

Guest of Honour's Speech Summary - Accountant General Mr Godfrey Ssemugoma, on Behalf of PS Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development

Core Message: The establishment of the IAM Uganda Chapter is a critical milestone for national development. The Government of Uganda fully endorses this initiative as a strategic partner to drive the efficient management of public assets, which is fundamental to achieving the ambitious national goal of 10-fold economic growth by 2040.

Key Takeaways & Government Perspective

- **Strategic Alignment with National Goals:** The chapter's launch is directly linked to Uganda's ambitious **10-fold GDP growth target (from \$61B to \$500B+ by 2040)**. Efficient asset management is identified as a nonnegotiable prerequisite to stop wastage and ensure public investments yield sustainable value to fuel this growth.
- **A Frank Diagnosis of National Challenges:** The speech outlined a clear and urgent set of problems:
 - **Weak Asset Registration:** Many entities lack a complete inventory of assets, their location, or condition. The government has set a **deadline of June next year** to create a complete register and has instituted sanctions for non-compliant institutions.
 - **Poor Maintenance Culture:** Maintenance budgets are consistently underfunded or diverted to new projects, leading to rapid deterioration of existing assets and wasted prior investments (e.g., the road project eroded by rains).
 - **Fragmented Governance:** Overlapping laws and mandates from different agencies lead to duplication, misuse, and loss of assets, with no unified policy framework.
 - **Capacity and Skills Gap:** Public officers are largely untrained in lifecycle costing, risk-based planning, and integrated asset management.
 - **Technology Gap:** A significant lag in basic automation hinders effective asset management □
Active Government Reforms: **The ministry is not just observing but is actively driving change:**
 - Developing **Joint Asset Management Guidelines** to harmonize disparate rules across government.
 - Planning to transition these guidelines into a **formal Asset Management Legal Framework**.
 - Possessing a dedicated Directorate of Treasury and Asset Management.

Call to Action

The Guest of Honour issued a direct and authoritative call for collaboration, specifying roles for each stakeholder.

Call to Action to the IAM Uganda Chapter:

- **Be the Government's Technical Partner:** Actively participate in **developing the national asset management technical framework, policies, and eventual legislation**.
- **Drive Professionalization:** Lead the effort to make "Asset Manager" a recognized profession in Uganda through **capacity building, advocacy, and networking**.
- **Provide Expertise and Research:** Serve as a resource bank, offering **research insights and professional commentary** to guide government decisions **Call to Action to All Stakeholders:**
- **For Government Entities:** Integrate asset management thinking into budgeting, investment decisions, and procurement. Institute and clean asset registers, and invest in maintenance.
- **For the Private Sector:** Partner with the public sector, provide technological and managerial solutions, and participate in capacity-building initiatives.
- **For Academia and Professional Bodies:** Develop relevant curricula, conduct applied research, and launch continuous learning programs to build the pipeline of qualified asset management professional

A Final Directive: The speech concluded with a powerful directive to shift from a **reactive cycle of "purchase, use, and dispose" to a proactive, professional discipline** characterized by lifecycle planning, clear accountability, and the adoption of technology. The government's commitment was sealed with the official declaration of the chapter's launch.

