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**DISSEMINATION AND LAUNCH OF COST UGANDA'S 6TH INDEPENDENT REVIEW
REPORT AT GOLF COURSE HOTEL ON 17TH JULY 2025**

Salutation

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Representative from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

The Commissioner, M & E, Office of the Prime Minister

The Commissioner-Procurement Inspection and Coordination Department

Representatives from government Agencies and departments present

The Chief Administrative Officers

The Executive Director of AFIC, the host Organization for the CoST Uganda Programme,

The CoST International Secretariat representative,

CoST-Uganda National Secretariat staff

Ladies and gentlemen

Today, the 17th of July 2025, I am pleased to release the 6th Independent Review Report for the Infrastructure Programme Assessment (IPA) conducted under the Ministry of Local Government from November 2024 to March 2025 by CoST Uganda. The results from the assessments were critically analysed by an independent consultant with the support of Assurance Experts from the CoST National and International Secretariat.

This Independent Review process took a sector approach following the 5th Assurance process, which was carried out in 2022 under the Ministry of Health.

In this 6th Independent Review Process, four programmes were assessed under the Ministry of Local Government, and they include Project for the Restoration of Livelihood in Northern Uganda (PRELNOR), Rural Development and Service Delivery Project (RUDSEC), Market Agricultural Trade Improvement Project (MATIP II), and Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS). Since the focus was on road infrastructure, deeper analyses were done for two programmes, including

1

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PRELNOR and LEGS, covering a total of 62 infrastructure road projects. Ten (10) projects were selected for reactive studies to validate information obtained during the desk review process, and the reactive studies were conducted in five districts of Nwoya, Kitgum, for the PRELNOR project, while in Ntoroko, Kabarole, and Gomba for the LEGS projects.

I congratulate the Ministry of Local Government and CoST Uganda for the successful completion of this exercise in such a critical time when government is putting more resources on the sector and this kind of assessment helps government to mirror itself on the level of transparency and accountability in the delivery of quality infrastructure that stands the test of time and contribute to effective, and efficient public investments for the sector development.

The Ministry of Works and Transport have continued to Champion the CoST Uganda Programme since February 2017 to date and has since superintended the publication of five Assurance reports spanning sixty-nine (69) projects from eleven (11) high spend entities and two (2) Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) covering one hundred eighteen (118) projects spanning sixty (60) entities across the country. I am delighted that the Initiative has contributed to evidence-based reforms and trust-building on public infrastructure investments in Uganda over the years, and we encourage them to continue with their interest in assessing more projects. This independent review will help refocus strategies for delivering better infrastructure projects and depend on the use of the CoST tools and standards.

In this report, proactive disclosure for the Ministry of Local Government stands at 58%, which is an improvement of 08% from the 5th Assurance report that registered 50%, while reactive disclosure stands at 60% registering a decline of 17% from 77% registered in the 5th Assurance report. The disclosure trends for the Ministry of Local Government since the CoST scoping study have improved by 26% from 33% in 2017 to 59% in 2025; although this result is good, there is hope for better performance in the future if the Ministry addresses the key issues raised in this report. The report noted that PRELNOR and LEGS registered delays of up to 13% and 135% of the original contract duration, respectively, citing procurement delays and financial challenges, while MATIP-II and RUDSEC registered no delays/impact on the original duration of the contracts, and this is a good practice.

I commend the Ministry for the improvements in proactive disclosure, and I encourage the Ministry and stakeholders to strengthen their efforts in enhancing their reactive disclosure (disclosure upon

request by the assessors). In 2021, the Government committed to increasing the disclosure of infrastructure project data. The CoST tools and standard, for instance, the Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS), were aligned to the Government Procurement Portal (GPP), and efforts are being made to align it to the Electronic Government Procurement Portal (e-GP), and that is still work in Progress. Promoting transparency and accountability is critical because it allows citizens to participate, take ownership of public investments and builds trust.

The Government, through my Ministry, reassures CoST International and stakeholders that we shall continue to fulfil our commitments of implementing the CoST features in Uganda to strengthen and attain full transparency and accountability in the delivery of public infrastructure.

I therefore take this opportunity to launch the 6th Independent Review Report and declare the validation Workshop closed.

For God and My Country.



GENERAL EDWARD KATUMBA WAMALA,

MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, COST UGANDA CHAMPION