

# Ugandan PBO Support in Parliament Fiscal Oversight

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# Outline

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# 1. Introduction

- Section 9 of the PFMA requires the National Budget Framework Paper (Indicative Budget) to be Presented to Parliament by 31<sup>st</sup> December for approval by 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Section 13 of the PFMA requires the Budget & Revenue Bills to be submitted to Parliament by 1<sup>st</sup> April for approval by 31<sup>st</sup> May
- Section 21 of the Budget Act requires PBO to provide independent, objective timely analysis on the Budget and National Economy
- National Audit Act Requires all Audit reports submitted to Parliament and PFMA requires a treasury memoranda on the actions implemented on Parliament recommendations

# Role of Parliament in Budget

## Process

- Budget Formulation & Approval Stage
  - ❖ Approve the National Budget Framework Paper
  - ❖ Approve the Budget and Revenue Bills
  - ❖ Approve loans (sometimes during Budget execution)
- Budget Execution Stage
  - ❖ Monitor budget execution (Oversight of approved Budget)
  - ❖ Approve Supplementary Budget Requests and Bills
- Budget Evaluation Stage
  - ❖ Recommend on Audit Reports of previous periods

# PBO Role in the Budget Process

- Analyze the National Budget Framework Paper and advise Parliament and its Committees-Consistency, Realism of Assumptions, Outlook(MTFF & MTEF)
- Analyze and advise on the Sectorial Ministerial Policy Statements-Consistency of allocations, Realism of plans, outputs & Outcomes, absorption of past budget
- Analyze & advise on the budget and Appropriation Bill
- Analyze & advise on the Revenue Bills- Tax amendment Bills, etc.
- Analyze and advise on loan requests
- Analyze and advise on the supplementary Budget requests
- Conduct studies on budget programs, projects or selected topical studies and advice Parliament based on findings
- Analyze and advise on Budget Performance Reports
- Analyze and advise on performance of loans
- Analyze and advise on the reports of Auditor General

# Challenges encountered by PBO

S/N	Challenge	Mitigation
1.	Delays in submission of budget Documents by Executive	Notify the Clerk about the submission Deadlines who often notifies the Speaker
2.	Incomplete Submissions leading to addendums sometimes 2 days to Parliament's deadline	Analyze the reports and advise Parliament through its committees on non complaint submissions.
3.	Inadequate resources to run independent models –	Building capacity, recruited new staff, Testing realism of assumptions in Macro Framework
4.	Political Concerns	Submit report to committee at same time when all MPs representing diverse interests are present.

# Lessons Learnt

- Well researched analysis is critical to supporting Parliament in its role during the budget process
- Know your client and their needs-MPs
- Maximize the available resources to meet the needs of your clients-MPs
- It takes time to be an expert in every area not in one year-project appraisal, modelling, appropriation, etc.
- Learn from your mistakes to minimize making others.

# Conclusion

PBOs play a critical background role in supporting Parliaments Perform their role in the Budget Process.

Quoting the words of our Former Clerk during the inauguration of new staff to Parliament:

“ If you mislead Parliament, you will have misled the nation so always do your homework.”