

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2017
Daily Monitor
www.monitor.co.ug

Govt to merge Ubos, Population Secretariat

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KAMPALA. The Public Service ministry has proposed that the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBS) and the Population Secretariat be merged for synergy.

Ubos is the national body for collecting, processing, analysing and disseminating agency where the Population Secretariat handles other roles, mobilises resources for implementation of the Uganda population policy and programmes.

The ministry also suggested that the Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB) and the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) be merged for proper coordination.

UTB's main role is promoting and marketing Uganda as a top tourist destination. The two as well as other final report on comprehensive review and restructuring of government ministries, departments and agencies July 2017.

The review, the ministry said, was informed by the observation that in spite of the various reforms by the government, there are still inadequacies and performance gaps arising from "obsolete, duplicated and newly enacted laws".

Change in policy

It was also due to changes in policy framework, emerging new roles and responsibilities in different sectors, among many others.

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Newspapers last week reported that President Museveni had called for the downsizing and merging of government agencies and authorities to reduce the wastage of meagre resources.

The *Daily Monitor* issue of August 23 noted that Mr Museveni had through a July 17 letter to the Vice President Edward Ssekandi, the Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, that there should only be two categories of public servants: policy makers and "money makers" running few government parastatals.

Mr Museveni's directive was informed, according to him, by a report compiled by National Resistance Movement, the ruling party.

According to the Public Service report, the Cabinet had in 2013 directed the then 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and minister of Public Service to carry out a review of strategic functions and full scope of the Public Service with the aim of determining the optimal size of the Public Service and the required competencies of the public servants.