QUOTE OF THE DAY

BoU Governor Michael
Shs7 trillion. For the economy,
into the productive sectors of t

EDITORIAL

Every money spent on Afcon must be accounted for

Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania have ramped up their preparations for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations with the plans now facing a race against time. The three East African countries were dragging their feet until a damning report by the Confederation of African Football (Caf) last month picked apart their preparations.

Everyone was found wanting in one way or the other. Stadiums are lacking, hotel facilities need an upgrade, media tribunes and transport systems are far from ready et al.

That Caf report, which put Uganda behind its neighbours in terms of readiness for the tournament, caused so much uproar that tensions between the football government body Fufa and government, which had been kept away from the public, came to the fore.

This was after federation members claimed they had not been consulted about the construction of Hoima City Stadium despite being members of the Local Organising Committee (LOC's) infrastructure sub-committee.

The issue:
Afcon.

Our view:
There must be an independent, systematic assessment of our resources–financial, human, and physical during every step in our groundwork. There must be efficiency and effectiveness.

To be honest, the exchange was unwelcome and those tensions must be buried fast to deliver a tournament that will make us all proud for ages.

Uganda responded by unveiling a Shs905b budget to aid the remaining needs and bridge the gaps cited by Caf.

Since November 28, 2024, the LOC has been supported by an Inter-Sectoral Steering Forum inaugurated by the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Ms Janet Museveni, and bringing together over 20 entities including those from the private sector to ensure various requirements of hosting Afcon are met.

In 2024, the Ugandan Cabinet approved an allocation of Shs1.35 trillion for the infrastructural, logistical, and operational costs of preparations for the co-hosting Chan 2024 in August 2025 and Afcon 2027.

This figure included payment of $13m and $30m to Caf as individual co-host obligatory commitment fees for Chan and Afcon respectively.

Our next task is to ensure that every penny spent shows value for money. Right from procurement to completion, all entities concerned must create a synergy to close any gaps.

It will hurt even more if the next report from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is the one to nitpick where we fell short in the process of spending taxpayers' money.

There must be an independent, systematic assessment of our resources—financial, human, and physical during every step in our groundwork.

There must be efficiency and effectiveness. There is a need to focus on performance with the aim of improving accountability and operational results rather than just reviewing financial accuracy.