



7<sup>th</sup>. Dec.2021

**PRESS STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT HIGH FUEL PRICES, INTERNET TAX AND TAXES ON UTILITIES IN UGANDA**

ECONOMIC FREEDOM IS WHAT EVERY CITIZEN ASPIRES TO ACHIEVE. ALONG THE JOURNEY TO ECONOMIC FREEDOM, SEVERAL SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC ROADBLOCKS ARE EXPERIENCED. MOST OF THEM ARISE FROM THE EXISTING ECONOMIC POLICIES ESPECIALLY TAXES AND OTHER LEGAL FORMALITIES. AS GATEWAY RESEARCH CENTRE, WE HAVE COME UP WITH AN INNOVATION DUBBED “SEVENTABLES’. IT COMES FROM ‘SEVEN ON TABLE”. IT IS A ROUND TABLE POLICY FORUM CONSISTING OF SEVEN PANEL DISCUSSANTS AIMED AT SUGGESTING PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARDS POLICY REFORMS TO ADDRESS THE PRIORITY NEEDS OF CITIZENS IN UGANDA.

CURRENTLY UGANDA IS EXPERIENCING AN OVERWHELMING INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES. A LITRE OF PETROL NOW GOES BETWEEN SHS 4430-4600 UP FROM UGX 3800, DIESEL IS BETWEEN 3950-4240 SHILLINGS UP FROM 3450. THE INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES HAS ESCALATED THE COST OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR INSTANCE TRANSPORT FARES FROM DIFFERENT ROUTES HAVE INCREASED AND WE ANTICIPATE FURTHER INCREASE DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON. THESE COUPLED WITH HIGH INTERNET DATA TAXES, TAXES ON ELECTRICITY, WATER, AND OTHER UTILITIES, HAVE WORSENERD THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN UGANDA. IT IS UPON THIS BACKGROUND THAT GATEWAY RESEARCH CENTRE HAS ORGANIZED THE FIRST SEVENTABLE POLICY ADVOCACY FORUM WITH DIFFERENT KEY STAKEHOLDERS INVITED TO RAISE THEIR PRIORITY CONCERNS AND HOW THEY CAN BE ADDRESSED. WE ARE ENGAGING BUSINESSPEOPLE FROM PETROL STATIONS, TAXI DRIVERS, AND A GENERAL MERCHANDIZE TRADER TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON THE DRASTIC INCREASE IN FUEL PRICES AND DRAW PRACTICAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.

FROM MANAGEMENT