

By Nelson Kiwa

URSB realises sh311b in non-tax revenue

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) has realised sh311b in non-tax revenue, making it one of the profit-making state entities.

URSB registrar general Mercy Kainobwiso said the non-tax revenue has been contributed to the consolidated fund over a period of five years.

Kainobwiso, speaking on URSB's five-year performance report in Kampala on Friday, indicated that digitisation of the entity's services was the turning point.

"By the time I took over office in 2020, URSB was a paper-heavy agency battling long queues, manual files, and a pandemic that shut its doors. Five years on, URSB has become one of the country's most digitised public bodies, collecting sh311b in non-tax revenue," Kainobwiso said.

The non-tax revenue, she said, rose by 55.2% to sh311b from sh193.4b in the previous five years.

The bureau's performance report indicated that over the five-year period between

2020/2021 and 2024/2025, uptake of registration services increased at an average annual rate of 21.46%. The growth, according to the report, exceeded earlier projections and revealed sustained demand for registration services over the period, despite intermittent economic disruptions.

It added that the rollout of the Online Business Registration System cut registration time from between one and three business days to between two and three hours. The Security Interest in Movable Property Registry, according to Kainobwiso, recorded the sharpest growth.

"Security interest notices rose from 4,405 to 42,547, enabling small firms to use cars, stock and equipment as collateral," she said.

"To meet demand, URSB's workforce grew by 44%, from 296 to 426 staff. New specialist units were created in intellectual property, ICT and enforcement, and gender

sh311b

The total non-tax revenue collected by the URSB over a five-year period.

balance was maintained throughout," the bureau indicated.

Kainobwiso added: "Our service points expanded to 55, one head office, six regional offices, one Kampala branch and 47 service centres, reducing geographic barriers for businesses in every corner of the country. We have had government confidence follow. URSB's approved budget grew by 152%, from

sh25.74b to sh64.81b."

According to the report, the registration of marriages rose by 216%, from 2,136 to 6,751. Special licences, according to the report, increased nearly fourfold by 319.96%, from 531 to 2,230. Civil marriages grew by over 50% to 10,672. In total, marriage certifications,

civil, church, customary and single status letters, increased by 48% to 18,239. Searches on the marriage register, according to URSB, increased by 45.74% to 5,917.

"These trends indicate expanded reach of civil registration services, increased public engagement, and growing reliance on URSB-administered registers for legal recognition and documentation," Kainobwiso said.

Under the Government's rationalisation programme, the marriage registration function was transferred to the National Identification Registration Authority on October 1, 2024.

Kainobwiso said they secured ISO 9001:2015 certification, validating standardised workflows and accountability.

In the report,

URSB highlighted that beneficial ownership reforms helped drive Uganda off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, boosting investor confidence and safeguarding correspondent banking relationships. FATF is an intergovernmental organisation that sets global standards to combat money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing.

The report highlighted that over sh18.5b was recovered in counterfeit goods seized in intellectual property (IP) infringement operations with the Police, Uganda Revenue Authority and Interpol. According to URSB, an 85% conviction rate was achieved in prosecuting cases related to IP violations.

Kainobwiso said in their Strategic Plan Four, URSB's focus shifts from reform initiation to consolidation, scale, and sustained national impact, deepening digital transformation, expanding IP commercialisation, and positioning Uganda as a premier investment destination in Africa.



Kainobwiso: The URSB boss