Citizen Participation in the National Budget

Fostering accountability, transparency and dissemination of information.

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The Role of Parliament in the National Budget Process

• Ensure transparency and accountability in service delivery
• Hold Government to account on behalf of the people
• Ensuring that Government policies and actions are both efficient and commensurate with the needs of the public
The Budget Cycle

**Draft Budget**
- Call Circular from Ministry of Finance
- Department submit draft budgets
- Negotiations and final decision by Executive

**Legislative (SFC)**
- Budget tabled in the Legislature
- Consideration by parliamentary committees
- Parliament accepts, amends or rejects budget

**Implementation (PAAC)**
- Funds appropriated to departments
- Finance Ministry monitors spending
- Request for Legislative approval of adjustment budget if necessary

**Audit (PAC & PA(E)C)**
- Supreme audit institution assesses departmental accounts and performance
- Audit reports published and reviewed by Parliament
Budget Debate

• The Minister of Finance gives Budget speech
• Budget documents are distributed – online and print
• Opposition responds after a minimum of three clear days
• Budget debate – maximum five days
• Standing Finance Committee (SFC) convenes after debate ends
Standing Finance Committee

- Committee of the whole House
- Chaired by the Speaker
- consider the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill.
- The Committee is allotted five (5) days to complete its work.
- Opposition determines the order of Heads of Expenditure for examination
- SFC required to consider all Appropriation Bills
- Meetings of the SFC held in public
Ongoing Oversight - PAAC

• Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC):
• Chaired by the Speaker of the House
• considers and reports to the House on:
  – the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies to ensure that expenditure is embarked upon in accordance with parliamentary approval;
  – the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies as it occurs and keeps Parliament informed of how the budget allocation is being implemented; and
  – the administration of Government agencies to determine hindrances to their efficiency and to make recommendations to the Government for improvement of public administration.
• Conducts public hearings
Post-Implementation Oversight

**Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**
- Examines Government ministries and departments
- Chaired by an Opposition Member in the House of Representatives

**Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee (PA(E)C)**
- Examines the state enterprises
- Chaired by an Opposition Member in the Senate

- Conducts public hearings (including live broadcast)
- Power to send for persons, papers and records
- Adjourn from place to place
- Report to Parliament from time to time
- Appoint specialist advisors
Conclusion

• Citizen participation in the budget is facilitated by:
  – Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget.
  – unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print
  – public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)
Thank you

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