

FINANCE BLOCKS PDM FUNDING FOR 128 PARISHES

WHY BAR FUNDING?

Finance ministry has blocked PDM funding to newly created, but ungazetted parishes. The ministry says the move is intended to prevent confusion in planning, budgeting and service delivery. **Mary Karugaba**, brings you the details.

The Ministry of Local Government has protested a move by the finance ministry to block Parish Development Model (PDM) funding for newly created 128 parishes, citing concerns over their gazettement.

In a planning and budgeting circular dated February 13, 2026, the finance ministry permanent secretary, Ramathan Ggoobi, directed all local government accounting officers not to allocate resources to the newly created parishes, until the local government ministry officially gazettes their boundaries.

Ggoobi noted that although the parishes were used during the recent general election, there has been no formal communication confirming their gazettement for budgetary and planning purposes.

"As accounting officers prepare budgets, they are advised not to allocate any resources to these new parishes, but maintain the old boundaries, until officially guided by this ministry (of finance)," Ggoobi stated.

Ggoobi said districts and other local government entities should continue planning and budgeting using existing parish administrative structures, until the local government ministry formally confirms the changes.

He said the move is intended to prevent confusion in planning, budgeting and service delivery that could arise if local governments begin funding administrative units that are not yet fully integrated into the national planning framework.

LOCAL GOVT OFFICIALS REACT

The move has, however, sparked immediate

List of affected parishes

DISTRICT / CITY / PARISHES NOT CAPITALISED	Parishes	Parishes	Parishes	Parishes
MANAFWA	Kaburara	Kyamiyaga	Kamusenene	Asinget
Bumatanda	NAPAK	YUMBE	Nkoni	RUKUNGIRI
RUBANDA	Kopopwa B Ward	Loya Ward	Buhumuro	Kakoni
Bunyonyi View Ward	Lorengecora B Ward	Limbe Ward	Kasorora	Kyabahanga
SIRONKO	PADER	Rubé Ward	Kiboota	Garuka
Butandiga	Ornedo	Peace Ward	Kikiri	Nyamitooma Ward
BUDUDA	Got Okong	Legu	Masangi	Nyakitabire B
Bunatsimi	ABIM	Kiri	Muhunga	Kinyamahwa
OTUKE	Yarayara	KISORO	Mukukuru	Katooma
Okwii Ward	Gulopono	Karago	Mutaama	Rusheshe
Yabwangi Ward	Aojapiro	Biizi	TORORO	Katerampungu
KAMPALA	Loka	Kasharara	Kalungu	Kanyankyende
Muyenga Ward	KANUNGU	Kibugu	Asinge	Kabuga
Namongo Ward	Bukunga	Bitare	Arowa	Nyakatungu
BULISA	Nyakazinga	Gasovu	Amagoro Ward	Kayanga
Masako Ward	Katebere	LIRA	Kwapa Central Ward	Kiganga
Kichoke Ward	Nyabirehe	Okum	Kojim	Rubanga
BULISA	SHEEMA	Ororo	Ogiroi	Kilembe
Natopoyo	Rugazi	Gomi	Powendo	Kisya
Moru-Angibuin	Nyabwina	Wiodyek	Aturukuku	Kibale
KOLE	Kasaana North	Apinyoo	Agoro	KATAKWI
Eastern Ward B	Ryakasinga Ward	Abolet	Kadomoche	Akoboi
Western Ward B	BUNYANGABU	Beo	Abwal	Ariet
MITOOMA	Busanda	Orem	Papakol	Osuguro
Bukiriro	Bulyambaghu	Dim	Nyemera	Apapai Town Board
	Karambi	KAMWENGE		
	Rweihara	Ibuga		
	Irinda	Benga		

LOCAL GOVT MINISTER MAGYEZI'S TAKE

The local government minister, Raphael Magyezi, when contacted, appealed to the finance ministry to allocate funds for the 128 parishes saying the units were legally established and are awaiting full operationalisation.

Magyezi said the parishes were gazetted after the 2018 elections, but have not yet received funding to enable them function fully within the local government administrative system.

"We, therefore, urge the finance ministry to include this funding in the budget for the 2026/2027 financial year. I have requested the commissioner in charge of local councils at the ministry here to send copies of the relevant instruments to the finance ministry," Magyezi said.

counter-attack from the local government ministry officials, who argue that the decision is based on incomplete information and

undermines efforts to deliver services and implement development projects under PDM.

In a letter to Ggoobi dated February 23, 2026, the local government ministry permanent secretary Ben Kumumanya argued that the parishes were legally established and gazetted, making them eligible for government funding.

"This ministry has on several occasions communicated the number of local governments

ABOUT PDM

Parish Development Model (PDM) is the Government's flagship strategy to move nearly 38% of Ugandan households from subsistence farming into the money economy.

Through the model, each parish receives sh100m channeled through savings and credit co-operative organisations (SACCOS), which lend up to sh1m per household to finance small businesses and agricultural activities.

Cumulatively, over sh3.2 trillion has been transferred to parishes, with 99% of funds disbursed to 3.27 million beneficiaries across the country in three financial years.

In 2025/2026 financial year alone, the Government released sh1.1 trillion to more than 10,500 SACCOS.

However, due to the enormous sums involved, authorities introduced strict financial controls from the outset and central was the Wendi digital payments platform, designed to ensure every shilling is tracked from the consolidated fund to the final beneficiary.

and administrative units in the country. The most recent communication, submitted on February 3, 2026, included a comprehensive list of all gazetted parishes, sub-counties and

local government units across the country," Kumumanya explained.

He said the new parishes had already been used during elections, a step necessary to make them fully operational and eligible for government programmes, including PDM.

According to Kumumanya, Uganda currently has 10,716 parishes nationwide, but only 10,589 have been capitalised under the PDM programme, leaving 127 parishes without funding.

Kumumanya urged the finance ministry to reconsider its position, arguing that the affected parishes are fully gazetted and should receive funding in line with other administrative units. He also forwarded a detailed list of the 127 parishes that are currently not budgeted for under the PDM, requesting immediate review and action.

A source in Sironko district local government told *New Vision* that since there were no elections of leaders in Butandiga parish, the district could not allocate its money.

"They are newly created parishes. Some even do not have leaders, so we cannot send their money," the source said.

The source, however, warned that the continued delay in funding for the new parishes could slow down implementation of essential programmes and create inequalities in access to government services.

"When administrative units are funded inconsistently, you create pockets of communities that are left behind. PDM is supposed to be universal, but blocking funding threatens its effectiveness," the source said.

The chief administrative officer of Tororo district, Gabriel Atama, told *New Vision* that 17 parishes are affected in Tororo since they have no leadership.

"We have notified the authorities about these parishes. They cannot receive funds when they have never been gazetted," he said.

"The communities expect services. We urge the finance ministry to align with the local government ministry and release the funds without further delay," said a senior district official.



Kumumanya

Ggoobi

Magyezi