

## UDN LAUNCHES BRAILLE VERSION OF THE CITIZEN GUIDE TO THE BUDGET

### INTRODUCTION



Opening Remarks by the Executive Director Uganda Debt Network Mr. Patrick Tumwebaze

Uganda Debt Network (UDN) together with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Development (MOFPED), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), and Uganda Association of the Blind (UNAB) have launched the first braille and audio-visual version of the Citizen Guide to the budget for the Financial Year (FY) 2023/2024.

This comes after the National Budget Month engagements in June where UDN pledged to produce the Citizens Guide to the budget for FY 2023/2024 in braille to promote inclusivity, accessibility, active participation and visibility of concerns specific to people with visual impairment.

The Citizens Guide to the budget is a simplified document that is developed to enable the general public to understand the government budget. It includes a summary of the national budget priorities for a given year, how government plans to raise revenue, and the different allocations to different programmes.

Speaking at the launch, Patrick Tumwebaze, UDN's Executive Director said the braille version of the Citizens Guide to the budget will make budget information accessible to people who are visually impaired. "This will afford them an opportunity to independently read and understand the content, participate actively in discussions, debates, and advocacy related to the budget priorities and allocations," Tumwebaze said.

According to a survey by Rapid Assessments of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB), about 0.4% of Ugandans (160,000 people) are blind, while moderate to severe visual impairment is at 7%, an equivalence of 2.8 million people.

With these figures, this means, people with visual impairments have for a long time been left out of the budget process and yet, the national budget must reflect the views and priorities of the people.

Even though the launch of the braille and audio visual version of the Citizens Guide to the budget has happened towards the end of the FY 2023/2024, it is a great initiative to increase citizens' participation in planning and budgeting.

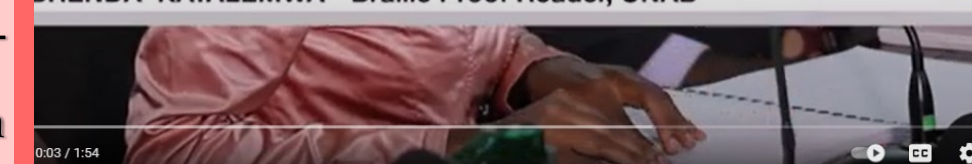
Representing the Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Treasury, Commissioner Paul Mwanja said "we know that the release of the two versions is a bit late but going forward, we shall be producing these versions alongside the standard edition of the guide."

Moses Sichei, the representative of UNICEF said the production of the braille version is a collaborative effort aimed at fostering inclusivity. "We believe this is not merely an act of providing information but rather empowerment, enabling these people to participate actively in shaping their own future and that of their communities," Sichei said.

### UDN IN MEDIA



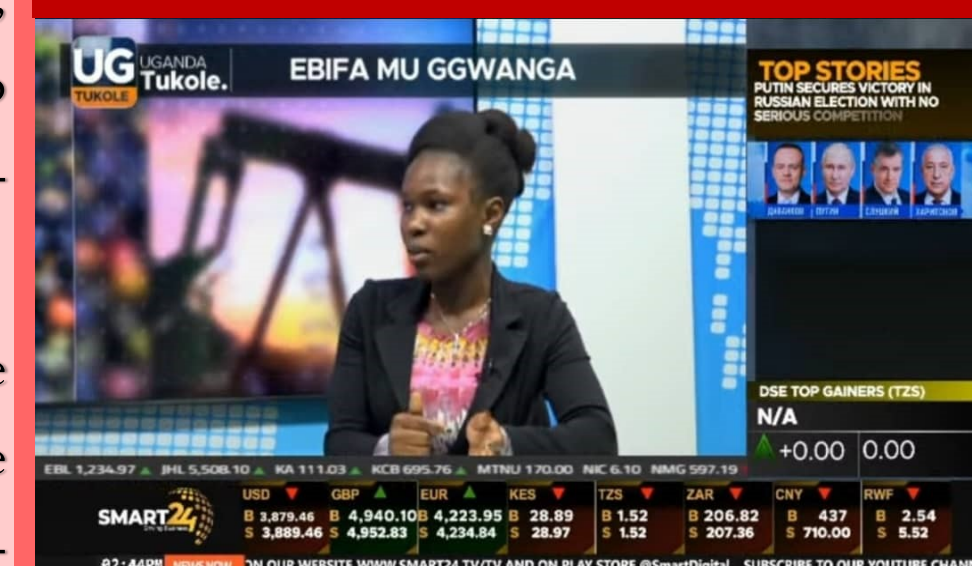
BRENDA KATALEMWA - Braille Proof Reader, UNAB



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJ1IsKVH7Sg>



SDR News feature: [https://youtu.be/v-PM\\_Y1aJMQ?si=ILA\\_h45JadGITY1d](https://youtu.be/v-PM_Y1aJMQ?si=ILA_h45JadGITY1d)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQl-6WjwW14>

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