

BILLS SUPPLEMENT

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Uganda Registration Services Bureau
Bill No. 44 *(Amendment) Bill* **2024**

**THE UGANDA REGISTRATION SERVICES BUREAU
(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 is to amend the Uganda Registration Services Bureau Act, Cap. 210, to—

- (a) to enable transfer to the National Identification and Registration Authority the power to administer and give effect to the laws on civil registration including the Children Act, Cap. 59, the Customary Marriage (Registration) Act, Cap. 248 and the Marriage Act, Cap. 251, thereby, *inter alia*, placing all civil registration under one agency and 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 Uganda Registration Services Bureau and other government agencies and departments dealing with civil registration, 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) restructure and re-organise the Uganda Registration Services Bureau agencies and other departments of Government by eliminating bloated structures and functional ambiguities in relation to the civil registration function.

4. Provisions of the Bill

The Bill has four clauses. Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the objectives of the Bill. Clause 3 provides for the purpose of amending the Uganda Registration Services Bureau Act, Cap. 210, which is to transfer to the National Identification and Registration Authority the power to administer and give effect to the laws on civil registration including the Children Act, Cap. 59, the Customary Marriage (Registration) Act, Cap. 248 and the Marriage Act, Cap. 251. Clause 4 amends the First Schedule to Cap. 210 which provides for the relevant laws that are implemented by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau by repealing items 6, 8 and 9.

NORBERT MAO
Minister of Justice And Constitutional Affairs

**THE UGANDA REGISTRATION SERVICES BUREAU
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024**

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

1. Interpretation
2. Objective
3. Purpose of amendment of Cap. 210
4. Amendment of First Schedule to Cap. 210

A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

**THE UGANDA REGISTRATION SERVICES BUREAU
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024**

An Act to amend the Uganda Registration Services Bureau Act, Cap. 210 to enable the transfer to the National Identification and Registration Authority the power to administer the Children Act, Cap. 59, the Customary Marriage (Registration) Act, Cap. 248 and the Marriage Act, Cap. 251 in order to give effect to the Government Policy on Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure, and for related purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

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. Objective

(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.

3. Purpose of amendment of Cap. 210

The purpose of amending the Uganda Registration Services Bureau Act, Cap. 210 is to enable the transfer to the National Identification and Registration Authority the power to administer and give effect to the following laws on civil registration—

- (a) the Children Act, Cap. 59;
- (b) the Customary Marriage (Registration) Act, Cap. 248; and
- (c) the Marriage Act, Cap. 251.

4. Amendment of First Schedule to Cap. 210

The First Schedule to Cap. 210 is amended by repealing—

- (a) item 6 (section 54 of the Children Act);
- (b) item 8 (Customary Marriage (Registration) Act, Cap. 248);
and
- (c) item 9 (Marriage Act, Cap. 251).