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# **PRIVATE SECTOR POSITION PAPER ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET FRAMEWORK PAPER (NBFP) FY 2026/27–FY 2030/31**

**PRESENTED TO**

**THE PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

*Business growth is our business*

**PREPARED BY**

**PRIVATE SECTOR FOUNDATION UGANDA (PSFU)**

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## 1.0 ABOUT PSFU

The Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) is Uganda’s apex private sector body, established in 1995 to champion private sector-led economic growth, competitiveness, and inclusive development. PSFU represents over 346 business associations, corporate entities, MSMEs, cooperatives and farmer organisations across agriculture and agribusiness, manufacturing, trade, logistics, construction and services—sectors that collectively generate the bulk of Uganda’s jobs, investment and domestic revenues.

This submission is PSFU’s response to the National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP) FY 2026/27–FY 2030/31, whose theme focuses on **full monetisation through commercial agriculture, industrialisation, expanded social services, digital transformation and market access**. In this context, PSFU underscores that achieving monetisation and tenfold growth requires a deliberate shift toward productivity-driven budgeting that lowers the cost of doing business, accelerates value addition, and expands export competitiveness—especially through agriculture, agribusiness and forestry.

Agriculture remains the fastest route to mass job creation and regional competitiveness. It employs the majority of Ugandans and contributes about a quarter of GDP, while offering scalable opportunities in coffee, cocoa, maize, beans, rice, horticulture and floriculture. However, private investment and profitability in these value chains are constrained by fragmented land use, inadequate water for production, weak quality infrastructure, and persistent illicit trade and counterfeit inputs that erode productivity, farmer incomes and legitimate business growth.

Through this position paper, PSFU proposes targeted budget priorities and policy actions to strengthen productive agriculture, enforce standards, scale trade logistics (including cold chain), restore economic diplomacy for market access, and intensify the fight against illicit trade—so that FY 2026/27 delivers measurable gains in private sector growth, competitiveness, profitability and decent job creation nationwide.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), established in 1995 as Uganda’s apex private sector body, submits this position paper to the Parliament Committee of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to inform the consideration of the National Budget Framework Paper (NBFP) FY 2026/27. The NBFP is prepared in accordance with Article 155 of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Public Finance Management Act, and is approved by Cabinet before submission to Parliament by 31st December.

PSFU welcomes the NBFP theme—“**Full Monetisation of Uganda’s Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Expanding and Broadening Social Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access**”—and calls on Parliament to ensure the proposed budget delivers measurable outcomes in private-sector-led competitiveness, profitability, exports, and decent job creation.

Uganda’s macroeconomic fundamentals provide a platform for a more ambitious, private-sector-driven growth agenda. Real GDP growth increased to **6.3% in FY 2024/25**, while inflation remained contained—**headline inflation averaged 3.5% and core inflation 3.9%**, within the Bank of Uganda’s 5% target. PSFU emphasises that translating this stability into higher household incomes requires a budget that prioritises interventions with high economic and employment impact, accelerates export growth and diversification, and deepens regional trade and market access.

The private sector remains the engine of Uganda’s production and fiscal sustainability. It generates **77% of formal jobs**, contributes **80% of GDP**, accounts for **60% of total investments**, and provides **over 80% of domestic revenues**. Within this ecosystem, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) dominate—about **90% of all enterprises**, contributing approximately **75% of GDP**, and employing **over 2.5 million people**. This makes MSME productivity, formalisation, and resilience central to monetisation, job creation, and domestic revenue mobilisation.

As the NBFP marks the second year of implementing NDP IV and the Tenfold Growth Strategy, PSFU supports accelerated, well-sequenced investment in the ATMS sectors—**Agro-industrialisation, Tourism, Mineral-based industrial development, and Science, Technology and Innovation (including ICT)**—alongside stronger budget execution discipline and a competitiveness lens across all programmes.

In particular, agriculture and agro industrialisation remain the fastest pathway to mass employment and export growth. Agriculture employs about **70% of Ugandans** and contributes about **24.1% of GDP**, with rising potential in cash crop value chains such as **coffee and cocoa**, and strategic staples including **maize, beans and rice**, as well as **horticulture and floriculture**. PSFU therefore calls for budget prioritisation that expands productivity-enhancing investments (quality inputs, irrigation and water for production, mechanisation), strengthens agro-processing and trade logistics, and tightens enforcement against illicit trade and counterfeits through improved inspection, certification, traceability, and standards enforcement to protect Ugandan products and brands in regional and global markets.

### 3. ALIGNMENT WITH NBFP STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND KEY GAPS

Government's strategic direction for FY 2026/27 rightly prioritises **(i) interventions with high employment impact, (ii) export growth and diversification, (iii) deeper regional trade and market access, and (iv) improved allocative efficiency**. PSFU fully supports this direction and underscores that delivering the NBFP theme of full monetisation requires budgets and execution systems that unlock **private investment returns, productivity, and competitiveness**—especially in agriculture, agro-industrialisation, and export-oriented value chains.

#### Competitiveness at a Glance: Selected Indicators on NBFP Alignment and Key Gaps

- i. **Agriculture's economic weight:** employs ~70% of Ugandans; contributes **24.1% of GDP**.
- ii. **Funding gap:** FY 2025/26 agriculture allocation **UGX 1.86 trillion** vs NDP IV target **UGX 2.448 trillion** (a **UGX 0.588 trillion** shortfall).
- iii. **Quality infrastructure risk:** UNBS budget reduced from **UGX 128.906bn** to **UGX 125.606bn** (–**UGX 3.3bn**), weakening standards enforcement and export readiness.
- iv. **Illicit trade & counterfeits:** counterfeit agricultural inputs (seed, fertiliser, agrochemicals) continue to erode yields, farmer incomes and legitimate business profitability; the NBFP calls for value-chain investigations, but implementation financing remains insufficiently explicit.
- v. **Market access constraint:** funding for foreign missions reportedly reduced from **UGX 7.156bn** to **UGX 1.506bn**, undermining economic diplomacy and export promotion.
- vi. **Trade negotiations:** AfCFTA Phase III and WTO processes require ring-fenced resources for national consultations, technical analysis, and private sector participation to secure competitive outcomes.

PSFU therefore urges Parliament to strengthen allocations and accountability for **productive agriculture value chains, national quality infrastructure, anti-illicit trade enforcement, trade promotion/missions, and trade negotiations**, to convert macro stability into jobs, exports, and household incomes.

### 4. PSFU Priority Positions for FY 2026/27: Competitiveness, Profitability and Jobs (Private-Sector-Led Monetisation)

#### 4. PSFU Priority Positions on the NBFP FY 2026/27

PSFU’s priority position is anchored in the NBFP’s legal mandate and strategic intent. The NBFP FY 2026/27 is prepared under Article 155 of the Constitution and Section 8 of the Public Finance Management Act and must be approved by Cabinet and submitted to Parliament by 31st December.

PSFU welcomes the NBFP theme—“**Full Monetisation of Uganda’s Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Expanding and Broadening Social Services, Digital Transformation and Market Access**”—and urges Parliament to sharpen budget choices towards **private-sector competitiveness, profitability, export growth, and jobs**.

Uganda’s macroeconomic environment provides a credible platform to pursue a more ambitious private-sector-led growth agenda. Real GDP growth increased to **6.3% in FY 2024/25** while inflation remained contained (headline **3.5%**, core **3.9%**), supporting planning certainty for investors and households.

However, monetisation will not be achieved by stability alone. It requires a **competitiveness budget**—one that prioritises interventions with high employment impact, export growth and diversification, and deeper regional trade and market access.

PSFU also underscores that monetisation is fundamentally an MSME agenda. MSMEs constitute about **90% of enterprises**, contribute about **75% of GDP** (and over **80% of manufactured output**), and employ **over 2.5 million people**.

Therefore, the FY 2026/27 budget must systematically reduce MSME costs and risks through access to finance, Business Development Services (BDS), standards/quality infrastructure, logistics, market access, and fair competition—especially by curbing illicit trade and counterfeits.

**Table 1: PSFU’s FY 2026/27 “Competitiveness + Jobs” Package (selected priorities)**

| Priority package  | Why it matters for monetisation & jobs                     | PSFU FY 2026/27 budget emphasis (indicative)  |
|---|--|---|
| Agriculture-led industrialisation & export value chains | Fastest scalable pathway for mass jobs and export earnings | Raise agriculture to <b>UGX 2.448 trillion</b> ; scale mechanisation, water, research, extension, aggregation |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| PSD & MSME competitiveness systems                      | Monetisation depends on MSME survival, productivity, and market access | Fully operationalise <b>BDS framework</b> , logistics centres, open innovation network, and registration integration |
| National Quality Infrastructure & standards             | Prevents export rejections; raises local product competitiveness       | Strengthen UNBS/inspection/certification/traceability (increase and protect enforcement budgets)                     |
| Illicit trade & anti-counterfeit enforcement            | Protects legitimate firms, farmers, consumers; safeguards tax base     | Fund a multi-agency anti-counterfeit plan; digital track-and-trace; border integrity                                 |
| Market access & economic diplomacy                      | Converts production into exports and investment inflows                | Restore performance-based funding for missions and trade negotiation capacity  |
| Strategic enablers (transport, energy, ICT/STI, skills) | Lowers production & transaction costs; unlocks private investment      | Prioritise trade corridors, affordable power, digital infrastructure, skills for jobs                                |

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#### 4.1 Agro-Industrialisation: Agriculture-Led Industrialisation for Jobs, Exports, and Regional Competitiveness

PSFU's position is that **agriculture-led industrialisation** remains Uganda's most scalable pathway for: **(i) employment creation, (ii) regional competitiveness, and (iii) fast export earnings growth**—especially in coffee, cocoa, maize, beans, rice, horticulture and floriculture. This aligns directly with the NBFP's strategic direction to prioritise interventions with **high economic and employment impact**, promote **export growth and diversification**, and deepen **regional trade and market access**.

Agriculture remains Uganda's broadest base for livelihoods and jobs. PSFU's Budget Strategy Paper notes that agriculture employs approximately **70%** of the population and contributes about **24.1% of GDP**, and the sector expanded by **6.6% in FY 2024/25**, with cash crops growing **9.9%** (including coffee and cocoa).

Yet the sector remains structurally constrained by underfunding and weak competitiveness systems. FY 2025/26 allocation stood at **UGX 1.86 trillion**, below the NDP IV target of **UGX 2.448 trillion**, limiting scale-up for agro-processing, irrigation, mechanisation, and coordinated value chain upgrading.

- i. **PSFU Priority Ask 1: Raise agriculture allocation to UGX 2.448 trillion and ring-fence productivity + value-addition investments;** PSFU recommends that Government allocates at least **UGX 2.448 trillion** to agriculture, with dedicated support for agro-processing hubs. PSFU further proposes that these resources be structured around measurable competitiveness outcomes: yield increases, reduced post-harvest losses, quality compliance, traceability, and export volumes/earnings.
- ii. **PSFU Priority Ask 2: Mechanisation + storage for lower costs and higher yields;** PSFU recommends **UGX 500 billion** for tractors, harvesters, and storage technologies to drive modernisation, reduce post-harvest losses, and increase production efficiency. Mechanisation should be implemented through transparent, private-sector-friendly models (leasing, PPP service centres, and performance contracts), with special provisions for youth and women enterprises in mechanisation services.
- iii. **PSFU Priority Ask 3: Water for Production scale-up for climate resilience and year-round supply;** PSFU recommends scaling the Water for Production Strategy to **UGX 400 billion** to expand valley tanks, dams, aquifer recharge and solar-powered irrigation—raising yields and stabilising production. This is particularly critical for rice, horticulture, and commercial livestock production corridors, and for de-risking supply to agro-processors.
- iv. **PSFU Priority Ask 4: Research, improved varieties, and farm systems for export competitiveness;** PSFU recommends increasing funding to **UGX 200–250 billion** for research and improved seeds/planting materials/livestock breeds, including improved coffee varieties. Research financing should be tied to adoption—through extension performance targets, private seed systems, and certification to protect farmers from counterfeit inputs.

#### **4.1.1 Coffee and Cocoa: Export Earnings, Quality, Traceability, and Value Addition**

Coffee and cocoa are strategic export anchors for Uganda's monetisation agenda. PSFU's position is to convert export momentum into **structural competitiveness** by investing in productivity, quality assurance, traceability systems, and local value addition.

#### PSFU FY 2026/27 proposals for coffee/cocoa

- i. **Research and improved varieties:** Scale research and planting material systems (including disease-tolerant, high-yield varieties), aligned to the proposed **UGX 200–250bn** research envelope.
- ii. **Extension tied to measurable outcomes:** The NBFP emphasises productivity and wealth creation interventions, including financing through PDM/Emyooga/UDB/ACF. PSFU urges ring-fenced extension funding with outcome indicators—GAP adoption, post-harvest handling, moisture control, and traceability compliance.
- iii. **Export quality infrastructure:** Strengthen inspection, certification, and laboratory capacity to protect Uganda’s reputation in EAC/COMESA/AfCFTA/EU and Middle East markets.
- iv. **Value addition and agro-processing hubs:** Use the agriculture scale-up (UGX 2.448T) to support agro-processing hubs and industrial linkages for coffee/cocoa processing, packaging, and compliance.

#### 4.1.2 Maize, Beans and Rice: Food Security, Regional Trade, and Import Substitution

Maize and beans are strategic staples and major regional trade commodities. Yet competitiveness is frequently undermined by inconsistent quality, inadequate aggregation, limited storage/handling, and weak standards enforcement—leading to rejections and price penalties.

Rice offers a major **import substitution** opportunity, but scaling requires secure production systems, irrigation, aggregation, and quality assurance. PSFU’s approach is to package productivity investments (mechanisation + water) with standards and structured trading.

#### PSFU FY 2026/27 proposals for maize/beans/rice

- i. **Aggregation and structured trading:** Increase support for aggregation models (cooperatives, farmer companies, warehouse receipt systems) to improve traceability, stable volumes, and predictable supply for millers and exporters.
- ii. **Mechanisation and storage:** Implement the proposed **UGX 500bn** mechanisation and storage package to reduce losses and lower per-unit costs.
- iii. **Water for production:** Scale irrigation and water storage under the proposed **UGX 400bn** to enable stable production and climate resilience.
- iv. **Standards and enforcement:** Increase budget protection for standards enforcement agencies and improve border inspection capacity for grains to reduce rejections and protect Uganda’s brand in the region.

- v. **Rice production corridors:** Support controlled and climate-smart production corridors with irrigation, mechanisation services, and strict compliance to safeguard ecosystems and ensure year-round processing supply.

#### **4.1.3 Horticulture and Floriculture: High Jobs per Acre, Export Logistics, and Standards**

Horticulture and floriculture are among Uganda's highest job creators per acre and are vital for youth/women employment—yet are uniquely sensitive to logistics, cold chain, standards, and border efficiency. PSFU prioritises a national cold chain and cargo consolidation approach, anchored in the PSD programme's NBFP commitments on logistics and market access.

The NBFP explicitly provides for establishment of **logistical centres and services such as storage and distribution to facilitate domestic and external trade** and operationalising the national BDS framework as part of the Private Sector Development programme allocation.

PSFU calls for these to be delivered with priority to horticulture/floriculture corridors (production zones to border points and airports).

#### **PSFU FY 2026/27 proposals for horticulture/floriculture**

- i. **National cold chain + cargo consolidation programme (PPP):** Regional pack houses, cold rooms, and consolidation hubs in production corridors and at key border points.
- ii. **SPS/quality compliance:** Upgrade inspection, certification, and lab systems; strengthen traceability for export markets.
- iii. **Export market intelligence and promotion:** Strengthen commercial diplomacy and attachés to support market intelligence and buyer linkages.

#### **4.2 Private Sector Development and MSME Competitiveness Systems**

PSFU strongly supports the NBFP emphasis on private-sector-led growth. The NBFP allocates **Shs 2.533 trillion** under the Private Sector Development programme, including: enhancing PDM and wealth creation, supporting free zones and special economic zones, **operationalising the national BDS framework**, establishing logistics centres (storage and distribution), and establishing an open innovation network.

However, PSFU notes that the PSD programme's success depends on execution discipline and targeting constraints that directly affect enterprise profitability and jobs. The CSO/PSD paper (developed with PSFU and

partners) notes that the PSD strategic direction for early NDP IV prioritises optimising PDM investments through aggregation, market research, value addition, and rolling out BDS to ensure sustainable business practices, employment creation and a stronger tax base.

**PSFU Priority Ask 5: Operationalise the National BDS Framework (and fund delivery);** Parliament should require a **fully costed, time-bound implementation plan** for BDS operationalisation—prioritising enterprise upgrading in agriculture value chains, manufacturing SMEs, logistics, and tourism services. This should integrate skilling, business diagnostics, productivity coaching, and quality/compliance support.

**PSFU Priority Ask 6: Strengthen business formalisation and local content systems;** The PSD programme has prioritised **integration of business registration information** between local governments and national registers (URS/URA) to address informality. PSFU supports this and proposes dedicated financing for interoperable digital systems and simplified procedures at district level—so that formalisation reduces costs rather than adding burdens.

**PSFU Priority Ask 7: Cooperatives and Business Associations as “competitiveness infrastructure”:** Monetisation and regional competitiveness require strong farmer organisations, cooperatives, and business associations that aggregate supply, enforce quality, negotiate better prices, and attract investment. PSFU proposes:

- **A Cooperative and Business Association Strengthening Facility** (targeted grants + matching funds + TA) to professionalise governance, financial management, traceability, and structured trading.
- **Capitalisation roadmap for a Uganda Cooperative Bank** to expand affordable rural finance aligned to aggregation and value chain upgrading (with strong governance safeguards and private-sector participation).

**Indicative FY 2026/27 budget proposal:**

- Cooperative/association strengthening facility: **UGX 60–100bn** (multi-year, performance-based)
- Uganda Cooperative Bank preparatory actions (feasibility, licensing, governance, initial capital mobilisation plan): **UGX 15–25bn**, with a medium-term capitalisation framework.

#### **4.3 Contract Farming Law and Market Discipline for Sustainable Value Chains**

PSFU calls for a funded pathway to finalise and operationalise a **Contract Farming Law** to reduce side-selling, improve input/output financing, enhance quality compliance, and support structured markets for coffee, cocoa,

grains, and horticulture. Contract farming is a key tool for attracting agro-processing investment and protecting farmers through enforceable terms, dispute resolution, and transparent grading/price discovery.

#### **PSFU Priority Ask 8: Allocate resources to develop and operationalise the Contract Farming Law**

This should cover: legal drafting support, stakeholder consultations, regulatory impact assessment, parliamentary engagement support, and operational guidelines (including model contracts and dispute resolution mechanisms). **Indicative FY 2026/27 budget proposal: UGX 8–12b** (MoFPED/MAAIF/MTIC/Justice sector coordination).

#### **4.4 Fighting Illicit Trade and Anti-Counterfeit Products**

Illicit trade and counterfeits erode legitimate private sector profitability, undermine farmer productivity (through fake inputs), reduce domestic revenues, and damage Uganda’s credibility in regional markets. The NBFP itself recognises the need to investigate the chain of counterfeit agricultural inputs and strengthen enforcement.

PSFU therefore urges Parliament to require a **funded multi-agency implementation plan**—with clear roles, budgets, targets, and reporting lines—rather than general statements. This plan should focus on the highest-risk areas: seeds, fertilisers, agrochemicals, veterinary inputs, and packaged consumer goods, and should combine enforcement with digital traceability.

#### **PSFU FY 2026/27 Anti-Counterfeit Package**

- i. **National multi-agency taskforce with ring-fenced budget:** URA, UNBS, MAAIF, Police, DPP, Local Governments—covering inspections, prosecutions, awareness, and supply chain mapping.
- ii. **Digital track-and-trace systems:** registration and compliance systems linked to enforcement.
- iii. **Strengthen standards and enforcement capacity:** ensure adequate resourcing for testing, certification, market surveillance, and border controls.
- iv. **Border efficiency and integrity:** trade facilitation that curbs illicit flows while enabling compliant exporters.

#### **4.5 Market Access, Regional Competitiveness, and Economic Diplomacy**

The NBFP strategic direction prioritises deepening regional trade and market access. PSFU emphasises that market access is not achieved by agreements alone: it requires competitiveness systems—standards, logistics, aggregation, trade facilitation, and effective representation abroad.

Under the NBFP, the PSD programme includes establishment of logistics centres and services to facilitate domestic and external trade.

- PSFU urges Parliament to ring-fence and track these deliverables, ensuring they reach production corridors where most MSMEs operate.
- PSFU further urges strengthened trade negotiation capacity and commercial diplomacy. Export promotion requires funded technical participation and stakeholder consultations, particularly as Uganda positions itself within EAC, COMESA, and AfCFTA frameworks.

#### **4.6 Priority Positions for Other Sectors (to support private investment, jobs, and profitability)**

##### **4.6.1 Tourism Development: Infrastructure, marketing, and cost rationalisation**

Tourism is a major foreign exchange and jobs sector. PSFU's Budget Strategy Paper notes strong recovery indicators: arrivals rose to **1.37 million** in 2024 and earnings increased to **US\$ 1.28 billion**, and tourism generated **UGX 2.7 trillion** in 2023. PSFU proposes investment in access roads and product infrastructure in key destinations, scaled marketing, and rationalisation of high-cost licensing/levies to improve profitability.

##### **4.6.2 Mineral Development (including oil & gas): infrastructure, data, and investment climate**

PSFU supports mineral value addition, refinery capacity, and industrial park last-mile infrastructure as key drivers of jobs and exports. It urges a competitiveness lens to ensure that budget allocations convert into bankable infrastructure and reduced cost of doing business.

##### **4.6.3 STI/ICT and innovation: digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and skills for jobs**

The NBFP recognises digital transformation and market access as core pillars of monetisation.

PSFU calls for investment in reliable broadband, affordable data, cybersecurity, and innovation financing—particularly for MSMEs adopting digital trade and productivity tools.

##### **4.6.4 Transport & logistics and energy: lowering the cost of doing business**

High logistics and power costs directly reduce competitiveness and profitability for agriculture, manufacturing, and services. PSFU proposes a sharper focus on trade corridors, border efficiency, cargo facilities, and affordable industrial power to strengthen regional competitiveness.

##### **4.6.5 Human capital: skills for productivity, not just access**

PSFU supports investments in health and education but urges a productivity and employability lens—industry-aligned TVET, apprenticeship pathways, and skilling tied to priority value chains (coffee, cocoa, grains, horticulture, tourism services, and light manufacturing).

**Table 2: PSFU Priority “Ask” Summary for Parliament (FY 2026/27)**

| S/N | PSFU priority ask                            | Core FY 2026/27 action Parliament should secure   |
|-----|--|---|
| 1   | Scale agriculture financing                  | Raise agriculture to <b>UGX 2.448T</b> with ring-fenced productivity + agro processing.               |
| 2   | Mechanisation + storage                      | Implement <b>UGX 500bn</b> mechanisation/storage package with PPP delivery                            |
| 3   | Water for production                         | Scale to <b>UGX 400bn</b> for irrigation and climate resilience<br>PSFU Private Sector Budget Stra... |
| 4   | Research and improved varieties              | Fund <b>UGX 200–250bn</b> research/planting materials and adoption systems.                           |
| 5   | Deliver PSD competitiveness systems          | Ensure PSD allocation delivers BDS + logistics centres + innovation network.                          |
| 6   | Contract farming law                         | Provide a funded pathway for drafting, consultations, and operationalisation                          |
| 7   | Cooperative strengthening + cooperative bank | Establish a facility for cooperatives/business associations; fund cooperative bank roadmap            |
| 8   | Anti-counterfeit/illicit trade               | Fund multi-agency plan + track-and-trace + stronger standards enforcement.                            |
| 9   | Market access & economic diplomacy           | Finance trade negotiation capacity and results-based commercial diplomacy                             |

## 9. CONCLUSION

PSFU commends Government for maintaining macroeconomic stability and refocusing the NBFP FY 2026/27 on **commercial agriculture, industrialisation, digital transformation and market access**. Uganda’s improving fundamentals—**6.3% GDP growth** in FY 2024/25 and contained inflation (**3.5% headline; 3.9% core**)—provide a strong platform for accelerated private-sector-led growth and job creation.

However, “full monetisation” will only be realised if the budget deliberately funds the **competitiveness systems** that enable enterprises and farmers to produce profitably, meet standards, access markets, and scale employment. This is urgent because the private sector drives **77% of formal jobs**, contributes **80% of GDP**, and provides **over 80% of domestic revenues**.

Accordingly, PSFU requests the Parliament Committee of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to prioritise the following in the NBFP and FY 2026/27 Budget:

- i. **Protect and increase funding** for agriculture-led industrialisation and export competitiveness—coffee, cocoa, maize, beans, rice, horticulture/floriculture—through productivity investments, agro-processing and logistics.
- ii. **Strengthen national quality infrastructure**, including standards enforcement, to safeguard Uganda’s export credibility and reduce rejections.
- iii. **Approve a financed anti-illicit trade and anti-counterfeit programme**, with clear deliverables on counterfeit agricultural inputs.
- iv. **Restore and expand market access investments**, including economic diplomacy and commercial representation, consistent with NBFP market access ambitions.
- v. **Ensure PSD Programme effectiveness** by funding competitiveness outputs—BDS operationalisation, MSME formalisation, affordable finance and logistics—aligned to measurable results.

PSFU stands ready to support Parliament and Government with technical input, implementation accountability, and private-sector mobilisation to deliver measurable gains in competitiveness, profitability, exports and jobs in FY 2026/27.