

## NEWS



### Committee on National Economy Directed to Assess Uganda’s ‘Worrying’ Debt Burden.

Concerns on the increasing public debt burden in Uganda continue to dominate debates as Deputy Speaker, Thomas Tayebwa directed the Committee on National Economy to make an assessment on the country’s public debt and report back to Parliament. Tayebwa gave the Committee on National Economy one month to make an assessment on the public debt to allow the legislators debate the matter. [Learn More](#)

## EVENTS

### CSOs Voluntary National Review (VNR) Inauguration Meeting.

The inaugural meeting for the 2024 Civil Society Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) took place on January 31, 2024, in Nairobi. Organized by the SDG Kenya Forum in collaboration with members of the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC) on SDGs, the event aimed to build participants' knowledge and skills for effective participation in the [VNR process](#), improving the quality and impact of national reporting on sustainable development, and fostering enhanced partnerships for the SDGs.



## PUBLICATIONS



### Tanzania and The Burden of Tax Incentives.

Tax incentives may be a useful tool for stimulating productive investment, research and development, and training. However, they must be carefully designed, balanced and well administered. Tanzania offers various tax incentives, such as tax holidays, reduced tax rates, and exemptions, primarily through the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA). This paper evaluates the current policy framework and practices, highlighting gaps and paving way for proposed recommendations on the effective use of tax incentives and addresses the challenges associated with their application and goes on to outline issues concerning incentives for investors. [Get your copy](#)

## BLOG

### Tax Incentives in Kenya: For Whom and at What Cost?

As Kenya aims to rationalize and harmonize tax expenditures, the lingering question is whether its fiscal performance will lead to a standing ovation or calls for a script rewrite. Over the past five years, tax expenditures have averaged KSh383.9 billion, which is nearly equal to the KSh382.6 billion allotted to counties in the 2020–21 fiscal year and nearly half the KSh651 billion earmarked for debt payments in the same fiscal year... [Read more](#)



### The Trouble with International Financial Centres.

Offshore tax havens are well-known for attracting the wealthy, including politicians and business magnates, to safeguard and manage their assets. Based on media coverage, it is easy to picture tax havens as some notorious zero-tax Caribbean paradise like the Cayman Islands or the Bahamas. These are only part of a larger global system of financial secrecy. In reality, tax havens can be found a lot closer to home... [Read More](#)



## TAX GLOSSARY



### Debt Distress

Public debt distress refers to a situation in which a government is unable to meet its debt obligations, leading to a high risk of default. This can occur when a government has accumulated a large amount of debt relative to its income and is unable to generate enough revenue to make timely debt payments. Public debt distress can have severe economic and social consequences, including reduced access to credit, higher borrowing costs, and decreased government spending on essential services. [Understand debt distress in Africa](#)

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