



TAX NEWS ROUND UP

April 16th –30th 2026.



DID YOU KNOW?

Namibia paid off its entire International Monetary Fund (IMF) Debt to zero Balance. [Read More](#)

Hoteliers want sh18.5b refundable VAT incentive reduced

New Vision | April 16, 2026 | By Dedan Kimathi
Stakeholders have asked the government to revise the proposed investment threshold required for major hotel and tourism investors to qualify for Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds on costs incurred while developing new facilities. [Read More](#)

New vehicle fee has a double taxation flaw

Daily Monitor | April 16, 2026 | By Deogratius Wamala
When you register a vehicle in Uganda; whether a car or a boda, you pay a registration fee, but no stamp duty. Stamp duty is a government charge that applies when you sign an official document that formalizes something of value: buying land, taking out insurance, or signing a lease. [Read More](#)

Uganda proposes drastic penalty cut on unstamped goods

Daily Monitor | April 16, 2026 | By Deogratius Wamala

Imagine you own a small shop selling drinks. A tax inspector visits, spots a batch of bottles that do not have the required government stamp on them, and hands you a penalty notice. The fine? Up to Shs50 million. That is the situation many Ugandan traders have faced under a law that critics say has long been crying out for reform. [Read More](#)

ICPAU Urges Long-Term Fix to Bujagali Tax Exemptions

Parliament Watch | April 16, 2026 | By Deogratius Wamala

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) has urged government to increase withholding tax on public entertainers from the proposed 6% to 15%, arguing that the higher rate would improve revenue mobilization and help formalize Uganda's fast-growing entertainment sector. [Read More](#)

URA customs officer Rejects shs.300m Bribe after Uncovering \$10m hidden in Container

Trumpet News | April 19, 2026 | By Stella Nankya

A female customs officer at the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has been recognized for exceptional integrity after rejecting a bribe of Shs 300 million and uncovering a concealed shipment of cash amounting to \$10 million (about Shs 37 billion). [Read More](#)

Fifty ways to tax the poor

The Monitor | April 19, 2026 | By Deogratius Wamala

Uganda did not arrive at its 2026/27 Tax

Amendment Bills by accident. The package of 50 new tax changes across eight laws, targeting a combined Shs4.8 trillion, is the product of a government that needs money badly and is looking it everywhere. To read these Bills without that context is to miss the story entirely. [Read More](#)

Falling aid, rising debt

The Independent | April 20, 2026 | By Patricia Akankwatsa

Declining global aid flows and shifting geopolitical priorities are forcing a rethink of how Africa finances its development. Participants at the ninth Kampala Geopolitics Conference said this week, warning that traditional models are becoming increasingly unsustainable. [Read More](#)

Six-month tax exemption: What businesses don't know

The Monitor | April 20, 2026 | By Guest Writer
Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has officially opened applications for the Withholding Tax (WHT) exemption for the period July to December 2026, marking a notable shift in policy that businesses should not ignore. For many compliant taxpayers, this announcement is more than just an administrative notice; it signals a return to a six-month exemption. [Read More](#)

Six-month tax exemption: What businesses don't know

The Monitor | April 21, 2026 | By Guest Writer
Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has officially opened applications for the Withholding Tax (WHT) exemption for the period July to December 2026, marking a notable shift in policy that businesses should not ignore. For many compliant taxpayers, this announcement is more than just an administrative notice, it signals a return to a six-month exemption cycle, moving away from the 12-month exemption. [Read More](#)

Proposed Pay as You Earn (PAYE) changes and how they will impact you

The PWC | April 21, 2026 | By Trevor Lukanga
Every year, Uganda prepares its national budget through a process guided by the Public Finance and Management Act. The Act requires the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development to present the country's annual budget to Parliament by 1 April, ahead of the next financial year. The Minister does this on behalf of the President. [Read More](#)

Winners, losers as MPs pass new taxes

The Monitor | April 22, 2026 | By Busein Samilu
Effective July 1, all imports of secondhand clothes will have to pay an extra charge of 30 percent, up from the 15% percent, should the President sign into law the External Trade Amendment Bill, 2026. Parliament passed the Bill that will see the prices of used clothes go up despite protests from a section of lawmakers. [Read More](#)

Parliament rejects taxing 'Kyeyo' earnings

Parliament Watch | April 23, 2026, | By P. Watch

Parliament has passed the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026, rejecting a government proposal to tax income earned and sent home by Ugandans living and working abroad. Parliament sitting on Thursday, 23 April, 2026 and presided over by Speaker Anita Among also rejected the government proposal to tax gains from the sale of non-business assets, including land, jewelry, and other personal property. [Read More](#)

URA answers queries on \$10m cash smuggling case

The Monitor | April 23, 2026, | By Busein Samilu

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has provided fresh details on the interception of \$10.2 million (about Shs37.6) allegedly smuggled into the country by a Ugandan returning from Turkey, seeking to clarify issues raised in earlier reports. In an interview, URA Assistant Commissioner for Public and Corporate Affairs Robert Kalumba said they acted within their mandate and promptly involved all relevant authorities. [Read More](#)

PAYE: The tax that eats into your salary

The Monitor | April 23, 2026 | By Ismail Musa Ladu

If you are formally employed, there is a 30 to 40 percent tax levied on your monthly pay cheque by the government even before it hits your account. For as long as you work with a duly registered company in the country and operate formally, Pay As You Earn (PAYE) deductions are mandatory. [Read More](#)

Parliament passes sh84.3 trillion budget estimates with salary boost for public workers

New Vision | April 24, 2026 | By Mary Karugaba

The expenditure marks one of the largest spending plans in the country's history. The 2026/27 budget is the first major spending plan after the 2026 general elections and will set the tone for Uganda's next five-year development agenda. Government says it is targeting long term growth aimed at expanding the economy to \$500 billion dollars by 2040. [Read More](#)

Airtel ordered to pay URA Shs 1.1bn in tax dispute

The Observer | April 24, 2026 | By URN

The High court has ordered telecom giant Airtel Uganda to pay Shs 1.1 billion to the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) after losing a tax dispute over imported telecommunications equipment. In his ruling, justice Stephen Mubiru set aside a decision of the Tax Appeals Tribunal, which had earlier directed URA to re-evaluate the company's tax obligations. [Read More](#)

Who really pays Uganda's new tax on foreign lenders?

New Vision | April 27, 2026 | By Deogratius Wamala

A company, for instance, sending Shs100 abroad as interest must now send Shs105 to ensure the lender nets Shs100. URA receives Shs5. The foreign lender receives exactly what it always received. The Ugandan borrower pays more. The tax does not land where it appears to land, it passes through the foreign lender and returns, via the gross-up mechanism, to the Ugandan company that borrowed in the first place. [Read More](#)

How Uganda's gold bet will impact reserve reverse

New Vision | April 28, 2026 | By Ivan Tibenkana

Following consensus between the Bank of Uganda (BOU) and the two contracted gold refineries, namely Feldestein Trading Ltd and EuroGold, the central bank is closing in on the much-needed foreign exchange reserve buffer, while broadly, it's also short at gold trade transparency so as to realize improved revenue. For the next 3 years, BOU will be aggressively dealing in gold within the local market throwing some cash to buy ounces from licensed miners.

Cabinet directs Trade Order operations be reinstated

New Vision | April 29, 2026 | By Mary Karugaba

The government has insisted that trade order enforcement operations across the country must go on despite earlier parliamentary communication that it had been temporarily suspended. The statements offer a different stand from the statements by Trade Minister David Bahati, who told Parliament on Friday, 24th that the government had suspended operations to allow further consultations with stakeholders. [Read More](#)

Namibia's IMF debt vanishes on paper in major fiscal update

The Business Insider Africa | April 30, 2026 | By Chinedu Okafor

Namibia has fully repaid its debt to the IMF, bringing its outstanding obligation to zero. This marks a major shift in Namibia's external debt profile and is part of a broader fiscal consolidation effort. The country repaid a total of \$23,887,500 to the IMF, as reflected in data up to March of this year. Namibia joins other African nations like Mozambique in clearing IMF debts, following a trend towards reduced external borrowing. [Read More](#)

Bunyoro, Tooro sugarcane farmers reject new tax

The Monitor | April 30, 2026 | By Ismail Bategeka

Sugarcane farmers from the Bunyoro and Tooro Sub-regions have rejected the newly passed tax on sugar, warning it will hurt their livelihoods and destabilise the industry. The farmers, operating under the Bunyoro Tooro Sugarcane Farmers Association (BUTOS), say the increase in excise duty from Shs100 to Shs300 per Kg of sugar, approved under the Excise Duty (Amendment) Act, 2026 will have far reaching consequences. [Read More](#)



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