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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development
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Uganda

9<sup>th</sup> February 2015

To All Accounting Officers

## RESPONDING TO PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE BUDGET WEBSITE

## A. Introduction

- 1. In December 2014 the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister launched the toll-free budget hotline **0800 229 229** at the National Budget Conference. The budget hotline and the budget website (<a href="www.budget.go.ug">www.budget.go.ug</a>) are part of the Budget Transparency Initiatives (BTI) which aim to enable all citizens access budget information for central and local government agencies. Both the budget website and the hotline also provide a platform for citizens to provide feedback on budgets, workplans implementation and quality of service delivery.
  - 2. For these initiatives to be useful to all stakeholders, budgetary information must be available on time and Government MUST respond to all the feedback it receives and take action. However, accounting officers have failed to report timely and over 200 posts of feedback have been made on the budget website and hotline, but none have been responded to, by respective officers.

## B. Responsibilities of Accounting officers

- 3. In order to ensure efficient provision of information, Accounting Officers should:
  - Ensure your organizations provide to feedback about your budgets and performance within—two—weeks of comments being posted on the website. A list of

Mission

"To formulate sound economic policies, maximize revenue mobilization, ensure efficient allocation and accountability for public resources so as to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development"

comments relevant to your institution can be accessed from the budget website.

- Submit budget performance reports and budget submissions to MOFPED on time using the OBT in both soft and hard copy
- 4. In order for you to comply with the above request, this necessitates staff to be assigned responsibilities:
  - Ensure that at least two technical staff from each department/project and project are registered on the site and given responsibility to respond to feedback.
  - Nominate two administrators for your agency that will moderate feedback and comments. The nominated administrator(s) will have to register as an "administrator" on the system. Attached are guidelines for site users and administrators.

## C. Failure to Comply

- 5. My Ministry will monitor compliance with reporting and with responses to feedback and the degree of compliance will be published on the website.
- 6. Your compliance with the reporting and follow up requirements set out in this circular will affect your performance as an Accounting Officer.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the need for you to use the new budget transparency tools within and outside your institutions.

Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury

Copy: Rt. Hon. Prime Minister

Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

CC: The Executive Director, Mulago Hospital

CC: The Director, Butabika Hospital CC: The Directors, UCI, UHI and UBTS

CC: The Secretary, Health Service Commission CC: All Directors, Regional Referral Hospitals