17th November, 2021

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Education and Sports
KAMPALA

Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Health
KAMPALA

All Local Government Accounting Officers

CONSTRUCTION OF PROJECTS IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION USING THE ARMY CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE AND NATIONAL ENTERPRISE CORPORATION

On 1st July 2021, H.E the President directed the Ministry of Education and Sports, and that of Health to utilize the services of the UPDF Engineering Brigade for construction of projects in the respective programmes in Education and Health.

In His letter Ref PO/9 dated 1st November 2021, H.E the President provided additional clarification on the matter (see attached letter). Accordingly:

i. Projects financed 100% by Government of Uganda: You are urgently requested to hand over this category of projects to the National Enterprise Corporation and Uganda Peoples Defense Forces Engineering Brigade, by 26th November 2021 to facilitate implementation;

ii. Projects financed by Development Partners: The procurement of these projects in FY 2021/22 should immediately commence. This procurement should be done in line with procurement arrangements stipulated in the respective Financing Agreements and the Programme Operational Manuals.
Please note that, this arrangement only applies to on-going Development Financed projects in Education and Health. Any new projects in this category should comply with the Directive of H.E the President;

iii. Projects with already ongoing Contracts. These category of projects should continue to be executed using the existing agreements; and

iv. Projects Funded by both Development Partners and Government of Uganda Counterpart funding. All these categories of projects should also continue to be implemented as those in para ii & iii above.

Ramathan Ggoobi
PERMANENT SECRETARY/SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Copy to: The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
The First Lady and Hon. Minister of Education and Sports
The Hon. Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
The Hon. Minister of Health
The Hon. Minister of Local Government
The Hon. Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs
The Hon. Minister of Works and Transport
All Hon. Ministers of State of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
The Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General
The Principal Private Secretary to H.E the President
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
The Permanent Secretary, Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs
The Accountant General, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
The Director Budget, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
The Executive Director, PPDA
Ag. Director, Debt and Cash Policy, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
All District Chairpersons and City/Municipal Council Mayors
All Resident District/City Commissioners
1st November, 2021

Hon. First Lady and Minister
Ministry of Education and Sports
KAMPALA

RE: MORE CLARIFICATION ON THE UPDF ENGINEERING BRIGADE AND NEC TO UNDERTAKE GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SPORTS AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH FACILITIES

The above subject matter refers.

Reference to our conversation regarding the involvement of the Engineering Brigade and NEC building schools and health centre facilities, I guide as follows:

(i) With regard to externally funded projects, we cannot unilaterally impose our new policy directive. We should discuss with them and ask them, in writing, the following questions: “Sirs, Madammes, do you want us to get two schools out of the money you have given us (grants) or lent us (loans) or do you want us to get only one school but support profits for private companies and commercial banks?” If they say that two schools are better than one school for Uganda, then they work with us. If they say that one school out of the money of grants or, worse still, the money we have borrowed is better so that we support profits of private companies and commercial banks, we shall note that answer and, in time, we know what we shall do.

(ii) In the meantime, not to lose time, if the money is already available, we should follow their competitive bidding so that the projects take off.
(iii) With regard to new money from external sources, if they still insist on the formula of one school is better for Uganda than two schools in the same money, the Government (Cabinet), will discuss collectively and decide on whether we should tactically accept such parasitic logic or not.

(iv) With regard to GOU wholly-funded new projects, there should be no discussion. You should work with either the Army Engineering Brigade or NEC.

(v) With regard to the GOU wholly-funded projects but where the procurement had started but not concluded, ask the Attorney-General about the legality of changing the strategy and going for the Army Engineering Brigade.

(vi) If contracts were already awarded to private companies, we can let go for now.

This logic, contained in the above 6 points, applies to Central Government constructed Secondary Schools, those constructed by Local Governments and Tertiary Colleges. We should leave out the Primary Schools for now so that we should not overstretch the Army Engineering Brigade and NEC capacity.

The Universities can go on with the private contractors for now and Namboole could use the Civil Engineering Unit of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. What happened to that Unit? They had built Kireka Housing Estate in the 1960s. If they disappeared, for now, Namboole could use private contractors.

Yoweri K. Museveni
P R E S I D E N T

Copy to: H.E. the Vice President
             Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
             All Cabinet Ministers
(2) Noted the directive by H.E. the President that Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MIDAs) undertaking construction work should apportion their assignments equally between National Enterprise Corporation and Uganda People's Defence Forces Engineering Brigade.