



ADVOCATES COALITION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REDESIGNING THE UGANDA CITIZENS BUDGET
DATABASE AND THE CITIZEN MONITOR APP**

1. Background

The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) through its Center for Budget and Economic Governance aims at strengthening economic policies and institutions to achieve economic transformation of Africa with special focus on Eastern and Southern African economies. The centre has three strategic areas of focus namely; Promoting transparency and accountability of Public Financial Management; improving capacities for Local Economic Development and; increasing transparency and participation in formulation and implementation of trade (including regional) policies. Work on transparency and accountability under the Center is premised on the thesis that greater transparency has not translated into accountability in Uganda because the demand and supply sides of accountability have remained disjointed thereby undermining the accountability framework. The CBEG seeks to bridge this gap by creating more options for citizens to demand for accountability while empowering them to use those spaces to demand for accountability. ACODE in partnership with Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Budget Strengthening Initiative (BSI), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) under the Budget Transparency Initiative (BTI) is working to strengthen transparency; improve accountability and; the quality of public service delivery (www.budget.go.ug). It's against this background the Center came up with innovations called the Uganda Citizens Budget Database and the Citizen Monitor App.

This database is meant to provide budget data and to make it easy for users to navigate and use. The Citizen Monitor App is meant for budget monitoring purposes. The Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) recognises that public access to budget information is essential to accountability and key in achieving its objective of raising budget civic consciousness of the citizens of Uganda. ACODE's commitment to openness derives from the desire to build the demand side of accountability and ensuring that public policy including expenditure benefits the people. Access to the data provided here is free and open. The information is a valuable tool for research and understanding the pattern and trend of public expenditure in Uganda. Links to other useful data are provided. ACODE will continue to add to the data and welcome suggestions on how to improve the database for users.

Approach

The database was first designed in 2013 and the Database consists of budget data that is categorized and can be accessed in a variety of ways. However, since 2013 a number of changes have taken place in budget releases and allocations therefore, ACODE is seeking to recruit a consultant to redesign the database. The Citizen Monitor App was developed in 2016 but has had low levels of uptake – hence the need for its revamping.

2. Scope of Work for the Online Database

The scope of work will include the following activities.

- Revamping the visual appeal of the database with infographics such as an interactive map Map for Local governments that is Uganda and Bubble graph for sectors etc.

- Capture all sectors of the Uganda national budget as well as approved estimates and outturns. It should capture releases for a year and quarterly releases. Both UGX and USD
- It should be able to download generated data into PDF, Power point, image, CSV, Excel
- The Budget site should have instructions on how users should use the data
- The Budget site should allow space to upload individual district profiles and any other resources.
- Quick links should be maintained on the front page
- The site should allow users to give feedback and ask questions
- Upgrading the data upload format i.e reduces manual entry of data and data should be picked from pdf documents.
- The system should be able to detect new votes during the uploading process.
- Should provide statistics of people that have visited the site
- Training ACODE staff on the back end of the data base for easy management.
- Mobile phone compatibility is essential
- Work on any issue that will arise that needs to be modified or dealt within the contract period.

3. Scope of Work for Revamping the Citizen Monitor mobile application

- The app interface should have an upload option for users to upload images on service delivery. At the back end, the administrators should be able to download these images and also export the data therein to Ms Excel
- The mobile app should be able to work offline and save information for uploading when users are able access internet. The app should not override already stored information/data
- The app should be able to protect data being collected that is it should be secure.
- The app needs to be easy to install, easy to access, and easy to use. The developer should consider transforming the app into an instant app.
- Fast loading time and high performance. The app should be able to upload automatically
- The app should have an interactive user interface that can easily be understood by the end users
- Android compatibility since it is the most widely used OS in Uganda (including current range of supported versions).
- Analytics. This feature allows to track users, and get the full information about user behavior. On the basis of this information you might see, in which way to upgrade the app
- The app should be able to have pop up notifications as way of enhancing usage
- The app needs an organized drop down menu

Specific terms of reference for the budget monitoring aspects of the Citizen Monitor App

- Data should be arranged properly in rows and columns
- It should be able to save information offline even if more than one entry
- App should be able to upload a picture on the survey module
- Screen size compatibility. The app should adjust the viewing for big phones and small phones
- Provide option to upload images instead of live upload.

4. Duration

The tasks to be under taken should be completed in a period of 3 months from commencement of the activity.

5. Expected outputs

- - Upgraded, interactive and functional database
 - Upgraded and updated Citizen Monitor App