

THE MARKETS RAISED SH2.3 TRILLION THROUGH PUBLIC OFFERS

By Ali Twaha

Listed companies on the Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) spent over sh792b on employees in 2024, according to data from the Capital Markets Authority (CMA).

Josephine Ossiya, the chief executive at CMA, explained that growth in spending reflects how the capital markets have evolved into engines of job creation, investment and wealth over the last three decades.

Ossiya made the remarks during a press conference of CMA to mark 30 years anniversary in Kampala. She said listed companies also paid more than sh2.45 trillion in taxes to government and distributed over sh1.15 trillion in dividends to investors at the bourse.

Ossiya explained that the public markets have provided transparency and liquidity, while private markets have offered flexibility.

Over the years, she said, both markets are beginning to widen Uganda's financial base to support production, value addition and employment.

"As we reflect on this 30-year journey, one of our greatest strengths has been the deliberate development of a vibrant, professional and well-regulated ecosystem of licensed market participants. Companies that have tapped into these public markets have had a tangible impact on Uganda's economy," she said.

"These companies contributed in excess of sh2.45 trillion in taxes, and returned over sh1.15 trillion in dividends, contributing to wealth creation among investors."

CMA supervises a wide network of intermediaries from stockbrokers and fund managers to custodians and investment advisers. These actors,

UGANDA'S LISTED FIRMS SPEND OVER SH790B ON EMPLOYEES, SAYS CMA



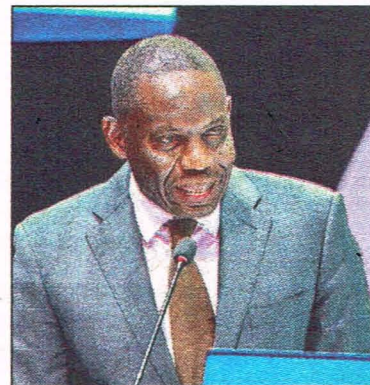
Josephine Ossiya, the chief executive at CMA

BETWEEN THE LINES

Ossiya said growth in spending reflects how the capital markets have evolved into engines of jobs, investment, and wealth creation over the last three decades.

often invisible to the public, play a critical role in the market. They enable companies to raise capital, investors to participate and transactions to settle safely.

The public markets have raised about sh2.3 trillion through public



BOU Governor, Michael Atingi-Ego

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

More than 273,000 Ugandans now hold Securities Central Depository accounts, effectively the digital record of share ownership. Over 180,000 have invested through collective investment schemes, pooled funds that allow individuals to invest without picking individual stocks.

These are still small numbers in a country of about 45 million, but they mark a shift from an

offers, while total transactions in equity and corporate bonds have

elite market to one edging toward broader inclusion.

CMA said collective investment schemes have accumulated sh5.6 trillion in total assets under management.

On the other hand, private markets, where firms raise capital away from public exchanges, have brought in over sh1.8 trillion over the past decade, much of it directed toward agro-industrialisation and mining.

generated another sh2.2 trillion and sh290b respectively.

Domestic market capitalisation has reached sh15.9 trillion, supported by nine locally listed firms and eight cross listed companies.

CHALLENGES IN MARKET GROWTH

Uganda aims to grow into a \$500b economy by 2040, a target that will require vast amounts of long-term capital. CMA says banks alone are unlikely to meet that need. Capital markets, if deepened and broadened, could fill part of the gap by mobilising savings and directing them into infrastructure, industry and innovation.

"The scale of our ambition demands commensurate financial sector transformation.

The Uganda Bankers Association projects that achieving the Tenfold Growth Strategy will require private sector credit to expand from sh28 trillion today to sh490 trillion by 2040, primarily for working capital.

"In parallel, capital market mobilisation must grow from 1.5 trillion to 440 trillion shillings to finance productive capital expansion. These are not projections, they are imperatives.

Our financial markets must radically transform to mobilise resources at this scale," Michael Atingi-Ego, governor at Bank of Uganda, said recently.