

WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

President Museveni said bad political pressures, such as demand for new districts, have stalled development goals.

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President Yoweri Museveni has said Uganda is still facing a problem of bad budgeting, which is costing the country a lot of money.

Museveni said the NRM Government has promoted peace, caused economic recovery and the country is collecting more taxes than before, but the challenge is still on bad budgeting.

"The NRM has managed to cause minimum recovery of the economy and it is now growing. However, there is a problem of budgeting, as there are so many groups that insist on spending more on consumption," he said on Saturday.

He was addressing a crowd at the International Youth Day celebrations, held at the Bubukwanga Primary School playground in Rwamba county, Bundibugyo district. The President said although the NRM Government has caused minimum recovery, bad political pressures, such as the demand for new districts, have stalled development goals.

He said by budgeting correctly, his Government has brought about peace and developed infrastructure, such as roads and electricity, adding that the country cannot develop without infrastructure. He, therefore, called for more budgeting for irrigation and wealth creation.

"The Government is spending sh4,000b on roads and sh3,000b on electricity, but there is need to focus on budgeting for irrigation and wealth creation, so that there is food security and employment opportunities for the youth," he said.

"Proper budgeting involves peace promotion, infrastructure, wealth creation and job creation. These have led to minimum recovery of the economy and, therefore, should take the lead in the budgeting plans," he added.

The President called on the youth movement to champion the protection of the environment. He assured Ugandans of the Government's readiness and ability to protect them against any insecurity.

"Nobody will disturb our peace. If you are tired of this world, you try to disturb our peace. Across the border in Congo, all sorts of things are going on, but cannot cross over here," he said.

"The youth are now many, I am advising



Museveni inspecting stalls during celebrations to mark the International Youth Day in Bundibugyo. Photo by Kennedy Oryema

Bad budgeting still a problem, says Museveni

YOUTH ROLE

Museveni advised the youth to use their energy for peace-building initiatives and development

them to use their energy for peace building initiatives and development. The peace we have currently and the good roads and infrastructure development in the country are

the result of increased tax collection by the Government," he said.

Museveni said calm had been restored in the Rwenzori region, which was engulfed by tribal clashes recently.

"I am happy that calm has been restored in the region. Last year, it was terrible. All the cocoa plantations had been abandoned, but we managed to pursue the enemies in the mountains and calm has now been restored," Museveni said.

He launched the heifer project, where district youth leaders will be given cows by the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), under the Operation Wealth

Creation programme.

Museveni also inspected the exhibition stalls under the Youth Livelihood Programme. The President was happy with the work of the youth in carpentry and joinery and soap making areas.

The International Youth Day is a global annual event celebrated to recognise efforts of governments in enhancing global response to young people's needs.

This year's theme, "Youth Building Peace", is dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice and sustainable peace.

Labour minister Janet Mukwaya, who also attended the event, said this year's International Youth Day was dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation, as well as inclusion, social justice and sustainable peace.

She called for increased funding to enable her ministry do more about government pledges on youth livelihood.

Lillian Aber, the chairperson of the National Youth League, said 5% of all the money collected by district local governments be given to district youth councils to support their activities.

The UN resident co-ordinator, Rosa Malango, said there is need to address the challenges of unemployment, health and education.

"There is need to improve health access to the youth, particularly those in rural areas and also address the challenge of unemployment," Malango said.