

**PEFA 2022 LAUNCH AND HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE  
TRAINING**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE  
AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (PEFA)  
ASSESSMENT, 2022**

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY/SECRETARY TO THE  
TREASURY**

**28 JUNE 2022**

**Protea Hotel, Kampala**

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY/ SECRETARY TO THE  
TREASURY AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE AND  
FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY (PEFA) 2022 LAUNCH AND HIGH-LEVEL  
EXECUTIVE TRAINING, Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**The Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,**

**Your Excellency the Ambassadors,**

**Honourable Chairpersons of Committees of Parliament,**

**Honourable Members of Parliament**

**Head of PEFA Secretariat**

**Representatives from Development Partners,**

**Deputy Secretary to the Treasury**

**Permanent Secretaries**

**Accountant General**

**Internal Auditor General**

**Accounting Officers**

**Executive Directors of Government Agencies**

**Directors and Heads of Departments**

**PEFA Assessment Experts (Led by Mr. Phil Sinnett)**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

## Welcome

1. On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, I warmly welcome you all, to this important event as we launch **the Central Government Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) Assessment 2022.**
2. The theme for the PEFA 2022 Launch is: **Deepening Accountability and Service Delivery.** As Government strives to achieve socio-economic transformation from accelerating economic recovery, it is important to have in place accountable and transparent systems that support effective and efficient service delivery. Prudent and robust systems of Public Financial Management facilitate this process by linking accountability to results.
3. Today's event has attracted participation across various institutions including Chairpersons of Parliamentary Oversight Committees, Permanent Secretaries/Accounting Officers and Heads of Agencies of selected service delivery-

related entities including Climate and Gender, Development Partners, Civil Society Groups, Members of the PEFA Oversight Committee- the Public Expenditure Management Committee (PEMCOM), the Technical Assessment Committee Members and staff from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development who have been closely working on preparations for this exercise.

4. Honourable Minister, The PEFA 2022 will be commencing today with a high-level executive training for Officers responsible for Public Financial Management (PFM) oversight and policy guidance. This will be followed by a 3-day functional training for technical officers who will be working alongside a team of PEFA experts during the assessment and data validation. I urge all those affected to ensure they attend this training fully.
5. The PEFA assessments, provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to benchmark progress in strengthening public financial management (PFM) systems and practices in

Uganda over the last four years, since the last assessment in 2016. We, therefore, welcome this great opportunity to take stock, review and inform the next PFM reform programming in Uganda.

6. Government together with its Development Partners and Civil Society represented by the Civil Society Advocacy Group (CSBAG) agreed to a joint PFM assessment based on the PEFA framework in June 2021. Phase 1 – Planning for the PEFA has been completed. This phase included the establishment of dialogue on the need for the PEFA assessment, the appointment of the Assessment Manager - the Accountant General, and the establishment of other Governance arrangements to support the exercise, development and approval of a Concept Note, and the preparation for the assessment which included sourcing of PEFA experts/Assessment team and conducting of the PEFA e-learning module. We are grateful for the support from the PEFA Secretariat in Washington that peer-reviewed the

Concept Note and continue to offer quality assurance to the assessment through the subsequent phases. I commend the Accountant General for steering this PEFA preparation stage so far. I welcome the PEFA Assessment Team with Mr. Phil Sinnett as the Assessment Team Leader. I also wish to congratulate the 40 staff that have successfully completed with certification the PEFA e-learning module.

7. Ladies and Gentlemen, as we now embark on Phase 2 of the PEFA Process, which includes, the field work assessment, we seek your cooperation and input to enable obtain a credible output. The key objective of today's event is therefore to enable you gain an appreciation of the overall PEFA framework so as to undertake effective oversight of the PEFA process and validation of attainment of PEFA objectives. Additionally, the findings from this assessment will provide you with useful insights on the performance of Uganda's PFM systems which will support PFM reform dialogue.

8. Uganda has registered improvements in public financial management particularly around the budgeting process, timely preparation and annual consolidation of public accounts, increased oversight, and clearance of audit reports backlog by Parliament.
9. Expectations remain high from our people to ensure that PFM closes gaps in downward accountability and more rigorous enforcement of PFM rules where there are consequences for flouting and rewards for compliance.
10. We remain cognizant of the need to ensure that the service delivery is reflected to the last individual regardless of gender. The additional PEFA modules on gender and climate, will inspire strategic conversations towards resolution of these issues. These should include climate change and gender equality which continue to pose major threats to the sustainable development of Uganda and hamper efforts to end poverty.

11. Emerging from the last round of assessment, I noted weak performance in Public Investment Management. Government have embarked on a number of interventions to maximize development returns in this area. This assessment together with the ongoing country Public Investment Management Assessment by IMF should inform further strategic improvements in the way we manage public investments.
12. As I conclude I encourage you all to participate actively in the interesting discussions. I take this opportunity to welcome the Honorable Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for the Opening Remarks and launch of this Central Government PEFA 2022, Assessment.
13. For God and My Country!