



WILMAT DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
Willingness Matters

NYAP

National Youth Advocacy Platform

"Our Voice Counts"



DIALOGUE REPORT

1st NATIONAL YOUTH POST-BUDGET DIALOGUE 2026

THEME:

*"Bridging Youth Aspirations and National
Budget Priorities for Inclusive and Climate
Resilient Development"*

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SPECIAL APPRECIATION

This 1st Edition of the National Youth Post Budget Dialogue (NYPBD) 2026 was made possible through the timely Technical, Moral, Strategic and Financial Support of both Individuals, CSOs, Private Sector Partners, Development Partners, Media and Volunteers. We look forward to the Next Editions stronger Together for the Youth in Accountability Agenda.

CONVENERS:



CO-CONVENERS:



DISCLAIMER

Great efforts were made in ensuring that the information compiled herein our National Youth Post Budget Dialogue Report (2026) is correct. However, the possibility of Errors or Unintentional omissions cannot be excluded.

FOREWARD



On 18th June 2026, the Wilmat Development Foundation (WDF) and the National Youth Advocacy Platform (NYAP) together with UNFYA, UCOBAC, UNICEF Uganda, WaterAid Uganda, Touch The Heart Uganda, TAHI, MCLD Uganda Chapter and other partners, convened the 1st National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue (NYPBD) 2026 at the UNICEF Uganda Country Office in Kampala. Held exactly one week after the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Henry Musasizi, read Uganda's largest-ever national budget of UGX 84.39 trillion for FY 2026/27 at Kololo

Independence Grounds, the Dialogue marked a deliberate and historic shift in Uganda's civic from youth as passive recipients of pre-budget consultation to youth as active organized auditors of budget implementation.

from youth as passive recipients of pre-budget consultation to youth as active organized auditors of budget implementation.

Convened under the theme ***"Bridging Youth Aspirations and National Budget Priorities for Inclusive and Climate-Resilient Development,"*** the Dialogue brought together a total of 60 youth champions from across Uganda, the Commissioner for Youth and Children Affairs, the Assistant Commissioner for Budget Policy and Evaluation at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), a UNICEF Uganda representative, a Gender Budgeting Specialist, technical staff from civil society, the private sector and youth leaders drawn from across the regions of Uganda. It was, by the admission of its own Guest of Honor, ***"the maiden national youth post-budget dialogue"*** a landmark that both parties agreed should now become an annual fixture in Uganda's budget calendar.

This Report documented the full proceedings of the Dialogue, the key recommendations of the youth Position Paper and indirect response to Youth's request extracts the confirmed, trackable commitments made by government duty-bearers so that WDF, partners and stakeholders can follow up systematically ahead of the FY 2027/28 Budget Framework Paper process.

MATTE JOCKAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WILMAT DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
NATIONAL CHAIR-NYAP

01 BACKGROUND:

Uganda is a young country in every sense over 77 percent of its 49 million people are below the age of 35 and the 2024 Census places youth (aged 18–30) at 10.8 million, with 3.1 million households headed by a young person. Yet Uganda's budget process has historically engaged youth, where at all, at the tail end through youth Members of Parliament and local council representatives who typically access budget proposals only after districts and ministries have already consolidated their submissions.

The National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue 2026 was convened by WDF and NYAP to correct that sequencing: to build a structured, evidence-based youth voice that engages the budget cycle from the strategy stage onward, not merely at implementation.

The Dialogue was held one week after Uganda's FY 2026/27 Budget Speech, under the theme of ***"Full Monetization of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialization, Services Expansion, Digital Transformation and Market Access,"*** anchored on the **Agro-industrialization, Tourism Development, Mineral-Based Industrial Development** and **Science, Technology and Innovation (ATMS)** pillars of the **Ten-Fold** Growth Strategy which targets growing Uganda's economy from USD 49 billion to USD 500 billion by 2040. At UGX 84.39 trillion, the FY 2026/27 budget represents a 75.1 percent increase over the UGX 48.13 trillion budget of FY 2022/23 and Uganda's first budget to include projected First Oil revenue, with commercial production expected to commence later in 2026.

This was WDF second dialogue of the FY 2026/27 budget cycle, following a pre-budget dialogue the two organizations were earlier tasked by government to convene. Where the pre-budget dialogue sought to influence allocations before the budget was read, the **18th June post-budget dialogue** asked a different, harder question: now that the money has been allocated, does it reach young Ugandans and how will they know?





02

DIALOGUE OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ To unpack the FY 2026/27 National Budget from a youth lens and translate technical budget allocations into opportunities young people can actually access.
- ✓ To present and validate the Youth Position Paper on the FY 2026/27 Budget, developed through consultation with youth networks, civil society and technical partners.
- ✓ To create a direct dialogue space between youth leaders and senior government duty-bearers from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.
- ✓ To secure concrete, trackable commitments from government that can anchor youth-led budget monitoring ahead of the FY 2027/28 Budget Framework Paper process.
- ✓ To institutionalize the National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue as an annual accountability platform in Uganda's budget calendar.



Vision:

An equal and just world where women and girls are free from violence and the threat of violence.

Mission:

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DIALOGUE PROCEEDINGS

Opening Remarks



Welcome remarks were delivered by **Ms. Evelyn Zalwango**, Programs Coordinator of NYAP/CIDI, who framed the Dialogue as a critical juncture: the national budget had just been read and ***“the responsibility is incumbent on all of us to assess what it means for the youth specifically.”*** She reminded participants that Uganda’s young people whom she placed at 78 percent of the population when children are included must be

“not just counted in the budget but truly accounted for” and used the opportunity to introduce NYAP as convener, a platform of over 100 member associations united in shaping an inclusive national future.

“Ugandans young people who make up a 78% of the mobile population... are not just counted in the budget but are truly accounted for.”

Ms. Evelyn Zalwango, Programs Coordinator, NYAP/CIDI

Further welcome remarks were given by Mr. Matte Jockas, Executive Director of the Wimat Development Foundation and by Mr. Ian B. Kikomeko on behalf of UNICEF Uganda, who both underscored the significance of holding Uganda’s first national youth-led post-budget accountability platform at UNICEF’s own offices a signal of the UN agency’s commitment to expanding its historically child-focused budget work to include youth.

Keynote Address Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Commissioner, Youth & Children Affairs

Commissioner Kyateka opened by thanking Wimat Development Foundation for the invitation and tasked co-organizers to also support organizing a pre-budget dialogue for youth and framed the shift to post-budget engagement as a natural continuation: ***“The budget is already read, little may change in the budget allocations. My counsel to you is that we will work together to see that before the budget is***

read, we get to influence the location of funds.” He described the budget as government’s single most important tool for translating priorities under the National Development Plan (NDP IV) into resource allocation and linked household poverty directly to youth concerns citing that roughly 2 million children are born in



Uganda annually and about half of them unplanned, with teenage pregnancy accounting for 25 percent of all pregnancies and child marriage affecting 34 percent of Ugandan children below 18.

He walked participants through the FY 2026/27 wealth-creation allocations relevant to youth UGX 50 billion to the Agricultural Credit Facility, UGX 442.2 billion in additional capitalization for the Uganda Development Bank, UGX 454.1 billion for the Uganda Development Corporation, UGX 48.5 billion for Micro Finance Support, UGX 1,084.7 billion for the Parish Development Model and UGX 29.6 billion for the Youth Livelihood Program and urged youth not to stop at knowing the allocation, but to track the release of funds. ***“This group here should be able to shout and say, well, this was allocated, but we want to see the money released so that we can fight poverty,”*** he said, invoking the Mahatma Gandhi line that ***“Poverty is the one form of violence.”***

He closed by calling on youth to take up **four roles** beyond that of beneficiary: as **Watchdogs** over how allocated money is used; as **Information disseminators** who spread awareness of released resources; as **interpreters** and **Change agents** who translate government policy for their peers; and as **Active Participants** in the structures the law already accords them the National Youth Council, Article 78 of the Constitution (youth representation in Parliament) and the Local Governments Act 1997 (youth representation at Local Council level).

“This group here should be able to shout and say, well, this was allocated, but we want to see the money released so that we can fight poverty.”

Mr. Mondo Kyateka, Commissioner, Youth & Children Affairs, MGLSD



Commissioner Mondo Kyateka signing off the Youth Position Paper for the National Youth Post Budget Dialogue 2026 with Youth Aspirations on the National Budget FY 2026/27 ahead of FY 2027/2028



PRESENTATION OF THE YOUTH POSITION PAPER 2026

Mr. Matte Jockas, ED of WDF and Chairperson of NYAP presented the Position Paper for the National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue 2026, titled ***“From Budget Speech to Implementation: Youth Perspectives on the FY 2026/27 National Budget.”***

The paper commended government for a series of bold commitments embedded in the budget the record UGX 2.26 trillion agro-industrialization allocation, the groundbreaking First Oil projections, the PDM's expansion to over 4 million beneficiaries and the halving of internet costs while structuring twelve evidence-based priority issues, each following a consistent format: budget context and commendation, opportunities for youth, identified gaps and recommendations, with forward-looking considerations for the FY 2027/28 Budget Framework Paper embedded throughout. A summary of the twelve issues is presented in Section 3 of this report.

You can access the Position Paper via: https://wdfug.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Signed-Position-paper-for-the-Nation-Youth-Post-Budget-Dialogue-2026-18.June_.2026.pdf



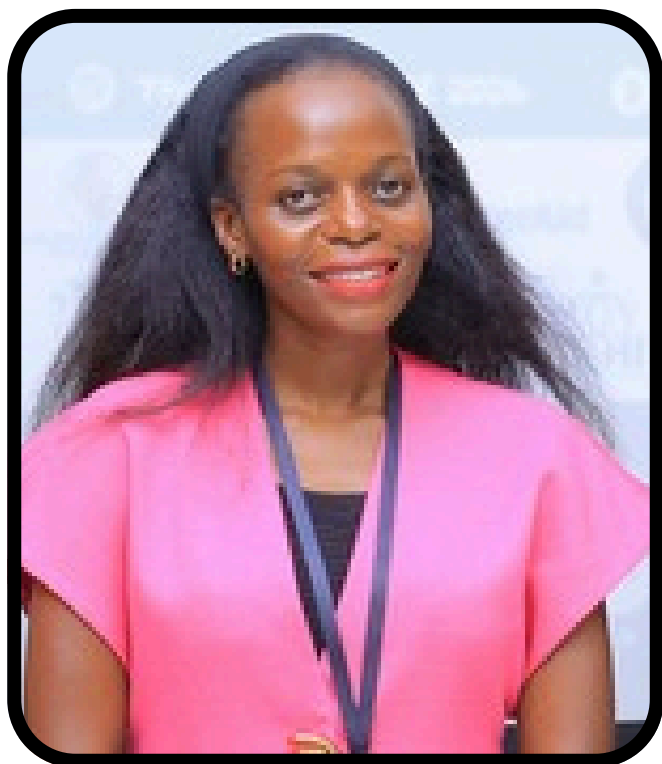
PANEL DISCUSSIONS





04

PANEL ONE: How Should the Budget Protect the Most Vulnerable Youth?



Ms. Ann Nassamula, Senior Advocacy Officer, CEDOVIP Uganda

Ms. Nassamula argued that, with the budget already passed, the immediate task is protection rather than expansion of allocations. She identified education (UGX 6.6 trillion) and health (UGX 5.2 trillion) as the two budget lines most critical to keeping girls safe from early marriage and transactional sex and welcomed the UGX 3.5 billion allocated to village elders for community-level accountability

on gender-based violence. On accountability mechanisms, she recommended gender-disaggregated budget tagging and tracking, quarterly expenditure reports, youth-built public dashboards and independent, publicly available audits so that funds intended for adolescent girls are not ***“a fund that has been allocated to a youth, going to someone who is maybe 55.”***



Ms. Kawala Brenda, Program Assistant, UCOBAC

Ms. Brenda argued that Uganda's budget currently funds land-rights protection reactively through legal aid and court processes after a young woman has already lost her land rather than preventively. She called for dedicated budget lines for community-level legal literacy and land-rights education and for strengthening district land offices and Local Council structures to

prevent eviction and land-grabbing before it occurs, noting that only about 40 percent of women in Uganda hold land titles. An audience member, Ms. Hope Akiror from The Hunger Project Uganda pushed back constructively arguing that legal aid remains essential in patriarchal systems and that sensitization must be paired with, not substituted for, legal protection an exchange the report records as a genuine, unresolved tension in the youth land-rights agenda.

Mr. Ndyamuhaki Isaac, National Director, GAYO Uganda

Mr. Ndyamuhaki proposed ring-fencing 5 percent of the national climate budget into a dedicated Youth Climate Resilience Fund targeted at green entrepreneurship in high-multiplier catalytic sectors waste recycling, regenerative agribusiness and clean energy for youth in informal settlements, low-lying areas and other climate-exposed communities.

He recommended strengthening results-based ("tier") climate financing, youth innovation funds with non-restrictive eligibility, climate-skilling budget lines and public subsidies for green production. He announced that GAYO will run a Uganda-specific edition of its African Climate Innovation Challenge and has set up a ten-month rent-free marketplace for youth-led green products.





**Ms. Namiwanda Allena Patricia,
Youth Champion, TAHI**

Ms. Namiwanda identified the special needs education grant as the most consistently underfunded line item in the education budget, noting that Article 30 of the 1995 Constitution (as amended in 2005) stipulates 10 percent of education funding for inclusive education a threshold the FY 2026/27 budget does not reflect.

She called on the Parliamentary Budget Committee to reject budgets that fail to disaggregate this allocation and if forced to protect only two categories from any future cut, named assistive technology/devices and community-based rehabilitation services as her non-negotiables, citing Uganda's 5.5 million persons with disabilities (2024-Census) including 1.7 million children and adolescents.

**Mr. Sadat Zagah Zziwa, Advisor,
National Youth Advocacy Platform**

Mr. Zziwa critiqued what he termed Uganda's "intended positive-biased programming" budget lines that appear to serve youth on paper but, on closer inspection, do not. He cited the removal of vocational certification pathways from the competence based secondary curriculum and the high cost of UVTA assessment fees (UGX 70,000–100,000 per learner) as barriers that undercut the government's own skilling agenda.



He called for skills funding to be treated as a social protection measure not just an economic one for vulnerable youth and proposed three concrete asks: vocational scholarships on par with academic ones **"enterprising"** of skilling hubs so learners earn while they train and structured placement/apprenticeship pathways into industry after training.



05

SPECIAL GUEST ADDRESS



Ms. Elliot Orizaarwa, Gender Budgeting Specialist

Ms. Orizaarwa, a veteran gender-responsive budgeting trainer and former Chairperson of the Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group (CSBAG) and Executive Director of EBUWACI, used an interactive quiz format to test participants' basic budget literacy the size of the FY 2026/27 budget, its increase over the previous year and where the money actually comes from. Her central message was that advocacy without budget literacy is directionless: ***"If we don't understand where***

where the budget comes from... we will not manage to do advocacy. We will not manage to write the position paper. She urged the Youth CSOs and its affiliates to formalize their engagement with government budget structures the way CSBAG has done, cautioned against ***"copy-copy-copy"*** advocacy that fails to represent the person ***"not in this room"*** and called for the Dialogue's outcomes to translate into concrete action points for the next budget planning cycle rather than remaining a one-off conversation.

"If we don't understand where the budget comes from... we will not manage to do advocacy."

Ms. Elliot Orizarwa, Gender Budgeting Specialist



06

PANEL TWO: How Can Youth Leverage ATMS (Agro-industrialization, Tourism, Minerals and Science, Technology and Innovation (ATMS) strategy) to Track Impact Across Sectors?

Mr. Denis Kabiito, CEO, Young Farmers' Federation of Uganda (UNYFA)

Mr. Kabiito challenged the perception of agriculture as ***"a retirement package"*** for failed politicians, arguing that ATMS reframes farming as a Value-chain business spanning production, processing, agro-tourism and digital record-keeping not merely tilling land. He pointed to Uganda's 5.4 percent urbanization growth rate as a market signal: expanding cities need food and traditional produce, creating a direct value-addition opportunity for young agripreneurs.

Beyond raw material production, Mr. Denis emphasized interconnected revenue streams agro-tourism ventures (citing Maude's farm as a model), digitized cooperative marketing platforms and data-driven climate intelligence all requiring youth with ICT and innovation skills. This ecosystem perspective positions agriculture not as subsistence fallback but as a modernized, multi-disciplinary sector where young people can enter at multiple points along the value chain with competitive earning potential.





Ms. Primrose Kobusingye, Marketing Manager, Exim Bank (Private Sector)

Ms. Kobusingye acknowledged the disconnect between what banks require (collateral) and what young entrepreneurs have (ideas), but stressed that youth-targeted credit products already exist and are simply underused due to a knowledge gap. She advised youth to inquire directly with their banks about youth-specific products, to

to plug into existing value chains where guarantors and off-takers can substitute for collateral, to start small and scale gradually and above all to keep proper books, since lenders increasingly offer blended products bundling bookkeeping support, mentorship and financing partnerships (for example, with UDB).

“Young People are not short of Ideas, They have very many viable ideas.”

Ms. Primrose, Marketing Manager, Exim Bank

Ms. Evelyn Zalwango, Programs Coordinator, NYAP

Ms. Zalwango argued that meaningful ATMS participation requires both hard and soft skills communication, professionalism and personal branding alongside awareness of existing but underused facilities such as the Katale Loan Facility (8 percent interest, nationwide rollout) and the Parish Development Model (PDM).



She flagged that NYAP has already linked over 160 youth entrepreneurs to markets through exhibitions and referenced ongoing NYAP advocacy on the Youth Startup Bill (since 2022) and the Minimum Wage Bill (since 2015) both still pending, as unfinished legislative business directly affecting youth economic protection.

Mr. Hamimu Masudi, Director of Policy & Advocacy, WaterAid Uganda

Mr. Masudi framed water security as both a social and economic concern, noting the FY 2026/27 water sector allocation of UGX 1.013 trillion is significant but undermined by the 22 percent of rural water points that remain non-functional due to insufficient Operation and Maintenance financing and the fact that only 55 percent of schools have safe water and 42 percent have adequate latrines.



His central recommendation was structural: institutionalizing quarterly, community-level WASH Accountability Forums that translate technical ATMS performance data into a citizen-friendly format, bringing together youth representatives, community leaders, water user committees, local government officials and service providers to jointly ask which systems are functional, which projects were completed, which communities remain underserved and what will change before the next reporting cycle.

AUDIENCE REACTIONS AND CROSS-CUTTING INTERVENTIONS FROM PANEL TWO

The plenary discussion following Panel Two surfaced several sharp, unresolved concerns that this report records for follow-up:



A question on why the Katale Loan Facility carries a higher interest rate (8%) than PDM (6%) despite serving a comparably vulnerable population (market vendors, mostly women);



A challenge, raised from the floor, that PDM beneficiary lists in practice under-represent youth despite youth being the program's stated majority target, with a call for a fixed youth allocation quota



Concerns about the rising cost of mobile data undermining youth digital livelihoods and content creation;



A call, from Mr. Emmanuel Isiagi of the Movement for Community-Led Development Uganda Chapter for dedicated funding of community-based organizations so that grassroots voices are not lost in national-level budget consultations.



05 ▶

GUEST OF HONOR SPEECH



Mr. Ali Tagoole, Assistant Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED

Mr. Tagoole whose remarks were informed by technical talking points prepared with the Ministry's Budget Directorate under Mr. Hannington Ashaba, Ag. Director of Budget opened by explaining Uganda's shift from sector-based to program-based budgeting under which youth concerns fall primarily under the Human Capital Development Program.

He gave a candid institutional history of government–civil society relations, recalling that civil society was once viewed internally as a “threat” before the 2008 establishment of the Budget Transparency Partners mechanism, which now includes CSBAG, ACODE, SEATINI, the Uganda Debt Network and UNICEF and which he formally invited WDF-NYAP to join.

He walked participants through the full FY 2026/27 financing structure: UGX 40.2 trillion in projected tax revenue, UGX 4.02 trillion in non-tax revenue, a maiden UGX 1.44 trillion in oil revenue, UGX 11.97 trillion in domestic borrowing, UGX 339.8 billion in local government revenue, UGX 12.49 trillion in external financing and UGX 13.97 trillion in domestic debt refinancing.

He cautioned that a headline increase in the budget does not automatically translate into more discretionary spending for youth priorities, since rising debt-servicing costs can **“Swallow”** much of any nominal increase though he confirmed that FY 2026/27’s discretionary increase was in fact positive.

On the specific opportunities aligned to youth aspirations, he detailed: **the wealth funds** (*PDM, Emyooga, Small Business Fund, UDB*); UGX 6 trillion-plus in human capital investment covering UPE, STEM, teacher welfare, curriculum reform and AFCON 2027 sports infrastructure; UGX 1.03 trillion for industrial parks and Special Economic Zones; UGX 1.1 trillion for digital infrastructure and the planned Hi-Tech City; UGX 2.1 trillion for energy access (targeting 50,000 megawatts of capacity by

2040, from roughly 2,000 megawatts today); modernized market access certification services and UGX 494 billion for environmental protection which he explicitly invited youth groups to access as implementing partners rather than leaving to large contracted firms.

His most significant institutional commitment concerned process, not money: recognizing that youth leaders like local councilors, are currently consulted only **“towards the sixth, seventh and eighth”** month of an eight-month budget cycle by which point **“the budget has taken a certain shape”** and reallocation becomes difficult he committed to working to create institutional room for Youth voice to be registered before the annual Budget Strategy is presented to the President for consultation (typically August–September).

He further committed that, once WDF-NYAP formally applies to join the Budget Transparency Partners framework, the MoFPED will treat the future National Youth Budget Dialogue’s next editions as a formal validation session reporting back on exactly how many of the youth’s policy pronouncements were incorporated into the FY 2027/28 budget and providing a roadmap for those that were not.

He closed with practical guidance on citizen-led budget tracking directing participants to www.finance.go.ug for approved national and ministerial budgets and confirmed, in response to a question raised earlier by Ms. Namiwanda Patricia (TAHI), that Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has already secured funding in FY 2026/27 for assistive devices for persons with disabilities, a direct result of advocacy previously led by CSBAG.



“You as youth need to tell Government what You want, so that it does not just supply what it wishes. We are here to listen.”

Mr. Ali Tagoole, Ass. Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED



unicef
for every child



WaterAid

1st NATIONAL YOUTH POST BUDGET DIALOGUE 2026

Bridging Youth Aspirations And Priorities For
Inclusive And Climate-Sensitive Growth



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**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
THE YOUTH POSITION PAPER**

The Position Paper presented during the NYPBD 2026 structured the budget analysis around twelve (12) priority issues, each commending specific FY 2026/27 government commitments while flagging implementation gaps and proposing costed recommendations for the FY 2027/28 Budget Framework Paper. The table below summarises the headline commitment and the single highest-priority youth ask under each issue; the full Position Paper, appended separately, provides the complete evidence base, budget tables and recommendation sets.

Priority Issue	Youth Ask for FY2027/28	Youth Ask for FY2027/28
1. Agro-Industrialisation & Youth in Commercial Agriculture	UGX 2.26tn to Agro-Industrialisation; UGX 4.4tn PDM revolving capital	Youth Agriculture Innovation Window ($\geq$ UGX 50bn), non-collateral
2. WASH in Schools, Health Facilities & Communities	UGX 1.013tn to the water sector; 71% national household access	Standalone Menstrual Hygiene Management budget line ($\geq$ UGX 15bn)
3. Youth Employment, Wealth Creation & Enterprise Finance	UGX 2.49tn wealth-creation allocation across Emyooga, GROW, YLP, UDB	Unified Youth Enterprise Management Unit under MGLSD
4. Health, Reproductive Health & Mental Wellbeing	UGX 5.23tn to health; NICUs in 17 Regional Referral Hospitals	Dedicated Youth-Friendly Health Services line ($\geq$ UGX 25bn)
5. Education, TVET, Skills & Sports	UGX 6.66tn to education (+32.1%); 259 seed schools operational	National Student Loan Scheme ($\geq$ UGX 50bn)

Priority Issue	Headline FY2026/27 Commitment	Youth Ask for FY2027/28
6. Science, Technology, Innovation & Digitalisation	UGX 1.14tn to STI/ICT/creatives; internet cost halved to USD 35/Mbps	Last-Mile Digital Connectivity Fund (≥ UGX 20bn)
7. Climate Change, Environment & Conservation	UGX 494.08bn to climate/environment highest ever	Youth Climate Adaptation Fund (≥ UGX 20bn)
8. Creative Industries & Cultural Economy	UGX 33bn Uganda Creatives Revolving Fund; Copyright Act 2025	Expand Creatives Fund to UGX 60bn across ≥ 135 SACCOs
9. Mineral-Based Industrial Development & Oil/Gas	UGX 473.51bn to minerals, oil & gas; 199 wells drilled	40% youth local-content quota in EACOP/oil contracts
10. Gender-Responsive Financing & GBV/VAWC Prevention	UGX 133.14bn GROW Project to 6,584 women-owned businesses	National GBV Prevention & Response Fund (≥ UGX 30bn)
11. Social Protection, Disability & Civic Participation	UGX 173.55bn social protection; 72,772 PWD grant beneficiaries	Youth Resilience Social Protection Scheme (≥ UGX 20bn)
12. Public Finance, Taxation & Local Government Accountability	PAYE threshold raised to UGX 335,000 / month; VAT threshold doubled	Mandatory Youth & Gender Tax Impact Assessment

Running through all twelve issues are five cross-cutting themes the Position Paper asks government to treat as systemic, not sectoral:

- The absence of a national, age-disaggregated Youth Development Index, without which youth targeting remains aspirational rather than measurable;
- The need to position youth as implementers agri-entrepreneurs, irrigation technicians, budget monitors, local councillors not only as beneficiaries;
- Persistent regional inequity, particularly in Northern Uganda, Karamoja and West Nile, requiring region-disaggregated expenditure and outcome reporting;
- Climate resilience as a mandatory budget-screening criterion across all Ministries, Departments and Agencies, not a stand-alone sector; and
- Ensuring youth in the Albertine region and nationally are prepared through skills, enterprise development and community benefit-sharing to benefit from Uganda's First Oil transition from its very first barrel.





COMMITMENTS MADE



07 COMMITMENTS MADE:

In direct response to WDF and NYAP's request that this report support structured follow-up, the table below extracts every specific, verifiable commitment made by government duty-bearers during the Dialogue distinguishing commitments that are already fiscally locked into the FY 2026/27 budget from commitments that are procedural or institutional in nature and will require deliberate follow-up to realise.

Duty-Bearer	Confirmed Commitment	Confirmed Commitment
Mr. Mondo Kyateka Commissioner, Youth & Children Affairs, MGLSD	Government commits to viewing youth not only as beneficiaries but as watchdogs, information disseminators and interpreters of wealth-creation programmes (PDM, Emyooga, UDB, UDC, YLP, MFC) and pledged to keep engaging youth leaders directly on release not just allocation of the UGX 2.49 trillion wealth-creation budget.	NYAP/WDF to track quarterly release (not only allocation) figures for PDM, Emyooga, YLP and UDB and report variances to MGLSD.

Duty-Bearer	Confirmed Commitment	Follow-Up Action / Owner
Mr. Ali Tagoole Ass. Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED	Committed to institutionalising a formal entry point for youth voice in the Budget Strategy consultations before the strategy is presented to H.E. the President rather than only at the tail end of the budget cycle.	WDF-NYAP to formally write to MoFPED requesting inclusion as a recognised Budget Transparency Partner (alongside CSBAG, ACODE, SEATINI, UDN, UNICEF).
Mr. Ali Tagoole Ass. Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED	Confirmed that, once WDF-NYAP is formally recognised as a Budget Transparency Partner, it will be invited to the National Budget Conference and district-level consultations (mid-September to mid-October) on the same basis as CSBAG, ACODE, SEATINI and UDN.	WDF-NYAP Secretariat to submit the formal application letter within Q1 FY2026/27 and disseminate the framework to regional/affiliate youth networks.
Mr. Ali Tagoole Ass. Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED	Committed that the 2nd National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue will function as a validation and feedback session: MoFPED will report back on how many of the youth's policy pronouncements were accommodated in the FY2027/28 budget and provide a roadmap or justification for those deferred.	NYAP/WDF to finalise and transmit a numbered, trackable list of policy "asks" from this Position Paper to MoFPED ahead of the FY2027/28 Budget Strategy process (August–September 2026).

Duty-Bearer	Confirmed Commitment	Follow-Up Action / Owner
Mr. Ali Tagoole Ass. Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED	Confirmed that Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development has already provided funding in FY2026/27 for assistive devices for persons with disabilities, in direct response to advocacy raised by CSBAG and echoed at this dialogue.	TAHI/UCOBAC to follow up with MGLSD on disbursement and distribution to ensure the funds reach intended beneficiaries at facility level.
Mr. Ali Tagoole Ass. Commissioner, Budget Policy & Evaluation, MoFPED	Committed, on behalf of MoFPED, that subsequent editions of the National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue will include direct technical representation from the Ministries of Gender, Education and Health the three MDAs most central to the Human Capital Development Programme.	WDF/NYAP Secretariat to issue formal invitations to the named MDAs at least six weeks ahead of the 2nd Dialogue.
Ministry of Water and Environment (relayed by Mr. Ali Tagoole)	Invited youth groups to directly engage the Ministry to partner on implementation of the UGX 494 billion wetland and forest-restoration programme, in place of engaging only large contracted firms opening a concrete procurement/partnership pathway for youth-led environmental enterprises.	GAYO, youth environmental groups and WDF/NYAP affiliates to submit a joint expression of interest to MoWE within FY2026/27.

Duty-Bearer	Confirmed Commitment	Follow-Up Action / Owner
Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development	Reaffirmed institutional commitment to “an inclusive, transparent and responsive budgeting process that leaves no young person behind,” and to publishing budget documents and half-year performance reports through www.finance.go.ug for citizen-led tracking.	Youth budget-monitoring groups to be formed / strengthened at community and district level to track implementation using published MoFPED data.
Participants at Large (WDF, NYAP and Partner CSOs)	Collectively committed to registering with PDM SACCOs, Emyooga, GROW, UDB and other enterprise-finance windows; to forming youth budget-accountability groups in schools, universities and communities; and to carrying the advocacy priorities identified at the Dialogue into their respective workspaces, classrooms and communities.	WDF/NYAP regional affiliates to report back at the 2nd Dialogue on uptake and monitoring activity undertaken since June 2026.



**KEY SUCCESS STORIES AND
GENERAL REACTIONS
FROM PARTICIPANTS**

Beyond the formal panel structure, the two sessions surfaced a number of genuine success stories, live testimonials and unscripted exchanges that are worth preserving in their own right both as evidence that youth-led budget advocacy is already producing results and as a record of the concerns raised most passionately from the floor.



▪ **From beneficiary to advocate:** An audience member living with a disability, **Alice**, used her turn at the microphone not to ask a question but to correct the panel's framing: ***"I am one of the examples I am here speaking, I am earning money, I look after my siblings, I look after my family."*** She cited the Employment Act 2016's 10% public-sector disability-inclusion quota as evidence that policy openings exist and are being used and challenged the room to stop treating disability as synonymous with begging.

▪ **A youth-led climate model that has already scaled across three countries:** GAYO Uganda's Country Coordinator Mr. **Ndyamuhaki Isaac** shared that the organization's zero-waste recycling model has already been scaled from Ghana to Botswana and is now running in Kampala concrete, tested proof that youth-led green enterprise models can travel and grow with the right catalytic support.



▪ **652 young people placed in skilling hubs:** NYAP Advisor Sadat Zziwa disclosed that NYAP has, to date has supported over 652 young people into zonal and private vocational skilling hubs a concrete counterpoint to the panel's broader critique that vocational pathways remain underfunded.



▪ **A market-vendor loan facility born out of advocacy:** **Mr. Abius Wanyana** of the **Institute for Social Transformation (IST)** recounted that the Katale Loan Facility now serving women and youth market vendors who could not access PDM because their working day is spent in the market exists because IST advocated directly for it. His live follow-up question to government on interest-rate parity (8% for Katale versus 6% for PDM) was itself presented as unfinished advocacy business.



▪ **Land rights:** Sensitization versus legal aid. Hope Akiror challenged panelist Kawala Brenda's framing of legal aid as a reactive measure, arguing from field experience in patriarchal rural districts that cultural sensitization must come first **"you give a young person land and the next day they are selling it to ride a motorcycle."** Brenda held her position that legal protection cannot be substituted by sensitization alone, leaving this as an open tension for future dialogues to revisit.

▪ **CSOs and CBOs want a seat and a budget line of their own:** **Mr. Emmanuel Isiagi** the National Coordinator of the Movement for Community-Led Development Uganda Chapter represented a network of 201 CSOs and NGOs, called for dedicated CSO/CBO funding so that community-level voices are not lost between national dialogues and district budget consolidation.





*"What I loved most in the NYPBD was the quote from Mr. Mondo kyateka where he said that **"poverty is the worst form of violence"**. so in this context, it means that the budget choices matter, where by if the budget doesn't create jobs, support youth enterprises or even fund skilling, then we are budgeting for poverty."*
~Zam Nabukunganya, Youth Champion

"What stood out most to me was the realization that meaningful youth participation goes beyond attending dialogues, it requires understanding the budget, tracking its implementation and holding duty bearers accountable for the promises made."
- Apio Jesca Ongim



"What resonated with me most was the convergence of diverse perspectives around a shared commitment to strengthening public finance and inclusive governance. My key takeaway is that effective budgeting is not merely a fiscal exercise, it is a reflection of meaningful participation and evidence-based decision-making. As we move forward, let us sustain this momentum by engaging constructively, demanding accountability and contributing to policies that deliver equitable and lasting development." **Mooka Elisha Eddie, Youth Champion.**



"The Youth Post budget Dialogue was the day I learnt and was fully convinced that money is allocated for youth in Uganda but how the youth benefit from the funds matter a lot"
~Juma Patrick, Youth Champion





**COMMITMENTS MADE BY
PANELISTS AND CSO
PARTNERS**



CSO & PANELISTS COMMITMENTS

Alongside the government commitments captured in Section 4, several panelists and partner organizations made their own concrete, verifiable pledges during the two panel sessions. These sit outside government's budget cycle and can be followed up on immediately, independent of the FY2027/28 process.

Panelist / Organisation	Pledge Made at the Dialogue	Follow-Up Action / Owner
Mr. Ndyamuhaki Isaac - National Director, GAYO Uganda	Confirmed GAYO will run a Uganda-specific edition of its African Climate Innovation Challenge within the year and has opened a 10-month rent-free marketplace where youth-led green enterprises can distribute products without paying rent or utilities.	GAYO to share the Challenge application window and marketplace onboarding details with WDF/NYAP affiliates within Q3 2026.
Mr. Ndyamuhaki Isaac - National Director, GAYO Uganda	Offered to connect interested youth to GAYO's international exchange program, which takes young people abroad to learn climate-resilient agricultural practices and to its ongoing regenerative-agriculture partnership with Farm Radio International.	Interested youth environmental groups to contact GAYO directly through WDF's Secretariat for referral.

Panelist / Organisation	Pledge Made at the Dialogue	Follow-Up Action / Owner
Ms. Evelyn Zalwango - Programmes Coordinator, NYAP	Confirmed NYAP has already linked over 160 youth entrepreneurs to markets through local and international exhibitions and committed to continuing this market-linkage work as a standing NYAP service to its	NYAP regional affiliates to nominate youth enterprises for the next exhibition cycle.
Mr. Sadat Zagah Zziwa - Advisor, NYAP	Disclosed that, through his direct technical role with the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC), he will push to reintegrate certifiable vocational-skilling components into the secondary curriculum review and confirmed NYAP has already supported over 652 young people into zonal and private skilling hubs.	NYAP to report on curriculum-review progress and skilling-hub placement numbers at the 2nd Dialogue.
Ms. Primrose Kobusingye Marketing Manager, Exim Bank	Committed, on behalf of Exim Bank, to youth being able to walk into any branch and request information on existing youth-targeted credit products, including blended products that bundle bookkeeping support and mentorship alongside financing.	WDF/NYAP to organize a structured youth-Exim Bank product briefing session for member associations.

Panelist / Organisation	Pledge Made at the Dialogue	Follow-Up Action / Owner
Mr. Hamimu Masudi - Director of Policy & Advocacy, WaterAid Uganda	Proposed and offered WaterAid Uganda's technical support to institutionalize quarterly, community-level WASH Accountability Forums that translate technical ATMS water and sanitation data into a citizen-friendly format for youth and community monitoring.	WaterAid Uganda and NYAP to jointly pilot the first WASH Accountability Forum in one district within FY2026/27.
Mr. Abius Wanyana Institute for Social Transformation (IST)	Confirmed IST's continuing advocacy role behind the Katale Loan Facility, established for women and youth market vendors who could not access PDM and committed to continuing to press for parity between the Katale rate (8%) and the PDM rate (6%).	NYAP to co-sign IST's follow-up petition to the relevant financial institutions on Katale Loan interest parity.



KEY TAKEAWAYS AND CROSS-CUTTING OBSERVATIONS

- **Allocation is not release:** The single most repeated message from both Government speakers and Youth panelists was that a budget line's existence guarantees nothing; only tracked, released and audited disbursement does. Commissioner Kyateka, Mr. Tagoole and multiple panelists independently converged on this point.

- **Packaging, not just provisioning determines uptake:** Mr. Tagoole conceded that government has **"Provided the Money"** for several wealth-creation windows but that poor packaging eligibility thresholds, information gaps, collateral requirements explain persistently low Youth uptake, echoing the Position Paper's finding that only 0.4% of Youth nationally have benefited from the Youth Livelihood Program.

- **Entry point matters more than volume of engagement:** Mr. Tagoole's account of the eight-month budget cycle demonstrated that youth leaders currently enter the process too late (months six to eight) to meaningfully shape allocations reinforcing the Position Paper's call for a formal youth consultation mechanism embedded in the Budget Framework Paper process from July 2026.

- **Youth are not a monolith:** Panel One surfaced genuine tensions within the Youth constituency itself, legal aid versus sensitization as the right entry point for land rights and whether disability, gender and regional targeting should be pursued through general programs or ring-fenced windows that a single Position Paper cannot fully resolve and that future dialogues should deliberately track.

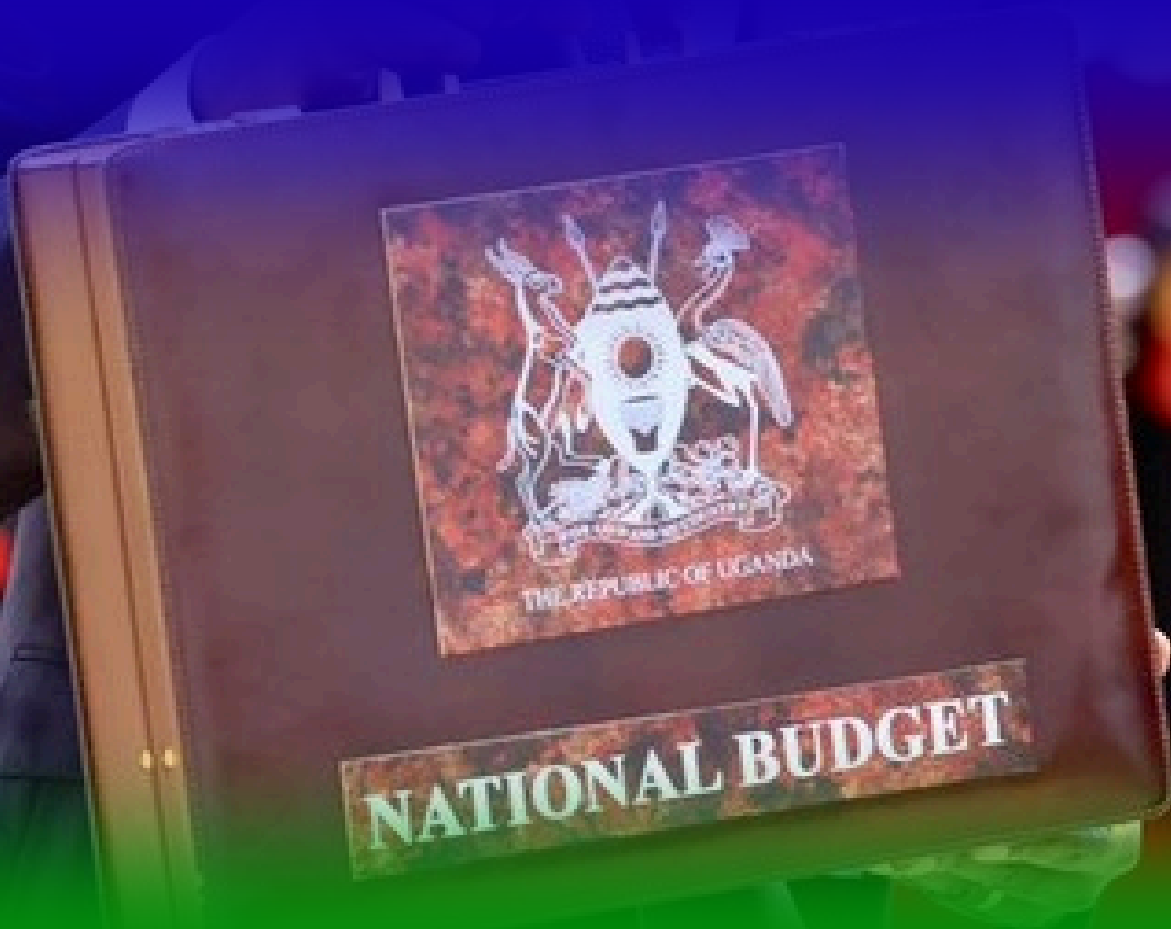
- **Institutional memory is the missing infrastructure:** Both Ms. Orizaarwa and Mr. Tagoole independently flagged that without formal recognition (Budget Transparency Partner status) and a numbered, trackable list of **"ASKS,"** Youth Advocacy risks repeating itself annually without measurable progress the precise gap this report's Commitments table is designed to close.



11 CONCLUSION

The **1st National Youth Post-Budget Dialogue (NYPBD, 2026)** delivered on its founding purpose: it converted a week-old national budget into a structured Youth-owned Accountability Agenda that was backed by a technically rigorous Position Paper and anchored by specific, named commitments from two senior government duty-bearers.

Uganda's youth are, in the words of the Position Paper, **"not merely observers but co-owners of the national development enterprise."** This Dialogue was the moment that claim moved from rhetoric to a working accountability relationship with the institutions that hold the money. Looking forward to the 2nd Edition.



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