

POLICY STATEMENT BY HON. STEPHEN KAMPYONGO MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ON THE DRAFT CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT FUND GUIDELINES

Mr. Speaker

I wish to submit on the floor of the house the following issue which is the Draft Constituency Development Fund (CDF) guidelines.

Mr. Speaker

During my last budget Policy Statement I informed the house that my Ministry had embarked on the revision of the 2006 Constituency Development Fund guidelines. I wish to report to this house that my Ministry conducted consultations with various stakeholders and has since received comments on the draft CDF guidelines.

The draft CDF guidelines are now ready for comments by the Honourable Members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker

Let me also mention that CDF is not Ward Development Fund to be thinly distributed but should be targeted at projects that will impact on the lives on the people we are called to serve.

Mr. Speaker

May I also remind the house that the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) was approved by Parliament in 1995 to finance micro-community based projects that contribute to infrastructure development at constituency level.

Therefore, the goal of the CDF is to empower Local Communities to take part in the decision making process through improved local governance and development management, in order to reduce poverty and improve service delivery. In addition the CDF was established to provide a nation-wide, sustainable, standardized and

transparent financing mechanism to fund community based projects.

The specific objectives of the CDF are to:

- Provide community participation in decision making during project identification.
- Support community driven projects.
- Support planning and management of CDF at the constituency levels.
- Provide resources which ensure that development investments respond to the priority needs of the constituency needs.

CDF is a specific allocation of funds in the National Annual Estimates appropriated by the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker

As we embark on decentralization, community participation in development is cardinal in achieving desired development by people at local level.

In view of the above, I wish to urge all the Honourable Members of Parliament to effectively scrutinize the Draft CDF guidelines and make appropriate comments to enhance community participation to ensure that CDF brings development at local level. This approach has been taken by my Ministry to ensure wider participation and production of Guidelines which are user friendly as they have encompassed divergent views.

Mr. Speaker

My Minister will await comments from the Hon. Members of Parliament to enable us finalise the production of revised CDF guidelines.

I Thank you.