

Parliamentary Debate on the FY 2019 Budget

The following were key issues raised by Members of Parliament on the second reading of the FY2019 Appropriation Bill to which we have provided appropriate responses:

1. Wage Bill and Recruitment

Issue:- The difference between the FY 2019 wage bill figure and that of FY2017 is not Le400 billion but Le600 billion (Paragraph 117);

Response:- The wage bill figures are correct as per Annex 1 which shows the difference between 2019 and 2018 of Le400 billion. The reference made to FY2017 should actually read FY2018. We have noted this to amend in the budget speech.

Issue:- The number of workforce of 75,296 for Baseline Salaries and Allowances Employers Social Security Contributions and Annual Leave Allowances are misleading (Annex 6);

Response:- Provision is made in the budget for all public sector workers of 75,296 for salaries, allowances and NASSIT contributions by government. Leave allowances for Honourable Members of Parliament and Teachers are not included in this workforce as leave allowance because whilst they are on recess we continue to pay their salaries. This is the normal practice with no policy change.

Issue:- Recruitment of staff at MDAs are not provided for in the Budget (Annex 6);

Response:- Recruitment for all other MDAs is included under Paragraph 7 of Annex 6 (Provision for recruitment of 1,000 Civil Servants – All MDAs). There's also provision in the budget for the recruitment of 3,000 Health sector workers and 5,000 Teachers.

Issue:- Salaries of the Chiefs and Local Court Chairmen in the local communities be paid on time;

Response:- We acknowledge the delay experienced in the payment of salaries to local authorities, which is basically as a result of the current manual system being used to process their monthly salaries. Until we receive requests for their salary payments from the Ministry of Local Government, we cannot process. I have therefore given directives for the computerization of the payroll of local functionaries with effect from January 2019. In the interim, we have paid their salaries up to quarter two of FY2018 whilst