

Statement on Financing

There is No Excuse!!

Very often there is a counter argument especially from government that there isn't enough in the resource envelop to meet all the demands for better services, higher salaries for health workers and teachers, for road construction.

Our response ...

... money will never be enough, our issue is prioritization. Should we for instance create an expensive district administration rather than extend social services...is it more logical to pay an RDC Ushs 1,800,000 while we pay our Doctors and Teachers Ushs 600,000 and 300,000 respectively? How can we have such a poor road and transport infrastructure and then turn around and say Uganda Roads Authority cannot spend money allocated for constructing roads? We can get a lot of money for our health system, for our farmers, to fund tertiary and university education, to increase reproductive health financing and to rebuild all our public health and education infrastructure from:

- a) Getting rid of corruption where colossal amounts of money, probably in trillions are lost every year in different public and private sector deals as well as in collusion in the aid system.
- b) Getting our priorities right and complete shift from consumption expenditure in areas such as district creation, size of parliament and cabinet, a wasteful presidency to more productive and citizen focused expenditure in infrastructure and health centre rehabilitation
- c) Reduce foreign borrowing for consumption and ensure that for every 1 USD, we get at least 3 USD in return. This can only be done if we put hard borrowed money in productive sectors. Only this will save us from the present and future debt crisis.
- d) New sources of revenue will come in the form of oil and gas revenues, as well as other natural resources, we must use these resources equitably and not waste it in expanding patronage

There is no Excuse, Uganda is not a Poor Country!

Acknowledgement

This national synthesis report for the citizens manifesto is in the form it is because of the hard work and support from several agencies and individuals who are worthy of mention.

First and foremost, it is important to recall that the Citizens Manifesto (CM) started as an ambitious idea within the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP) - a civil society Governance Monitoring Group comprising 17 Ugandan and 5 Dutch NGOs, to whom the first acknowledgement go. The Citizens Manifesto Concept was developed and marketed for funding and a consortium of donors that support the Deepening Democracy Programme (DDP) positively responded to our call and over 90% of the finances for the CM process is drawn from DDP, to whom we are grateful.

Thirdly, we would like to thank all CM Focal Organisations that look up the unenviable task of rolling out the CM Initiative at Regional, District, Sub-County and in some cases village level, as well as Lead Agencies who spearheaded work with selected interest groups. These organisations included the Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI), Kisoro NGO Forum (KINGFO); Community Development and Child Welfare Initiatives (CODI); Gulu NGO Forum (GDNF); Mid-Western Region Anti Corruption Coalition (MIRAC) and Masindi District NGO Forum; Pallisa Civil Society Network (PACONET); Tororo Civil Society Network (TOCINET); Kapchorwa Civil Society Organizations' Alliance (KACSOA); Bugisu Civil Society Network (BUCINET); Bugiri and Iganga District NGO Forum; the National Teachers' Association (UNATU); Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC), Kamwenge Development Organization (KADIVDO), Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition (RAC); MAYANK-Anti Corruption Coalition (MACCO); Uganda National Farmers' Federation (UNFFE); the Apac Anti Corruption Coalition, Apac NGO Link Forum and the Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD); Bushenyi District CSO Forum, Public Affairs Centre; Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU); the National Association of Women's Organizations of Uganda (NAWOU), Action for Development (ACFODE) and the Uganda Youth Network (UYONET). Behind the mentioned organisations were key individuals who deserve specific mention: to Opwonya Tom, Geoffrey Okello, David Onen, Apollo Lee Kakonge, Winston Churchill Ongole, John Segujja, Joseph Sseruyange, Rev. Mfitumikiza, Miriam Cherukut, Peace Kyamureku, Hassan Kalende, John De Coninck, Teopista Birungi, Helena Okiring, Jane Nakaweesi, Margaret Wokuri, Agaba Daphine, Benson Ekwee, Aggrey Mugalya, Jackie Mpaka and Caleb Gumisiriza, we say thank you to you all.

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the day to day coordination of the entire CM process. Finally we would like to appreciate the institutional support function played by the Uganda National NGO Forum as host UGMP and thus the Citizens Manifesto Process. Without this institutional cover, coordinating such a land mark process would have been insurmountable. To all the Staff, Management and Board of the Uganda National NGO Forum, we thank you.

This report is dedicated to all citizens who participated in activities and processes that culminated into what it is now. It is also dedicated to all Ugandans who subscribe to the perspectives represented in this report and to all citizens and well wishers who work tirelessly to make Uganda a better place, not just for us, but for generations to come.



PROF JB KWESIGA,

UGMP CHAIRPERSON and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DENIVA

Preface

In the wake of a history of unfulfilled promises and dashed hopes, Ugandans have been looking for a New Idea to rally their efforts around in the quest for a better governed country. The Citizens Manifesto (CM) is a commendable step in that direction. It is a political statement by ordinary Uganda citizens who desire a united, peaceful and prosperous nation. The Citizens Manifesto is a dream of a nation where every Ugandan regardless of ethnic group, tribe, religion or political persuasion lives in peace with fellow Ugandans, respects thy neighbour and cares for their wellbeing.

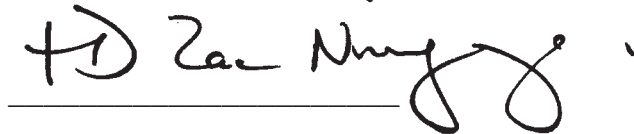
The idea of a Citizens Manifesto may not new or unique to Uganda. However the reflection, approaches, scale, outreach and intentions of this CM are unprecedented in the country. Promoters of the CM invested considerable thought into the process and considered several options of how citizens can generate a political demand that would stand above partisan and elite constructs for which past similar initiatives have fallen trap. The approach deployed was empowering and put ordinary citizens at the centre of shaping the idea about the future. While not every village or household was reached, the issues contained in this report greatly resonate with millions of other Ugandans. The Citizens Manifesto touches on critical issues that demand the urgent attention of every leader, at every level and in particular those who seek electable office. The issues contained in the Citizens Manifesto are urgent; they do not require any more promises, but action by leaders and the next government.

For a country blessed with the natural resources that Uganda has, the deplorable state of public services is unacceptable. Fundamentally, the Citizens Manifesto focuses on the critical subject of national integration, protection of national interests, the destructive vice that corruption has become to our country, among others. The Citizens Manifesto also engages with the more direct issues affecting the life of Ugandans ranging from poverty especially in the rural areas, the declining fortunes of agriculture where over 80% of our population ekes a living, the destruction of our environment, unemployment especially amongst the youth, the high population growth rate and the implications for development, among others. It then articulates demands falling under society, politics, economy and policy (including foreign policy). In this sense the Citizens Manifesto is the idea that Uganda can be different. It is the idea that Ugandans are being called to rally around. It is an agenda for the good of the country rather than a country good for a few.

Through the Citizens' Manifesto, ordinary Ugandans are saying "we have a dream for a positive future for our country - we know what our socio-economic, political and other needs are, and we call upon our Leaders to listen to them". Their voices are one song of hope demanding for far reaching social, economic and political reforms if Uganda's democratic and socioeconomic gains are to be protected and consolidated.

To all leaders aspiring for political office, you are called upon to show solidarity with the Citizens Manifesto, for the next Government, we expect that the ideas and suggestions contained in this report and the final Citizens Manifesto become the anchors around which new momentum will be built to propel our beloved country forward. For Ugandans whose day to day concerns are not reflected in this report, you are called upon to show solidarity with the majority who are affected by concerns in this report, for all Ugandans, you are reminded about your responsibility to be guided by reason when choosing your next leaders.

For God and My Country,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bishop Zac Niringiye". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'Z' and a long, sweeping tail. A horizontal line is drawn below the signature.

BISHOP ZAC NIRINGIYE,

APRM NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON