

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

**OPENING REMARKS**

By

**Hon. Evelyn Anite**

**Minister of Finance, Planning & Economic Development**

AT

 **THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET MONTH FY 2024/25 AND OPEN BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS FOR 2023**

AT THE KAMPALA SERENA HOTEL

4TH JUNE 2024

Heads of Government Institutions,

Heads of Civil Society Organizations,

Technical Officers,

Members of the media fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen

**Preamble**

1. I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the official launch of the National Budget Month FY 2024/25 and the Open Budget Survey Report 2023.
2. Globally, all governments policies are implemented to improve the wellbeing of their citizens. This can only be achieved through ensuring governance in the entire budget process which ensures no one is left behind during the budget process so that the interventions prioritize and implement are all inclusive and responsive to the needs of the citizens.
3. To this effect, the Government of Uganda has over the years implemented a number of reforms to promote good governance in the budget process, among which is the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Civil Society organizations in 2018 which allows the civil society to:
4. Freely participate in the Budget process at all stages;
5. Access information on the budget and disseminate to the citizens; and
6. Collaborate with Government in empowering the citizens to effectively participate in the budget process and demand for accountability for improve service delivery.
7. Partnering with civil society to undertake an independent assessment of how transparent and accountable the budget process is, and the effectiveness of the budget oversight function.
8. As Government together with our partners, we believe it is a good practice to bring the budget to the people with discussions on current issues that are of interest to the citizens.
9. As you heard from my PS/ST, we have a number of activities that have been scheduled to take place throughout the budget month period to be implemented in collaboration with the partners to provide an opportunity to the citizens to appreciate what is in the approved budget.
10. I wish thank International Budget Partnership, Uganda Debt Network and the United Nations Children’s Fund for undertaking the 9th Edition of the Open Budget Survey. I also wish to express our appreciation for the support extended to Government by all the partners to implement the recommendations of the previous surveys which has resulted in the improved performance in those parameters alluded to in the report. We shall together work to address the gaps identified in the report for better ratings in the next edition.
11. I wish to thank the Partners for harmonizing the schedule of the National Budget Month activities taking into consideration the other ongoing government programs. This will enable the Ministry’s political leadership effectively participate in the engagements.
12. With those few remarks, I now take the honor to officially launch:
13. the implementation National Budget Month activities for FY 2024/25; and,
14. the Open Budget Survey Report for 2023 of the FY 2024/25

I thank you all.

**For God and my Country**