

**BILLS SUPPLEMENT**

*to The Uganda Gazette No. 37, Volume CXVIII, dated 14th May, 2025*

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

---

**Bill No. 16 *Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Bill* 2025****THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025****MEMORANDUM****1. Object**

The object of the Bill is to amend the Political Parties and Organisations Act, Cap. 178 to restrict Government funding and other public resources provided to political parties and political organisations that are represented in Parliament to only political parties and organisations that are members of the National Consultative Forum; to provide for the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue and the Forum for Non-Represented Political Parties and Political Organisations as organs of the National Consultative Forum; to provide for the functions of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue and for related matters.

**2. Defects in existing laws**

The Political Parties and Organisations Act contain provisions aimed at promoting tolerance, dialogue and peaceful co-existence among political parties and political organisations, their members and supporters. These include, notably, section 20 of the Act which establishes the National Consultative Forum for political parties and political organisations, as well as section 17 of the Act which permits the merger and formation of alliances among political parties or organisations.

## **Bill No. 16 *Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Bill 2025***

In order to strengthen the operations of the National Consultative Forum, there is need to provide for the organs of the National Consultative Forum based on the interests that the respective political parties and political organisations represent, that is political parties and political organisations that represent the electorates in Parliament and political parties and political organisations without representation in Parliament.

Currently, section 14 of the Act mandates the Government to provide funding and other public resources to political parties and political organisations represented in Parliament. However, this provision does not condition the funding on the political parties' and political organisations commitment to the principles of tolerance, dialogue and peaceful co-existence. To promote transparency, accountability and equitable access to public funding among political actors, adherence to these democratic principles should be a prerequisite for accessing Government funding.

### **3. Remedies**

The Bill proposes to streamline the operations of the National Consultative Forum by providing for the establishment of the two organs, the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue and the Forum for Non-Represented Political Parties and Political Organisations. It further imposes a condition precedent, stipulating that Government shall only provide funding or other public resources to a political party or political organisation that elects to become a member of the National Consultative Forum.

**NAKUT FAITH LORU,**  
*District Woman Representative, Napak.*

**A Bill for an Act**

**ENTITLED**

**THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS  
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2025**

**An Act to amend the Political Parties and Organisations Act, Cap. 178 to restrict Government funding and other public resources provided to political parties and political organisations that are represented in Parliament to only political parties and organisations that are members of the National Consultative Forum; to provide for the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue and the Forum for Non-Represented Political Parties and Political Organisations as organs of the National Consultative Forum; to provide for the functions of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue and for related matters.**

**BE IT ENACTED** by Parliament as follows:

**1. Amendment of Cap. 178**

The Political Parties and Organisations Act, Cap. 178, in this Act referred to as the principal Act is amended in section 14—

- (a) by numbering section 14 as subsection (1); and
- (b) by inserting immediately after subsection (1) the following—

**“(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Government shall only provide funds or other public resources to a political party or organisation referred to in subsection (1) if the political party or organisation is a member of the National Consultative Forum.”**

**2. Amendment of section 20 of principal Act**

**Section 20 of the principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (1), the following—**

**“(1a) The National Consultative Forum referred to in subsection (1) shall be comprised of two organs as follows—**

**(a) the organ for political parties and political organisations with representation in Parliament which shall be known as the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue; and**

**(b) the organ for political parties and political organisations without representation in Parliament which shall be known as the Forum for Non-Represented Political Parties and Political Organisations.**

**(1b) The governance structure of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue referred to in subsection (1a)(a) shall be the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue Summit and the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue Council.**

**(1c) The Minister shall by statutory instrument prescribe the composition and functions of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue Summit and the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue Council.**

**Bill No. 16 *Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Bill 2025***

(1d) The governance structure and functions of the Forum for Non-Represented Political Parties and Political Organisations referred to in subsection (1a)(b) shall be prescribed by the Minister by statutory instrument.

(1e) The Minister shall by statutory instrument prescribe the procedures to be followed by a political party or political organisation to join or withdraw from the National Consultative Forum.”

**3. Inserting of section 21A in principal Act**

The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 21, the following—

**“21A. Functions of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue**

The functions of the Inter-Party Organisation for Dialogue shall be to—

- (a) foster inter-party political dialogue as a means of strengthening democratic governance in Uganda;
- (b) promote open and constructive communication between and among political parties represented in Parliament;
- (c) advise Government on the development of policies and the promotion of a healthy democratic environment;
- (d) provide a neutral platform where representatives from different political parties and political organisations can engage in dialogue with the aim of building trust, understanding and common ground among diverse political ideologies;

**Bill No. 16 *Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Bill 2025***

- (e) develop and implement frameworks for sustained inter-party cooperation; and
- (f) perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Minister.”