



**REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE AT THE
LAUNCH OF THE PDM LAPTOP DISTRIBUTION
EXERCISE.**

14TH MAY, 2024.

Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues,

I am honoured to stand before you today as we commemorate a significant milestone in our quest to harness technology for sustainable development. Today, we come together for the auspicious occasion of the laptop handover ceremony, marking a pivotal moment in our efforts to digitize and streamline Parish Development Model (PDM) activities.

Since its launch in the Bukedi region on **February 26th, 2022**, the Parish Development Model Information System (PDMIS) has served as the backbone of PDM, successfully deployed across all local governments in Uganda. To date, PDMIS has registered **22.8 million** Ugandans from **7.8 million** households. Additionally, it has supported **10,594** PDM Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations (SACCOs) and **157,006** enterprise groups. The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance continues to support PDMIS, which currently boasts **1,739,590** users, with the goal of uplifting **39%** of Uganda's projected population living in subsistence economies to an inclusive money economy. At the national level, PDMIS has facilitated and tracked the disbursement of 816 **billion** shillings to **834,790** PDM beneficiaries.

Before we delve into the significance of this moment, allow me to highlight some compelling statistics that underscore the profound impact of the PDM program:

- Over the past three years, the PDM approach has significantly increased community participation in development initiatives.
- Targeted interventions in education and healthcare have led to a reduction in maternal mortality rates and an increase in school enrolment rates in PDM-supported communities.
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture and improved access to markets have boosted agricultural productivity, enhancing food security and livelihoods for rural households.

These achievements are a testament to the transformative power of the PDM program in empowering communities, fostering economic growth, and promoting social cohesion across Uganda.

With the introduction of these laptops, we stand poised to amplify the impact of the PDM program exponentially. The digitization of PDM activities will revolutionize data collection, analysis, and decision-making processes, enabling us to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of our development interventions.

Furthermore, these laptops will empower our district-level accounting officers (CAOs) with the tools they need to collaborate seamlessly, communicate effectively, and manage projects efficiently. By streamlining administrative processes and reducing bureaucratic hurdles, we can ensure that resources are deployed where they are needed most, driving sustainable development outcomes at the parish level.

However, with this opportunity comes a profound responsibility. We must ensure that these resources are utilized judiciously and ethically, with an unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and integrity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to making this initiative a reality, from procurement to deployment. Your dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in bringing us to this momentous juncture.

As we embark on this digital journey together, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to harnessing technology as a force for good. Let us leverage the potential of these laptops to empower communities, foster innovation, and build a brighter future for all Ugandans.

For God and My Country.

Dr. Aminah Zawedde

PERMANENT SECRETARY