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IN CASE OF ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
HIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE REF :

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
P. O. BOX 7037
KAMPALA
UGANDA

10th August, 2026

All LC5 Chairpersons,
City Mayors,
Division Mayors
Council Speakers

DIRECTIVES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMUNITY PRODUCTIVITY AND REGULATION OF ALCOHOL AND BETTING OPERATIONS

All LC5 Chairpersons, City Mayors, Division Mayors and Council Speakers are hereby directed to implement the following measures with immediate effect:

1. ALLOW PRESS ACCESS TO ALL COUNCIL SITTINGS

All councils should allow members of the press access to council sittings, just as Parliament allows media access to its proceedings. This is intended to promote transparency, accountability and public awareness, enabling citizens to follow debates, decisions and the conduct of public business in their respective local governments.

2. DISPLAY APPROVED BUDGETS ON THE MAIN COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD

All local governments shall display their approved budgets on the main council notice board and other accessible public notice boards. This will enable members of the public to know what has been budgeted for their respective areas and follow up on the implementation of projects and services, thereby promoting people-led audits, transparency and accountability.

3. PROTECT PERSONS UNDER 18 YEARS FROM ALCOHOL

Bar owners, shop owners and operators of Malwa joints or other alcohol-selling establishments who sell or supply alcohol to persons under 18 years of age should be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with the law. Local

authorities and security agencies should strictly enforce this requirement, and establishments found repeatedly violating the law should face appropriate sanctions.

4. STOP EARLY-MORNING ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Local leaders should take the lead in discouraging early-morning alcohol consumption and work with security agencies and enforcement teams to ensure that bars and alcohol outlets do not operate in a manner that encourages people to spend their mornings drinking instead of working.

This is intended to address idleness, family problems and rising crime associated with excessive alcohol consumption in some communities, while promoting a productive and responsible population.

5. BARS AND MALWA JOINTS SHOULD OPEN AFTER 3:00 P.M. ON WORKING DAYS

Bars, Malwa joints and other alcohol-selling establishments should not open before 3:00 p.m. on working days, subject to applicable national laws, licensing requirements and lawful local government regulations.

6. ENFORCE LAWFUL OPERATING-HOUR DIRECTIVES

Bars and alcohol outlets that repeatedly defy lawful operating-hour directives should be closed, and appropriate enforcement action should be taken against persistent offenders in accordance with the law.

7. REGULATE BETTING OPERATING HOURS

Local governments should regulate the operating hours of betting companies within their respective jurisdictions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, with the aim of protecting communities, particularly young people, from harmful practices associated with excessive betting.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Joint security teams, council enforcement officers and other relevant authorities shall support local governments in the implementation and enforcement of these directives.

All responsible local government leaders are expected to take personal leadership in ensuring compliance and reporting challenges in implementation through the appropriate channels.

These measures take immediate effect.

Let us put the interests of our people first, promote transparency and accountability in local government, protect our children, encourage productivity and restore discipline in our communities.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.

Barugahara Balaam Ateenyi
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cc: Her Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda
The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
The Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament
The Rt. Hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament
The Rt. Hon. Secretary General, National Resistance Movement (NRM)
All Cabinet Ministers
All Members of Parliament