



# REALISING PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY IN UGANDA'S PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM-WHAT IS OUR ROLE AS CHRISTIANS?

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# Scope

- ❑ Definition of Accountability, its key Objectives and Forms
- ❑ Public Accountability & its Essential elements
- ❑ Key players in public accountability
- ❑ Government Interventions to strengthen accountability in public service delivery.
- ❑ Some of the challenges encountered and proposed measures
- ❑ Our role as Christians
- ❑ Conclusion

# How do you interpret this picture?



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## 5Ws

What?  
Where?  
When?  
Who?  
Why?



- ❑ What is accountability?
- ❑ What is public accountability?
- ❑ Is there private/individual/personal accountability (where and why)?
- ❑ When and how should one account?
- ❑ To who and why should one account?

# Definition

- ❑ “**Accountability** is when one party must report its activities and take responsibility for them. It is done to keep them honest and responsible.” (**Black’s Law Dictionary 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.**)
- ❑ According to the **Oxford Learner’s Dictionary** **Accountability** refers to; “the fact of being responsible for your decisions or actions and expected to explain them when you are asked.”
- ❑ **Accountability** also refers to processes/procedures, norms and structures that are required of every individual entrusted with any public office or personal responsibility.

# Definition Continues....



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**Public Accountability** is the obligation of those entrusted with public office to answer publicly and report to an acceptable standard as they implement responsibilities which affect the public, and be held responsible for their actions.

Generally, accountability is perceived to apply to persons entrusted with resources. However, the contemporary emphasis is on everybody assuming responsibility and being accountable for their actions.

## **Key forms of accountability:**

Financial accountability, Political accountability, Legal accountability and Social accountability.

***NB: All forms and levels of accountability are influenced by individual moral values and conduct (family, institution, community, religion, government and any other entity that influences thought of an individual).***

# Objectives of Accountability

i) To gain and maintain Public trust and confidence

ii) To identify and eliminate wrong elements in order to ensure transparency and fairness for all. (curb down corruption)

iii) To improve efficiency and effectiveness so as to enhance a credible public service delivery system.

# Essential Elements of Accountability in Public Service Delivery

- ❑ **Transparency:** Decisions and actions are taken openly and sufficient information is available to all stakeholders and the general public. This provides a platform to assess adherence of relevant laws and required procedures.
- ❑ **Answerability:** Decision makers are required to justify their actions publically to Oversight institutions which include; IG, OAG, PPDA, PAC etc. (adherence to the law and public service Code of conduct).
- ❑ **Controllability:** There must be mechanisms to sanction actions and decisions contrary to given mandates and procedures. (A system of checks and balances or law enforcement mechanisms which include Police, DPP/ Judiciary).



# Elements Summarised



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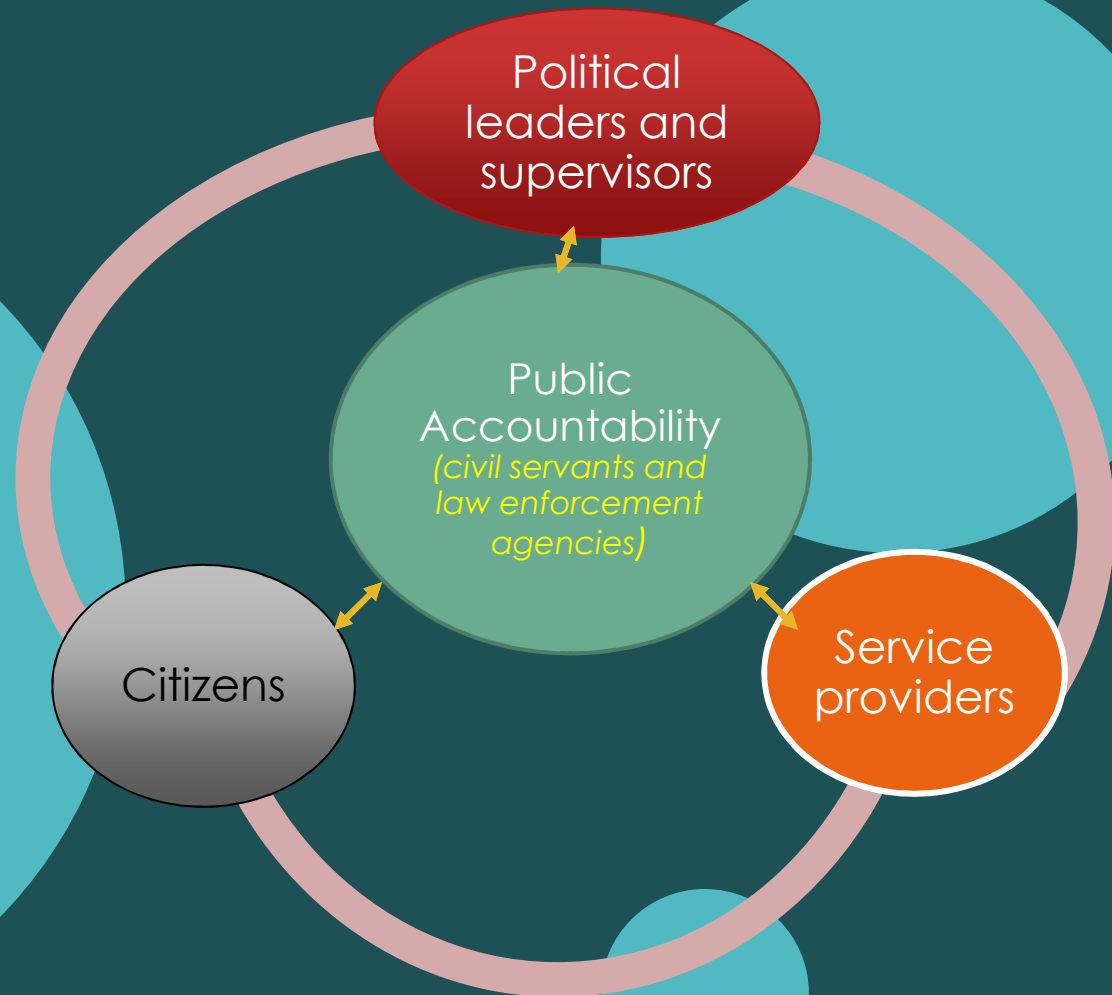
- ▶ “In ethics and governance , **accountability** is answerability, blameworthiness, liability, and the expectation of accounting-giving. It also extends to discussions related to problems in the public sector, non-profit, private and individual contexts.”



*Dykstra, Clarence A. (February 1938).  
**The Quest for Responsibility***

# Key Players in Public Accountability

- Public accountability involves **03 interrelated groups/parties**



# Interventions made to strengthen Accountability in Public Service Delivery

Some of the interventions Uganda Government has instituted to achieve efficient, effective and timely accountability include:

- ❑ **Automation of Public Financial Management systems** to enhance transparency e.g. systems that are able to track every payment of public expenditure such as **IFMS, E-Government Procurement and Treasury single account.**
- ❑ **Strengthening Oversight institutions** such as IG, OAG, AG, PPDA, PAC etc.
- ❑ **Decentralization of Powers of Budget Execution** including; payment of salaries, Pension and gratuity by local Gov'ts and MDA's - Accounting officers.



# Interventions Continued.....



- ❑ **Enactment of Strong Legal and Regulatory Framework** such as the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) 2015 and sanctioning mechanism.
- ❑ **Budget Transparency Initiations** including publication release to the general public, information relayed on the MoFPED Website and toll free lines.
- ❑ **Open stake holder engagement** to receive both input and feedback to Government Programs.
- ❑ **Recruitment of Professional staff** (Accountants, Economists and IT cadres) with emphasis of adherence to public service code of conduct.



# On going Progress

- ❑ A strong foundation for public accountability is in place, significant progress has been made and positive results have been registered e.g. URA registered **Revenue growth of 11.5%** as weighed against FY 2018/19.
- ❑ The different reforms and measures instituted by the Govt have significantly restored fiduciary assurance and confidence in public service systems and are yielding positive results e.g. Uganda has moved 12 step upwards on the **corruption predictive index** i.e. **149 in 2017/18 to 137 in 2019/20.**

# Challenges and Proposed Measures

No	Challenges	Proposed Measures
1.	Weak legal and regulatory framework to deal with corruption and misuse of public resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen the legal framework by enactment of new laws such as; a law on <b>Asset freezing and Recovery of ill-gotten wealth</b>.</li><li>• Identify and empower credible judicial officers to ensure deserved fairness in application of the law</li><li>• Need for amendment of obsolete legal and regulatory framework to ensure that they are relevant.</li></ul>
2.	Poor supervision in the implementation of existing laws and regulations, enforcement and ineffective sanctions regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Streamline and strengthen supervisory agencies</li><li>• Strengthen Uganda Public Service Standing Orders to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of compliance.</li></ul>
3.	Increased risk of financial systems- hacking due to global technology advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous risk assessment of systems and personnel training</li></ul>
4.	Moral decadence – unethical behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inculcate good ethical and Christian values to promote a culture of zero tolerance to corruption.</li></ul>

# Our Role as Christians



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# Christians role Continued....

## Scriptural tools for Accountability (in Private and Public)

- Romans 12:2 (GNT) “don’t conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and is pleasing to Him and is perfect.”
- John 15:16 (GNT) “you did not choose me; I choose you and appointed you to go and bare much fruit, the kind of fruit that endures...”

A thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy...(John 10:10)

John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered “I am the way and the truth and the life....”



## Scriptural tools Continued....

- When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** We are meant to provide answers to worldly questions and offer solutions to challenges faced.
- Matthew 5:16 (NLT).... **"Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."**



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## Conclusion

*“Ask not what your country can do for you.  
Ask what you can do for your country.”*

John F Kennedy

*“You must be the change you wish to see  
in the World.”* Mahatma Gandhi

**I Thank You for Listening**

**Q/A**

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