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MPs move to draft Bill to disband govt agencies

By Henry Sekanjako

A cross section of National Resistance Movement (NRM) MPs want to introduce a Private Members' Bill that seeks to disband some government agencies and authorities to avoid wasteful expenditure.

In August, President Yoweri Museveni ordered a review of the public service, with a view of scrapping, downsizing and merging government bodies.

MPs have now issued a 30-day ultimatum to the Government to effect the President's directive or else they present a Bill for that purpose.

"Ugandans want services, but some of these agencies and authorities are busy blowing taxpayers' money on travels abroad and entertainment," Ngora County MP David Abala said.

The MPs told journalists at Parliament last week that they want the Government to merge agencies and authorities with their mother ministries in order to minimise resources.

"We have so many agencies duplicating work and spending a lot of money on unnecessary activities. For example, the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) is spending sh1.6b on consultancy work. This money can be saved, if agencies are put under one haven," Mwine Mpaka, the Youth MP for Western Uganda, said.

The MPs' press briefing followed the recent Internal Security Organisation (ISO) report to President Museveni on the Government's wasteful expenditure. In the report, ISO equally recommended a merger or disbandment of some government agencies.

The legislators expressed concern that state agencies and authorities increase their wage Bill and development expenditures at the expense of other equally important ministries and government departments.

"As Parliament, we need to move fast and take a decision to save taxpayers. This money can be saved and used for service delivery," Solomon Silwany, the MP for Bukooli Central, said.