

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



**PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL  
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2024**

Office of the Clerk to Parliament  
Parliament Building  
Kampala-Uganda

April 2024

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# **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024.**

## **1. Introduction**

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> Sitting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Parliament held on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, Hon. Henry Musasizi, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (General Duties) moved that the National Planning Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2024 be read for the first time in accordance with Rule 128 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

Relatedly, pursuant to Rule 129 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, the Bill was referred to the Committee on Planning and Economic Development for scrutiny and consideration.

The Committee examined and evaluated the Bill in accordance with Rule 129 (2) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament, and hereby reports.

### **1.1 Terms of Reference**

In considering the Bill, the Committee developed the following Terms of Reference:

- i. To examine the certificate of financial implication to ascertain that fulfils the requirements of the law;
- ii. To examine the rationale for amending the National Planning Authority (herein referred to as “the Act”);
- iii. To make appropriate recommendations to Parliament on the proposed amendment of the National Planning Authority Act, Act 15 of 2002;

### **1.2 Methodology**

The Committee held meetings and carried out consultations with the following;

- a) Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
- b) National Planning Authority
- c) National Physical Planning Board

### **2.0 Objective of the rationalisation policy of Government**

The rationalisation policy was adopted by Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021 and contained in Cabinet Minute No. 43(CT 2021) and is to be attained through merging, mainstreaming and rationalisation of agencies, commissions, authorities and public expenditure in order to-

- (a) relieve the Government of the financial drain on its resources and the burden of wasteful administration and expenditure;
- (b) facilitate the efficient and effective service delivery by clearly delineating the mandates and functions of government agencies and departments and thereby avoiding duplication of mandates and functions;
- (c) promote coordinated administrative arrangements, policies and procedures for—
  - (i) ensuring the efficient and successful management, financial accounting and budgetary discipline of government agencies and departments;
  - (ii) enabling the Government to play its role more effectively;
  - (iii) enforcing accountability; and
- (d) the restructuring and re-organisation of agencies and departments of Government by eliminating bloated structures and functional ambiguities in Government agencies and departments.

### **3.0 Object of the National Population Council (Amendment) Bill, 2024**

The object of the National Population Council Act, 2014 (Repeal) Bill, 2024 is:

- to repeal the National Population Council Act, 2014
- to give effect to the Government Policy on Rationalization of Government Agencies and public Expenditure;
- to enable the transfer of the functions of the National Population Council to the National Planning Authority; and
- to dissolve the National Population Council.

### **3.1 The National Population Council Act, 2014**

The National Population Council Act, 2014 provides for the establishment, composition, functions and administration of the National Council and its Secretariat. The main function of the Council is to formulate policies to give strategic direction on the implementation of the objectives of the National Population Policy.

The National Population Council Act, 2014 (Repeal) Bill, 2024 seeks to repeal the National Population Council Act, 2014 and effectively ensure that there is no duplication of roles by transferring the functions of the National Population Council established by the National Population Council Act, 2014 (Act 8 of 2014) to the National Planning Authority established by Act 15 of 2002.

Under clause 6 of the Bill, all the property, assets, rights, obligations, and liabilities of the National Population Council shall vest in the National Planning Authority. Proceedings commenced by or against the Council may be continued by or against the National Planning Authority.

Effectively, the members and staff of the Council serving immediately before the commencement of the Act shall be paid their terminal benefits per the terms and conditions of their service and may be redeployed to serve in the public service subject to the availability of positions.

#### **4.0 Committee's Findings, Observations and Recommendations**

The National Population Council Act, 2014 (Repeal) Bill, 2024 seeks to transfer the functions of the National Population Council to the National Planning Authority.

National Population Council Act, 2014 was enacted to provide for the establishment, composition, functions and administration of the National Population Council and its Secretariat with the main function of the Council being to formulate policies to give strategic direction on the implementation of the objectives of the National Population Policy.

The Council shall, to the greatest extent possible, cooperate with Government, line Ministries, Local Governments, institutions and civil society organisations in carrying out its functions under this Act. The Council is to advise the President on population matters and promote and popularize the National Population Policy and set up a National Population Databank.

The committee notes that whereas the 2018 National Population Policy takes into account the provisions of the National Population Council Act, 2014; Uganda Vision (of attaining upper middle income status by 2040); the National Development Plans (and their processes) as well as other relevant international development frameworks like the ICPD; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Agenda 2030; EAC 2050 as well as the Africa We Want and Agenda 2063, among others, the National Planning Authority whose primary function is to produce comprehensive and integrated development plans for the country elaborated in terms of the perspective vision and the long term and medium-term plans is best suited to carry out the functions of the National Population Council.

Furthermore, the Committee noted that the 2018 National Population Policy recognizes that in addition to the fundamentals like infrastructure, energy, Information and Communication Technology, Uganda needs to pay attention to its human capital development if it is going to benefit

from its demographic dividend. Integrating population strategies with national planning Authority will enhance capability to address demographic issues directly through development policies.

The Committee observed that the repeal of the National Population Council Act and the transferring of the functions performed by the Population Council to the National Planning Authority is in line with the rationalisation policy and effectively relives the Government of the financial drain on its resources and the burden of wasteful administration and expenditure.

The Committee further observed that the outputs of the National Population Council will best be integrated in the plans of different sectors under the supervision of the National Planning Authority.

The Committee however notes that the Bill does not provide for the commencement of the Act and the absence of a commencement date means that the law will commence on publication and yet the agency may need more time to adequately prepare for the rationalisation policy.

#### **Recommendation**

**The Committee recommends that the National Population Council Act, 2014 (Repeal) Bill, 2024 be passed, subject to the following proposed amendments.**

## **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL ACT, 2014 (REPEAL) BILL, 2024.**

### **Insertion of new clause**

The Bill is amended by inserting immediately before clause 1, the following-

#### **“Commencement**

This Act shall come into force on a date appointed by the Minister by statutory instrument”.

### **Justification**

To provide for the commencement of the Bill to accommodate the period for the rationalization process.

### **Clause 1. Interpretation**

Clause 1 is amended-

- (i) by substituting for the definition of the word “Ministry”, the following;

“Ministry means the Ministry responsible for planning and economic development”;

- (ii) by inserting the definition of the word “Minister” as follows;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for planning and economic development”.

### **Justification**

To align the definition of “Ministry” with the definition of “Minister” in the National Population Council Act.

To provide meaning to the word Minister as used in the Bill.

### **Clause 3: Purpose of amendment of Act 8 of 2014**

Clause 3 is amended by substituting for paragraph (1) the following-

*“The purpose of amending the National Population Council Act, 2014 is-*

- (a) to dissolve the National Population Council, and*

*(b) To transfer the functions of the National Population Council to the National Planning Authority established by the National Planning Authority Act, 2002.”*

### **Justification**

For clarity

### **Clause 6: Savings**

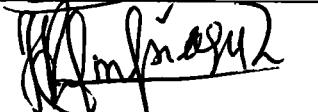
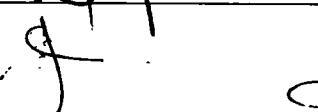
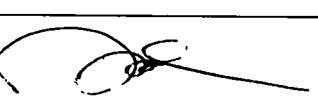
Clause 6 is amended by deleting paragraph (6)

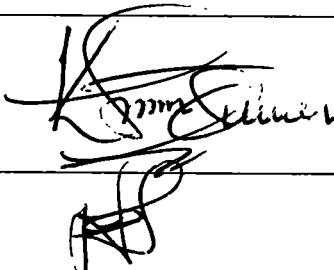
### **Justification**

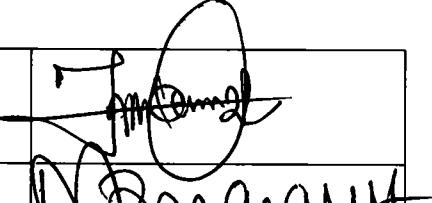
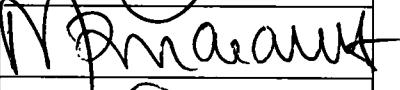
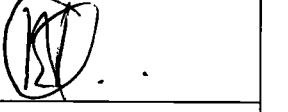
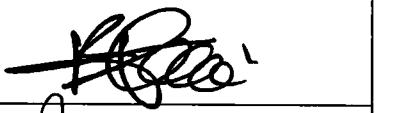
The right of a person to claim compensation is dictated by the instrument of appointment. As such, that right cannot be denied by an act of Parliament. The proposed provision is redundant.



**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

| NO | NAME                                 | CONSTITUENCY         | SIGNATURE   |
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| 3  | Hon. Opolot Patrick Isiagi           | Kachumbala County    |    |
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| 26 | Hon. Akol Anthony             | Kilak North              |   |
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| 29 | Hon. Omara Paul               | Otuke County               |  |
| 30 | Hon. Agnes Atim Apea          | DWR - Amolatar             |  |
| 31 | Hon. Mpindi Bumali            | PWD. Rep                   |  |
| 32 | Hon. Richard Sebalama         | Bukoto Central             |  |
| 33 | Hon. Masaba Karim             | Mbale, Industrial Division |   |
| 34 | Hon. Kinshaba Patience Nkunda | DWR - Kanungu              |   |