



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SPEECH BY

PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

AT

LAUNCH OF COST UGANDA 4TH ASSURANCE
REPORT

ON

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

AT

PROTEA HOTEL, KAMPALA

- Honorable Ministers
- Ambassadors and Heads of Delegations
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- Permanent Secretaries
- Heads of Government Agencies and Departments
- Engineer-in-Chief, Ministry of Works and Transport
- Senior Staff of CoST Uganda Chapter
- Senior Government Officials
- Members of the Private Sector and Civil Society
- The Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Ministry of Works and Transport, which plays the role of champion for CoST activities in Uganda, it is my honour and pleasure to welcome you at this launch of the 4th Assurance Report for the year 2020 titled **“Ray of Sunshine”**.

I also congratulate all stakeholders and CoST Uganda that participated in the assurance process, for having achieved this milestone amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you are already aware, Government of Uganda is implementing the National Development Plan III over the 5-year period from 2020 to 2025 using the program-based approach. My Ministry is responsible for the Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services program, which continues to receive the lion’s share of the national budget. It is therefore important that with that level of public

investment, high quality infrastructure is developed and maintained in order to ensure that the Ugandan tax payer gets value for money, in fulfillment of NDP III objective of consolidation and increase of the stock and quality of productive infrastructure.

The largest proportion of the infrastructure projects are implemented through public procurement as guided by the Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets (PPDA) Act, 2003 and PPDA Regulations (2014) with the principles of fairness, competition, transparency, non-discrimination and value for money.

CoST Uganda is contributing to the realization of good values of transparency and compliance to the regulations. The work by CoST Uganda, especially the Assurance Process and the Scoping Studies reports are informing efforts of Procurement Entities to improve disclosure levels; monitor performance; enhance quality assurance and control.

Lack of full disclosure affects access to information by the public, and the private sector who include contractors, materials suppliers and consultants. The private sector needs to access available business opportunities in order to inform their effective preparation of bankable bids, which will ultimately increase competition and reduce the cost of infrastructure development. It also enables providers to appreciate the business environment better.

The report which will be launched by the Hon. Minister of Works and Transport, gives a summary of the findings on twenty-three (23) infrastructure projects which are being implemented across the Country in the key Government sectors of Health, Education, Water and Environment; and Works and Transport. I wish to congratulate those Procurement Entities that have emerged the best in disclosure at various levels in this Assurance Process. I also encourage those that are progressing towards full disclosure to embrace information sharing.

As we receive the results of the 4th Assurance Report today, I invite you all to take keen interest in the recommendations, especially with regards to fair business practices that will promote transparency, efficiency and value for money. I encourage all stakeholders, especially the Public Officials, to take note of the areas of improvement, and good practices and take the desired actions.

I welcome you all, and wish you candid and fruitful discussions.

For God and My Country!