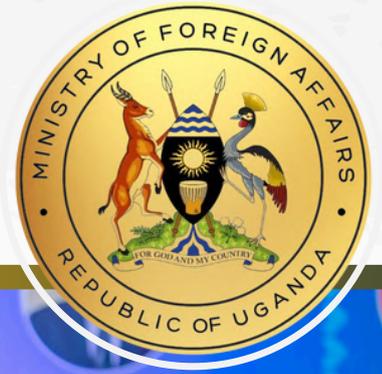


Diplomatic Notes

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THIRD SOUTH SUMMIT
KAMPALA, UGANDA 2024

"LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

Uganda's Chairmanship:
Non-Aligned Movement (2024 - 2027)
The Group of 77 and China (2024 - 2025)



HEY,
DEAREST READER,



Welcome to the July edition of the MOFA E-Newsletter.

With each successive issue we are excited to peel back yet another layer of the diverse world of Diplomacy and invite you to peek into our world.

With this edition, we put a fun spotlight on Culinary Diplomacy, discovering Uganda's spirit by exploring the Ugandan palate and suggesting which Restaurants in Kampala serve the best Ugandan food.

Under Economic and Commercial Diplomacy, we look at the MoFA's efforts to continue opening trade routes by Air, by Land and by sea, including a focus on Uganda's road to first Oil and UNOC's decision to directly import petroleum into the country.

We have special feature stories on Uganda's NAM Chairmanship in the Brussels Chapter and the implications of the Signing of the Samoa Agreement and commemoration of World Swahili Day at the United Nations, from our esteemed Ambassadors and guest writers.

This issue marks the beginning of a series on Uganda's Creative Economy harnessing Uganda's youth demographic dividend and having the audacity to dream.

Our team shares with you the unbelievable creative businesses at the MOTIV Innovative Village featuring a different story in every successive issue. We also pay homage to the spunk of Uganda's Young Engineers who are our STEM Ambassadors abroad, flying Uganda's flag high.

And what would our newsletter be without the thrill of Sports Diplomacy? Our emotions run high as we join the European Cranes in Copenhagen and welcome Team Uganda to the Paris Olympics.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our *Diplomatic Notes* team, MoFA staff, and contributors whose dedication and tireless efforts have created yet another publication.

Accept, dear readers, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Editor-in-Chief
Head, Public Diplomacy Department

DIPLOMATIC
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL
FEATURE
STORIES



UGANDA
MISSIONS
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE
MEETINGS





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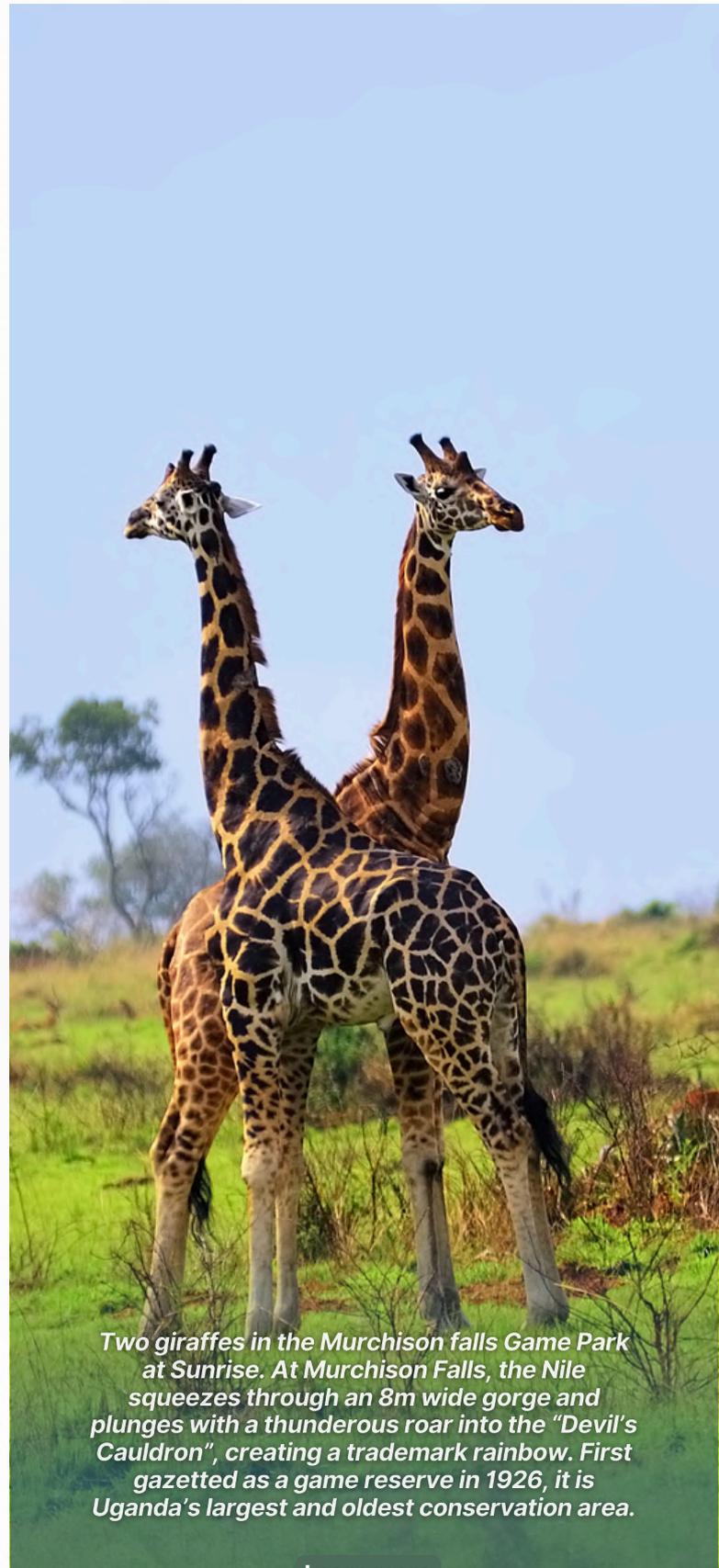
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— “ —

This document is a publication of the Department of Public Diplomacy. Any comments or recommendations can therefore be channeled to the Department for feedback or action.

— ” —



Two giraffes in the Murchison falls Game Park at Sunrise. At Murchison Falls, the Nile squeezes through an 8m wide gorge and plunges with a thunderous roar into the “Devil’s Cauldron”, creating a trademark rainbow. First gazetted as a game reserve in 1926, it is Uganda’s largest and oldest conservation area.

[Learn more](#)





Uganda Chosen to Host the African Humanitarian Agency.

Compiled by Christiana Ampeire



Accra - The African Union (AU) has selected Uganda as the host for the African Humanitarian Agency in a decision made during the 45th Session of its Executive Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Accra, Ghana, from July 18-19, 2024. This agency is responsible for coordinating and providing humanitarian responses across the continent.

The selection process began in May 2023, when countries were invited to submit proposals to host the agency. Uganda, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, and Nigeria expressed interest and were evaluated by an Independent Evaluation Team from the AU Commission. The team assessed the suitability of each country in May 2024, with Uganda's assessment taking place from May 23-27.

EVALUATION RESULTS

- Kenya - 76.13%
- Nigeria - 74.50%
- **Uganda** - **85.66%**
- Equatorial Guinea - 76.70%

Uganda's high score led to its selection as the host. Ambassador Rebecca Otengo, Uganda's Permanent Representative to the African Union, expressed her excitement, noting that this is the first African Union Agency hosted by the Republic of Uganda since joining the African Union on 25th May 1963.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, highlighted Uganda's extensive experience in handling humanitarian issues and its status as the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa as key factors in its successful bid.

The operationalization of the agency in Uganda has already begun, with the budget for recruiting top management staff approved for the 2025/2026 financial year.



In related news, during the same session, Uganda secured the election of Justice Duncan Gaswaga to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for a six-year term, supported by 46 member states. The Ugandan delegation to this session included Amb. Rebecca Otengo, Justice Duncan Gaswaga, Mr. Michael Wamai, and Ms. Daphine Teddy Nyanduri.



Pictured top to bottom (Courtesy Photos);

- AU Ministers of Foreign Affairs pose for a photo at the Mid-Year Coordination Meeting.
- Amb. Otengo (behind Uganda flag) at the 45th Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council.
- His Lordship Justice Duncan Gaswaga who has been appointed as a Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, headquartered in Arusha, Tanzania.





EAC Ministers Unite for Peace and Integration During Strategic Retreat on Regional Security and Cooperation.

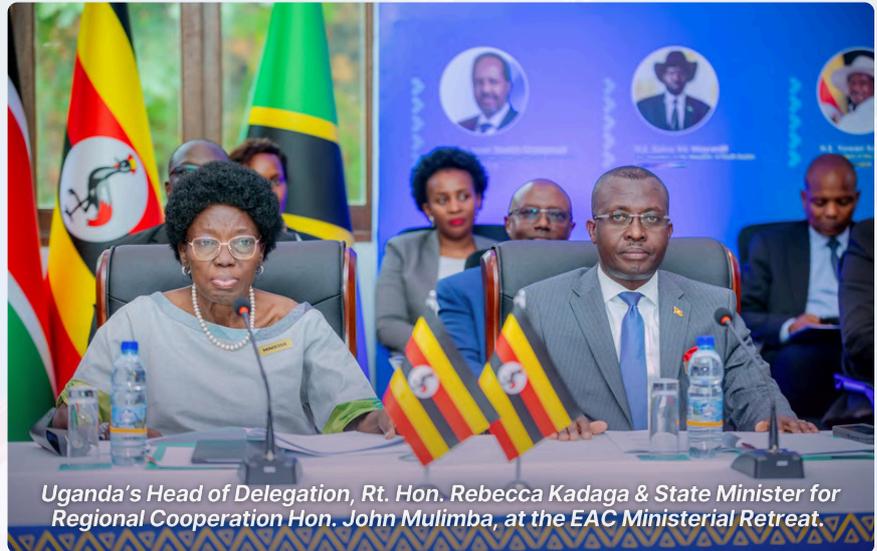
The EAC Ministers Retreat reiterated calls to facilitate the implementation of the four pillars of integration: Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union, and Political Federation.

Zanzibar - The East African Community (EAC) Ministerial Retreat on Peace and Security, Partner States Relations, and Integration Process commenced on July 6, 2024, in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.

Organized by the EAC Secretariat in partnership with Tanzania, the retreat gathers Ministers of Foreign and EAC Affairs from Partner States to address critical issues affecting the region.

Ministers of Foreign Affairs and EAC, including Uganda's first deputy Prime Minister & Minister for East African Community Affairs, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, accompanied by Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, Hon. John Mulimba, engaged in insightful dialogues, perspective exchanges, and collaborative strategy development.

Their discussions centered on promoting enduring peace, enhancing security cooperation, strengthening ties among Partner States, and advancing the integration agenda.



Uganda's Head of Delegation, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga & State Minister for Regional Cooperation Hon. John Mulimba, at the EAC Ministerial Retreat.

Hon. January Makamba, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania and host of the retreat, emphasized the paramount significance of solidarity among the Partner States as the catalyst for economic and social progress in the region. He stressed that achieving integration depends on establishing peace, stability, and security throughout the region.

EAC Secretary General H.E. Veronica Nduva highlighted the retreat's role as a platform for open dialogues, strategic planning, and developing actionable measures to enhance peace, security, and integration within the EAC.

She urged Member States to collaborate, fortify regional security mechanisms, advance conflict resolution efforts, and foster a culture of peace within the Community.

The three-day retreat, held from July 6-8, 2024, followed a directive from the EAC Ministers' meeting on February 16, 2024, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, calling for in-depth conversations on issues impeding the integration process.

Ministers underscored the need for a unified approach to overcome challenges and promote stability, advancing the collective interests of the region. The outcomes of this retreat will guide future initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development, shared prosperity, and stability across the EAC.

“ We have the responsibility to make sure that the Community works for the people and by the people as directed by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the East African Community.—Hon. January Makamba.

**By Herbert Ssekatawa
Photo by EAC Secretariat.**





Uganda & Norway Sign MOU to Bolster Political Relations Amidst Embassy Closure.

Compiled by Christiana Ampeire

Kampala - In a significant diplomatic development, Uganda and Norway have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Political Consultations, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining robust bilateral relations despite the impending closure of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kampala.

During a meeting on July 18, 2024, at the Ministry Headquarters, H.E. Anne Kristin Hermansen, Ambassador of Norway, assured Hon. Gen. Abubakher Jeje Odongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Norway's continued dedication to their partnership. Ambassador Hermansen emphasized Uganda's strategic importance and confirmed that Norwegian nationals would continue operations in the country, especially in the business and energy sectors.

Both parties expressed their appreciation for the strong ties cultivated over the years. Hon. Jeje Odongo praised Ambassador Hermansen for her role in enhancing bilateral relations and expressed gratitude for Norway's support and cooperation. He acknowledged Norway's historical support and their role as empathetic partners in development and peace.

With the closure of the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala, responsibilities will transition to the Norwegian Embassy in Tanzania, with regular visits planned to engage with Ugandan officials and stakeholders. Norway is also working to establish an Honorary Consulate in Kampala to provide diplomatic and consular services.

The MOU, signed on July 23, 2024, marks a crucial framework for continued collaboration. Hon. Jeje Odongo highlighted the importance of the MOU in ensuring seamless bilateral relations in the absence of a resident Norwegian Diplomatic Mission in Kampala. Both parties pledged to foster and expand their longstanding partnership, ensuring the closure of the physical embassy does not hinder their strong bilateral relations.



MFA Gen. Odongo and Amb. Hermansen, flanked by diplomatic staff, at the signing ceremony of the MOU on Political Cooperation between Uganda & Norway. Photo by MoFA Press.

Uganda & China Strengthen Ties as MFA Gen. Odong Meets China's Envoy, Amb. Lizhong.



Kampala - MFA Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, met with H.E. Zhang Lizhong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China on July 17th 2024, in discussions on the preparations for the upcoming Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) meeting, to be held in Beijing, 3-8 September 2024.

Amb. Lizhong emphasized China's commitment to welcoming African leaders and encouraged Uganda's active participation in shaping the outcomes, including the Beijing Declaration and Action Plan. These efforts align with Africa's Agenda 2063, which underscores the importance of collaboration for sustainable dev't.

The elevation of China-Uganda relations to the Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative level was celebrated, marking Uganda as one of the few select African countries enjoying such a distinguished status.

This recognition is a testament to the dynamic and fruitful partnership that has led to tangible benefits for both nations. A proposed MOU on Global Development Initiatives was discussed, demonstrating both countries' commitment to fostering international collaboration and addressing global challenges together.

By Guma Jeremiah
Photo by MoFA Press.





Let's MEAT! Enhancing Livestock and Meat Trade between Uganda and MENA Countries.



Entebbe – Representatives from Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) convened at the Best Western Hotel, Entebbe, to address challenges in the livestock and meat trade.

During the 3rd Private Sector Meeting of IGAD Exporting and MENA Importing countries, their discussions focused on mitigating exploitative practices and combating foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks affecting regional commerce.

Amos Tindyebwa of Fresh Cuts Limited highlighted the need for collaborative solutions, leading to the formation of the Uganda Meat Processors and Exporters Consortium. This initiative aims to streamline operations and uphold global standards.

Vyshakh Subhash advised IGAD states to guide exporters in forming associations to negotiate effectively with MENA markets. Dr. Anna Rose Ademun assured attendees of efforts to control FMD, stressing adherence to international trade standards. Dr. Ameha Sebsibe emphasized IGAD's potential to increase market share in MENA through strategic advantages.

The meeting, organized by IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), concluded with Amb. Dr. Julius J. Kivuna (pictured above), head of MoFA's Department of Regional Peace and Security, affirming commitments to enhance trade relations. The MoFA continues to support initiatives such as those aforementioned that promote economic growth and collaboration across borders.

Compiled by Angel Kabera
Photo by IGAD

Hon. Mulimba Addresses AU Peace & Security Council on the Crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Kampala – Hon. John Mulimba, Uganda's State Minister for Regional Cooperation attended a Virtual Ministerial Meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council, on July 15 2024, focusing on the escalating situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the significance of mediation and reconciliation in resolving conflicts within eastern DRC, building on previous discussions from the 1157th meeting held on 13th June 2023.

Hon. Mulimba hailed the Council's leadership and congratulated H.E. Thérèse Kayikwamba Wagner on her appointment as DRC's Foreign Minister. He also raised a concern about the rising tensions in eastern DRC, which are negatively impacting the population, citing the conflict's complicated history including misjudgments, external intervention, and insufficient implementation of pivotal agreements including the 2009 Agreement, Nairobi Declarations, and the 2013 Peace & Security Cooperation Framework for the DRC and Region.

He complimented the cooperative efforts of H.E. President Tshisekedi and Uganda in addressing the ADF problem. Stressing the limitations of military solutions, Minister Mulimba hinted on the need for political alternatives. He emphasized the 2022 Nairobi process, which was begun by the EAC Heads of State and Government and comprises a two-track approach, with a political track to resolve issues.



By Christiana Ampeire | Photo by MoFA Press.





NCIPs National Coordinators Convene to Drive Regional Development.



Kampala - MoFA's Department of Regional Economic Cooperation joined the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIPs) National Coordinators' Virtual Meeting organized by Rwanda on 10th July 2024.

Convened by Ms. Clementine Mukeka the National Coordinator and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Rwanda, the meeting demonstrated

the commitment of the NCIPs member states towards regional infrastructural development & cooperation.

Ms. Mukeka emphasized the importance of assessing the progress of various NCIPs clusters, implementation statuses, & joint frameworks; reaffirming her country's commitment to hosting the 15th Summit of NCIPs.

Amb. Richard Kabonero, the National Coordinator NCIPs for Uganda, thanked Rwanda for hosting the meeting amidst their busy election period.

He recalled the bilateral NCIPs Consultative meetings in Kigali and Nairobi, emphasizing the revived commitment to NCIPs and infrastructure projects.

----- **Compiled by Guma Jeremiah**
Photo by MoFA Press

Uganda Airlines Expands African Footprint with New International Routes.



Kampala - Uganda Airlines has announced the launch of new international routes to Abuja, Harare and Lusaka from September 2024. The Airline's Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Jenifer Bamaturaki, expressed enthusiasm as she noted that these additions will "increase Uganda's connectivity within Africa and provide better options and ease for our customers".

In particular, this move is part of the second phase of the company's network expansion program which will ultimately lead it into Europe and Asia. The Abuja route will be an extension of the existing flights Lagos with services on Sundays and Thursdays using A330-800 aircraft.

On September 25, 2024, CRJ-900 aircraft will launch flights to Lusaka and Harare that are scheduled four times per week. These new destinations have increased Uganda Airlines' coverage to 16 destinations in thirteen (13) countries.

Uganda Airlines CEO, Jennifer Bamaturaki (Second left) announces the new routes in a media engagement.
Photo by Uganda Airlines.

Speaking from Abuja, Uganda High Commissioner to Nigeria, Amb. Nelson Ochege said it was a major boost for the Embassy's Commercial Diplomacy efforts. "This should impact positively on our commercial diplomacy efforts," he said.

This triple launch is a landmark event creating an "air bridge" between West Africa and Southern Africa bringing convenience as well as seamless transfers hence enabling multiple opportunities in business, trade, tourism and socio-cultural linkages.

----- **Compiled by Diana Maria Asimire**





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PM Nabbanja Commits to Socio-Economic Transformation at UN Forum.



L-R: PM Nabbanja with the Ugandan delegation at the UN, New York during the meetings; UNGA President receives the PM & Ugandan officials.

New York - The Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, presented Uganda's Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the United Nations, underscoring the country's dedication to socio-economic transformation. Addressing the 11th meeting of the Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York, she emphasized Uganda's strategic integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) for 2025-2030.

During her speech, Hon. Nabbanja highlighted key achievements and ongoing efforts towards sustainable development, stressing the government's focus on inclusive growth and poverty eradication. She detailed how Uganda's NDP IV aims to accelerate progress in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and environmental conservation.

She additionally urged increased international cooperation & assistance to achieve these ambitious objectives. The address reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to harmonizing its national policies with global sustainability agendas, underscoring the country's proactive role in the global drive to accomplish the SDGs by 2030.

----- *Compiled by Jadrine Komukyeza | Photos by Uganda Mission UN*

MoFA & UNODC Hold Workshop On Transnational Organized Crime Review.

Entebbe - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs with support from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised a national workshop for Uganda from 16-18 July 2024 in Entebbe-Uganda. The workshop focused on mechanisms for reviewing the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Firearms Protocol. The meeting facilitated by a team from the UNODC Review Mechanism team was opened by Amb Eunice Kigenyi, the Head of the International Legal and Social Affairs Department at the MoFA and Ms. Sharon Nyambe the Head of the UNODC office in Uganda.

The workshop was attended by participants from the Ministries of; Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, Justice and Constitutional Affairs, as well as the Uganda Police Force, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Financial Intelligence Authority and Justice Law and Order Sector.

The team will be responsible for undertaking the review of Uganda's Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.



----- *Compiled by Anne Nyakato, Counsellor, Uganda Embassy Berlin | Courtesy Photo*





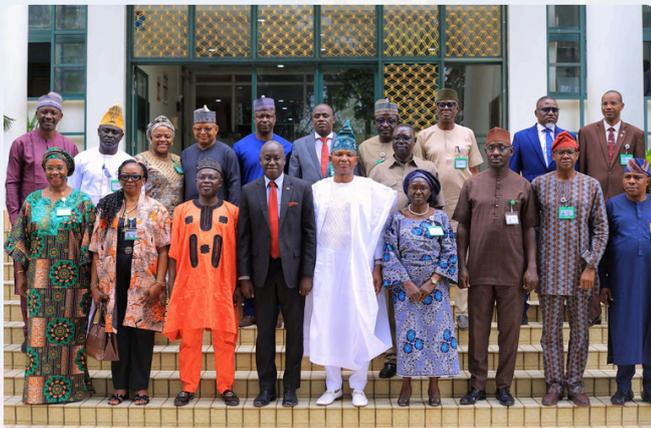
Uganda Hosts Nigerian Delegation for Discussions on Strategic Policy.

Kampala - The Ministry hosted a delegation of senior officials from Nigeria's National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) on July 8, 2024.

The delegation, led by Rear Admiral A.A. Adesope, engaged in thorough discussions on matters of mutual concern between Nigeria and Uganda.

Uganda's delegation, headed by the Director for Regional and International Political Affairs, Amb. Phillip Odida, welcomed the Nigerian team and emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing and regional cooperation in addressing common challenges.

Amb. Odida (*pictured front row, red tie*) highlighted that recognizing each other's prosperity as a collective gain is essential for overcoming prevailing difficulties.



Rear Admiral Adesope underscored NIPSS as a vital institution for analyzing and debating policy issues relevant to Nigeria, Africa, and the global stage.

He noted that the expanding youth populations and similar histories of the two nations inspired the focus on Uganda.

"Uganda's success in managing youth unemployment and sustaining job creation serves as a learning model in Africa," Adesope stated, expressing Nigeria's interest in replicating Uganda's achievements, particularly in leveraging ICT for job creation.

MoFA Lauds the Work of Youth Livelihood Development Company.



Kampala - In a commendable initiative of public private partnership, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 18 July recognized the Youth Livelihood Development Company (YLDC) as a leading non-governmental organization promoting youth empowerment in the country.

Amb. Santa Mary Laker Kinyera, the Head of International Economic Cooperation Department (IEC) at the MoFA, praised YLDC's efforts in Uganda's development agenda.

She highlighted how their work complements government initiatives and provides valuable grassroots insights, significantly contributing to the country's progress.

"Organizations like YLDC are pivotal in driving Uganda's development agenda forward. Their work complements government initiatives and brings grassroots insights that are invaluable for crafting effective policies," Amb Kinyera (*pictured front row in blue coat*) stated.

YLDC, a non-profit organization, offers programs in health, lifestyle, social justice, climate action, education, and economic empowerment.

Its innovative approach has gained recognition nationally and internationally, including its representation at the Nordic-Africa Foreign Ministers Meeting in Copenhagen in May 2024.

Compiled by Diana Maria Asimire | Photos by MoFA Press





President Museveni Appoints Strategic Communications Team.

By Margaret Kafeero | Photo by State House PPU

Kampala - H.E. the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Commissioned a strategic communication team to harmonize the communication strategies of Government agencies on July 11 2024.

The initiative, led by the Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID) aims to safeguard Uganda's reputation and economic interests in international markets by ensuring coherent and coordinated messaging. Team members represent their respective Ministries, contribute to discussions, provide input on comms strategies and ensure their Ministries' compliance.

The team includes Communications representatives from; - Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, PACEID, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Antiquities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, Government Citizen Interaction Center, Uganda Police Force, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperative, State House Presidential Press Unit & Principal Private Secretary, Uganda Media Centre, Private Sector representatives.



The newly-commissioned National Strategic Communications team poses for a photo with President Museveni at NALI, Kyankwanzi.

Uganda and Netherlands Strengthen Cooperation on Migration & Return.

By Githa Ogume | Photos by MoFA Press

Kampala - On July 8th, 2024, Acting Permanent Secretary Amb. Phillip Odida warmly welcomed a delegation from the Netherlands, led by Mr. R. Van Bokhoven, Director of International Affairs at the Repatriation and Departure Services.

The delegation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Migration and Return between the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control, and the Netherlands' Ministry of Justice and Security.

This agreement marks a significant step in enhancing bilateral cooperation on migration management and the safe, orderly return of individuals between the two nations. It underscores a mutual commitment to addressing migration challenges through collaborative efforts and shared responsibilities.





Uganda Signs The Samoa Partnership Agreement, Heralding A New Era Of Continued Partnership with the European Union (EU).

Compiled by Titus Seruga, Public Diplomacy & Diaspora Affairs Officer, Uganda Embassy Brussels.

In a landmark move that strengthens international ties and promises economic growth, Uganda's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and the EU, Amb. Mirjam Blaak Sow signed the Samoa Partnership Agreement on the 8th of January, 2024, upon receiving Instruments to sign on behalf of the country from H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda.

This crucial signing signals the start of a renewed partnership between the Organisation of the African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union (EU) for the next 20 years.

The Samoa Agreement replaces the long-standing Cotonou Agreement, which was initially adopted in the year 2000 for twenty years, after the expiration of the 1975 Lomé Convention.

The Cotonou Agreement, which aimed to reduce poverty and integrate ACP countries into the global economy, was set to expire in February 2020 but was extended to 2023, pending the conclusion of this new Samoa Partnership Agreement which was negotiated for over five years from 2018.

Under the new partnership, 79 countries—comprising 48 African; 16 Caribbean; and 15 Pacific nations—will engage in Economic, social cultural, political/diplomatic frameworks with the EU. This significant global collaboration will set the stage for economic growth, development, & poverty reduction, including fighting climate change.

Under Financial and Development Support, the European Union, has committed to supporting ACP countries by allocating a comprehensive budget under its long-term 2021–2027 financial plan through the Neighborhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI).

This particular instrument is endowed with a financial envelope of approximately €79.5 billion. Unlike its predecessor, the European Development Fund (EDF), NDICI is funded directly through EU budget contributions, streamlining financial support and making it more efficient.

Specific Allocations for Uganda:

1) Green and Climate Transition; €94.0 million allocated to support sustainable environmental practices and initiatives combatting climate change in Uganda.

2) Sustainable & Inclusive Growth and Jobs; A significant €168.0 million dedicated to fostering inclusive growth and job creation, ensuring that all Ugandans, especially women & youth, benefit from economic advancements.

3) Democratic Governance and Social Inclusion; €94.0 million aimed at promoting democratic governance and ensuring social inclusion, laying the foundation for equitable social development.

Uganda participated in the Joint Parliamentary Assembly in March 2024 in Angola, where EU and ACP Parliamentarians met under the aegis of the Samoa Agreement to forge a way forward on their political cooperation. Uganda's Deputy Speaker of Parliament, who led the country delegation was elected the Chair of the Eastern Africa Bureau, a very influential position for Agenda setting.

4) Support Measures; €19.0 million to back various support measures for effective implementation of the Agreement's objectives.

The Samoa Agreement highlights the EU's commitment to regional economic growth within ACP countries. Additionally, on March 6, 2024, the European Investment Bank (EIB Global) & Centenary Rural Dev't Bank Ltd (CERUDEB) announced an agreement to make €100 million available to private-sector enterprises in Uganda, focusing on female borrowers and micro-enterprises in rural areas.

Uganda currently benefits from the Everything But Arms (EBA) preferential treatment for developing countries. However, upon reaching middle-income status, Uganda will transition to Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the EU and ACP members, aimed at bolstering trade and development through cooperative trade environments & substantial EU development aid.

Uganda exports 66% of its coffee, 42% of its fish, and 90% of its flowers to the EU. The European Investment Bank's loan portfolio for Uganda stands at 495 million euros, which would have ceased without Uganda signing the Samoa Agreement.

By signing the Samoa Agreement, Uganda embarks on a promising path of international cooperation and economic progress with the EU and the ACP States.



Amb. Blaak (center) with officials from OACPS at the Samoa Agreement signing ceremony | Photo by Uganda Embassy Brussels.





UNOC Takes Charge of Importing Fuel Products, as Uganda Launches Plan to Lead the Initiative in Global Oil Spill Resilience.

Compiled by Githa Ogume and Jadrine Komukyeya | Photos by MoFA Press & UNOC.



PPU File photo - President Museveni commissions Lake Victoria Logistics, a 70 million litre fuel storage facility set to boost Uganda's fuel security.

In a monumental stride towards energy security, Uganda has witnessed the arrival of the first vessel under the management of the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), now the sole importer of fuel products in the nation. This strategic move marks a pivotal shift aimed at ensuring consistent supply and stabilizing prices across the country.

Under its new mandate, UNOC has taken on the responsibility of centralizing fuel importation operations, effectively streamlining distribution channels, and mitigating risks within the supply chain. This bold initiative not only guarantees a steady flow of high-quality fuel but also safeguards against speculative price hikes that have previously plagued consumers.

The decision to consolidate fuel importation under UNOC's stewardship reflects a concerted effort by the government to enhance national energy security and promote sustainable development. By eliminating middlemen and overseeing the entire importation process, UNOC aims to instill confidence in consumers and stakeholders alike.

As the vessel docks and begins offloading its cargo, communities across Uganda anticipate the tangible benefits of UNOC's mandate: reliable supply, price stability, and a reduction in market uncertainties. The ripple effects of this historic importation are expected to resonate positively throughout the economy, fostering a climate of confidence and prosperity.



Simultaneously, Uganda is spearheading efforts to enhance global oil spill resilience by taking the lead in strengthening international collaboration for preparedness and response.

During a recent meeting between Amb. Richard Kabonero, Head Regional Economic Cooperation, and a delegation from the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) led by Dr. Joseph Kabusheshe, Director of Environmental Health & Safety, Uganda showcased its commitment to safeguarding the environment and promoting regional stability.

Both **Dr. Kabusheshe and Amb. Kabonero (pictured below in a conversation)** emphasized the necessity of collaboration in tackling potential oil spill incidents, highlighting Uganda's robust national oil spill contingency plan and the need to share it with neighboring countries.



"Uganda and her neighbors need to be prepared in the unlikely event of an oil spill. Our proactive measures and collaborative efforts underscore our dedication to protecting the environment and fostering regional stability. By working hand in hand with neighboring countries, we can collectively mitigate the risks associated with oil spill incidents and safeguard our shared natural resources," stated Ambassador Kabonero.

This trailblazing endeavor not only strengthens Uganda's ability to effectively manage oil spill incidents but also showcases its dedication to international standards of safety and sustainable development.

As Uganda takes charge in enhancing preparedness and response mechanisms, it sets an inspiring example for other nations to follow in addressing the pressing challenges of oil spill resilience on a global scale.





Uganda's NAM Chairmanship: Uganda Embassy Brussels Delivers NAM plus China Statement at the OPCW.

By Titus Seruga | Photo by Embassy.

Hague - As current chair of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Uganda's role has been pivotal in advancing the principles of international diplomacy and cooperation.

One of the critical responsibilities associated with this esteemed position is the coordination of NAM plus China statements at meetings of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague. This responsibility underscores Uganda's dedication to global peace and security.

Established in 1997 with the enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the OPCW is an international organisation tasked with eradicating chemical weapons globally.

With 193 member states, the OPCW works tirelessly to implement the provisions of the CWC, thereby ensuring a world free of chemical weapons. The organisation conducts inspections, monitors compliance, and facilitates the destruction of chemical arsenals, making it a cornerstone of international disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

NAM, a group of 124 countries that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc, plays a fundamental role in advocating for the interests of developing nations on the global stage.

Founded at the height of the Cold War, NAM has continually promoted principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the eradication of colonialism and imperialism.

Its collective voice in forums like the OPCW is crucial in ensuring that the views and concerns of developing countries are represented and heard.

China, as a significant global power and a signatory of the Chemical Weapons Convention, often collaborates with NAM on various international issues.

This cooperation enhances the collective bargaining power of NAM member states, allowing them to present unified stances on critical matters such as disarmament and non-proliferation.

The coordinated NAM plus China statements at OPCW meetings embody this strategic partnership, emphasising shared goals and responsibilities in maintaining global peace and security.

Given the complex nature of global diplomacy and the multifaceted challenges surrounding chemical weapons, it is imperative for NAM, in coordination with China, to present cohesive and unified statements at every Executive Council (EC) meeting of the OPCW.

These statements articulate shared views, propose collective actions, and ensure that the perspectives of developing nations are integral to OPCW's decision-making processes. A unified front not only strengthens diplomatic influence but also reinforces the commitment to a chemical weapons-free world.

As chair of NAM, the Ugandan Mission in Brussels will be at the forefront of drafting and presenting the NAM plus China statement. This effort involves meticulous coordination among all 124 NAM members and China, ensuring that the collective voice remains robust and influential during the deliberations at the OPCW.

The Embassy of Uganda in Brussels chaired four coordination sessions, including the ambassadorial meeting. H.E. Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow presented the statement on July 9, 2024, at The Hague's 106th Executive Council meeting.

Uganda's leadership as chair of NAM and coordination of China's statements at OPCW meetings is crucial for global peace and security. It ensures developing countries' aspirations are realized and will be instrumental in driving the global agenda of chemical weapons eradication, especially as the 106th EC meeting approaches.



Amb. Mirjam Blaak Sow, Head of Mission, and Amb Beatrice Pacunega Manano, Accounting Officer, at the OPCW Meeting.





Trailblazing Women In Diplomacy: Meet CEDAW's Newest Appointee, first Ugandan to be elected.

Interview by *Christiana Ampeire* | Courtesy Photo.

Geneva - Dr. Brenda Akia, a member of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, took an oath in Geneva, thanking all UN CEDAW Member States. To further analyse the essence of CEDAW and this significant appointment, the Diplomatic notes team had a moment to engage in an informative dialogue session;

What exactly is the CEDAW Committee?

The CEDAW committee is a United Nations treaty body mechanism comprised of 23 independent experts that monitor how Member States implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Convention).

The CEDAW Convention is the international tool on women's rights that puts legal obligations on the 189 Member States to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in all areas of life, ensure women's full development and advancement so they can enjoy all their human rights and freedoms in the same way as men.

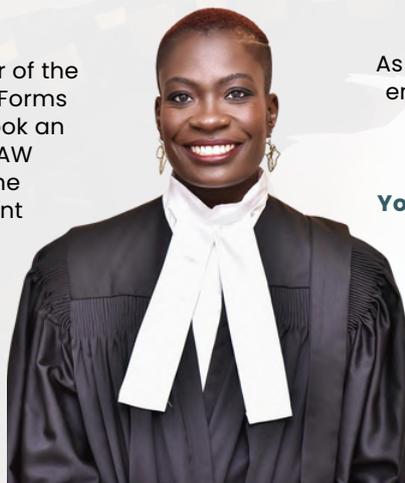
This includes women having equal access to opportunities and services, including health care, education, reliable electricity and clean energy, employment, and decision-making systems.

What inspired you to dedicate your career to advancing women's rights and gender equality and which specific responsibilities will you have as a CEDAW Committee Member?

I am driven by the desire to address injustices, human rights abuses, and discrimination against women and girls in all contexts. Witnessing the impact of stereotypes and patriarchy, I pursued law to protect women's rights, push for accountability, and challenge discriminatory laws. Inspired by peers, I strive for global equality.

Tell us about your specific Responsibilities on the Committee.

As country rapporteur, I lead taskforces during dialogues with Member States, including Rwanda, Niger, & Benin in 2024. As alternate focal point on follow-ups, I review State parties' implementation of four recommendations within two years.



*Dr. Brenda Akia (PhD Law)
Member, UN-CEDAW
Committee, 2023-2026.
Laurate, Climate Change,
and International Justice.*

As alternate focal point on climate change, I engage in climate change and disaster risk management dialogues, training, and negotiations with various stakeholders.

You thank all UN CEDAW Member States for this mandate. Please elaborate on the significance of their support for you?

Under Article 17 of the CEDAW Convention, each State Party is free to nominate a candidate. Uganda's support was crucial for my nomination and election, which was achieved with the second highest votes.

This opportunity allowed me to engage in impactful discussions on women's rights and gender equality globally.

It is often claimed that Women in Africa face a lot of discrimination in a number of ways. Is this true and what are your immediate priorities during your work with the CEDAW Committee? Are there particular areas of discrimination against women that you aim to focus on during your tenure?

From my global work on women's rights and my role on the CEDAW committee, I have a comprehensive view of gender equality issues. Despite some progress, women globally, and in Africa, face discrimination in all spheres.

Gender-based violence, exclusion from peace processes, and unequal access to education and healthcare persist. Weak enforcement of legislation and patriarchal stereotypes contribute to these challenges. It's crucial to ensure women reclaim equal opportunities.

What do you perceive as the most pressing challenges in the fight against discrimination against women globally and what effective ways do you plan to address these challenges within the framework of CEDAW?

Challenges in combating global discrimination against women include inadequate representation in decision-making and peace processes, insufficient financing for women-focused measures, and entrenched patriarchal norms. Addressing these requires joint efforts and dialogue with State parties, the African Union, and partners to ensure effective implementation of the CEDAW Convention and accountability.

[Read full interview](#)





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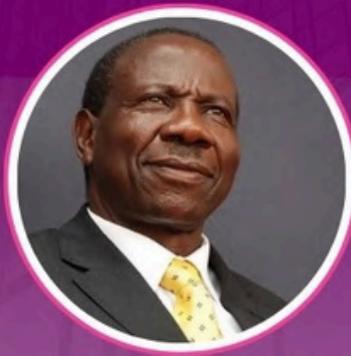
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Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce



Hon. Matia Kasaija

Minister of Finance, and Economic Development



Ms. Dasgupta

Economics Manager, International Finance Corporation (IFC)



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Time

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UHC London Scoops Diaspora Inclusion Award

By Christiana Ampeire

London - The Uganda High Commission in London was recognized with a diaspora inclusion and diplomacy award. This was during the prestigious Uganda Nurses and Midwives Association UK Conference, which happened on Saturday, July 13, 2024,

The award was presented by diaspora nurses and midwives in recognition of the High Commission's open door policy, as well as for initiating and leading initiatives to eliminate barriers and improve the experiences and participation levels of Ugandan diaspora in the United Kingdom.

Over the years, the Uganda High Commission London has played a key role in supporting Diaspora Health Associations. in the United Kingdom, and its areas of accreditation.



Amb. John Mugerwa, the Deputy High Commissioner, delivers acceptance remarks on behalf of UHC London | Courtesy Photo.

1.3 billion dollars, predominantly consisting of gold and agricultural produce funneled through the rapidly expanding diaspora."



A section of the Ugandan Diaspora Community in the UAE at a gathering with Uganda Embassy Officials from Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Photo by Embassy.



Uganda's Expatriate Community in the UAE Remits Around 300 Million Dollars Back Home Annually

By Herbert Ssekatawa

Diplomatic missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support and empower the diaspora for national development. President Museveni allocated \$150,000 to assist the diaspora in fulfilling office rental obligations and establishing a Savings and Credit Cooperative (SACCO) for financial empowerment.

The two missions have consistently collaborated, with the diaspora annual convention aligning with the annual Uganda-UAE business forum. The events feature exhibitions, cultural performances, on-site access to national identification services, sectoral presentations, and advisories on investment opportunities by government officials.

They have consistently engaged with the diaspora in the Seven Emirates, encouraging them to work, earn, save, and invest.

Additionally, they emphasize the acquisition of transferable skills to Uganda, the submission of details of Uganda-owned companies to the embassy, the avoidance of actions that may attract punitive sanctions, and the utilization of the Presidential fund to enhance business opportunities for diaspora members.

Amb. Henry Mayega declared that, "The current trade volume between Uganda and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) amounts to approximately





Uganda and Eswatini Forge Stronger Ties For Mutual Growth.

By Jadrine Komukyeya

Mbabane – Amb. Paul Amoru had the honour of presenting his Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Mswati III of Eswatini on July 18 2024. During this meeting, he conveyed warm regards from His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and received assurances of Eswatini's continued friendship and support. Amb Amoru expressed gratitude to Eswatini for their delegation's participation in the recent NAM and G77 + China summits held in Kampala.

His Majesty Mswati III congratulated Uganda on successfully hosting these summits, noting that the NAM Summit's declaration captured the shared aspirations of both nations. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between Uganda and Eswatini, particularly as developing countries.

He also pledged to focus on strengthening ties in areas such as culture, tourism, agriculture, and trade. Both countries are committed to establishing a Joint Permanent Commission and a Joint Business Forum to enhance their partnership. This diplomatic engagement marks a deepening of bilateral relations, with Uganda and Eswatini, dedicated to working together to achieve mutual growth and prosperity through their collaborative efforts.



Amb. Amoru, accompanied by staff from UHC Pretoria, pose for group photo with King Mswati III; and the newly accredited Envoy inspects a Guard of Honor as part of the credentials ceremonies | Photos by Kingdom of Eswatini.



Uganda Embassy Beijing Welcomes Chinese Students for Cultural Exchange Program

By Akwi Gertrude Esamij, Uganda Embassy, Beijing | Photo by Embassy.

Beijing – Uganda's Embassy in Beijing has opened its doors to a group of enthusiastic Chinese students for a unique cultural exchange program aimed at fostering greater understanding & appreciation of Ugandan culture and heritage. The initiative, led by Amb. Oliver Wonekha, seeks to promote cross-cultural dialogue and strengthen ties between Uganda and China by providing Chinese students with a firsthand experience of Ugandan traditions, history, and way of life.

During their visit, the students have had the opportunity to participate in a series of engaging activities, including traditional Ugandan and Chinese dance and music performances, interactive sessions on Ugandan cuisine and local customs, as well as insightful discussions on the rich history and biodiversity of Uganda.

...story continues on next page.





...story continued from previous page.

Amb. Oliver Wonekha expressed her delight in hosting the students, stating, "It is essential to engage in cultural exchange programs like this to bridge the gap between our two nations and promote mutual understanding and friendship."

The Chinese students also shared their excitement about the program, expressing gratitude for the warm hospitality extended to them by the Embassy staff and their eagerness to learn more about Uganda's vibrant culture and traditions. The cultural exchange program at the Uganda Embassy in Beijing is a testament to Uganda's and China's shared commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties and promoting cultural diplomacy between the two nations.



Alliance Franco-Ougandaise: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers, Boosting Business

By Angel Kabera



L-R: Happiness Daher-Ebhohon, GM, FCCU; Thomas Pelletier, President, FCCU; and H.E. Xavier Sticker, Ambassador of France, at the launch event for the French Chamber of Commerce Uganda | Courtesy Photo.

Moreover, these companies have played a pivotal role in vital sectors such as agriculture, energy, digital technologies, and renewable energy, significantly impacting local communities and economies.

President Thomas Pelletier of the French Chamber of Commerce emphasized the proactive role of French investors, noting their leadership across diverse sectors and their commitment to sustainable practices.

The Chamber, with its robust membership including 63 entities, half of which are Ugandan companies, is poised to facilitate networking opportunities and deepen bilateral economic cooperation.

Supported by Uganda's political stability and investor-friendly policies, French companies have thrived in seizing market opportunities within Uganda's emerging economy.

Looking ahead, the Chamber aims to bolster these ties further, projecting an anticipated USD 4 billion in Foreign Direct Investments over the next three years.

The launch of the French Chamber of Commerce not only signifies a commitment to enhancing economic ties but also underscores the strategic importance of mutual collaboration and growth between France and Uganda.

The recent establishment of the French Chamber of Commerce in Uganda marks a significant 'milestone' in bilateral economic relations between France and Uganda.

This initiative, spearheaded by the Embassy of France in Uganda, aims to deepen trade and investment opportunities between the two nations.

According to H.E. Xavier Sticker, the Ambassador of France to Uganda, the Chamber's launch is set to enhance Uganda's exposure in the French market, fostering increased business engagements and partnerships.

The growth in French presence, from 9 companies in 2010 to 40 by 2023, underscores the expanding economic footprint and the attractiveness of Uganda as an investment destination.

French companies operating in Uganda have made substantial contributions, generating sales amounting to USD 875 million in 2023 alone and employing over 3000 Ugandans, with a notable 30% representation of women in their workforce.





National Days



Egyptian Embassy in Kampala Celebrated 72nd National Day: On July 23, 2024, the Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja and Amb. Selim Monzer of the Arab Republic of Egypt, emphasized the strength of bilateral relations between the two countries. They paid tribute to Egypt's history in supporting African independence, the fruits of successful projects like AfriEgypt's health clinic, and ongoing work in other sectors such as health and trade. Both parties committed bolster cooperation along shared values. Pictured below is the Prime Minister, joined by senior Government officials including Minister of State for International Affairs Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, cutting cake during the National day celebrations.

Courtesy Photo.



Embassy of France in Kampala commemorates Bastille Day; The celebrations held on July 12th, 2024, were hosted by Amb. Xavier Sticker, and officiated by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. Amb. Sticker announced at the event that French Firms are to invest over \$4billion in the country to boost Uganda's economy. *Courtesy Photo.*



The Embassy of the United States of America in Kampala hosted the country's 248th Independence celebrations; Amb. William W. Popp highlighted that, "Today the commitment of the USA remains strong, with investments of nearly \$1 billion—or nearly 3.7 trillion Ugandan shillings—a year that saves lives, builds resilience in communities, fuels economic growth, & strengthens democratic institutions across all of Uganda's 146 districts." *Embassy Photo.*



The Embassy of South Sudan in Kampala convened to mark the 13th Anniversary of the country's independence; Pictured, H.E. Margaret Apuol Daniel, Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan to Uganda (2nd Left), Amb. Charles Ssentongo, Chief of protocol Ministry of Foreign Affairs (5th Left) and Jemma Nunu Kumba, Speaker of Parliament of South Sudan (Centre) alongside other diplomats cut a cake, during the celebrations at Las Vegas Hotel, Kampala on 14th July, 2024. *(Photo by Colleb Mugume, New Vision)*





Having Access To People Smarter Than You Is A Gift, Not A Danger!



By Mr. Herbert Kiguli
Commissioner, HRM, MoFA

QUOTE

“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change”.

This saying fits in well with the topic of this article.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

It is not uncommon to find managers, supervisors labelling those apparently smarter than them as being cunning, crooks, etc., and avoiding to put them at the forefront of programmes or activities, lest they become more visible, thereby sending their superiors into oblivion.

Smulovics (2023), classified smart workers as “A” workers who are dreaded by those in “B” category, while the latter too is dreaded by those in class “C”.

A Snapshot of the key attributes of smart employees:

- 1 They distinguish friends from acquaintances.
- 2 They disregard idle talk and don't contribute to non-value adding discussions.
- 3 They talk less but listen and observe more.
- 4 They project a long-term orientation in their decisions and actions.
- 5 Humility is their core virtue as they seek to tap into areas strange to them.
- 6 They work hard and never put time to waste.
- 7 They seek to add value to themselves through continuous reading, and reading widely.
- 8 They take life with a sense of humor, cracking simple jokes, smiling away issues & making life easy for people around them.
- 9 They are problem solvers and avoid blame games.





Why would it be Valuable to have Smart People around You?

1

Giving your Unit a better Visibility: Smart people produce smart results, a supervisor does well tapping into their skills and ultimately taking credit

2

Internal coaching & Mentoring Benefit: Rarely do you have whole unit employees belonging to class "A" workers. Therefore, the other classes stand to benefit from the skills of the smarter workers, through direct and indirect coaching and mentoring.

3

Innovative Work Environment: Smarter workers are never short of new ideas. With smart workers in your unit, you have an exciting, challenging and competitive working environment. Increase in productivity and quality of services is bound to arise for the ultimate good of your unit and organisation as a whole.

4

Withstanding Competition: The world of providing goods and services is typified with competition. Smart workers have the benefit of making units, or organisations to shine in terms of productivity and quality, helping them to withstand competition.

5

The Long-term Feel Good Effect: Smart people have a high propensity for rapid growth along their career path and any supervisor would feel proud looking back among his former supervisees and realizing how quickly they have risen through the ranks.

In conclusion, as the saying goes, "if you want to fly with eagles, you have to stop swimming with ducks". Managers who are intent on their organizational excellence should not shun smart workers as an important blend of their workforce.





Team Uganda Sets Off for Paris 2024 Olympics.

By Syahuka Moses and Herbert Ssekatawa | Photo by PPU/Courtesy

The National Athletics Team has arrived in the vibrant city of Paris in preparation for the prestigious Olympic Games. H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, accompanied by First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Museveni, and Minister of State for Sports, Hon. Peter Ogwang, ceremoniously launched Team Uganda's journey to the esteemed Paris 2024 Olympics, the world's premier athletic event.

During the flagging-off ceremony at State House, Entebbe, President Museveni expressed immense pride in the growing number of young Ugandans excelling in sports. He highlighted the multifaceted benefits of sports, including fitness, character development, entertainment, employment, and national publicity. Stressing the importance of discipline, the President advised the athletes to live well and make the most of their sports careers, which can be relatively short.

"Strictly good living is very important to be able to reach your potential. Of course, the sports period is very short, and you need to use that time well," he stated.

He also assured that the government is investing more in the sports sector, citing the establishment of peace in Kapchorwa, which has enabled young athletes to train without disruptions. The President encouraged athletes to consider careers in the army, police, and prisons services as a way to sustain their skills.

"When you are there, you have got a small salary, some accommodation, and time to train," he said.

First Lady Janet Museveni congratulated the athletes on their significant achievement and urged them to represent Uganda with humility. She emphasized the importance of resisting pride and acknowledging the privilege of being chosen to compete.

"If you clothe yourself with the humility that such a service requires, you shall be able to resist the pride that comes with such an opportunity," she stated.

The First Lady also commended President Museveni for his unwavering support for sports development in Uganda. She noted the completion of the first phase of the National High Altitude Training Centre in Teryet, Kapchorwa, and the ongoing construction of world-class stadiums in Hoima City and Lira City, which will significantly boost the development of young athletes across the country.

France's Ambassador to Uganda, H.E Xavier Sticker, assured that France is ready to host the Olympics and provide exceptional hospitality. Dr. Donald Rukare, President of the Uganda Olympic Committee, confirmed that Uganda will be represented by 25 athletes, matching the number sent to the Tokyo 2021 Olympics. He expressed gratitude for the continuous support from the government and the First Lady.

As the athletes embark on this significant journey, they carry the hopes and dreams of a nation, ready to compete and showcase Uganda's prowess on the global stage. The Paris 2024 Olympics, scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, will see these 25 athletes striving for excellence and bringing honor to their country.



L-R: President Museveni & the First Lady interact with Uganda's Athletes at State House Entebbe; Team Uganda in Paris.





PARIS 2024



<p>FRI. 2ND AUGUST</p> <p>Rowing Women's Single Sculls Final E</p> <p>Kathleen Noble</p> <p>11:06am (EAT)</p>	<p>FRI. 2ND AUGUST</p> <p>Swimming Men's 100m Butterfly Heat - 1</p> <p>Jesse Ssengonzi</p> <p>12:00pm (EAT)</p>	<p>FRI. 2ND AUGUST</p> <p>Women's 5000m Round 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Esther Chebet - Belinda Chemutai - Joy Cheptoyek <p>7:10pm (EAT)</p>	<p>FRI. 2ND AUGUST</p> <p>Women's 800m Round 1</p> <p>Halimah Nakaayi</p> <p>8:45pm (EAT)</p>	<p>FRI. 2ND AUGUST</p> <p>Men's 10000m Finals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joshua Cheptegei - Jacob Kiplimo - Martin Magengo Kiprotich <p>10:20pm (EAT)</p>
<p>SAT. 3RD AUGUST</p> <p>Cycling Men's Road Race</p> <p>Charles Kagimu</p> <p>12:00pm (EAT)</p>	<p>SUN. 4TH AUGUST</p> <p>Women's 3000m Steeplechase Round 1</p> <p>Peruth Chemutai</p> <p>11:05pm (EAT)</p>	<p>MON. 5TH AUGUST</p> <p>Men's 3000m Steeplechase Round 1</p> <p>Leonard Chemutai</p> <p>8:04pm (EAT)</p>	<p>MON. 5TH AUGUST</p> <p>Men's 200m Round 1</p> <p>Tarsis Gracious Orogot</p> <p>8:55pm (EAT)</p>	<p>TUE. 6TH AUGUST</p> <p>Women's 1500m Round 1</p> <p>Winnie Nanyondo</p> <p>11:05pm (EAT)</p>
<p>WED. 7TH AUGUST</p> <p>Men's 5000m Round 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joshua Cheptegei - Jacob Kiplimo - Oscar Chelimo <p>12:10pm (EAT)</p>	<p>WED. 7TH AUGUST</p> <p>Men's 800m Round 1</p> <p>Tom Dradriga</p> <p>12:55pm (EAT)</p>	<p>FRI. 9TH AUGUST</p> <p>Women's 10,000m Final</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annet Chemengich - Joy Cheptoyek - Sarah Chelangat <p>9:57pm (EAT)</p>	<p>SAT. 10TH AUGUST</p> <p>Men's Marathon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victor Kiplangat - Stephen Kissa - Andrew Rotich Kwemboi <p>9:00am (EAT)</p>	<p>SUN. 11TH AUGUST</p> <p>Women's Marathon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stella Chesang - Mercyline Chelangat - Rebecca Cheptegei <p>9:00am (EAT)</p>



Click to follow live updates from #TeamUganda





Unity and Culture Shine at the 5th Uganda-Euro Cranes Tournament in Oslo.

By Olga Muzungu and Titus Seruga

The 5th Uganda-Euro Cranes Tournament from 5-7 July unfolded in Oslo, Norway, celebrating both sporting prowess and cultural unity among the Ugandan diaspora.



L-R: Hon. Barugahara (fourth from right) with fans at the tournament. Jovial passengers on the flight to Oslo.

The event brought together Ugandan community teams from across Europe—Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. This year, an additional highlight was a visiting team from the United States.

The prestigious event was graced by Hon. Balaam Barugahara, Minister of State in Charge of Youth and Child Affairs, representing H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda. He commended the participants for their dedication and unity in promoting Ugandan sporting culture and heritage. "I thank the organizers of this tournament, the Euro Cranes Committee. This is a wonderful event that unites all Ugandans regardless of their political affiliations," he shared.

The three-day tournament showcased Ugandan culture through traditional dances and heritage activities, fostering unity among the Ugandans in attendance.

The Minister praised Ugandan embassies in the region, including Copenhagen, Brussels, and Berlin, for their commitment and support, "Missions like Copenhagen, Brussels, and Berlin have representatives, and I am informed that they provide valuable support to their respective teams," he highlighted. In a show of governmental support, the President of Uganda sent a heartfelt message endorsing the tournament and allocated \$3,100 to assist with organisational expenses. The Minister assured that he would brief the President on the event's success upon his return.

The Netherlands community triumphed in the tournament, showcasing their dedication and winning with a fan base of 170 supporters. The atmosphere on their flight to Oslo was jubilant, with passengers singing the famous "Ozaambe" song, much to the amusement of the flight crew. In an extraordinary gesture, they were allowed to play Ugandan songs during the two-hour journey, creating an unforgettable experience for everyone on board.

Hon. Barugahara also thanked the Ugandans for their collective effort in promoting unity and cultural pride. "The Government of Uganda will support this event going forward," he assured, reinforcing the importance of such gatherings in maintaining and strengthening ties among Ugandans abroad.

As the tournament came to a close, there was a palpable sense of achievement and camaraderie among participants and spectators alike.

The 5th Uganda-Euro Cranes Tournament not only celebrated athletic talent but also reinforced the cultural bonds that unite Ugandans across the globe.

The event serves as a beacon of unity and cultural pride for the Ugandan diaspora, and with the President's backing and the remarkable community spirit demonstrated, it promises to grow even stronger in the coming years.

Next year, the Event will be held in Finland.



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UN General Assembly Adopts July 7 as World Kiswahili Day.

New York - In an historic move, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution proposed by Kenya and Tanzania on behalf of the African group, proclaiming July 7 as World Kiswahili Language day.

The ground-breaking decision, gavelled on the UN podium by Amb. Duncan Muhumuza Laki, Uganda’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN took place on July 1 2024 in New York. To gain deeper insights into this area of multilateralism, our team had an exclusive interview with Amb. Muhumuza.

“Kiswahili, is an essential language for culture, business, and official meetings in the East African community and SADC region, it is being considered for elevation to the UN due to its wide usage and official status within the African Union.” said Amb. Muhumuza.

He added that the resolution aligned with the UN broader goals in promoting multilingualism. “When you speak your first language, you express yourself better...that’s the whole point of multilingualism, so that people may be able to express themselves in their native languages,” he explained.

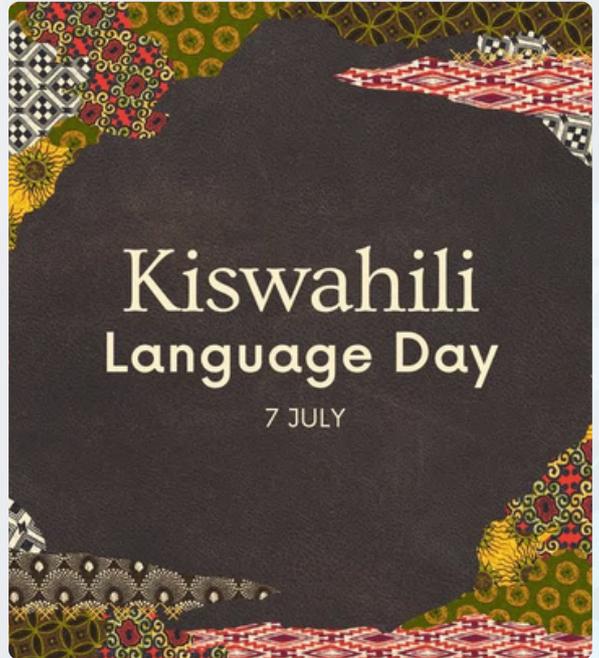
Stressing the importance of activities such as sports, dance, culture, drama, books and art as different strategies to enhance the use of Kiswahili Amb. Muhumuza said the resolution calls for wide appreciation. “Far from being adopted by the UNGA, there is actual appreciation of the language. The beauty is in the details so how it’s carried on, usage, music, movies etc.” he said.

Amb. Muhumuza acknowledges potential challenges in adopting Swahili, including the presence of familiar social settings languages like English, French, and Spanish, and limited funding for Swahili teachers, but recognizes the ongoing efforts to promote the language.

“Teachers of Kiswahili in the US and in the New York, Connecticut and New Jersey tri-state area are promoting it as a second language as far as bachelor’s degree level. The UN language department should consider adding Kiswahili to its list of prominent languages, as enrolling in these languages today would make it more accessible to students,” emphasizes Amb. Muhumuza.

Looking forward, Ambassador Muhumuza expresses optimism that the recognition of Kiswahili will have a multiplier effect, enhancing regional integration and cultural preservation. He calls for collaborative efforts to ensure the resolution’s success, emphasizing the long-term impact on global multilingualism and cultural diversity.

Compiled by Christiana Ampeire



Uganda Dedicates Impressive New Equator Landmark in Kasese, Western-Uganda.

By Githa Ogume | Courtesy Image

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the Equator Monument grants more than just a photo opportunity! In the picturesque district of Kasese of Uganda, near the renowned Queen Elizabeth National Park, a remarkable landmark has arisen.

...story continues on next page.





...story continued from previous page.

This geographical marvel allows tourists to straddle both hemispheres simultaneously. The Equator Monument, recently unveiled and designed by architect Eric Prince India, swiftly symbolizes Uganda's commitment to showcasing its natural wonders in a modern and appealing way.

Replacing an older colonial-era structure dismantled during road expansion in 2019, the new stainless-steel monument embodies Uganda's dedication to progress & innovation. Featuring a globe bisected by the Equator line, highlighting the country's geographic significance. Set amid Queen Elizabeth National Park's verdant scenery, it harmoniously blends nature with modern artistic expression.

The project, initially projected to take six months but ultimately completed in nearly five years, has stirred strong local pride and excitement.

Visitors can explore cultural exhibits, savor local cuisine at the coffee shop, and browse craft stalls showcasing the region's vibrant art.

This approach aims to immerse tourists in Uganda's rich cultural heritage, creating a meaningful connection beyond mere observation.

The Kasese monument symbolizes Uganda's dedication to modernization and its emergence as a competitive destination beyond tourism.

Local entrepreneurs view the monument optimistically, expecting more visitors and an entry point to new business prospects.

Adjacent to the bustling Kampala-Masaka Highway, the Kasese Equator Monument complements Uganda's other prominent Equator crossing at Kayabwe Point.

Known for its marked Equator line, vibrant craft shops, and cafes, it is a popular stop for tourists traveling between Kampala and western Uganda.

As Uganda continues to invest in its tourism infrastructure, the new Equator Monument in Kasese is a stunning design that captivates visitors as a beacon of progress and a reflection of Uganda's dedication to showcasing its natural wonders.

Its strategic location and thriving tourism potential poised to attract a growing number of visitors while bolstering the local economy.

The Equator Monument in Kasese stands as a testament to Uganda's unwavering pursuit of excellence, inviting visitors to discover the country's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality.

Compiled by Githa Ogume

Ugandan Students Shine at 2024 VEX Robotics Championship.

By Margaret Kafeero | Courtesy Photos.

As Uganda Government emphasizes science and technology as a key pillar of socio-economic transformation, a STEM Education programme has brought glory to the nation on the global stage of Robotics competition.

Young Engineers Uganda STEM Education program has put Uganda on the global stage of robotics by participating twice at the "World Cup" of robotics, the Vex Robotics World Championship in Dallas, USA. STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Between April 25th and May 8th, 2024, eight teens, along with their coaches and parents from the programme, showcased their creative robotics skills in the fields of science and technology and research facing off with 2200 other teams for 67 countries around and flew the Uganda flag on the world stage. They won different medals.

Launched in Uganda in 2016 by journalist Arinaitwe Ruyendo, the programme focuses on nurturing the next generation of Ugandan scientists, problem solvers, innovators, and creative thinkers.

Through a practical LEGO and Robotics after-school curriculum, the program has impacted over 2000 children in schools in Kampala and is looking to expand across the country. Team Uganda's journey to the Vex Robotics Championships followed their remarkable performance at the Pan African Robotics Competitions (PARC 2023) in Dakar, Senegal, where they clinched a bronze medal.

Ms. Maureen Karamagi, CEO of Young Engineers Uganda, says the company has been granted rights to hold a national vex robotics championship in Uganda for the first time in November this year in order to have more teams represent the country next year.



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CULINARY DIPLOMACY

CELEBRATING UGANDA'S TRADITIONAL FOOD PALATE.

By Margaret Kafeero | Courtesy Photos.



The sharing of food in society is one of the basic tenets of relationship building and the purpose of diplomacy is building relationships between states. Diplomacy and food are inseparable. It is quite common for the most difficult discussions to begin over a cup of tea or coffee or a shared meal. Countries tend to use food as a platform to tell a story about themselves.

For Diplomats, studying the indigenous food, eating or cooking habits and attendant rituals of a community can give a visitor insight into that particular economy, its attention to health and hygiene, its social structure and dare we say its propensity to be destabilized.

Earlier this month Kampala Restaurant Week was celebrated and in eagerness, we looked at the participating restaurants. While it was exciting to see the growing international tapestry of Kampala's Restaurant scene, we noted that not a single participating restaurant specialized in local Ugandan Cuisine.

A nation's influence can be measured by the popularity of its cuisine outside of its original borders. We can see this in the mushrooming in our society of international fast food chains, and the difficulty of finding our signature steamed luwombo or katogo with ghee and steamed greens.

One of the first things any tourist or visitor will ask once they arrive in a new territory is "can I try the local food?" The reason for this is that food is an important showcase of our heritage, way of life and cultural identity.

Our Diplomatic Notes news team set a challenge for themselves, exploring Kampala's cultural cuisine landscape.

In this section, we suggest some of our favorite picks for our diplomatic community to try Ugandan Cuisine, both the local and fusion styles. We shall add to the list in each successive issue. **How can you claim to know a people if you have not tried their food?**

“

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Ugaroll represents a rich improved version of the 'rolex', a popular snack on the streets of Kampala, Uganda, the rolex is a vegetable omelet rolled up in a chapati, its name a cheeky reference to the watch brand. A rolex can be as elaborate or as simple as you need it to be



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POEM

Hajjat Mama Nalongo's Katogo.

Original piece by Angel Kabera.

If she has twins or wears a hijab,
You will walk into her kitchen
and be hungry for her

There's something about
The Nalongo's, Hajjats,
And Mama Naki's of our
downtown streets and corners.

Culinary wizards and witches
Castings spells in
Kampala's hidden pockets.

Forget KFC and remember
Mama Naki's finger-licking good katogo.
At the break of dawn.
She has learnt to make the most of the least;
Matooke, onions and tomatoes are her
signature feast.

With a little bit of oil, curry powder
And Royco muchuzi in her mix,
The aroma of her kitchen
Is an open call to all
In her midst.

From load carriers to salon braiders,
Bank tellers to street hawkers,
To young lawyers, and police officers
All of them, on their individual walks to work
will scramble for a feast at her table

If she has twins, or wears a hijab,
You will walk into her kitchen
and be hungry for her



Her finger-biting good recipe
Served with a hot cup of mujaja tea
Under a roof of scrap and
battered iron sheets
Is impossible to replicate.

Many have tried
In their homes and 5 star restaurants
But it's just not the same,
Maybe the secret is in their name.

Perhaps the title,
Hajjat, Nnalongo or Mama
Comes with a special touch to every meal.

Perhaps it's not about the meal,
Maybe the flavor comes from
Their long walk of womanhood.
Maybe it's not the curry we are tasting,
But the joys and burdens of motherhood.

Maybe that's why you walk into her kitchen,
and be hungry, not for the katogo,
but for her.

[Click here to listen to the Poem](#)

[Follow Angel's Work](#)





CULINARY DIPLOMACY

Discover Uganda's spirit by exploring our palate both home and abroad.



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CREATIVES & INNOVATION



Across Africa, **a significant movement around tech hubs and entrepreneurship is growing**. Although Africa is more known for its creativity than technology, it's essential to incorporate technology into sectors like media and the food industry to harness its full potential.

Japheth Chiko Kawanguzi popularly known as CK Japheth, the founder of the Innovation Village, wanted to prioritize support for often-overlooked creatives.

He aimed to go beyond traditional capacity building to teach sustainability. Initially pursuing economics, CK (*in picture below*) faced numerous failures attempting with 80 job searches, which led him to teaching Economics and Entrepreneurship at his former high school.



He then worked at a consultancy firm helping innovators, but found their support rewarded to innovators was to a certain extent. At UMEME, as Head of Talent, he had to reject nearly 700 applications monthly, revealing a significant gap in opportunities for young talent.

Tech Hubs and Creativity Rise Together at Uganda's Innovation Village.

By Angel Kabera | Photos by MoTIV



This inspired CK to create the Innovation Village, focusing on building an environment for young talent.

In 2018, a management grant from Master Card Foundation, followed by a five-year partnership in 2019, helped establish five innovation hubs in Gulu, Jinja, Ntinda, and MoTIV (Makers of The Innovation Village) as a home for creatives.

However, the journey has faced challenges, primarily due to the need for the right policy and business environments. CK emphasizes the importance of close partnerships with the government and relevant agencies like the Ministry of Trade and Uganda Development Bank.

He believes that proactive engagement is crucial to bridge the gap between the government and creatives. MoTIV's focus is on intervention, discovery, and democratization, with 95% of foreign interventions at the discovery level.

CK highlights that Uganda has over-skilled but underfunded individuals and stresses the need for new forms of financial support to ensure ecosystem sustainability.

Looking ahead, MoTIV is expanding its reach beyond Uganda to countries like Ghana, DRC, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zambia, and Guatemala and notes that they have some presence in Guatemala and Ghana.

This disruptive young African Entrepreneur, CK Japeth, recognizes the importance of involving Uganda's youth, with over 50.5% of the population being under 17, in development initiatives that support their resilience & dignified livelihood.

Pictured above, young innovators engage in "The Monthly Tubayo Market Day," a creative weekend event powered by MOTIV's Omwoleso in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.



Spotlight Photo



Uganda's athletes proudly join the Opening Ceremony at the Paris 2024 Olympics in France, showcasing the elegant and ultra-modern fashion of Uganda's cultural cloth, the Kikooyi. With the spirit of the Pearl of Africa, Team Uganda steps onto the global stage, with victory in sight! *Courtesy Photo.*



Follow the conversation:



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