

**PRESS STATEMENT AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE 2ND INFRASTRUCTURE  
TRANSPARENCY INDEX HELD AT GOLF COURSE HOTEL ON 11TH APRIL 2024.**



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Today 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024, CoST Uganda is pleased to commission its second Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI). The Index will run from 15<sup>th</sup> April to 15 May across 30 selected Procuring and Disclosing Entities, 15 entities from the pilot Index and 15 New entities spanning 60 Public infrastructure projects. While commissioning the 2nd ITI, the Commissioner Eng. Dr Odongo Michael Moses who represented the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Works and Transport appealed to the Stakeholders, especially the selected PDEs to embrace the ITI intervention.

The Permanent Secretary in his speech, Read by Commissioner for Quality Assurance, noted that CoST has developed the Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) manual as a national or sub-national evaluation instrument to measure levels of infrastructure transparency and the quality of the associated processes that improve participation and accountability. He re-echoed that the ITI help stakeholders from government, the private sector and civil society to understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of transparency, participation, and accountability within the infrastructure sector and that enable them to become more responsive in delivering infrastructure projects.

The ITI has been designed in a collaborative manner and is based on international good practice and lessons learned. And with the objective to provide stakeholders with quality information that serves to promote transparency and improve the management of public infrastructure.

He further highlighted that the ITI is premised on four building blocks including an understanding of the enabling environment, capacities, and processes for delivering public infrastructure projects, citizen participation and information disclosure. The index is guided by a Manual<sup>[1]</sup> which contains a description of the dimensions, variables, sub variables and indicators included in the Index.

**The objectives of the Infrastructure Transparency Index include.**

1. To measure levels of transparency and the quality of processes related to public infrastructure delivery at national and sub-national levels in Uganda.
2. To identify enabling conditions for strengthening transparency in the sector plus the transparency-related practices applied on recently completed infrastructure projects.
3. To provide stakeholders with quality information that serves to promote transparency, citizen participation and improve the management of public infrastructure based on Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS).
4. Assess the level of adoption of CoST recommendations in the first ITI to improve infrastructure transparency and capacity to deliver better infrastructure projects by the PDEs that participated.
5. Generate a list of recommendations from the 2nd ITI exercise.

The tool will offer to the national or subnational environment, as well as to PDEs, a transparency score on a 100-point scale using a subset of indicators. This resulting information will help to:

1. Raise awareness about the strengths and weaknesses in public infrastructure transparency.
2. The development of a collaborative agenda, among stakeholders, to raise transparency and accountability standards within the sector.
3. Guide public leaders, at the centralized and decentralized levels, to build capacities to strengthen transparency and accountability in the sector.

ITI Manual can be viewed via: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!AhZTBaCIXch9gRicqIvum7Nlvrmi?e=deV7XI>



Speaking at the commissioning of the 2nd infrastructure transparency index held at Golf Course Hotel on 11th April 2024. Mr. Gilbert Sendugwa, Executive Director Africa Freedom of Information, which is the host organization for CoST Uganda, highlighted the following issues: - That CoST Uganda implements four programme interventions or approaches which are referred to as CoST features. These include Multistakeholders working, Disclosure. Assurance process and social accountability. Since its operation in Uganda, it has published 5 Assurance reports

spanning 59 projects across 10 high spend entities. Launched one ITI, spanning 60 projects from 30 entities. Issued six issue-based studies to establish strategies for addressing transparency and performance in the sector and rebuild trust. Integrated the OC4IDS in the Government Procurement Portal, ongoing efforts to integrate the same in the e-GP. Own a website and launched an infrastructure data analytical platform. Documented results at project, sector, and policy level.



Speaking at the panel on the experience of CoST ITI in Uganda and beyond, Ms Olive Kabatwairwe noted that the hashtag#ITI as a step-by-step process, provides a blueprint for producing better sector results, the CoST – the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative provides technical support to all interested institutions, and governments to undertake this index. Despite the challenges in each context, the ITI results continue to reveal promising commitments to transparency. KCCA in Uganda used the [hashtag #ITI](#) results to enhance disclosure on road projects helping reduce

accidents along drainage systems, after a public outcry of several fatalities. In Panama, the ITI results were used to re-design their disclosure portal, helping them publish over 3,800 projects in half a year. In Costa Rica, the ITI results are being used to facilitate training of public officials, media and CSOs.

The infrastructure transparency Index <https://lnkd.in/ei-sviFH> has been applied across 10 CoST member countries, and results reveal that Uganda is the least performing at 21%, slightly below Sekondi Takoradi - Ghana at 22%. Ukraine and Honduras lead the table with 62% respectively, followed by Costa Rica at 53% in 2023. She further noted that the first CoST Uganda ITI was done during CoVID-19, and it was not easy for evaluators to move for physical consultation but still they did a good job and challenged the stakeholders that the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITI should be much better because the Evaluators can be able to have verification and validation of information provided by contact persons that each entity will assign. Finally appealed to stakeholders to embrace the ITI intervention to promote infrastructure transparency and accountability.

The Programme Officer (Geoffrey Odong) CoST Uganda Chapter told the stakeholders that 30 entities have been selected to participate in commissioning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITI spanning 58 infrastructure projects based on the selection criteria as provided for in the ITI Manual and all bias



were eliminated by adhering to the principles set in this ITI Manual. However, not all invited entities attended the commissioning event due to different engagements and promised to have one on one engagement with such entities to ensure their participation in the evaluation exercise. He emphasized that the evaluation would run until 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and the report will be validated and launched thereafter immediately.

## **Methodology**

The tool will calculate a transparency score on a scale of zero to one (0-1) for Uganda's national or sub-national public infrastructure, as well as for each of its procuring and disclosing entities.

The scores are based on many unique indicators. These will independently be evaluated to assess procuring and disclosing entity practices and the national or sub-national conditions that give rise to transparency and accountability in the local infrastructure sector. The score will then be published in the form of an index that ranks procuring and disclosing entities. That will provide a national or sub-national assessment.

By identifying shortcomings in existing practice, a programme will be developed to raise transparency and accountability standards in the infrastructure sector and improve ongoing infrastructure management practices. The ITI results shall provide information that can guide public officials in strengthening transparency and accountability at the national or sub-national level, as well as in procuring and disclosing entities.

Follow-up ITI assessments will continue to take place on an annual basis to allow time for reforms to be introduced and be implemented between the different evaluations. The ITI is built on a principle that it should be comprehensive, impartial, accurate, periodic, specific, informative, and constructive.

The implementation process for this 2<sup>nd</sup> ITI started in January 2024 with preparatory activities including identification and training of the Infrastructure Transparency Index Evaluators, identification of participating PDEs, and sampling of infrastructure projects. To select both the PEs and the projects, the government disclosure platforms were consulted to provide the much-needed data about the PEs and the infrastructure projects. Therefore, the Government Procurement Portal and Electronic Government Procurement were used in that regard.

We cordially now invite selected PDEs and all stakeholders to embrace this 2<sup>nd</sup> index development process, by actively promoting and participating in the evaluation process, providing responses to the online survey – self assessment interviews to inform completion of the index and implementing recommendations that will result from this evaluation process.

The following Procuring and Disposing Entities were selected and invited for the commissioning breakfast meeting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ITI Exercise at Golf Course Hotel, and they will also participate in the evaluation that will run from 15<sup>th</sup> April to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## LIST OF PES AND SAMPLED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

S/NO	ENTITY
01	Atomic Energy Council
02	Bushenyi DLG
03	Jinja District Local Government
04	Kabale District Local Government
05	Kampala Capital City Authority
06	Makerere University
07	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries
08	Ministry of Education and Sports
09	Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development
10	Mpigi District Local Government
11	Mukono District Local Government
12	Nebbi District Local Government
13	Office of the President
14	Soroti District Local Government
15	Uganda Electricity Distribution Company
16	Uganda Electricity Generation Company
17	Ministry of Health
18	National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC)
19	Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT)
20	Uganda Railways Corporation (URC)
21	Mulago National Referral Hospital
22	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives
23	Ministry of Water and Environment
24	Uganda Civil Aviation Authority
25	Uganda Road fund
26	Ministry of Local Government
27	Kamuli District Local Government
28	National Social Security Fund
29	Ntungamo District Local Government
30	Pakwach District Local Government

For more information please visit: [www.cost.or.ug](http://www.cost.or.ug) [www.infrastructuretransparency.org](http://www.infrastructuretransparency.org),

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**For CoST Uganda**