



The Republic of Uganda

Government Performance Review for FY 2020/21

7th – 9th September, 2021

Welcome Remarks

By:

Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja (MP)

Prime Minister

- Your Excellency, the Vice President;
 - Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Ministers;
 - Hon. Ministers and Ministers of State;
 - The Head and Deputy Head of Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet;
 - Permanent Secretaries; Heads of Government Agencies;
 - Ladies and Gentlemen;
1. It is a pleasure to welcome you this morning to this Government Retreat to discuss the performance of Government for the Financial Year 2020/2021. This two-day meeting will be followed by the Budget Conference for FY 2022/2023 on Thursday 9th September, 2021 at Kololo independence grounds. The Budget conference aims at officially starting the planning and budgeting consultative process for the next Financial year 2022/23.
 2. This year we are having a hybrid performance assessment meeting conducted scientifically with physical participation of Ministers and Permanent Secretaries and a few selected Government officials because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is in compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for holding public meetings set by Ministry of Health.
 3. We shall therefore be a small number of participants in this hall while the rest of other participants shall follow the sessions virtually through different electronic media platforms.
 4. I wish to also remind colleagues that this is the first review of the implementation of the Third National Development Plan-NDP III (FY2020/21-2024/25) which is now in its 2nd year of implementation. I would like to underline the seriousness with which the Government should approach its reviews. As we assess ourselves we must keenly be aware of our responsibility to monitor and assess our performance, to learn lessons, and to put those lessons to good use.
 5. It is my considered expectation and I hope yours too, that this exercise will provide the opportunity to tighten the bolts and address the loose ends with respect to laying a strong foundation for implementation of our national development agenda for the next 4 years. The review is also taking place when we have just began the implementation of the NRM Manifesto for the next 5 years. In equal measure, this is a great opportunity to evaluate from the start the velocity and acceleration with which we have embarked on the implementation of the ruling party development objectives.

6. In this regard, I would like to reecho H. E. the President's directives and therefore instructions on the following areas of focus which he charges us with at inauguration of Cabinet. In his instructions, he highlighted the importance of integrity in being the *driving gear* of the way we must do business in the delivery of services to our people. He emphasized the following core values and principles to govern our conduct and our business;
 - a) Cohesion,
 - b) A corruption-free Uganda,
 - c) Regional integration,
 - d) Patriotism, and
 - e) Good service delivery.

7. I will not expound on these because we don't have the time but also because I am confident you are all pursuing these principles in one way or another as you go about your work. However, I would like address the Permanent Secretaries and Accounting Officers at different levels of Government. Your responsibility for implementation and management of funds places you in a very critical position to the success of Government. Therefore, your decisions and actions have far reaching implications. I have observed for example that;
 - a) There is a lot of wastage in the implementation Government Projects because contractors are not performing and yet they are paid colossal sums of money. In many cases, Accounting officers make these payments without verifying the work done to ensure that it is commensurate with the payment. For example, during our recent monitoring of service delivery in Nakasongola District, we found out that huge sums of public funds were paid to **Omega Construction Company** for very little work done on a road so far. There are similar stories we have already established through our monitoring activities in Apac, uncompleted shoddy works, in Apac District, where a contractor was paid shs. 60 bn for very little work done.
 - b) This is too unfortunate for both Government and the Tax payer but the key to ending it is with Accounting Officers.
 - c) In fighting this graft / vice however, I want to ask all of us to start working together with vigilantes / partners including;
 - i. The religious, cultural, opinion & local political leaders,

- ii. The media / press,
- iii. The Civil society, and
- iv. The Local citizens who shall be engaged through Community Based Monitoring & Accountability Forums (*Barazas*)

13. Finally, Colleagues, to review is quite literally to look again. I hope that we can do that with every aspect of Government interventions, looking not only at what we do – but the way that we do it. We must take the most efficient, the most effective path. That, in my experience, calls for effective teamwork. In this case, we need to make sure that there is good teamwork between the players in the public sector domain.

Once again, I thank you for your presence here today, and I wish you well as you begin a most important task.

I now have the honour and privilege to welcome H. E. the Vice President to address this gathering and to officially open the performance review.

I thank you