

BY MARTIN LUTHER OKETCH

KAMPALA. The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development has revised the resource envelope for the Financial Year 2026/2027 to Shs78.249 trillion, without altering the priorities set out in the National Budget Framework Paper.

The adjustment represents an increase of Shs8.85 trillion from the Shs69.399 trillion earlier communicated in the First Budget Call Circular.

In the Second Budget Call Circular (BCC), issued on February 13, 2026, on the finalisation of ministerial policy statements and detailed revenue and expenditure estimates for FY2026/27, the ministry guided all Accounting Officers for central and local government votes, as well as executive and managing directors of state-owned enterprises and public corporations.

The Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ramathan Ggoobi, said the circular was issued in accordance with Section 12 (1), (2), (3),

(11), (14) and (15) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171, and Regulation 10 of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2016.

He explained that it provides direction to accounting officers in preparing ministerial policy statements and detailed revenue and expenditure estimates for the 2026/27 financial year.

"This circular aims at reinforcing fiscal discipline, performance accountability, alignment to growth drivers, and reducing fragmentation of budget allocations. Strict adherence to the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171, all attendant regulations, and the directives herein is non-negotiable without breach," Mr Ggoobi wrote.

The circular notes that, following the adjustment of the resource envelope, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) has been revised at vote level, setting final expenditure ceilings for all central government votes.

"This circular aims at reinforcing fiscal discipline, performance accountability, alignment to growth drivers, and reducing fragmentation of budget allocations," Mr Ramathan Ggoobi, Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury

Local Government Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) have also been revised and generated through the Online Transfer Information Management System (OTIMS).

In line with these changes, Mr Ggoobi directed accounting officers to revise their budget estimates in accordance with the updated IPFs.

"These are hard ceilings with no post-submission negotiations. You are required to exercise allocative efficiency to achieve maximum impact through efficient and strategic allocation of re-

sources," he stated.

In accordance with Section 12 (3) of the Public Finance Management Act, Cap 171, the Minister of Finance will present the draft budget estimates to Parliament by April 1.

Mr Ggoobi instructed accounting officers to submit their draft estimates for FY2026/27 to the ministry by March 5, for review, consolidation and onward submission to Cabinet and Parliament. Local government accounting officers must ensure their respective councils approve their budgets by the same date.

He expressed concern that some accounting officers continue to disregard deadlines in the budget process, delaying analysis, finalisation and submission of the appropriation proposals to Parliament, which are considered vote by vote.

He warned that all accounting officers must comply strictly with the statutory timelines in the Budget Process Calen-

dar for FY2026/27 to ensure timely completion of their budgets. Non-compliant votes will face sanctions, including suspension of operations on the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMIS).

Accounting officers are required to submit draft revenue and expenditure estimates to the Ministry of Finance and the Equal Opportunities Commission by March 5, 2026; ministerial policy statements to Parliament by March 12, 2026; and performance contracts to the ministry by June 4, 2026.

The theme for the 2026/27 budget is: "Full Monetisation of Uganda's Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Services Expansion, Digital Transformation, and Market Access."

The financial year will mark the second year of implementing the Fourth National Development Plan, the first plan aimed at delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.