



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

***Opening Remarks***

***By***

***The Right Honourable Amama Mbabazi,  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda***

***At the***

***National Budget***

***Consultative Workshop for the FY 2014/15***

***At***

***Serena International Conference Centre, Kampala***

***16<sup>th</sup> January 2014***



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Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament,  
Hon. Members of Parliament,  
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I welcome you all to this meeting whose purpose is to agree the strategic priorities for the forthcoming Financial Year 2014/15. This forum provides an occasion for us all to understand the challenges we must address for the future development of our country, so that we can discuss the Government's strategy aimed at dealing with the identified constraints.
2. As His Excellency the President stated in the 2014 New Year address to the nation, we must move beyond poverty eradication to real development and wealth creation for every household. This must be the main focus of this meeting. Government must provide a conducive environment for the private sector and households to engage in economically and commercially viable activities that earn them regular incomes. In turn, part of this



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income can be saved and reinvested to facilitate the process of wealth creation; and also pay taxes as well.

3. The Ugandan economy has expanded significantly over the last two decades. As a consequence of the strong performance of the economy, households have increased their incomes leading to a reduction in the level of poverty from 56 percent in 1992 to 22 percent in 2013. However, more still needs to be done since GDP per capita is only at about US \$ 600 per person.
  
4. The expansion of Uganda's economy is a reflection of the consistently correct Government policies that have been implemented in the past. These policies not only lead to the growth and stability of the economy but also create increases in the services delivered to the Uganda people in terms of roads, electricity, education, health, water and other infrastructure and social services. As a result revenue collections have also continued to increase, leading to a greater ability to finance Uganda's priority infrastructure, while also increasing expenditure and investment in education, health and water which significantly improve Ugandans welfare.



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5. The progress Uganda has achieved in the past has boosted demand for greater infrastructure and social services, which have been translated into development challenges we are faced with today. These development challenges require Government to be much more effective and efficient in the execution of infrastructure projects and the delivery of services. These challenges therefore require that the Government urgently attains the following key strategic objectives:
  1. Increased and sustainable economic growth with macroeconomic stability, social transformation and development
  2. Urgent delivery of Infrastructure and Social Service more efficiently and effectively
  3. Faster commercialisation of Agricultural Production, while addressing Agricultural Productivity constraints
  4. Enhancing the effectiveness of Government to support business and service delivery
  5. Eliminating Corrupt Practices of Public Officials including outright theft of public funds, absenteeism and non-responsiveness to the needs of the people.



## **Conclusion**

6. The NRM Government has continued to implement actions that address the key constraints to transformation of the country, with emphasis on macroeconomic stability, infrastructure development, the commercialisation of agriculture and social service delivery. I am sure the Hon Minister of Finance, has crafted a strategy that meets the country's expectations in this regard. For this, we look forward to hear her elaboration of the Budget Strategy for the Financial Year 2014/15.

I thank you