) Action Plan items. The seven action plan items outstanding were:

- (i) Implement risk-based monitoring procedures e.g. on-site and off-site inspections;
- (ii) Take remedial actions and apply proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance;
- (iii) Demonstrate that competent authorities have timely access to accurate basic and beneficial ownership information for legal entities (held by the company registry and/or by regulated entities)
- (iv) Strengthen and implement the system of sanctions for violations of beneficial ownership transparency obligations.
- (v) Address the remaining technical deficiencies in its legal and institutional framework to implement a targeted financial sanctions framework related to the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- (vi) Providing written guidance to obliged entities on the implementation of Targeted Financial Sanctions related to Proliferation Financing (PF).
- (vii) Conducting training for Financial Institutions and Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) on Targeted Financing Sanctions (TFS).

By end of the FY2022/23, progress was as follows:

- (i) The Ministry submitted to Cabinet Secretariat the Cabinet Memorandum (CT (2022) 174) on the Status of implementation of the Financial Action Taskforce (FATF) Action Plan for Uganda. The Memorandum was aimed at, among others, upraising Cabinet on the progress registered by the country in the implementation of the FATF Action Plan.
- (ii) The Directorate facilitated the enactment of the Anti-Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2022 to provide for administrative sanctions. In addition, the directorate in collaboration with other relevant Agencies contributed to the review of the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to provide for proliferation financing. The directorate further provided technical support towards enactment of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2022, the Partnerships (Amendment) Bill, 2022; Trustees Incorporation (Amendment) Bill, 2022; and the Cooperatives Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to provide for beneficial ownership requirements. The above Acts were assented by H.E the President in September, 2022.
- (iii) The Anti-Money Laundering (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 were prepared and issued by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in January 2023 to provide for administrative sanctions to ensure compliance with the Act.
- (iv) The Ministry in collaboration with key stakeholders undertook the review of the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Risk Assessment (TFRA) for the Non-Profit Organizations (NPO) Sector and the Report was submitted to Cabinet for approval and consequently published on website for Financial Intelligence Authority (www.fia.go.ug).
- (v) In addition, the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment (ML&TF NRA) Report was reviewed and submitted to Cabinet for approval.
- (vi) In FY2023/24, the Directorate will continue to strengthen our Anti-Money Laundering/ Combating Financing of Terrorism / Combating Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) framework.

Ensuring Access to Long-Term Finance

5.4 In a bid to guarantee availability of long-term finance for long-term investments, the Directorate undertook the following:

a) Capitalization of Uganda Development Bank (UDB)

Government provided additional capital contribution to Uganda Development Bank (UDB) of Ushs85.5 billion. Cumulatively, the Bank's total assets stood at Shs1.58 trillion by December 2022 growing by 19% from Shs1.21 trillion at the start of 2022. This growth is on account of growth in funding, mainly through capital allocations from Government and draw down of lines of credit from various other funding partners.

In FY2022/23, the Bank was allocated Ushs103 billion which complemented funding from Development Partners to facilitate in exponential increase in credit extended to enterprises resulting in a 52% increase in the Bank's gross loan portfolio from Ushs851 billion in December 2021 to Shs1,298 in December 2022. Further Ushs85.5 billion is budgeted for UDB in FY2023/24. Due to cumulative increment of UDB's capitalization, the 2022 investments created and output value reached Ushs3,358 against Ushs2,445 billion realised in 2021.

Using the resource base currently at the UDB, the Bank made the following available financing investments: funding to new applications amounting to Shs894 billion to support 249 projects, spread across 68 districts in the country. This reflects a 40% uplift in annual project approvals from Ushs635 billion in 2021. UDB disbursed a total of Ushs776 billion during the year 2022, improving by 81% from Shs428 billion disbursed in 2021. Of this sum, 76% was disbursed to projects engaged in Primary Agriculture, Agro-processing, and Manufacturing. As a result, 71% of the Bank's current Shs1.298 trillion loan portfolio is invested in these three key sectors of the economy creating 3900 jobs in the first 3 months of 2023.

b) Capital Markets

In the FY2022/23, the Directorate continued to support the development of the capital markets as a source of long-term finance for the public and the private the sector. As a result, there was continued growth of Assets Under Management by Collective Investments Schemes from Ushs977.6 billion in 2021/22 to Ushs1,628.6 billion.

c) Retirement Benefits Sector

The Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA) was established under Section 2 of the URBRA Act, 2011. The Authority's mandate is to supervise and regulate the establishment, management and operation of retirement benefits schemes, and to protect the interests of members and beneficiaries of retirement benefits schemes in Uganda.

By end of the FY2022/23, the Directorate monitored and supervised the Authority resulting into;

- i. Enhanced operational efficiency (the sector cost to asset ratio of 1.2%, cast against 2.1% in 2014);
- ii. Enhanced public confidence and public awareness on the importance of saving for retirement, which has culminated into enhanced sector coverage (14.6% coverage of working population⁵, against 6% in 2014).
- iii. Growth in sector Assets at an annual average rate of 18.5% since 2014 (currently over Ushs20 trillion from Ushs5.5 trillion in 2014).

⁵ According to the UBOS National Labor Force Survey, 2021, Uganda's working population was estimated at 20.5 million persons. On the other hand, in FY 2021/22, about 3 million individual member accounts under the existing retirement arrangements were recorded.

In addition, the Directorate provided input to the amendment of various regulations on Licensing of Schemes and Service Providers, Investment of Scheme Funds, Financial Disclosure and Reporting Requirements and,

Management and Operation of Schemes. The amendments sought to enhance sector operations, coverage and adequacy of retirement benefits, and protection of members' and beneficiaries' interests. Regulations enacted include:

- a) URBRA (Licensing of Administrators) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 16 of 2023
- b) URBRA (Licensing of Custodians) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 11 of 2023
- c) URBRA (Licensing of Fund Managers) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 12 of 2023
- d) URBRA (Licensing of RBS) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 13 of 2023
- e) URBRA (Licensing of Trustees) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 14 of 2023
- f) URBRA (Management and Operations of RBS) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 15
- g) URBRA (Financial Reporting & Disclosure) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 9 of 2023
- h) URBRA (Investment of Scheme Funds) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. No. 10. of 2023
- i) Public Service Pension Fund Bill, 2023:

De-risking the financial sector

5.5 In order to mitigate risks in the financial sector, the Directorate continued to implement various measures to minimize uncertainties in the financial sector and enhance access to finance. The measures undertaken in FY2022/23 include;

a) Insurance

The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) of Uganda continued to provide regulatory oversight in a bid to maintain a financially sound, vibrant and trusted insurance sector. It also relocated to its new Home in the Central Business District.

More regulations were developed to further operationalize the Insurance Act 2017. These include among others, the Insurance (Minimum Premium and Commission rates) Regulations and the Insurance (Oil and Gas Business) Regulations. A number of other regulations are in progress at different levels including the Policyholders Compensation Fund, Microinsurance, Takaful, Winding up and 2021 and the Motor Vehicle Insurance (Third party risks) Bill and Regulations. As at the end of December 2022, overall, the industry still remained on a positive growth trajectory growing from Shs1,183.86billion in 2021 to Shs1,438.79billion in 2022 posting 21.53percent growth over the reporting period. In real terms, the sector grew by an estimated 11.33percent over the period.

Non-life business generated Ushs896.55 billion growing from Ushs632.3 billion (representing about 21.80 percent growth rate from the same segment in the full year, 2021 (i.e. Ushs736.09 billion). When compared to premiums from nonlife generated in Q3 of 2021 (i.e. Ushs632.3billion), the current performance represents a 28.91 percentage growth. Life insurance business on the other hand generated Ushs501.74billion growing from Ushs351.3billion in Q3 (representing about 26.34 percent growth rate from the same segment in the full year, 2021 (i.e. Ushs397.13billion).

b) Motor Third Party (Third Party Risks)

The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) working with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development developed the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Motor Third Party. This is a step towards the process to overhaul the Vehicle Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act, Cap 214 and replace it with the new law (The Mandatory Vehicle Insurance Act 2021).

The objectives of the overhaul are, among others; to expand scope of coverage; make insurance against Third Party Risks compulsory for users of vehicles; protect road users against hit and run vehicles, move from at-fault to no-faulty insurance; and to ensure that persons injured in motor accidents receive reasonable economic compensation.

In FY 2023/24, Government will focus on the overhaul the Motor Third Party legal and regulatory framework (Third Party Risks).

c) Insurance Training College (ITC) of Uganda

The Insurance Act 2017, transformed the Uganda Insurance Training Institute (ITI) into a public College "the Insurance Training College of Uganda" (ITC). The Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development appointed the Board of ITC in line with Section 151 of the Insurance Act 2017. The Board comprises of representation from Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Education and Sports, Insurance Regulatory Authority and two persons from the Public.

In FY2022/23, the Ministry through the directorate provided guidance towards mobilization of resources in form of commercial loan from DFCU Bank and acquired office premises for the Insurance Training College of Uganda" (ITC) in Bukoto Ntinda. As a result, student enrolment has increase by 20%, income from training levy increased to Ushs5Bn, on-line teaching was introduced and internal control systems and governance were strengthened.

In FY 2023/24, ITC has projected income of Ushs10Bn. The college has planned to continue training Ugandans on insurance, develop a new Strategic Plan, increase student's enrolment and membership, service the loan in DFCU for financial sustainability, accreditation of its courses with National Council of Education, open up-country centres and promote international partnerships with sister institutions like the Insurance Training college of Nairobi, among others.

d) Establishment of the Insurance Appeals Tribunal (IAT)

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development launched the IAT, for arbitration purposes and to review the decisions of the Insurance Regulatory Authority. By end of March 2023, the IRA had licensed various players. In FY2023/24, Government will ensure effective operationalisation, independence and functioning of the Insurance Appeals Tribunal.

e) Agricultural Insurance

In FY2022/23, Government continued with the implementation of agricultural insurance. The objective of the Scheme is to support Ugandan farmers' hedge against natural calamities that are beyond their control and attract financing to agriculture.

So far, 13 insurance companies and four financial institutions are participating in the scheme. There has been an increase in agricultural loan disbursements owing to agricultural insurance. The Banks are now willing to lend to farmers since their farms are now insured the move that has mitigated financial losses in the agriculture.

As at December 2022, a total of 665,240 farmers across the country had benefited from Agriculture Insurance, as indicated in the table of KPIs below

Key Performance Indicators	Base Q4 FY2020/21	Target FY2024/25	Actual Q2 FY2022/23	2022/23 (%) Progress
Increase the number of insured farmers	265,049 farmers	500,000 farmers	665,240 farmers	133%
Grow Insured Agriculture Loans	Ushs900 billion	Ushs1.85 trillion	Ushs1.56 trillion	82%
Increase in Agriculture Insurance premiums	Ushs42.9 billion	Ushs91 billion	Ushs84.3 billion	93%
Increase in the number of farmer Interface	8.1 million farmers	18.1 million farmers	16,000,000 farmers	88%

Table 5.3: Performance of Uganda Agriculture Insurance Scheme, FY2022/23

As of December, 2023, Ushs10.09bn has been paid out to various beneficiaries as detailed below;

Sum Insured	Gross Premium	Incurred Loss	Loss Ratio(%)	Remark
438,004,550,316.	15,341,097,115.11	10,096,666,582.11		UW year 2023 as at December 2023
Sources: Aaro Co	onsortium (II) I td			

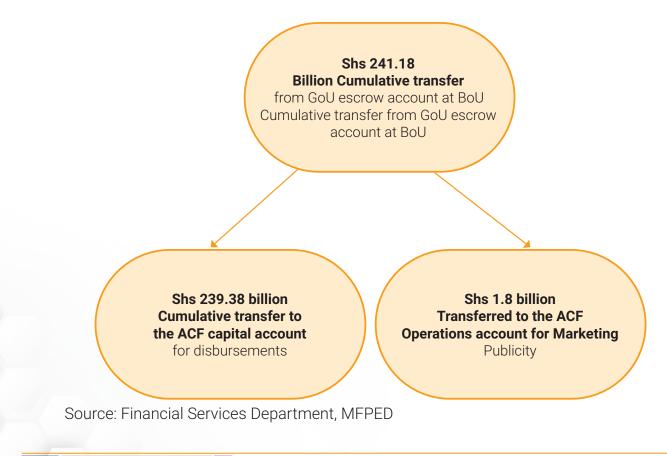
Sources: Agro Consortium (U) Ltd

In FY2023/24, Government will further roll out the scheme to all regions of the country and ensure achievement of all KPIs. The Government intervention in the provision of Agriculture Insurance premium subsidies has promoted growth in the Insurance sector and Agricultural sector.

f) Agriculture Credit Facility (ACF)

The Agricultural Credit Facility (ACF) has continued to register significant performance over the last eleven years of its existence. Cumulatively, loans amounting to Ushs751.33 billion were disbursed to two thousand nine hundred seventy (2,970) beneficiaries across the country engaged in primary production, agro- processing, post-harvest handling, and grain trade. The cumulative GoU contribution refinanced to the PFIs stood at Ushs380.67 billion during the same period.





Block allocation under the ACF continues to play a pivotal role in unlocking access to finance by micro and smallholder farmers, with up to Ushs11.70 billion progressively disbursed to 1,747 rural farmers countrywide as at December 31, 2022.

The beneficiaries under this arrangement constituted 59 per cent of the projects financed under the ACF. During the quarter that ended December 31, 2022, a total of Ushs39.80 billion was disbursed to three hundred (300) new beneficiaries, of which two hundred and twenty (220) or 73 per cent were under block allocation. Block allocation permits the participating financial institutions (PFIs) to onlend microfinance loans of up to Ushs20 million to individual farmers based on alternative collateral such as chattel mortgages, cash flow-based financing, and character-based loans, among others. This has enabled access to finance by the disadvantaged, especially women and youths.

Performance by region: In terms of regional uptake, the central (51.7%), western (22.9%) and eastern (21.1%) have used most of the ACF financing.

Funding in these regions went to agro-processing projects engaged in value addition of poultry products, grain trading and grain processing, acquisition of infrastructure for post-harvest handling, and acquisition of dairy and sugar processing machinery. The central region has a higher level of commercialisation of agriculture because of factors such as the availability of registered land and a good land tenure system, which attract funding from the banks.

Outlook for FY2023/24

- 5.6 Government recognises the critical role of the financial sector regarding overcoming these economic challenges and achieving Uganda's national aspiration of achieving middle income status by 2040. This is supported by a growing body of evidence confirming the significance of the financial sector development in fostering inclusive economic development.
- 5.7 The Director will continue prioritizing policy and programme initiatives aimed at: 1) Increasing access to and use of financial services; 2) Increasing access to longterm finance; 3) Strengthening innovation and supporting infrastructure; and 4) Strengthening financial stability and integrity; designed to support achieving the three strategic objectives (Financial services for all, financial services for markets and financial services for growth).

CONCLUSION

FY2022/23 was the 3rd implementation year of NDPIII and Government's economic recovery and restoration plan following the onset of COVID-19 in the country. Uganda recorded a range of notable development gains during FY2022/23 that contributed towards the country's return to pre-COVID trends in economic and social progress.

National development indicators aligned to priority NDPIII outcomes registered varying levels of progress. GDP per capita increased from USD1,043 in FY2021/22 to USD1,093 in FY2022/23 (or GNI per capita of USD 1,106); and the domestic economy remained resilient and grew in 5.2percent in FY2022/23 higher than the 4.7 percent observed in FY2021/22⁶. Despite the recent increase in fuel pump prices, annual inflation has continued to moderate, reflecting the implementation of appropriate monetary and fiscal policies, the fading impact of drought on food prices, and the easing of global cost pressures.

Economic growth is projected to remain strong in the coming months due to continued recovery in services and industry sectors. Economic activity will be boosted by investment in the extractive industries financed by foreign direct investment (FDI) and higher export earnings. Economic growth is projected at around 6.0 per cent in FY2023/24 and in the range of 6 per cent to 7 per cent in the medium term. However, the outlook is subject to a range of uncertainties, including: Slower global growth posing a risk to domestic growth; a resurgence of supply chain distortions due to geopolitical factors; tighter fiscal policy in part due to unfavourable global financial markets could restrict government development expenditure, and stronger moderation of household expenditure in part due to tight monetary policy conditions globally and a reduction in agricultural output due to bad weather.

⁶ Bank of Uganda, 2023

ANNEXES

Annex 1. NDPIII Programme Cost Plan and Outturn

NDP III	ND	P III Cost Plan (UUshsbn)	Bud	lget Outturn (UUshsbn)	Cumulative
Programmes	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2020/21 ⁷		Gap
Integrated Transport Infrastructure &Services	8,404	8,467	5,914.52	4,435.46	48%
Sustainable Energy Development	1,822	1,514	2,367.28	516.247	66%
Sustainable Development of Petroleum Resources	1,337	1,146	119.57	49.34	96%
Mineral Development	1,011	904	78.59	48.98	95%
Human Capital Development	10,164	10,358	6,489.09	8,236.26	20%
Community Mobilisation and Mindset Change	3,032	3,266	187.41	56.9	98%
Regional Development	6,218	5,706	1,937.32	1,800	68%
Private Sector Development	1,346	1,306	165.27	661.289	49%
Manufacturing	2,392	2,440		57.34	98%
Digital Transformation	2,392	2,440	162.90	219.775	91%
Innovation, Technology Development & Transfer	927	978	276.72	486.083	50%
Agro- industrialisation	3,942	3,438	1,333.93	1,465.71	57%
Tourism Development	1,776	1,910	197.82	49.92	97%
Public Sector Transformation	3,334	3,476	662.2	424.2	88%
Governance and Security	8,020	7,464	8,675.51	7,996.38	-7%

7 These figures are extracted from the Approved Budget Estimates for FY2020/21

	ND	P III Cost Plan (UUshsbn)	Bud	lget Outturn (UUshsbn)	Cumulative
Programmes	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2020/217	FY2021/22	Gap
Sustainable Urbanisation & Housing	1,366	1,341	118.79 ⁸	150.035	89%
Natural Resources, Environment, Climate Change, Land and Water Management	2,264	2,313	1835.8	462.36	80%
Development Plan Implementation	1,960	1,883	2,148.70	1,921	-2%

⁸ The figure includes components of urban development, KCCA, Policy Planning and Support Services, Housing

Annex 2: NDPIII Mid-Term Review Priorities

#	Core Programme Priorities arising from the Reprioritization Exercise (Details in the PIAP)
1.	Agro-Industrialization Programme
1.1 A	gricultural Production and Productivity
1.	Support large scale commercial farmers for production of strategic food and feed security commodities
2.	Provide logistical support for agricultural extension up to parish level including transport, equipment, tools to enable farmer visits, education, demonstrations, etc
3.	Extension of agricultural mechanization service centres and facilities in the 9 mechanization zones
4.	Production, multiplication, certification and distribution of seed and stocking materials for priority crops, fish fingerlings, livestock breeds (cattle, poultry and pigs)
5.	Disease, pest and vector control including acquisition of livestock vaccines and research for in country animal vaccine manufacture
6.	Support the stumping and rejuvenation of old coffee trees, provide coffee drying and processing facilities to farmer cooperatives
7.	Establishment of small- and large-scale irrigation facilities
1.2 S	torage, Agro-Processing and Value addition
1.	Renovate, equip and operationalize agro-processing and value addition infrastructure for grains, fruits and vegetables, coffee, grains, animal feeds
2.	Provide financing for private sector equity investment to catalyze investments in agricultural processing and value addition
1.3 A	gricultural Market Access and Competitiveness
1.	Expand, renovate and equip certification laboratories (for priority commodities, animal and plant health, ART) and aid them obtain international accreditation
2.	Mineral Development Programme
1.	Increase public investment in priority mineral processing; iron ore, gold, phosphates, development minerals and marble.
2.	Undertake a detailed exploration and quantification of minerals and geothermal resources in the country
3.	Increased domestic production of mineral-based products
3.	Petroleum Development Programme
1.	Design and Construct Pre - requisite infrastructure in Kabaale Industrial Park (fencing, access roads, power and ICT); considering the elderly, PWDs, women and children.
2.	Undertake EACOP RAP with the consideration of the elderly, youth, women and PWDs.

3.	Implement RAP for Tilenga and Kingfisher projects while ensuring that gender and equity aspects are considered.
4.	Implement initiatives that enhance the local Service providers' capacity considering the women, youth and PWDs.
5.	Train and certify local suppliers considering the youth, women, elderly and PWDs.
4.	Tourism Development Programme
1.	Rescue wildlife, Undertake rehabilitation and release back to the wild.
2.	Enroll students at UHTTI
3.	Develop and operationalize an online Tourism information Management System (TIMS)
4.	Establish an online tourism information hub for the entire country
5.	Register, train, assess and license tour guides
6.	Information on Uganda's tourism archived; Digitization on tourism
7.	Develop the promotional material (digitize material for virtual tours of investment sites, videos, online documentation), Marketing the projects for investment (dissemination through various channels- participation in promotional activities, media, exhibitions e.tc)
8.	Carry out domestic promotional campaigns
5.	Water Climate Change FNR & Land Management
	Water, Climate Change, ENR & Land Management nvironment and Natural Resources Sub-Programme
	Water, Climate Change, ENR & Land Management nvironment and Natural Resources Sub-Programme Construct four Forest Cluster Industries
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1.	Mobilize and appropriate resources to UDB based on a results-oriented capitalization framework
2.	Establish and operationalize the EMYOOGA fund for MSMEs, in the specialized trades
3.	Establishing and operationalize Regional Business Development Service Centres to provide services massively
4.	Strengthen applied Research for development of Value-Added Products
5.	Expand/scale up provision industrial production infrastructure and facilities in all regions
6.	Support local producers to attain Certification, testing and calibration of services to support local content
7.	Conduct feasibility studies in strategic NDPIII areas for government and private sector investment
8.	Maintain and expand the existing scope for accreditation to ensure recognition of UNBS certification services, testing and metrology services, as well as inclusion of Imports Inspection, market surveillance and Legal Metrology
9.	Rally the local private sector to seize the opportunities in industrial parks
10.	Establishment of a one-stop centre for business registration and licensing & other services (Fortportal, Masaka, Hoima, Lira, Soroti, Gulu, Jinja, Entebbe,
7.	Manufacturing Programme Priorities
1.	Capitalize the Industrial development economic fund established under the UDC act to invest in strategic Manufacturing projects
2.	Develop bankable manufacturing projects and market them for uptake or funding by prospective investors
З.	Construct/ rehabilitate roads linking resource areas like Muko and Karamoja to industrial parks
4.	Construction of one stop border posts between DRC, South Sudan and Uganda
5.	Develop and implement an incentive scheme for industrial sugar production
6.	Provide technical support to sugar industries to diversify into industrial sugar production
7.	Develop standards for products on the Ugandan market
8.	Enhance the packaging and branding of Ugandan products to improve on their competitiveness
9.	Support the NTB removal / monitoring mechanism in our strategic markets (NTB online reporting system, enhanced legal reforms, NMC, etc)
10.	Undertake certification of products to increase market access
11.	Provide technical, equipment and financial support certification of MSMEs products.
12.	Support Commercial Offices in the local governments to promote implementation of standards and quality requirements of manufactured products and ensure compliance
13.	Undertake enforcement activities in the market through market surveillance and inspection

14.	Undertake enforcement activities at entry points for imported products to enforce compliance to standards
15.	Construct and operationalize 2 border export zone/border market facilities
8.	Digital Transformation Programme
1.	Digitalizing service delivery (e-government);
2.	Implement last mile connectivity and Uganda Digital Acceleration Program to expand access to affordable high-speed internet through the NBI;
9.	Integrated Transport and Infrastructure Services Programme
1.	Operationalize the Hoima International Airport (Kabaale)
2.	Upgrade strategic roads from gravel to bituminous surface
3.	Improvement of road junctions
4.	Maintenance of National, DUCAR and GKMA road network
5.	Rehabilitation/maintenance of Road equipment
6.	Rehabilitation and upgrade of Kasese, Arua, Gulu, Kidepo, Pakuba, & Mbarara aerodromes
7.	Procurement and operationalization of ferries (Sigulu, 2no BKK, 2no Bunyonyi, 1 no Nakiwogo, 1no Kalangala, 1no Koome 1no)
8.	Conduct hydrographic survey and produce navigation charts of Lakes Victoria, Kyoga, Bunyonyi, Albert, Bisina, Edward, George and R. Nile
10.	
10. 1.	Sustainable Energy Development Programme Rehabilitation and expansion of the transmission network to key growth economic zones and interconnections to neighboring EAC countries
	Rehabilitation and expansion of the transmission network to key growth
1.	Rehabilitation and expansion of the transmission network to key growth economic zones and interconnections to neighboring EAC countriesExpansion and Rehabilitation of Distribution NetworkIncreasing adoption and use of clean energy
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2.	Implement the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package (UMNHCP) with focus on high impact intervention packages for each life stage
3.	Establish and functionalize centers of excellence for Heart national and regional levels
4.	Establish and functionalize centers of excellence for trauma at national level
5.	Recruit the trained super- specialists
12.2	Education, Sports and Skills
1.	Establish and operationalize an integrated e-inspection system for all schools and education institutions (integrated inspection System)
2.	Retool secondary schools and lower secondary school teachers to enable them implement the new lower secondary curriculum (CPDS) and review Upper Secondary Curriculum
3.	Establish additional STEM/STEI incubation centres in public universities
4.	Construct Public Primary Schools in Parishes without a public primary school
5.	Construct inclusive teaching facilities & office space starting with MUK & KYU and operationalise Busoga University and Karamoja Constituency College
6.	 a. Design new EMIS solution architecture, functionalities and features. b. Automate key statistical operations particularly data collection, transmission, analysis, reporting and feedback.
7.	Construct lecture theatres/teaching facilities in TVET institutions to conform to NCHE standards
12.3	Labour and Employment Services
1.	Design and operationalize a web-based LMIS
12.4	Gender and Social Protection
1.	Rescue, rehabilitate and resettle street children
2.	Provide non-formal vocational, entrepreneurial and life skills trainings to out of school youth for wealth creation
13.	Community Mobilization and Mindset Change
1.	Popularize the national vision, interest and common good for the citizenry
2.	Conduct awareness campaigns and enforce laws enacted against negative and/ or harmful religious, traditional/cultural practices and beliefs
14.	Innovation, Technology Development and Transfer
1.	Undertake a Feasibility Study to Operationalize the National Aeronautics and Space Science Program and Develop a Strategy
2.	Support Applied Research in Industry 4.0 + Technologies and Themes (IOT, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Big Data, Block Chain, Additive Manufacturing etc)
3.	Support the Development and Industrialization of the Cassava Value Chain
15.	Regional Development Programme

1.	Set up income enhancement projects in Acholi, Karamoja, Teso, Bukedi, Bugis, Busoga, Bunyoro and West Nile
2.	Construct valley dams
3.	Purchase and install agricultural post-harvest handling and processing facilities
4.	Open transmission lines, install overhead tanks and establish connections on all the systems
5.	Conduct pre-feasibility (1) and feasibility studies for water for production (1)
16.	Development Plan implementation Programme
1.	Equip and resource parishes to operationalize service delivery structures.
2.	Support the preparation of the pre-feasibility, feasibility and value chain studies in priority NDP III projects/areas
3.	Review and amend/develop the different legal frameworks to facilitate effective and efficient Resource Mobilization and Budget execution.
4.	Implement Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy (DRMS)
5.	Continuously assess the revenue mobilization measures
6.	Collect tax revenue (all forms of taxes)
7.	Review and implement KCCA Revenue mobilization communication Strategy, update the existing tax payer register; automate revenue administration processes
8.	Consultations and development of NDP IV
9.	Develop the integrated identification system

Annex 3: NATIONAL POLICY RESEARCH AGENDA FOR FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
Econ	omic Development	Policy & Research Departm	nent	
	Agro-processing	 Aligned incentives and delivery of coordinated infrastructure and services Parish Development Model, Pillar One: Production, Processing and Marketing (Value Chain Development) 	 Investment in high-value addition agro-processing How is the pillar one being coordinated to enhance the agro- industrialisation agenda 	FY2022/23
	Export Promotion	Amendment of Free Zones Act, 2014	A Regulatory Impact Assessment to inform options and facilitate the review of the Free Zones Act, 2014	FY2022/23
	Import Substitution	Industrial Development	Effectiveness of investment incentives in promotion of industrial development	FY2022/23
	Competitiveness, Trade and Investment Promotion	Regional and Continental Markets	Enhancing access to markets as a driver of competitiveness and investment	FY2022/23
	Value Chain Development	Horticulture	Facilitating investment in horticulture to leveraging AfCFTA framework	FY2022/23
	Doing Business	Cost of doing business	Uganda's Business Environment through the National Business Environment Index	FY2022/23
	Regional Cooperation and COVID-19	How to develop a well- coordinated mechanism for COVID-19 regional response	Regional negotiation for Sustainable regional cooperation to curb spread of COVID-19 and future pandemics	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	National Health Insurance Scheme	Enhance Health Insurance accessibility	Fast track implementation of the National Health Insurance Scheme	FY2022/23
	Poverty	Drivers of Poverty	 Drivers for poverty in Hotspots such as Busoga, Eastern Uganda and Northern Uganda. Causes of the regressive outcomes of poverty in the sub-regions such as Kigezi and Ankole 	FY 2022/23
	Manpower Survey	Size and characteristics of Uganda's workforce	Conduct a Manpower survey to generate quality data on the Size and characteristics of Uganda's workforce; and information on the current and potential employment levels for the trained manpower.	FY 2022/23
	National Labour Force Survey	Update the labour market indicators in accordance with prevailing international and national standards	Conclude the National Labour Force Survey to Update the labour market indicators with high quality and consistent information on the labour force and the earnings characteristics of individuals in accordance with prevailing international and national standards	FY 2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
No.	Research Theme		 (if any) Topic: Uganda Human Capital Development and Growth Review Objectives Analyze rends human capital development and economic growth in Uganda, considering global evidence on the relationships between human capital and growth and the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Assess the coverage, quality, and equity of human capital development interventions in Uganda, with a particular focus on multisectoral interventions. Explore the underlying constraints and opportunities for 	
			, ,	
	omio Poliov Posoa		policies to strengthen human capital for more inclusive growth and reclaim human capital losses from the COVID-19 pandemic.	

Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC)

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Socio-Economic impacts of Covid-19	Mitigating the socio- Economic impacts of Covid-19 and promoting post-pandemic resilience in Uganda	 Finalise the Ongoing 3-year qualitative survey to produce timely evidence to inform policies, measures, and strategies to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Specifically; i. Conduct the 2nd MSME panel survey during Oct/ Nov 2022 ii. Monitor and evaluate the business dynamics and the extent to which the policy responses hinder or support recovery and resilience. iii. This is meant to inform Government investments that are required to spur Uganda's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. 	FY 2022/23
	Promoting a COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery:	Evidence to Support Managing the Growing Debt Crisis in Uganda	Estimate the distributional impacts of debt policies and COVID-19 shocks on households and firms in a constrained resource and institutional environment. The research project will also undertake capacity building in CGE Modelling supported by the MoFPED	FY 2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
			To analyze how existing sugarcane institutional arrangements contribute (or not) to sustainable and inclusive rural transformation. The study will also investigate how current institutional arrangements coordinating cane production and processing enhance or hinder cane growers' productivity, profitability, and food security.	
			Specifically,	
	Sugarcane Programme in Uganda	Relationship between existing sugarcane institutional arrangements and sustainable and inclusive rural transformation.	i. Part of a 3 year Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI) project implemented in collaboration with Michigan State University Food Security Group and USAID's Feed the Future Innovation Lab	FY 2022/23 – 2024/25
			ii. Institutional arrangements between sugarcane growers and millers in Uganda: Implications for productivity and profitability	
			iii. Measuring the effects of Sugarcane Production on household food security and welfare in Uganda:	

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Renewable Energy in Uganda	The Security Implications of Renewable Energy Sector Development in Uganda	Examine the pathways by which renewable energy conflicts may occur in Uganda; and the mechanisms required to prevent and resolve them. i. In FY 2022/23, we shall collect data on the legal framework surrounding renewable energy in Uganda	FY 2022/23
	Improving Diets for Better Health	Effective regulatory interventions for healthier food environments in Uganda	 Developing effective regulatory interventions for healthier food environments in Uganda. This three-year research project aims at; (i) Assessing gaps in public food policies and government actions and identifying barriers and facilitators to their implementation; (ii) Estimating the economic burden of a selected Nutrition-Related Non-Communicable. In the For FY 2022/23, i. Barriers and facilitators for policy adoption for healthier food environments ii. Cost of illness: Economic burden of nutrition-related NCD iii. Policy Action for sustainable food system (Case study of one of new districts, Mbale) 	FY 2022/23 -2024/25

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Gender and Equity	Shifting gender norms and public perceptions about unpaid care work in workplaces and families in Uganda	Explore the most effective and scalable strategies to reduce and redistribute the women's unpaid care work burden. In addition, the generated evidence shall inform policies and community actions to address social and gender norms, especially in the COVID-19 context.	FY 2022/23
	Jobs and Incomes	Delivering the triple wins in 2022/23: Budget, Jobs, and Growth	Identify sectors and sub-sectors where development interventions can be re-focused for growth and job creation in Uganda. Although the Ugandan economy has registered one of the highest growth rates in Africa, the economy has not created sufficient jobs to absorb the labour force entering the labour market. On the other hand, the contribution of manufacturing to GDP and job creation has been declining in the last decade.	FY 2022/23
	Agriculture and Oil and Gas	Linkages of Agriculture to the Oil and Gas Sector in Uganda	Investigate the linkages between the oil and gas sector and agriculture sector to guide systemic investments in the sectors This will be implemented in collaboration with Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), Stanbic Holdings and aBi Finance Trust	FY 2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Financial Inclusion and Market Development in EAC Economies	The Monetary Economics of e-Money and Policy Implications	 i. The Monetary Economics of e-Money and Policy Implications: Evidence from Uganda ii. Leveraging Digital Services and Market Development for Financial Inclusion. 	FY 2022/23
	Human Capital Development in Uganda	Interventions to reduce high dropouts at primary education.	Examine the effectiveness of existing government interventions to address the high dropouts at primary education.	FY 2022/23
	Capacity Utilization and Cost Center Analysis for Private Sector Companies in Uganda	Costs that drive the production costs and profitability margins among manufacturers	Examine the costs (both individually and aggregate) that drive the production costs and profitability margins among manufacturers in Uganda. This will be implemented in collaboration with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU)	FY 2022/23
	Social protection in Uganda	Development effectiveness of social protection in Uganda	Explore the relationship between the Busan effective development cooperation principles and indicators of development for the social protection sector. Specifically, the project will examine the factors that have facilitated or constrained the positive application of the Busan Principles in Uganda's social protection.	FY 2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Policy and information in Agriculture sector	Produce Agricultural Finance Year Book (AFYB), 2022	Produce the 2022 Agricultural Finance Year Book (AFYB), which intends to inform the gaps in policy and information. The annual publication is intended to communicate policy messages on emerging agricultural finance issues, innovations in deepening agricultural finance, track investments in the agricultural value chain to policymakers and stakeholders in a concise form. This will be done in collaboration with the Agricultural Finance Platform.	FY 2022/23
	Business Climate Index (BCI)	Business indicators to determine their role in Uganda's economic developments and the business environment	Monitor and capture Ugandan business managers' perceptions of the current and near- future business indicators to determine their role in Uganda's economic developments and the business environment. The Business Climate Indexes provides policy makers both in the Government and the Private Sector with insights about the general direction of the cyclical developments and information about future business expectations. This will be produced quarterly	FY 2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Ugandan Economy Today	Quarterly Economic performance of Uganda	Produce Quarterly updates on Economic Performance of Uganda. The "Ugandan Economy Today" is a quarterly review of the economic performance of Uganda. The publication presents a trend analysis of selected critical indicators in the agricultural, industrial, transport and communication sectors. It will also highlights trends in major price indices such as inflation, exchange rates and interest rates. The policy section reviews monetary and fiscal policy stances as well as international trade developments.	Quarterly, FY2022/23
	Inflation	Examining Changes in commodity prices	Provide an update of the changes in commodity prices, especially fuel and consumer goods such as laundry soap and cooking oil.	FY 2022/23
Tax F	Policy Department			
	Domestic Revenue Mobilisation	To achieve Government's targets to raise Uganda's revenue effort by at least 0.5% of GDP, as envisaged in the NDP III	Fast track implementation of the Revenue Strategy for FY2022/23	FY2022/23
	Tax Revenue and NTR Estimates	Prepare for the resource envelope	Prepare Tax Revenue and NTR Estimates	FY2022/23
	Tax Expenditure	Guide reforms in tax expenditure processes and clarify the authorisation environment.	Prepare Tax Expenditure Governance Framework to ensure that tax expenditures are strategically planned, analysed, approved, implemented and effectively monitored	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Value Added Tax and the Income Tax Laws	Comprehensive review of the Value Added Tax Act and the Income Tax Act	Rewrite the Value Added Tax and the Income Tax Laws	FY2022/23
	Tax Policy Measures and the respective Tax Amendment Bills	Tax Policy Measures and the respective Tax Amendment Bills.	The measures inform the preparation of the annual Tax Amendment Bills, which are presented to Parliament for enactment	FY2022/23
	EAC Pre-Budget Consultations	EAC Pre-Budget Consultations by the Ministers of Finance.	Preparation of Uganda's submission regarding the respective amendments under the EAC Customs Management Act; the EAC Common External Tariff; and the relevant Regulations	FY2022/23
	Double Taxation Agreement (DTAs)	Negotiations of Double Taxation Agreement	Recent international developments such as, the growing influence of technology and the digital economy, trends in international tax policy and administrative reforms, as well as sophisticated tax avoidance schemes, have warranted renegotiation of the existing DTAs	FY2022/23
	Oil and Gas Initiations	Participation in Oil and Gas Initiations	Providing technical and policy support to ongoing initiatives under the petroleum sector	FY2022/23
	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)	Track implementation of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)	Preparation of Uganda's first National EITI Report	FY2022/23
	OECD Global Forum	OECD Forum for Exchange of Information on Tax Matter	Facilitate the exchange of information on Ugandan taxpayers who have their headquarters in OECD countries to curb especially tax avoidance and transfer pricing	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
Finar	ncial Services Depa	artment		
	Financial Sector Development	To create a robust and well-coordinated financial sector that enhances synergies of all efforts pertinent to optimizing the financial sector's contribution towards the realization of Uganda's growth and development aspirations	Development of Financial Sector Development Strategy (FSDS)	FY2022/23
	Parish Development Model (PDM)	The financial inclusion pillar of the PDM	Support a wide range of financial solutions (savings, credit, insurance, transfers etc) to subsistence households in order to enhance incomes, smoothen consumption, build assets and reduce vulnerability to shocks	FY 2022/23
	National Social Security Fund	Operationalize the National Social Security Fund (Amendment) Act, 2021	Drafting regulations to operationalize the Act	FY2022/23
	EMYOOGA	Link savings mobilization to production	Implementation of EMYOOGA programme	FY2022/23
	Uganda Agriculture Insurance Scheme (UAIS)	Cushion farmers from risks associated with losses arising from natural disasters; and also attracting financing to agriculture	Uganda Agriculture Insurance Scheme	FY2022/23
	Unclaimed Financial Assets (UFA) Policy	Fast tract finalisation of the Unclaimed Financial Assets Policy to create a legal and regulatory regime	Validating the Unclaimed Financial Assets Policy to create a legal and regulatory regime	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Motor Vehicle Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act	The objectives of the overhaul are, among others; to expand scope of coverage; make insurance against Third Party Risks compulsory for users of vehicles; protect road users against hit and run vehicles, move from at-fault to no-faulty insurance; and to ensure that persons injured in motor accidents receive reasonable economic compensation	Review of the Motor Vehicle Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act, Cap 214	FY2022/23
	National Insurance Policy (NIP) 2020	Facilitate the adoption, effective coordination and regulating of insurance interventions in consultation with World Bank	Fast track the adoption of National Insurance Policy, 2020	FY2022/23
	Insurance Regulations	Finalize all the pending regulations, including but not limited to, the Minimum Premium and Maximum Commission Rates Regulations 2021, Takaful regulations among others	Development of insurance regulations to operationalize the Insurance Act 2017	FY2022/23
	National Agriculture Finance Policy	Cabinet approval and implementation of the Policy	Fat track the Approval of the National Agriculture Finance Policy	FY2022/23
	National Agricultural Finance Policy Implementation Strategy	To increase the mobilisation, provision and absorption of agricultural finance	Coordinate stakeholders to prioritise the National Agricultural Finance Policy Implementation Strategy in planning and Budgeting	FY2022/23
	Quality health care	Insuring the national population against the high and unpredictable costs of seeking quality health care	Develop the National Health Insurance Act	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	National Micro Pension Scheme	Provide a simple, easy, secure and low-cost way for everyone to voluntarily accumulate micro- savings for their old age	Review the National Micro Pension Scheme	FY2022/23
	Foreign Exchange Act	 To provide for; i.An enhancement of minimum capital requirements, to provide for the use of technology in operations and the levying of civil penalties, ii. The strengthening of the vetting requirements; iii. Harmonize the regulatory regime pertaining to forex bureaus and money remittance companies within the East African Community (EAC) regional undertakings 	Amend the Foreign Exchange Amendment Bill, 2019	FY2022/23
	Financial Institutions	Poor performance of Development Finance Institutions	Develop the National Development Finance Institutions Policy (NDFIP) To address the challenges that continue to hinder the performance of development finance institutions	FY2022/23
	Islamic Banking	To operationalize Islamic Banking, reforms in the supervisory and regulatory roles of Bank of Uganda to ensure stability in the financial sector	Fast track the Financial Institutions Act Amendments	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Deposit Protection Fund (DPF)	Unclear roles and mandate of DPF to support financial stability	Amend the Deposit Protection Fund (DPF) legal and regulatory framework to provide for explicit roles and mandate of DPF to support financial stability	FY2022/23
	Micro-finance Deposit-taking Institutions	Micro-finance Deposit- taking Institutions (Amendment) Bill	Consideration and approval of the Micro- finance Deposit-taking Institutions (Amendment) Bill	FY2022/23
	Microfinance Policy	Facilitate the development of an integrated microfinance sector in the country	Review of the Microfinance Policy to guide the development of an integrated microfinance sector in the country	
	Microfinance Institutions & Money Lenders Act 2016	Unclear usage of the words 'SACCO' and 'Registered Societies' and provide for the licensing of whole sale lenders	Amendment to the Tier 4 Microfinance Institutions & Money Lenders Act 2016 to clarify on the usage of the words 'SACCO' and 'Registered Societies' and provide for the licensing of whole sale lenders	FY2022/23
	Structure and functions of the Saving Groups (SG) sector	To put in place an Self Help Group (SHG) policy framework to provide structural and functional direction to the Saving Groups (SG) sector	Development of the Self Help/Savings group Policy Framework	FY2022/23
	Capital Markets Authority Act, 2016	Enhance alignment of the current Act to the emerging global trends and mitigate the legal and regulatory obstacles to operationalize the Capital Markets in Uganda	Amendments to the Capital Markets Authority Act, 2016To align the current Act to the emerging global trends and mitigate the legal and regulatory obstacles to operationalize the Capital Markets in Uganda	FY2022/23

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings		
	Securities Central Depositories Act, 2009	Enhance SCD Act responsiveness to the prevailing domestic and global markets trends	Amend the Securities Central Depositories Act, 2009 to make it responsive to the prevailing domestic and global markets trends	FY2022/23		
	Capital Market Development Master Plan 2016/17 -2026/27	Fast track implementation of Capital Market Development Master Plan 2016/17 -2026/27	Coordination of interventions and players to implement the Capital Markets Authority Master Plan 2016/17 -2026/27 to help mobilise domestic savings for long-term investment	FY2022/23		
Mac	Macroeconomic Department					
	Macro stability and fiscal sustainability	To maintain low and stable inflation, enhance domestic revenue mobilisation efforts, maintain debt sustainability	Coordinate stakeholders to maintain macro stability and fiscal sustainability	FY2022/23		
	Bank of Uganda on the policy implementation	To ensure that monetary policy implementation supports our growth and job creation	Fast track and coordinate implementation of monetary policies to supports economic growth and employment objectives	FY2022/23		
	Increase recapitalisation	To support private sector in targeted high growth sectors (in tourism, manufacturing and SMEs)	Recapitalisation of Uganda Development Bank (UDB), Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and Microfinance Support Centre (MSC)	FY2022/23		
	Regional integration	To increase market access for our exports	Promote and support regional integration efforts	FY2022/23		

No.	Research Theme	Area (s) of Research Interest	Proposed topic of research (if any)	Expected date of research findings
	Statistical development and production	Promote investment in the development and production of appropriate statistical indicators for monitoring development initiatives and support evidence-based decision making	Strengthen statistical development and production	FY2022/23



Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Plot 2-8 Apollo Kaggwa Road P. O. Box 8147, Kampala Uganda. www.finance.go.ug

