

**Speech**

**By**

**H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**At**

**The reading of the National Budget – FY 2023/2024**

**Kololo Ceremonial Grounds**

**15<sup>th</sup> June, 2023**

H.E the Vice President

Rt. Hon. Speaker

His Lordship the Chief Justice

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister

All the other Leaders of the State and the Party,

Their Highnesses the Cultural Leaders,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank the Minister for reading the budget on my behalf. As I told you in the State of the Nation address, our economy will be USD55.2billion by the end of the coming financial year. This will mean that our economy will have grown by 37times in size compared to Uganda's economy of 1986.

We have done a good job on the 3 tasks: minimum economy recovery, expansion of the sectors that had recovered and diversification from the original narrow spectrum of the Colonial times of the 3Cs and 3Ts, to many more commercialized products: fish, maize, bananas, milk, beef, cocoa, beans, gold, etc. We have also added a fourth task – the knowledge economy in, for instance, automobile technology,

pharmaceuticals, vaccines etc. This is in addition to some limited industrialization for some of the products in the areas of: sugar, steel products by recycling scrap, soap manufacture, beer, beverages, cement, etc. The import substitution value of these industrial products is about USD3.6billion and they are bringing into the country as export earnings USD1.6billion.

However, the big proportion of our economy is still a raw-materials economy: Coffee, much of the cotton, maize, etc. Until recently, we have been importing leather from outside. This is where history demands collective and cohesive action from the NRM cadres. Now that we have an educated work force, that we have enough electricity, that we have good roads and that we are building or repairing the railway system, every effort must be made to add value to all our products: coffee, cotton, timber, cocoa, fish products, gold, iron-ore, copper, vermiculite, phosphates, petrochemicals, maize, bananas, etc., etc. By doing this, this same economy, will jump to USD 550billion instead of the mere USD 55.2billion, laudable though it is. Why? It is because the latter (USD55.2bn) presupposes only a quantitative expansion of our economy through creating more products. My

envisioned economy of USD550billion, acknowledges the already achieved goal of quantitative expansion but adds another element of qualitative leap through value addition.

That is not all, however. Remember, there are still 39% of our households that are still spectators instead of being part of the players. These are the *Bakolera ekidda kyoonka (ticme ic keken* – working only for the stomach). Here below is a report written for me by Major Agaba about one of our wealth creators, Nyakaana of Rwengaaju, near Fort Portal:

The farm sits on 1.25 acres and does the following economic activities:

1. **Zero grazing:** it has a total number of six cows out of which, five are lactating. These five cows produce 116 litres of milk per day. A litre of milk in the area ranges between Shs.1,000 and Shs.1,200.

**Earning:** He sells 100 litres per day and spends Shs.40,000 per day on their feeding.

100 litres x 1,000 = Shs.100,000 – 40,000 (expenditure). So his daily net income from cows is Shs.60,000/-

**Daily:** Shs.60,000

**Monthly:**  $60,000 \times 30 \text{ days} = 1,800,000$ .

**Annual:**  $1,800,000 \times 12 \text{ months} = \text{Shs.}21,600,000$

2. **Poultry:** He has 7500 birds out of which 4500 lay eggs. He collects 120 trays of eggs per day and sells each tray at Shs.12,000.

**Earning:**  $120 \text{ trays} \times 12,000 = 1,440,000$ -  
1,000,000 for feeding the birds and another  
40,000 for labour costs. This, therefore, leaves  
him with Shs.400,000 as daily net income from  
chicken.

**Daily:** Shs.400,000

**Monthly:**  $400,000 \times 30 \text{ days} = 12,000,000$ .

**Annual:**  $12,000,000 \times 12 \text{ months} = \text{Shs.}144,000,000$

3. **Feeds processing mini-factory:** He has feeds processing plant which produces feeds for cows, chicken and pigs.
4. **Manure:** He produces manure for his farm and also sells out to other people at Shs.600,000 per month.

5. **Gas production:** He produces a lot of gas from his farm and has plans of packing it in cylinders for sell.

Nyakaana now employs 15 people on this 1.25 acre farm.

Sometime ago, I pointed out that if seven million, one acre farmers, created a mere 10 jobs each, not Nyakaana's 15, we would create 70million jobs – more than the population of Uganda.

Therefore, no games, delays, corruption, aloofness by leaders and officials on the issue of value addition and no relenting on PDM and Emyooga. Uganda is unstoppable. On the side of Agriculture, solar-powered irrigation.

You heard your budget of Ug.Shs.52trillion. While I support that budget because there is no other solution in the short-run, it is important to know that Shs.17trillion of that budget, is to pay debts. Many of these debts, were being pushed by the neo-colonial

public servants until recently when I put down my foot and insisted on approving every loan. The way forward is that we should borrow less or not borrow at all. With discipline, we do not have to borrow at all. URA is also still under collecting taxes. Their tax: GDP ratio of 13% is not serious. In Europe, countries like Holland, have a tax: GDP ratio of 39.7%.

*“Ekitatta Muhima, tekimumalako ente* (When a cattle keeper still has life, he will get new cows even if the old ones died”. We shall learn from the mistakes of the past and perform better.

Yoweri K. Museveni  
**P R E S I D E N T**

*15<sup>th</sup> June, 2023*