

BILLS SUPPLEMENT

to The Uganda Gazette No. 14, Volume CXVII, dated 15th February, 2024

Printed by UPPC, Entebbe, by Order of the Government.

Bill No. 12 *Rationalisation of Government Agencies
(Tourism Sector) (Amendment) Bill* **2024**

**THE RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
(TOURISM SECTOR) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

MEMORANDUM**1. Policy and principles 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 22nd February 2021.

2. Defects in existing law

The Constitution establishes a definite number of Government agencies, including constitutional commissions, authorities, boards, local councils and other statutory bodies. These were established to perform certain specified constitutional functions. Over the years, however, 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, Government has established that 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 purpose for which they were established. The mandate of a few other agencies has been overtaken by events. Such agencies need to be rationalised.

More importantly, the proliferation of agencies has created mandate overlaps and jurisdictional ambiguities among the agencies. 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. Government has also established that the generous salary structures of the agencies has created salary disparities between employees of the agencies and public officers in the traditional civil service leading to demotivation of human resources in the mainstream public service.

3. Remedies proposed in the Bill.

The intention of the Bill, therefore, is to amend several Acts of Parliament in the tourism sector to—

- (a) enable the 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) facilitate efficient and effective service delivery by clearly delineating the mandates and functions of government agencies and departments, 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 proper role more effectively; and
 - (iii) enforcing accountability;

- (d) to restructure and re-organise agencies and departments of Government by eliminating bloated structures and functional ambiguities in Government agencies and departments.

4. Provisions of the Bill

The Bill has three parts and 11 clauses.

Part I—Preliminary

Part I deals with preliminary matters including interpretation and the purpose of the Bill.

Part II —Amendment of Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 (Act 17 of 2019)

The purpose of amendment of the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 is to confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority established by Act 17 of 2019 additional functions because of the merger of Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center established by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 (Act 27 of 2015). The amendment specifically seeks to confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority Act the functions performed by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center under the Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 (Act 27 of 2015).

Part III—Repeal of Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 (Act 27 of 2015).

The purpose of repealing the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 is to give effect to the merger of the Uganda Wildlife Authority established by Act 17 of 2019 and the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center established by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 (Act 27 of 2015).

Following the transfer of the functions performed by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center to the Uganda Wildlife

Bill No. 12 *Rationalisation of Government Agencies
(Tourism Sector) (Amendment) Bill*

2024

Authority because of the merger of the two agencies, there is need to repeal the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015. For the avoidance of doubt, the amendment of Act 27 of 2015 seeks to confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority the functions performed by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center under the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015.

MARTIN MUGARRA BAHINDUKA
Minister of State for Tourism
*Also holding the portfolio of the Minister of Tourism,
Wildlife and Antiquities*

**THE RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (TOURISM
SECTOR) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

PART I—PRELIMINARY

Clause

1. Interpretation
2. Objectives of this Act

**PART II—AMENDMENT OF UGANDA WILDLIFE ACT, 2019
(ACT 17 OF 2019)**

3. Purpose of amendment of Act 17 of 2019
4. Amendment of section 2 of Act 17 of 2019
5. Amendment of section 6 of Act 17 of 2019
6. Amendment of section 86 of Act 17 of 2019
7. Consequential amendment of Act 17 of 2019

**PART III—REPEAL OF UGANDA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION
CENTER ACT, 2015 (ACT 27 OF 2015).**

8. Purpose of repeal of Act 27 of 2015
9. Repeal of Act 27 of 2015
10. Dissolution of Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre
11. Savings provisions for Act 27 of 2015

A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

**THE RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
(TOURISM SECTOR) (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024**

An Act to repeal, and to make amendments to, certain Acts of Parliament establishing statutory bodies in the tourism sector in order to give effect to the Government program on rationalisation of Government agencies and public expenditure, and for related purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“agency” means a body established by an Act of Parliament and includes an authority;

“commission” means a body established by the Constitution;

“Government” means the Government of Uganda.

2. Objectives of this Act

(1) The main objective of this Act is to give effect to the Government Policy for Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure adopted by the Cabinet on 22nd February, 2021 and contained in Cabinet Minute No. 43(CT 2021).

(2) Without prejudice to the general effect of subsection (1), the following objectives shall be deemed to fall under the objective specified in that subsection—

- (a) the 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) the facilitation of 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) the promotion of 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 proper role more effectively; and
 - (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.

PART II—AMENDMENT OF UGANDA WILDLIFE ACT, 2019
(ACT 17 OF 2019)

3. Purpose of amendment of Act 17 of 2019

(1) The purpose of amending the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 is to confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority established by Act 17 of 2019 additional functions because of the merger of Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center established by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015.

(2) The amendment specifically seeks to confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority Act the functions performed by the dissolved Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center.

4. Amendment of section 2 of Act 17 of 2019

Section 2 of Act 17 of 2019 is amended in subsection (1) by inserting immediately after paragraph (h) the following—

- “(i) to establish centres for wildlife conservation and education;
- (j) to facilitate the promotion and conservation of Uganda’s unique wildlife resources through conservation education;
- (k) to provide for showcasing Uganda’s unique wildlife heritage and ecosystems through centres for wildlife conservation and education;
- (l) to provide for the establishment and management of a wildlife bio-data bank at centres for wildlife conservation and education;
- (m) to provide for the establishment and maintenance of hospitality and recreation facilities and services support in centres for wildlife conservation and education.”

5. Amendment of section 6 of Act 17 of 2019

Section 6 of Act 17 of 2019 is amended in subsection (1) by inserting immediately after paragraph (s) the following—

- “(sa) to conduct and manage conservation education in Uganda;
- (sb) to establish and maintain conservation education facilities and programmes, on site and through extension services;
- (sc) to showcase Uganda’s unique wildlife heritage and ecosystems;
- (sd) to establish and manage a wildlife bio-data bank at the centre;
- (se) to conduct the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife species;
- (sf) to conduct the wildlife breeding, with a focus on rare, endangered and endemic species, as well as for commercial purposes;
- (sg) to carry out stocking and restocking of indigenous and exotic wildlife;
- (sh) to promote wildlife breeding for conservation and commercial purposes;
- (si) to conduct research relevant to the activities of the Authority;
- (sj) to establish and maintain conservation education facilities and programmes on site and through extension services;
- (sk) to promote the rescue, rehabilitation and release of wildlife;

- (sl) to promote wildlife breeding, with a focus on rare, endangered and endemic species, as well as for commercial purposes; and
- (sm) to collaborate with other institutions in the execution of the mandate of the Authority;”.

6. Amendment of section 86 of Act 17 of 2019

Section 86(2) of Act 17 of 2019 is amended—

- (a) in paragraph (l) by repealing “and”;
- (b) by inserting immediately after paragraph (l) the following—
 - “(la) the management of centres for wildlife conservation and education;
 - (lb) the management of the wild-life bio-data bank of the Centre;
 - (lc) the establishment and maintenance of conservation education facilities and programmes on site and through extension services;
 - (ld) the rescue rehabilitation and release of wildlife species;
 - (le) the breeding of wildlife; and”.

7. Consequential amendment of Act 17 of 2019

On the commencement of this Act, the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center shall continue to exist as a centre for wildlife conservation and education established by this Act.

PART III—REPEAL OF UGANDA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EDUCATION
CENTER ACT, 2015 (ACT 27 OF 2015).

8. Purpose of repeal of Act 27 of 2015

(1) The purpose of repealing the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 (Act 27 of 2015) is to give effect to the merger of the Uganda Wildlife Authority established by Act 17 of 2019 and the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center established by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015.

(2) Following the transfer of the functions performed by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center to the Uganda Wildlife Authority because of the merger of the two agencies, there is need to repeal the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, the amendment of Act 27 of 2015 seeks to confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority the functions performed by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center under the Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015.

9. Repeal of Act 27 of 2015

The Wildlife Conservation Education Center Act, 2015 (Act 27 of 2015) is repealed.

10. Dissolution of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre

On the commencement of this Act, the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre established by Act 27 of 2015 shall be dissolved.

11. Savings provisions for Act 27 of 2015

(1) On the commencement of this Act, all the property, assets, rights, obligations, and liabilities of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre shall vest in the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

(2) Any proceedings commenced by or against the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre immediately before the coming into force of this Act may be continued by or against the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

(3) A licence, permit, certificate or authorisation issued by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre which is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall have effect from the commencement of this Act as if granted by the Uganda Wildlife Authority under this Act.

(4) The terms and conditions including the rights and obligations under a licence, permit, certificate or authorisation in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall not be less favourable than those that applied immediately before the commencement of this Act.

(5) The members of the Board and staff of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre serving immediately before the commencement of this Act shall be paid their terminal benefits in accordance with the terms and conditions of their service.

(6) Compensation is not payable to any member of the Board of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre for loss of office resulting from the dissolution of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre by this Act.

(7) The staff of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre serving immediately before the commencement of this Act may be redeployed to serve in the Uganda Wildlife Authority subject to availability of positions.