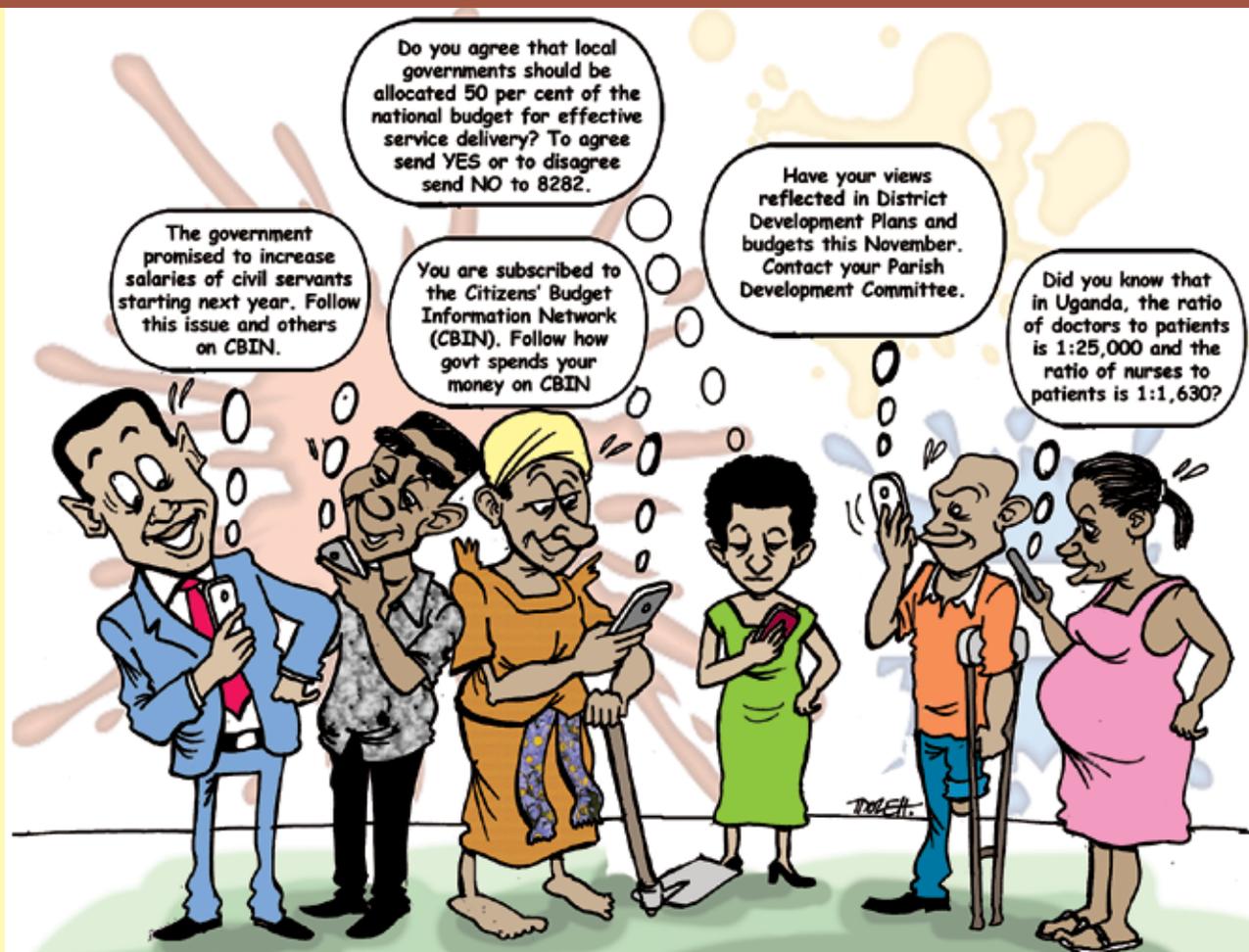


Citizens' Budget Information Network (CBIN)

The Follow Your Money Campaign



The Citizens Budget Information Network (CBIN) is a network of Ugandans committed to promote good budget governance by demanding for budget transparency, accountability and budget discipline. CBIN is an SMS platform that brings together millions of Ugandans to share information about how our government spends tax payers' money. The members are connected through SMS media to exchange budget information, monitor and report misuse of public funds, and actively promote discipline in public expenditure. Membership of the Network is voluntary and it is open to all Ugandans who have access to cell phones and are able to provide personal information as set out in the membership registration form (www.acode-u.org/cbin_form). The CBIN is part of ACODE's initiative that seeks to promote budget civic consciousness under the Citizens' Budget Tracking and Information Centre (CBTIC). For more information about the CBTIC and other ACODE programmes and initiatives, visit our website at www.acode-u.org.

About Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE)

ACODE is an independent public policy research and advocacy think tank registered in Uganda with operations in the Eastern and Southern Africa sub-region. ACODE was first registered in 1999 as a Non-governmental organization (NGO). In 2004, the organization was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and without having a share capital. Over the last decade, ACODE has established itself as one of the leading public policy think tanks in Africa.

Our mission is to make public policies work for the people. Through evidence-based policy research and analysis, we create knowledge to support pro-people national and regional development policies. Through policy outreach and advocacy, we empower people to shape public policies so that they are just and equitable. Through independent monitoring and assessments, we help our partners get the best independent advice on how to improve the quality of their services to the citizens. Through action, we motivate people to demand for responsible government, accountability in leadership and better governance. Through representation, ACODE empowers communities to demand for justice and promote public participation in decision making processes that affect livelihoods and the environment. Through our convening power and expertise, ACODE has become the premier organization that facilitates policy dialogue and debate on emerging and cutting age public policy issues.

About the Citizens' Budget Tracking and Information Centre (CBTIC)

The Citizens' Budget Tracking and Information Centre (CBTIC) is one of ACODE's premier initiatives that seek to put control of the budget and public expenditure monitoring in the hands of citizens and taxpayers. The overall goal of the Centre is to "improve the quality of life of the majority of Ugandan men, women, youth and children."

The Centre has four specific objectives or result areas around which its work is organized:

To advocate for reforms in the current budget architecture and budget governance to ensure that sectors that increase livelihood choices and economic opportunities for the majority of citizens especially women and the youth are prioritized in budget allocations.

To increase budget transparency and accountability through increased citizens' budget ownership and budget civic awareness.

To build and strengthen a network of local civil society organizations and citizens groups interested in and engaged in budget accountability and transparency work.

To strengthen regional and international partnerships as a strategy for increasing budget transparency and accountability work in Uganda and the East African Community (EAC).

Our theory of change is that by empowering citizens through the provision of information and analysis on the budget, a budget civic conscious citizenry will emerge and grow into a "firewall" against wastage of public funds, corruption and the distorting effect of a bloated public administration. Citizen ownership of the budget process and the budget will ensure that government and donor budget resources are channelled towards economic and social sectors that expand livelihood and economic choices and opportunities.

The strategy of the CBTIC is to provide citizens and tax payers with information about the budget and public expenditure and let them decide on whether or not Government is spending tax payers' money responsibly. ACODE seeks to work with every other Ugandan to create and grow a movement - the Citizens' Budget Information Network (CBIN) that cherishes budget discipline and cost-conscious spending of public funds.

More information about the CBTIC can be found at our website at www.acode-u.org or texting your detailed mailing address or email to 8282.

Citizens' Budget Information Network (CBIN): A Movement for Good Budget Governance

The Citizens' Budget Information Network (CBIN) is a platform of Ugandan citizens and taxpayers who cherish and are committed to fighting budget indiscipline and abuse of public funds. Government collects taxes from citizens, borrows on their behalf or even collects money by selling public assets. All this money and all public assets are held in trust for the citizens and future generations. Each citizen therefore has a constitutional and civic responsibility to ensure that such funds are spent responsibly and with utmost discipline. The constitution is the foundation of citizens' obligations towards their country and to fail to report wasteful expenditure and abuse of taxpayer money is a violation of that civic obligation.

CBIN is an SMS -based platform dedicated to the exchange of budget information and joint advocacy to reduce waste and indiscipline in public spending. Connected together through SMS media, the Network members are able to receive and exchange information on national and local budget priorities, wasteful spending and abuse of public funds and resources. Besides taking action against those public officials who abuse such resources, the members of CBIN also promote accountability by reporting about what they are doing in their neighborhoods.

I am Proud to be Ugandan: Expectations on the Members

Accepting to be a member of the CBIN is to commit to be a responsible citizen who takes an interest in how government and local governments spend public funds. All members owe responsibility to one another to work towards a responsible and accountable government. Members of the CBIN work together to promote and defend the constitution of Uganda against manipulation and abuse by any person.

How to Become a Member and Confidentiality

The target of CBIN is to become a multi-million member budget movement bringing together citizens and tax payers of all walks of life who are committed to the principles of accountability and budget discipline. Every Ugandan has a right and an opportunity to become a member by providing basic information contained in the attached CBIN membership form. The form can also be accessed online at [www.acode-u.org]. Prospective members can also request for the CBIN membership form via e-mail by emailing acode-cbin@acode-u.org.



**ADVOCATES COALITION FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT
(ACODE)**

CBIN MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name:

Gender

M

F

Age:

Postal address:

Email address:

Mobile phone:

Telephone:

Occupation:

Institution:

District:

Sub-county:

Parish:

Village:

For more information, contact:

Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
Plot 96, Kanjokya Street, Kamwokya. P.O. Box 29836, Kampala-UGANDA
Telephone: +256-312-812150, Fax: +256-414-534056
Email: acode@acode-u.org , library@acode-u.org; <http://www.acode-u.org>
©2009 ACODE All Rights Reserved

Remember, all information submitted to the CBIN is held with utmost confidentiality and the CBIN database is protected from any forms of potential abuse by the most up-to-date protection available on the cyber market.

How to Unsubscribe

Unsubscribing to the CBIN is just as simple. Just text “unsubscribe” to 8282. The CBIN data base will automatically drop your name and all your information. BUT why unsubscribe? Remember, it's your country, it's your money, and it's your civic and constitutional responsibility to protect it.

Information about Sources of Funding

Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment and all our Initiatives are funded by bilateral donors who also provide funding to our Government. In addition, ACODE also receives funding from major foundations and other funding agencies. As part of disclosure and accountability policy, all our funding partners can be found at our website at www.acode-u.org. Specific financial information about our income and expenditure can be obtained by writing to the address overleaf.

For more information, contact:



Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment
Plot 96, Kanjokya Street, Kamwokya. P.O. Box 29836, Kampala-UGANDA
Telephone: +256-312-812150, Fax: +256-414-534056
Email: acode@acode-u.org , library@acode-u.org; <http://www.acode-u.org>
©2009 ACODE All Rights Reserved