# EXPERTS PROPOSE STRATEGIES TOWARDS REVIVING UGANDA'S ECONOMY POST COVID 19

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*Left-Right, Hon. James Kaberuka, Member of Parliament, Ms. Jane Nalunga, Executive Director at SEATINI Uganda and Dr. Asuman Guloba, Director of Planning at NPA during a talk show that took place on 24th July 2021 at Urban Television.*

Strategies to revive the economy have become more compelling and urgent than ever. During a discussion on Uganda's economic recovery post COVID 19, Ms. Jane Nalunga, the Executive Director at SEATINI Uganda, Dr. Asuman Guloba, the Director of Planning at the National Planning Authority (NPA) and Hon. James Kaberuka, Member of Parliament, Kinkizi West and Member of the Budget Committee interrogated Uganda's economic situation and further proposed possible strategies towards reviving the economy. Below is what they had to say:

"The ongoing COVID 19 crisis just worsened the situation but the economy was already ailing. In a bid to resuscitate the struggling economy, government first of all needs to make an assessment and find possible ways of strengthening the economy.
Government imposed a 12% tax on internet data which is not good because many Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are using social media platforms to sell their goods. In its attempt to broaden the tax base, government should consider the aspect of fairness and also weigh what kind of taxation to put in place to support struggling businesses and the private sector at large. In order to keep businesses afloat, government needs to either reduce or suspend some of the taxes. Broadly, there is need to rethink the role of the state in development."

~ Ms. Jane Nalunga, Executive Director, SEATINI Uganda

"Government needs to support critical areas of the economy in order to safe guard lives and livelihoods of the people. There is need to strengthen our health sector in order to combat any disease occurrence. There is need for government to support agro-industrialization because it has potential to rejuvenate the economy. I applaud government for coming up with the Parish
Development Model. I am happy that the Bank of Uganda has reduced its lending rate.
Commercial banks should be compelled to move in this direction such that the loans are affordable. Government also needs to devise mechanisms of supporting business people who are struggling to pay back loans and yet they are not in production because of the lockdown."

~ Hon. James Kaberuka, MP, Kinkizi West and Member of the Budget Committee

"Government needs to effectively play its role because when you look at the economy, the private sector is suffering. Currently, there is low investment and consumption.
Government must come in to bridge the gap in terms of investment and consumption. This has to be done more prudently and investment must be made in productive sectors of the economy. Currently, we do not have enough tax resources and yet the debt burden is high which requires government to cut its coat according to its cloth. In the same way, there is need to embrace opportunities brought by the ongoing COVDI 19 crisis."

~ Dr. Asuman Guloba, Director, Development Planning, NPA.

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