THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT IS PROPOSED TO RECEIVE SH388.350

HOW GOVT PLANS TO SPEND SH3.8 TRILLION UNDER THE PRESIDENCY

By Sarah Nabakooza

For the 2026/27 financial year, government has proposed a sh3.807 trillion allocation to key votes under the Presidency, including security agencies, Kampala city administration, science and innovation and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

The figures are contained in the report of the Committee on Presidential Affairs tabled before Parliament last week by Alex Byarugaba (Isingiro South), the chairperson of the committee.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Office of the President is proposed to receive sh388.350b, reflecting a 10.07% increase compared to the 2025/26 (sh353.809b) approved budget. The increment is driven by a sh4.2b increase in wage expenditure and a 10.9% rise in non-wage recurrent spending, while development expenditure remains unchanged.

With the proposed allocation, the Office of the President plans to intensify field monitoring activities across the country to assess progress in the implementation of government programmes and manifesto commitments under the 18 NDP IV programmes.

The vote will also support Cabinet in executing its constitutional mandate, including strengthening policy preparation and monitoring the implementation of Cabinet decisions.

Other priorities include mobilising citizens through field offices and Operation Wealth Creation, co-ordinating national security agencies, and supporting Resident District Commissioners (RDCs).

Infrastructure improvements are also planned, including renovation of RDC offices in Otuke district, Gulu city, Lira city and Kole district, construction of a new office in Kiruhura district and procurement of four vehicles.

UGANDA AIDS COMMISSION

The Uganda AIDS Commission is set to receive sh26.493b, reflecting a modest 0.4% increase from sh26.393b. The Commission will focus on strengthening co-ordination of the national HIV response, including accrediting 300 organisations providing HIV/AIDS services.

It will also commemorate World AIDS Day, the Philly Lutaaya Memorial Day, and orient 17,000 students and youth leaders on HIV prevention.

Further plans include engaging cultural and faith-based institutions to reach three million people with prevention messages and reaching 60,000 people through social media campaigns during major public events.

SH25.300B FOR UIRI

The Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) is proposed to receive sh25.300b, marking a 9.4% increase from sh23.132b. The increase is largely due to a 21.9% rise in non-wage expenditure to cater for operational costs of an additional campus.

UIRI plans to ... industrialisation through technology transfer and enhance indigenous technological capacity through reverse engineering at its Namanve campus.

ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

Under the Ethics and Integrity vote, the Government has proposed sh15.456b, reflecting an 11.5% increase from sh13.856b.

The Directorate will co-ordinate implementation of the Zero Tolerance to Corruption policy under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, strengthen public-private partnerships and reinforce integrity promotion forums at both district and central government levels.

SECURITY AGENCIES

Security agencies take a significant share of the allocations, with the Internal Security Organisation (ISO) proposed to receive sh334.14b, representing a 34.2% increase from sh248.999b. ISO plans to strengthen its capacity to detect and prevent internal security threats by enhancing both human and technological capabilities, including geo-location operations.

The agency will also construct headquarters, nine field offices for district, regional internal security officers, equip these offices, acquire transport and classified assets and undertake staff capacity building.

The External Security Organisation (ESO) is proposed to receive sh142.313b. ESO will focus on intelligence gathering, detecting and countering foreign interference, deploying officers in field and foreign stations, supporting Uganda's foreign policy interests and constructing its headquarters.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is projected to receive sh595.332b, reflecting a 64% increase from sh363.570b. The growth is attributed to increases across all expenditure categories, including 40.8% in wage, 61% in non-wage and 87.8% in development spending.

KAMPALA METROPOLITAN

The Ministry of Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs is proposed to receive sh323.722b reflecting a 72.9% reduction against the FY ... in GKMA-UP Project funding.

The ministry will continue co-ordinating development of the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area, overseeing infrastructure and mobility planning, supporting urban regulation, and strengthening co-ordination between KCCA and surrounding local governments.

Meanwhile, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is among the biggest beneficiaries, with a proposed allocation of sh1.058 trillion, marking a 15.5% increase from sh916.380b in the current financial year. The increase is driven by growth in non-wage and development expenditure aimed at improving urban infrastructure and service delivery.

KCCA plans to upgrade and maintain roads and drainage systems, improve solid waste management, strengthen physical planning and land management, and implement major externally funded projects such as the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area Urban Development Programme and ...

However, funding gaps persist, including sh43.91b for solid waste management, about sh45b for road and drainage maintenance, and approximately sh18b for physical planning.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The Office of the Prime Minister is proposed to receive sh416.90b, up from sh155.525b, representing a 168% increase. The rise is largely driven by a surge in external financing, alongside an 83.5% increase in non-wage expenditure and a 27.2% rise in wage spending.

Sh9.964b has been allocated to donations, while sh5.524b is earmarked for consultancy services. OPM will also focus on co-ordinating government business, strengthening disaster preparedness and response, supporting refugee management programmes and monitoring implementation of national priorities.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Trainees from the welding and metal fabrication class at the Presidential Skilling Industrial Hub in Masaka last year. Presidential initiatives will provide skilling for 19,000 youth

State House

State House is projected to receive sh481.186b, representing a 5.4% redu... from the sh508.583b app... in the current financial ye... Despite the reduction, Sta... House has outlined an ext... programme of activities.

These include facilitatin... 130 community outreach programmes and sponsor... students. It will also supp... execution of 1,825 Presiden... programmes, ensuring log... support, security and welf... principals.

On the international front, the President is expected to attend 20 regional an... international meetings, ho... five Heads of State, visit 13 countries and undertake 15 diaspora engagements aime... mobilising Ugandans abroad.

Additionally, State House will support 10 trade-relate... meetings, organise five dia... investor conventions and commission 15 new invest...

Presidential initiatives wil... include provision of agricu... inputs and training to 36 m... villages, as well as skilling 19,000 youths across indust... hubs and Kampala-based centres.

Planned maintenance inclu... State lodges, refurbishment of Entebbe State House and servicing of the Presidential ... and helicopter.

... budget items, with particular foc... State House expenditures, incl... vehicles, maintenance of State lo... and fleet procurement.

Byarugaba, however, expl... that the State House budget has ... reduced mainly due to chang... expenditure pressures.

In previous financial ... allocations increased signific... to cater for salaries and pensio... newly recruited staff, creating a ... off cost that is no longer present ... current budget.

He added that activity-re... spending has also declined. ... example, the reduction is partly ... to lower vehicle procurement fu... requirements this year compared ... previously allocated funds.

Despite this, part of the curr... allocation will go towa... essential maintenance, includin... long-overdue renovations ... State House Entebbe and ... refurbishment of ageing furniture and facilities.

The chairperson emphasised th... State House expenditure extend... beyond Nakasero to numerous Sta... lodges across the country, whi... must be maintained to support the President's work during upcoun...