

# URA AWARDS TOP TAXPAYERS

By John Ricks Kayizzi

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has recognised 24 outstanding companies and individuals who enabled them surpass their tax collection target for the financial year 2024/25.

URA surpassed its tax collection targets for the 2024/25 financial year, collecting sh31.63 trillion against a target of sh31.37 trillion. This represented a surplus of over sh262b and an achievement of 100.84% of the target.

The taxman has attributed the success to a resilient economy, improved tax administration and enhanced use of technology, such as the digital tax stamps system.

"The progress we celebrate today is a signal that we must accelerate our collaborative commitment to compliance, efficiency and national self-reliance," said John Musinguzi Rujoki, the URA commissioner general, during the annual thanksgiving service that was held at their headquarters in Nakawa on Friday.

He added that Uganda's economic sovereignty will not be achieved through reliance on external financing.

"It will be built through consistent domestic revenue growth and shared commitment to compliance and integrity," he said, adding that Uganda's

financial independence will be built through millions of consistent decisions to comply, contribute and to uphold integrity.

"The taxpayers we honour today embody that mindset. They represent discipline, resilience and a clear understanding of a shared national responsibility."

## MTN COMES TOP

MTN Uganda Limited emerged as the top most taxpayer, and won the Grand Tax Contributor Award after having paid sh2.47 trillion in tax revenue in the last three financial years.

Nile Breweries Limited was awarded with an Excel Award for its enduring legacy, unwavering commitment to community and national development, while Tororo Cement Limited walked away with the first runner-up for this year's Excel Award.

TotalEnergies E&P Uganda also won a Platinum Award in the oil and gas sector for tax compliance and advancing Uganda's energy sector, while Mbarara University of Science and Technology won a Platinum Award for being a respected public institution accredited by the National Council for Higher Education.

When it came to Vantage Awards, URA awarded Neolife International (Pty) Ltd in the non-individual category.



Front row: Musinguzi (left), state minister for investment and privatisation Evelyn Anite (third-left), finance minister Matia Kasalja (fourth-right) and URA board chairperson Juma Kisaame (second-right) with some of the representatives of the best taxpayers during the thanksgiving and taxpayers appreciation ceremony at the authority's headquarters in Nakawa on Friday

## OTHER AWARDEES

Other taxpayers who won awards include: Sarah Kisubi Nansamba, Tiross Manufacturers (U) Ltd, Moses Muzeezy, SSG Granites Ltd, James Isiko, Restless Development, Jayant Patel and Geneva Global Uganda.

Others are Anna Apio, Palm Corps Ltd, Obicale Rhonnie, Holy Innocents Children's Hospital, Justus Nahabwe, Daj Communications Ltd and Chrispus Oscar Bamusede.

Uganda Christian University and Uganda Broadcasting Corporation also received the special Commissioner General's Award.

## VISION GROUP AWARDED

Musinguzi also awarded Vision Group the Tax Education Award for dedicating all its media platforms, such as newspapers, radios, television and digital media channels to ensuring that the Ugandan population is well informed about the importance of paying taxes.

"Every Thursday of the week, they relay questions and the commissioner general's response to them in the *New Vision* newspaper. These

queries are answered and relayed on all Vision Group's media channels for the good of the tax-paying public," Musinguzi said in a citation that preceded the award.

Vision Group also runs weekly tax sensitisation campaigns in *Bukedde* newspaper. *Bukedde* started running these URA segments in 2017, and was followed by *New Vision* seven months ago.

Don Wanyama, Vision Group's chief executive officer,

while picking the award expressed his appreciation to URA for its tax mobilisation efforts, as well as the recognition.

"We appreciate URA for the partnership and for recognising our efforts towards tax education. Our pledge is to continue doing more with them, in pursuit of bettering our economy," he said, adding that communication is key in tax compliance.

Musinguzi said many people have learnt that payment of taxes is no longer the responsibility of government alone, or of URA, but all citizens.

"Over the last five years, we have sustained a double-digit growth of about 13% year-on-year. In the last financial year, we almost doubled our revenue collection from around sh16 trillion to sh31.6 trillion," he said.

Musinguzi added that a similar impressive growth has

also been registered in the tax register, meaning that URA is also broadening the tax base.

"However, despite this significant growth, we are still only meeting about half of our national budget and our tax to gross domestic product ratio is still at about 14%. This gap limits our ability to fully fund our infrastructure, education, healthcare and the broader development agenda that will make Uganda become truly an economically independent."

## WOE UNTO THE CORRUPT

Bishop Joshua Lwere said corrupt people will be dogged with endless problems until they lose all the money they have stolen from national coffers.

URA employees jointly donated sh120m to Bulibandi Primary school, which will go towards building a classroom block.