

# PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA



## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES ON THE UGANDA TRYPANOSOMIASIS (REPEAL) BILL, 2024

Office of the Clerk to Parliament

AK

April, 2024

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act (Repeal) Bill, 2024 was read for the First Time on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in accordance with Rule 129 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The Committee scrutinised the Bill in accordance with rules 129(2), (3) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure and now begs to report.

This report is being presented in compliance with Rule 130(2) which states that "The Chairperson of the Committee to which the Bill is referred or a Member of the Committee designated by the Committee or by the Speaker shall, after the Motion for the Second Reading has been moved under sub-rule (1) and seconded, present to the House the report of the Committee on the Bill."

## 2.0 BACKGROUND TO THE UGANDA TRYPANOMIASIS (REPEAL) BILL, 2024

### 2.1 Background to rationalisation

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 Government under Cabinet Minute No.43(CT 2021) adopted the policy to rationalise Government Agencies and Public Expenditure with the aim of-

- (a) merging, mainstreaming and rationalisation of agencies, commissions, authorities and public expenditure thereby, inter alia relieving the Government of the financial drain on its resources and the burden of wasteful administration and expenditure;
- (b) providing 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) promoting the coordinated administrative arrangements, policies and procedures for

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- (i) ensuring the efficient and successful management, financial accounting and budgetary discipline of government agencies and departments;
- (ii) enabling the Government to play its proper role more effectively; and
- (iii) enforcing accountability; and
- (d) the restructuring and re-organization of agencies and departments of Government by eliminating bloated structures and functional ambiguities in Government agencies and departments.

Therefore, the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act (Repeal) Bill, 2024 that was read for the First Time on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries aims at –

- (a) mainstreaming the functions of Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council into the Ministry responsible for agriculture; and
- (b) abolishing the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council and transferring the functions of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council to the Ministry responsible for agriculture.

## **2.2 Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC)**

The Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC) was created by the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act 1992 (Ch. 211). The Act legalised the Council and the Technical Committee and Coordinating Office for Control of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda (COCTU) as the Secretariat of the Council. This was in an effort to rationalize tsetse and Trypanosomiasis research and control in Uganda.

The institution was established at a time when the country was experiencing sleeping sickness epidemic that isolated interventions had failed to control. The legislators then found it necessary to establish an institution that would be able to coordinate different professions so as to eliminate the epidemic.



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The disciplines involved in Trypanosomiasis control are: entomologists, veterinarians, medical doctors, laboratory scientists, environmentalists, economists, agriculturalists and cartographers.

The Secretariat works closely with the following ministries and agencies nationally: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Water and Environment and the National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO) through the Livestock Health Research Institute (LIRI), Tororo.

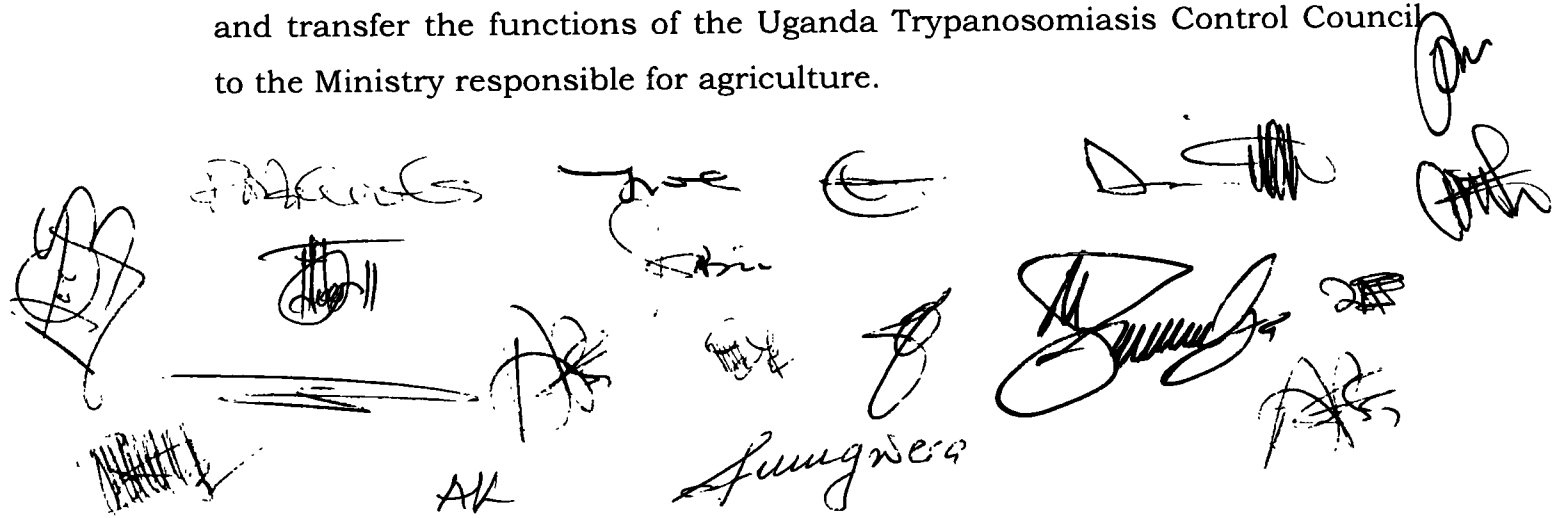
The Secretariat also collaborates with international partners like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Health Organisation (WHO), African Union (AU) specifically Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR) and Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) Secretariat.

### **3.0 OBJECT AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE BILL**

#### **3.1 Object of the Bill**

The policy behind the Bill is to give effect to the Government Policy for Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) which was adopted by the Cabinet on 22 February 2021.

The purpose for repeal of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act, Cap. 21 I is to abolish the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council (UTCC); and transfer the functions of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council to the Ministry responsible for agriculture.



### 3.2 Justification for the Bill

Over the years, there has been a proliferation of agencies established by Acts of Parliament, Executive Orders and administrative arrangements. Whereas most of the agencies are necessary due to the critical nature of the functions they perform, a certain limited number of agencies were established without due consideration to the aspects of institutional harmony, functional duplications, overlaps and affordability. Government has also established that some agencies have served the purposes for which they were established. The mandate of a few other agencies has been overtaken by events. Such agencies need to be rationalised.

Additionally, the high cost of administering the agencies has drained the national Treasury at the expense of effective service delivery. This has overstretched the capacity of Government to sustain them. It has also been established that the generous salary structures of the agencies have created salary disparities between employees of the agencies and civil servants, leading to demotivation of human resources in the mainstream public service.

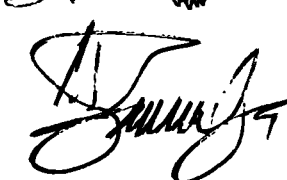
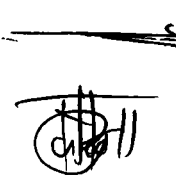
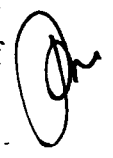
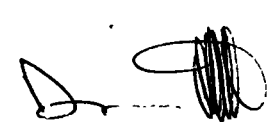
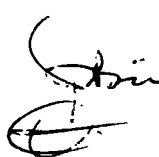
The justification for the Bill raises the following issues which the Committee interrogated:

1. Whether the mandate of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council overlaps with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;
2. Whether Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council has served the purpose for which it was established;
3. Whether Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council administration costs are so high that they drain the Treasury at the expense of service delivery.



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## 4.0 METHODOLOGY

While considering the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act (Repeal) Bill, 2024, the Committee used the following methods:

### 4.1 Meetings

The committee held meetings with the following entities:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)
- Coordinating Office for Control of Trypanosomiasis in Uganda
- Ministry of Public Service
- Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

### 4.2 Document review

The Committee reviewed and referred to the following documents:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
- Uganda Bureau of Statistics Statistical Abstract, 2022
- The Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act 1992 (Ch. 211)

## 5.0 COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS

### 5.1 Whether the mandate of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council overlaps with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries

AK The Committee noted that the Council was established by the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Act 1992, Chapter 211 with a mandate of elimination of livestock and human trypanosomiasis in Uganda. The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries has intensified efforts to ensure the control of pests, vectors and diseases in both crops and animals under the Department of Animal Health. This is the same mandate as that of the Council.

The Ministry puts emphasis on animal vectors and diseases, especially containing and eradicating the spread of the deadly Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) in cattle, contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP) in goats and sheep, Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in goats and sheep, African Swine Fever in pigs, Brucellosis in all animals and humans and Rabies in dogs, cats and humans.

*The Committee observed that the roles and functions of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council are being performed by the Department of Animal Health under MAAIF but focussing on a different vector-borne disease.*

***The Committee recommends that the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council be merged and mainstreamed into the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.***

## **5.2 Whether the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council has served the purpose for which it was established**

The Committee noted that the Council was established with a mandate of elimination of livestock and human Trypanosomiasis in Uganda. The Council has registered the following achievements during the last five years:

- The Gambiense sleeping sickness cases were reduced from 86 to zero cases.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Uganda free of gambiense sleeping sickness.
- The Rhodesiense sleeping sickness cases reduced from 21 to zero cases. However, this financial year one case was diagnosed in Nwoya district and managed successfully.
- The tsetse fly density reduced from an average Flies Trapped per Day (FTD) of 17 to less than 2 FTD in the areas of Busoga, Buganda, Teso, Bukedi and Bunyoro. The prevalence of trypanosomiasis reduced from 37% to less than 5% in the above areas.

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However, the challenge of sleeping sickness is still prevalent in and around conservation areas and major water bodies. The institution now is focusing on control and elimination of animal diseases after eliminating the human disease.

*The Committee observed that the Council has accomplished the purpose for which it was established to a large extent. Uganda was declared free of Gambiense and Rhodesiense sleeping sickness, although the challenge still persists in and around conservation areas, water bodies and zoonotic diseases are on the increase.*

***The Committee recommends that the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council be merged and mainstreamed into the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.***

**5.3 Whether Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council administration costs are so high that they drain the Treasury at the expense of service delivery**

The Committee notes that the Council is a subvention under MAAIF whose work plan and budgets are prepared and submitted to the Department of Planning for consideration and inclusion into the Ministry's vote.

The Committee further established that for the FY2022/2023, COCTU had 18 staff and a wage bill of UGX 850 million since they work through existing local government structures which have front line scientists.

*AK* The Committee observes that the Council did not have its own budget and therefore, the administrative costs of COCTU are part of the Ministry's budget.

***The Committee reiterates its earlier recommendation that the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council be merged and mainstreamed into the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.***

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#### 5.4 Provision for a commencement date

The Committee notes that the existing law had created a secretariat which had obligations and contracts executed. This implies that on the day His Excellency the President assents to the Bill, the agency will cease to exist. Currently, some of the properties of the agency have not yet been accounted for.

*The Committee observed that there is need for a transition period after the law has been assented to, to provide for winding up processes, taking stock and officially handing over the obligations the Secretariat was undertaking to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.*

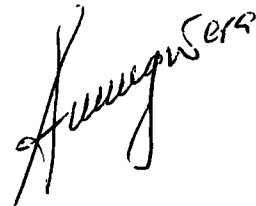


**The Committee recommends that the commencement date be provided.**

#### 6.0 CONCLUSION

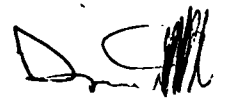
The Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council has been able to eliminate human sleeping sickness from the country which is now a reference point for other African countries. However, in order not to lose the achievements highlighted above and continue implementing strategies for control of animal diseases, the staff of the council should be mainstreamed into MAAIF.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members,

I beg to move.



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**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

**INSERTION OF A NEW CLAUSE**

The **Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council Act (Repeal) Bill, 2024** is amended by inserting a new clause before clause 1, the following—

**“Commencement date**

This Act shall come into force on a date the Minister responsible for agriculture, by statutory instrument, appoints”.

**Justification**

There are many actions required to be performed by both the repealed **Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council** and the Ministry after the Act has been assented to.

**CLAUSE 1: INTERPRETATION**

Clause 1 is amended by deleting the definition of the word “commission”

**Justification**

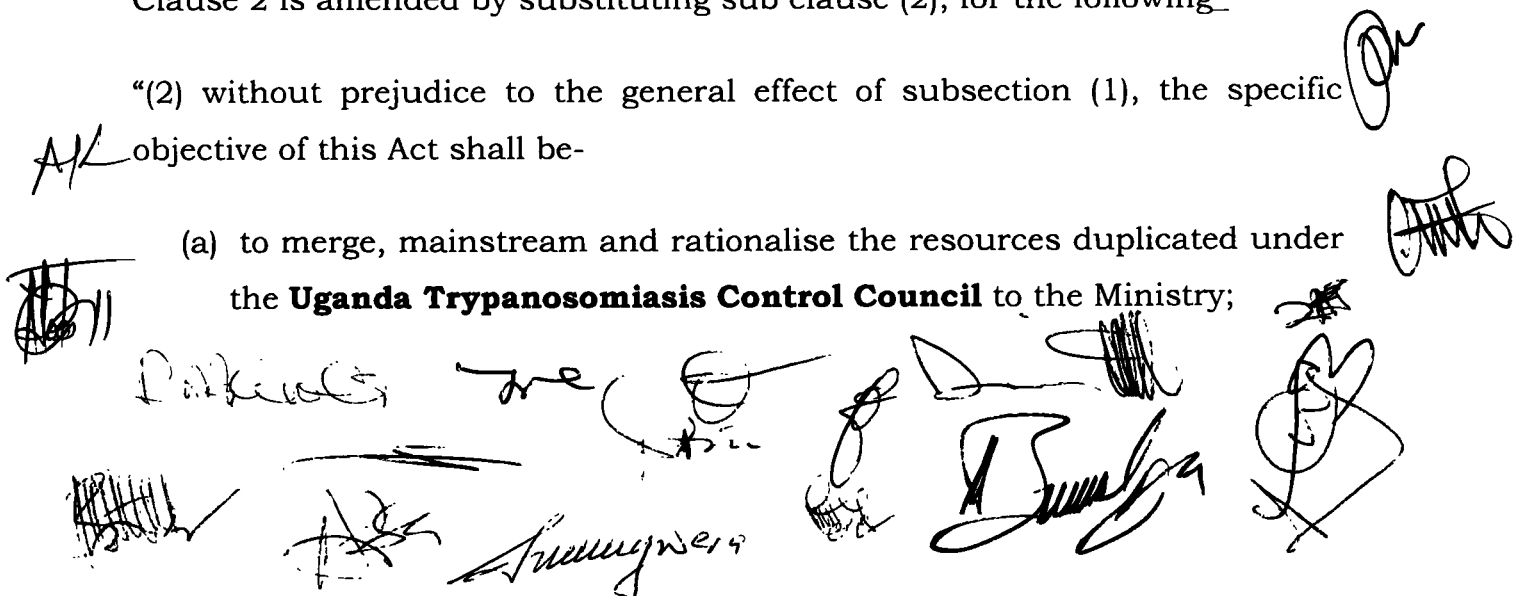
The term is not used in the Bill and makes it redundant.

**CLAUSE 2: OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT**

Clause 2 is amended by substituting sub clause (2), for the following\_

AK (2) without prejudice to the general effect of subsection (1), the specific objective of this Act shall be-

- (a) to merge, mainstream and rationalise the resources duplicated under the **Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council** to the Ministry;



- (b) To eliminate bloated structure and functional ambiguities in the Ministry; and
- (c) Provide for effective and efficient service delivery by clearly delineating multiple organs to focus on one centre under the Ministry.

**Justification**

This is the specific rationalisation of **Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council** and therefore the objective is not generic in nature as stated in the bill rather specific to only the affected Authority.

**CLAUSE 5: DISSOLUTION OF UGANDA TRYPANOSOMIASIS CONTROL COUNCIL**

Clause 5 is substituted for the following—

**“Dissolution of Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council**

On the commencement of this Act, the **Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council** is dissolved.

**Justification**

The Authority shall be dissolved on the day the minister appoints by statutory instrument to allow the transition and efficient transfer of functions to the ministry

**CLAUSE 8: SAVINGS PROVISIONS**

Clause 8 is amended —

- (a) by deleting sub clause (2), and
- (b) in sub clause (3), by substituting for the following—

“The staff of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council shall be redeployed to serve in the public service in accordance to Public Service Standing Orders.

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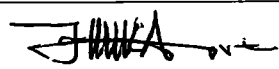

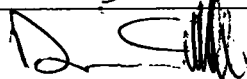
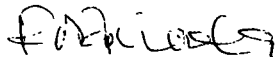
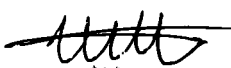

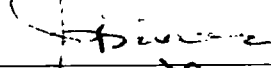
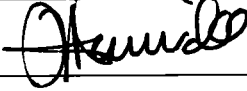
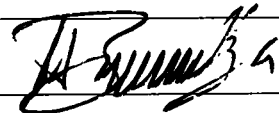
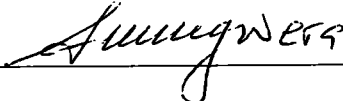
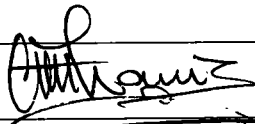
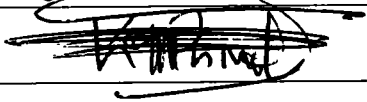
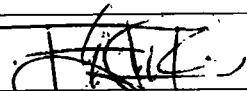
**Justification**

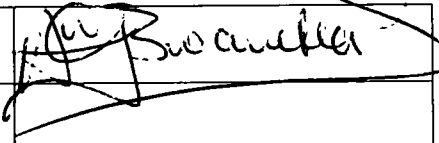
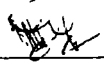



A change in Government policy should not disfranchise its own citizens and should secure the plight of its citizens who have offered a service. The staff of the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Control Council should be deployed in the Ministry in accordance to the Public Service Standing Orders.

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**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY & FISHERIES**  
**ENDORSEMENT OF THE REPORT ON THE UGANDA TRYPANOSOMIASIS**  
**(REPEAL) BILL, 2024**

NO	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Okori-Moe Janet Grace	
2	Hon. Auma Linda Agnes	
3	Hon. Driwaru Jennifer	
4	Hon. Magoola Racheal	
5	Hon. Christine Akello	
6	Hon. Mbayo Esther	
7	Hon. Biraaro Ganshanga Ephraim	
8	Hon. Migadde Robert Ndugwa	
9	Hon. Anywar Ricky Richard	
10	Hon. Muhumuza David	
11	Hon. Okullo Abuka Anthony	
12	Hon. Kasaija Stephen Kagwera	
13	Hon. Acen Dorcus	
14	Hon. Alyek Judith	
15	Hon. Esenu Anthony Alden	
16	Hon. Lokii John Baptist	
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29	Hon. Komol Joseph Midi	
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21	Hon. Oulanyah Andrew Ojok	

22	Hon. Dr. Abed Bwanika	
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30	Hon. Akora Maxwell	
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32	Hon. Namutaawe Joan	
33	Hon. Mukasa Julius Opondo	
34	Hon. Maj. Gen. Sam Kavuma	