



February 19, 2026

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE KAMPALA, UGANDA

### **UGANDAN YOUTH CALL FOR ALIGNMENT OF 2026/27 BUDGET PROPOSALS WITH ENERGY TRANSITION GOALS**

Over 173 youth from 33 districts across Uganda yesterday submitted a paper to parliament through which they called for alignment of the FY 2026/27 national budget proposals with the goals set out under Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP).

The youth submitted the paper following a review of the national budget proposals for the Sustainable Energy Development programme. The proposals are contained in the FY 2026/27 National Budget Framework Paper.

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) supported the youth to review the national budget proposals.

The youth's reviews found mismatches between the goals contained in the ETP and the FY 2026/27 national budget proposals for the Sustainable Energy Development programme.

Worth noting is that the ETP lays out pathways for Uganda to achieve universal access to modern energy by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, while supporting industrialisation and economic transformation.

The plan was launched by the Minister for Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa, at COP 28 in Dubai in 2023.

**Bob Barigye one of the petitioners from Action for Climate and Environmental Justice, says,** "Through the Energy Transition Plan, government recognises that off-grid electrification is critical for the promotion of universal access to modern energy by 2030. In fact, through the ETP, government envisions that 55% of Ugandans will need to gain access to off-grid solutions such as solar home systems, mini-grids and transitional multi-light systems to achieve universal access by 2030."

He adds, "You would therefore expect the national budget proposals to contain interventions aimed at promoting off-grid electrification, especially off-grid solar. However, our review of the FY 2026/27 national budget proposals shows that government is set to place strong emphasis on generating more hydropower, expanding the national grid and rehabilitating it. Less emphasis is

placed on off-grid electrification efforts, yet the majority of Ugandans are expected to gain clean energy access from off-grid options. As youth, we want this remedied.”

**Ashley Katumwesigye, another of the youth petitioners, notes**, “When it comes to clean cooking, government, through the ETP, recognises that at 15%, the clean cooking rate in Uganda is low. As such, government is seeking to see a 10% annual increase in clean cooking to achieve universal access by 2030. However, the FY 2026/27 proposals for promoting clean cooking are inadequate. These are focused on awareness creation, VAT exemptions, enforcing standards and concessional financing.”

She adds, “The above measures are supply-side interventions which do not sufficiently address demand-side barriers such as high upfront costs, especially for young people, and accessibility challenges. They also do not address cultural barriers that undermine uptake of clean cooking technologies. We want this remedied.”

**Prisca Kajumba of Fridays for Future Uganda observes**, “We are worried about Uganda’s transport and industrial sectors. Available information indicates that Uganda’s transport sector emitted approximately 3.84 million metric tonnes of carbon emissions in 2024. The industry sector is also expected to continue being a high emitter. In fact, according to the ETP, fossil fuels such as coal and oil are expected to continue playing a role in Uganda’s transport and industry sectors beyond 2030. This is worrisome, especially for women and youth who bear the biggest burden of the climate crisis.”

She adds, “Even more worrisome is the fact that despite national targets to promote electric mobility, the FY 2026/27 budget proposals for the sustainable energy programme do not clearly indicate the interventions that will be implemented to support e-mobility, yet Uganda’s transport sector needs to be transitioned to promote climate action, clean air and green jobs. We want action, and we are demanding that parliament engages the ministries of energy and finance to fund implementation of the ETP.”

To ensure that the ETP is funded to enhance clean energy access, climate action, clean air and green jobs, the youth are calling on parliament to:

- Direct the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) to plan for subsidies for off-grid solar solutions, especially for youth and rural communities.
- Ensure that youth-led companies benefit from the Results-Based Financing Facility under the Uganda Energy Credit Capitalisation Company (UECCC) to promote subsidies for youth-led businesses in the clean energy sector.
- Introduce fiscal incentives, including removal of taxes on electric vehicles, electric boda-bodas and EV spare parts for at least five (5) years to enhance e-mobility.
- Earmark funds for electrification of public transport and development of Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure.

“We also want parliament to engage the Minister of Energy to reform the ETP. The plan lists polluting fossil fuels including coal, oil and gas as transition fuels. These need to be removed so that Uganda promotes real climate action,” Jane Apio, one of the youth petitioners, says.

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