

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, DEAR READERS



Welcome to the April edition of the MOFA E-Newsletter. As we read through the different pages, I am thrilled to share a diverse collection of stories with you. With this edition, you will embark on a journey of how diplomacy is evolving through various sectors and we shall illustrate particularly commercial diplomacy with a focus on the Agriculture, Trade and Minerals. We also take a sneak peek into the visit by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa to Uganda.

We also have special feature stories from our esteemed Ambassadors and guest writers.

Our folklore section will get you a one-of-a-kind experience as we witness different cultural stories and events that are changing the face of fashion, technology, and our social lives which are redefining the cultural scene not only in Uganda but globally.

DIPLOMATIC
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL
FEATURE
STORY



UGANDA
MISSIONS
ABROAD



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I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our staff, and contributors whose dedication and tireless efforts have created an epic publication. I also appreciate our readers for sparing time to read, comment and give feedback on the newsletter. We hope that you enjoy this edition as much as we did creating it.

For any thoughts, suggestions, or additional editions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at editor@mofa.go.ug. We strive to keep you informed about the latest developments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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An oil rig at the Tilenga Oil and Gas Project.

The project consists of nine (9) Onshore oilfields with one (1) field North of River Nile (in the Murchison Falls National Park), and eight (8) fields in the South of the Nile (outside the park).





H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni together with EU Commission Officials, & Uganda government officials, State House Entebbe

European Union Injects €40m to Combat Deforestation In Uganda



CHRISTIANA AMPEIRE
CONTRIBUTOR

Entebbe - On April 9th 2024, the European Union (EU) Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius, announced the launch of projects worth Euros 40M (Sh167 billion) under the Forest Partnership with the Republic of Uganda. The address made during the high-level visit by Commissioner Sinkevičius was intended to address the causes of deforestation while supporting sustainable forestry as a step towards climate action. Mr. Sinkevičius appreciated such milestones, which have been a demonstration of common aspirations that contribute to achieving the European Green Deal's objectives and the Global Gateway - the EU's sustainable connectivity

strategy cooperative that includes enhancing the role of forests in the bio-economy and nurturing our trade flows of wood material. H.E. the President Gen. (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni commended the efforts of the initiative, recognizing its efforts in handling trespassers in the forests. "This is a good initiative because it will help us protect our forests and also deal with those who want to encroach on the forests," said President Museveni. The EU-Uganda forestry programme, together with the Government of Uganda, has shared a long-standing collaboration in natural resources management (forestry, water, climate change) for over 30 years. The past 15 years of this collaboration have mainly been in the field of commercial forestry.



President Museveni Welcomes Former Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete.

Entebbe - The former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete paid a courtesy call on President Museveni at State House Entebbe on April 15th 2024. H.E. Museveni informed H.E. Kikwete that as leaders, they must solve the problem of the market to ensure prosperity of the East African people. President Museveni further emphasised strategic security among the East African Community (EAC), saying this will help the nations to safeguard their interests. H.E. Kikwete conveyed greetings from Tanzanian President, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan to President Museveni. President Kikwete officiated at the Guild Leaders' Annual Summit at Makerere University and also visited with the Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre in Kampala.





President Museveni Engages Italian Investors to Boost Uganda's Economic Growth.



GUMA JEREMIAH
CONTRIBUTOR

Entebbe - A delegation led by Amb. Stefano Gatti, Director General of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, met with H.E. the President on April 7th, to discuss investment opportunities in Uganda. Expressing the need for private sector capital, President Museveni highlighted Uganda's natural resources and investment potential during the meeting at State House Entebbe. President Museveni lauded Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's support and made a clarion call for European investors to join Uganda's development journey. He emphasized, among others, the significance of adding value to Uganda's coffee production, encouraged investments in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and veterinary drugs.

H.E. the President showcased Uganda's dairy industry's success story and assured the Italian investors of a ready market for their products. He also welcomed Italy's climate fund project, recognizing its role in environmental conservation and climate change mitigation. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister who represent the President at the Italy-Africa Summit, highlighted Italy's commitment to



Right Honorable Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja and the delegation from Italy at State House Entebbe

Uganda's development, and expressed optimism about potential investments. Amb. Stefano Gatti reaffirmed Italy's focus on Uganda as a priority country for development cooperation and he outlined plans for collaboration in coffee production, value addition, livestock, agro-food businesses, and healthcare. The meeting symbolizes Uganda's proactive approach to attracting foreign investment and enhancing economic growth through strategic collaborations anchored in commercial diplomacy.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Meets with H.E. the President



SUSAN AKELLO
CONTRIBUTOR



HRH The Duke and his delegation, exchange courtesies with President Museveni in Entebbe

The Duke of Edinburgh travelled to Uganda on a three-day visit to grow awareness of HRH's International Award and the impact Non-Formal Education and Learning can have on young people and their communities. The Duke met H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and during their meeting, President Museveni expressed his eagerness to collaborate with British investors and to attract more tourists from the United Kingdom, highlighting the potential for mutual growth & prosperity.

H.E. the President also officially accepted the role of Patron to The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Uganda. Together with the State Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Okello Oryem, HRH The Duke attended the Award's Africa regional conference to discuss the sustainability of the Award in the Africa region.





Uganda-EU Business Forum Sparks Trade Opportunities.



PAMELA NABWIRE
CONTRIBUTOR

Munyonyo - The 3rd Uganda-European Union (EU) Business Forum, themed 'Boosting Trade and Investment: What can Uganda gain from the Global Gateway,' took place from 5th to 6th

March at Speke Resort, Munyonyo. The event, organized in collaboration with Private Sector Foundation Uganda, Uganda Investment Authority, and the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development, brought together representatives from EU states including Portugal, Asia, Austria, The Czech Republic, and Poland, among others. The forum highlighted trade and investment opportunities in Uganda and Europe, focusing on key sectors such as agribusiness, mining, infrastructure, and tourism.



L-R: Hon. John Mulimba, State Minister for Regional Cooperation delivering his remarks at the forum, and President Museveni walks through the business exhibition upon arriving to officiate the 3rd EU Uganda Business Forum.

Amb. Jan Sadek, Head of the European Union in Uganda, highlighted the EU's significant share of Foreign Direct Investments in Uganda, amounting to over 40% of the total of €1.2 billion. He also noted a healthy trade turnover between the EU and Uganda, currently standing at €1.5 billion. Discussions also included the East African Exchange on Data Protection among East African Community (EAC) states, focused on enabling digital transformation, customer trust, privacy compliance, and cross-border data flows.

KEY INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS ANNOUNCED:

- A **€100 million** agreement with Centenary Bank to support female borrowers and micro-enterprises in rural areas.
- A **€50 million** investment partnership with Housing Finance Bank.
- A **US\$40 million** European investment in Uganda's rural telecom expansion, which will see the installation of 506 new telecom towers to provide access to 5G data and mobile money services.
- Financing for Uganda's agribusiness SMEs through the Support to Agricultural Revitalization and Transformation (**START**) Facility. [🔗](#)

President Museveni officiated the forum and emphasized the importance of global trade benefiting the entire world and called for meaningful discussions between Uganda and EU governments. He stressed that global affluence should benefit everyone and highlighted the role of the business community in engaging political actors. While closing the forum, the Right Honorable Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja highlighted Uganda's significant trade with the EU, inviting investors to set up industries in Uganda to add value to its primary goods. She welcomed the 8 new projects worth 200 million euros launched by Team Europe and Uganda at the forum, aimed at supporting small businesses, agribusiness, women entrepreneurs, and digital infrastructure initiatives in Uganda.

The 3rd Uganda EU Business Forum was the largest and most influential joint event on conducting business & investing between the EU and Uganda, with 3600 registrations, 900 physical participants, 90 exhibitors, and a large online audience.





President Ramaphosa on Working Visit to Uganda; Discusses Regional Security, Trade, Diplomacy with President Museveni.



Minister Mulimba receives President Ramaphosa at the VVIP Terminal of Entebbe International Airport



Their Excellencies discussing issues of mutual interest at State House Entebbe.

Entebbe – His Excellency, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, conducted a productive working visit to His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, from 15th to 16th April 2024. During the visit, President Ramaphosa held fruitful discussions with President Museveni on bilateral relations, regional, and continental issues of mutual interest, including the peace and security situation in the region, affirming their commitment to working together for sustainable peace, stability, and economic development on the continent. President Ramaphosa was accompanied by Hon. Dr Naledi Pandor, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, and Hon. Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, Minister in the Presidency. President Museveni was joined by Hon. Jason Marksens Oboth-Oboth, the Minister of Defence & Veteran Affairs, Hon. John Mulimba, the Minister of State for Regional Affairs (who also officially received President Ramaphosa at the Airport), General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the Chief of Defence Forces, and Uganda’s High Commissioner to South Africa, Amb. Paul Amoru.

President Museveni Emphasizes Uganda's Conservation Commitment in Talks with Botswana's Former President.

Entebbe – H.E. Ian Khama, the former President of Botswana visited H.E. the President along with a delegation from Space for Giants, a conservation charity led by Dr. Max Graham. The two Principals discussed how Ugandans can obtain social economic value through conservation & innovation. Their Excellencies agreed on the importance of involving local communities to preserve Africa’s natural resources during the meeting held on 25th April 2024. They purposely looked at the Pian-Upe game reserve, currently facing degradation, with President Museveni expressing his commitment to support conservationists in unlocking the area's natural value.



Compiled by Ivan Koreta

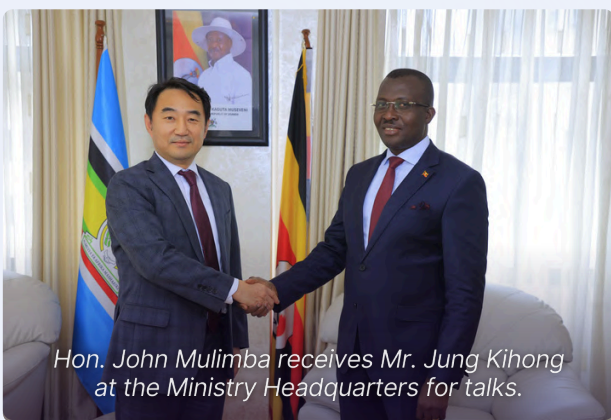




Uganda Gears up for First-ever Korea-Africa Summit.

Kampala - Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, met with Mr. Jung Kihong, the South Korean government representative and Executive Director for the Korea-Africa Summit, on March 27, 2024. The two principals discussed preparations for the upcoming first-ever Africa summit in Seoul, in June 2024. Mr. Kihong emphasized the strong ties between Uganda & Korea, which the summit aims to further enhance. He appreciated Uganda's support and highlighted that the summit will prioritize partnerships for shared growth, with a focus on trade, investment, and technology exchange. In a separate meeting, Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Nabbanja Robinah also held bilateral talks with the South Korean delegation, in a meeting which also included the South Korean Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Park Sung-Soo, at the PM's office in Kampala.

Rt. Hon. Nabbanja emphasized Uganda's eagerness to benefit from the summit, particularly in areas such as technological transfer and paid tribute to South Korea's people for their support towards Uganda's development agenda. Mr. Jung Kihong acknowledged Uganda's significant role on the global stage as the Chair of the G77 + China and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The 2024 Korea-Africa Summit is expected to further strengthen partnership between Korea and African countries, with President Yoweri Museveni expected to attend.



Hon. John Mulimba receives Mr. Jung Kihong at the Ministry Headquarters for talks.

----- **Compiled by Christiana Ampeire**

MOFA Revitalizing Regional Relations Through JPC Meetings



Compiled by Pamela Nabwire & Christiana Ampeire

The Regional Economic Cooperation (REC) Department, under the direction of Amb. Richard Kabonero, has initiated meetings since March 2024 to strengthen cooperation between Uganda and three key African countries through the Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) framework which features meetings for both the public & private sector. These countries are Nigeria, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Uganda and Nigeria have historical agreements dating back to pre-independence years, some of which need review and possibly renewal. Amb. Nelson Ochege, the High Commissioner of Uganda to Nigeria, has been actively exploring areas of cooperation, including education, defense, security, and tourism. Nigeria's significant investments in Uganda, highlighted by the success of the May 2023 business event, have led to the launch of Uganda Airlines routes from Entebbe to Lagos, Abuja, and Kaduna.

Additionally, REC has engaged in preliminary discussions with Kenya since March 2024, following the last agreed-upon JPC meetings in December 2019. Uganda and Kenya are scheduled to hold the second session of the Joint Ministerial Meeting from May 11 to May 14, 2024, aiming to finalize 19 MoUs in Kampala. This Joint Ministerial Meeting (JMC) aims to reduce Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and increase Uganda's trade volume in the East African Community (EAC) subregion from 44.8% to 60% by 2025.

REC will also participate in the Uganda-Tanzania business meetings in May 2024, focusing on enhancing trade between the two countries. This engagement will highlight Uganda's trade and investment priorities on the Tanzanian agenda. Additionally, REC, along with the Ministry of Trade, other Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and the Private Sector, will participate in the 48th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair in June 2024. This engagement aims to further boost trade relations between Uganda and Tanzania.





Uganda's Diplomats Visit Oil Graben: Prioritize Petroleum, Mineral Development Programs, Under Commercial Diplomacy.

----- *Special Report compiled by Guma Jeremiah*

In a strategic move to boost Uganda's economic growth and international partnerships, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) undertook a four-day field visit to the Albertine Graben region, led by Permanent Secretary Bagiire Vincent Waiswa. The delegation, comprising MOFA senior management, Heads of Mission, and technical officials from Uganda Embassies, was graciously hosted by the Petroleum Association of Uganda (PAU).

The visit, emblematic of Uganda's commitment to economic diplomacy, aimed to source investors in four priority areas: Agro-processing, Tourism, Mineral Development, and Science and Technology Transfer. The collaboration between MOFA and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development was highlighted, particularly in enhancing the technical capacity of Uganda's Foreign Service regarding petroleum and mineral development programs. Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa Sentamu, Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, commended MOFA's proactive stance and urged the delegation to engage with Project Affected Persons, emphasizing responsible energy exploration and environmental conservation.



Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa flagging off the delegation of Senior Officials from the Ministry, to visit the Albertine Region.

During the visit, the delegation immersed themselves in Uganda's petroleum and mineral sectors, visiting key sites such as the Uganda Petroleum Institute Kigumba, the Centre of Excellence for Oil and Gas Training, and the Kingfisher Development project. Engagements with local communities highlighted the social and environmental dimensions of oil exploration. The itinerary also included visits to critical infrastructure such as the Waste Management Facility in Luwero Industries, feeder pipeline activities, and industrial parks, offering insights into Uganda's growing energy and agricultural sectors.

----- *story continues on the next page*





ALBERTINE REGION FIELD VISIT BY MoFA TECHNICAL TEAM IN PICTURES



As the field visit concluded, PS Baguire expressed optimism about the delegation’s enhanced understanding of Uganda’s petroleum economy. “Uganda’s Foreign Service personnel are now better equipped to seek investment opportunities and foster collaborations worldwide, showcasing Uganda’s commitment to sustainable development and economic diplomacy.” he remarked. The MoFA and missions abroad, following the Government’s strategic directives, has prioritized the ATM’S (Agro-business, Tourism Promotion, Minerals including oil and gas, Science, and Innovation) as key sectors.

ATM’S

- A** — Agro-business,
- T** — Tourism Promotion,
- M** — Mineral Development (including oil & gas)
- S** — Science and Innovation





Michael Woira
Guest Contributor

My four days of Oil diplomacy in the Albertine

Diplomacy, often viewed through the lens of formal negotiations, holds a deeper meaning for me. Rooted in humility, good manners, and respect for all, it embodies grace in conduct and navigating interactions with ease. Diplomacy, to me, means doing what's right for the greater good, ensuring every voice is heard and respected. If given the chance, I would gladly embrace the title of diplomat, not in the traditional sense, but as a plenipotentiary of goodwill and understanding.

This week, I had the privilege of joining a delegation from Uganda's Foreign Missions in Beijing, Abu Dhabi, Paris, and Dar es Salaam, accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the leadership of Permanent Secretary Mr. Vincent Bagiere. Our destination was the Albertine Graben region, where our primary objective was to observe the ongoing projects in the area. Such visits hold immense significance as they provide first-hand insight into the progress and challenges faced in these regions.

Throughout our journey, I witnessed first-hand the transformative impact of diplomacy in action. From the flag-off ceremony, where Mr. Bagiere emphasized the importance of economic diversification and environmental sustainability, to Minister Ruth Nankabirwa's impassioned plea for responsible resource management, every interaction underscored the principles of humility, respect, and collaboration.

When the delegation visited the Uganda Petroleum Institute, Kigumba (UPIK), it was evident that the dedication of the trainees and the collaborative efforts of government, private sector, and international partners were deeply impressive. Behind every statistic, every enrolment, and every diploma program lay a story of hope, opportunity, and empowerment. As the delegation toured the facilities, it became clear that UPIK represented more than just an educational institution; it symbolized a collective endeavour towards investing in the



General Manager Uganda Refinery Holding Company, Eng. Dr. Michael Mugerwa interacts with the MoFA delegation at Kabalega Industrial Park (KIP), in Hoima.

next generation of technicians. Government officials, representatives from the private sector, and international allies had joined forces to ensure that these students had the necessary resources and support to excel in their chosen fields. Each statistic revealed not just numbers but the aspirations of young individuals striving for a better future. Behind every enrolment was a student eager to learn, grow, and contribute to their community.

Established in 2009, Uganda Petroleum Institute, Kigumba (UPIK) in Kiryandongo district trains technicians for Uganda's oil and gas industry. With over 1000 trainees enrolled, UPIK's success stems from a collaboration between the Government of Uganda, the Private Sector Foundation (PSFU), Total Energies EP Uganda LTD (TEPU), and the World Bank supported Albertine Region Sustainable Development Project (ARSDP).

The delegation also visited key sites within the Kingfisher Project. Their itinerary encompassed a thorough inspection of vital locations, including the oil rig situated at well pad three, which served as a testament to Uganda's rapidly advancing capabilities in the oil sector. In addition, the MoFA delegation visited a waste management facility run by the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), which is under the UPDF.

They also visited Kabalega International Airport, a big project that will greatly improve Uganda's ability to handle air cargo, and were impressed by how the airport is ready to handle large cargo flights, making it an important hub in the region.

[Read full article](#)





China's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Visits Uganda

Kampala - On 3rd April 2024, the Minister of State for International Cooperation, Hon. Okello Henry Oryem, welcomed H.E. Xue Bing, China's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, to Uganda at the Ministry headquarters. Hon. Oryem expressed gratitude to the Government of China for its efforts in promoting peace, security, and development in the region. H.E. Xue Bing thanked Uganda for its hospitality and acknowledged the strong relations between China and Uganda. He emphasized China's commitment to Africa's prosperity and the importance of initiatives for peace in the Horn of Africa. The meeting included a comprehensive discussion on the situations in Sudan, Eastern DRC, Somalia, & South Sudan.



H.E. the President meets the delegation at the Presidential Country Home in Gomba

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni also received a letter from President Xi Jinping of China expressing support for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project, delivered by the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Bing. President Museveni welcomed President Xi Jinping's support and invitation to the Energy Minister to visit China for further discussions. Ambassador Xue Bing discussed strengthening bilateral ties, the upcoming Forum on Africa-China Cooperation (FOCAC), and a peace conference for the Horn of Africa with President Museveni, highlighting the importance of these areas for both countries.



Hon. Oryem engages the Special Envoy and his delegation in bilateral talks.

President Museveni Advocates for African Nations to Enhance Exports Through Value Addition

Nairobi - President Yoweri Museveni on April 29 2024 returned to Uganda after attending the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) – Africa Heads of summit which took place in Nairobi, Kenya. During the summit, President Museveni urged African countries to stop exporting raw materials but instead, add value at source to steer development. "This Haemorrhage of Africa must stop. The crisis you see in Africa is because of stagnation since independence. The population is increasing and yet the economies are not," said President Museveni.

President Museveni further attributed the current financial crisis in Africa to continuous ideological and strategic economic mistakes dating back to the 1960s where he vouched for socio-economic growth within the private sector. "For the private sector to grow, it needs low cost of production in transport, electricity, and low-cost funding for manufacturing," he urged. He also expressed sincere appreciation to the President of the World Bank for stirring conversation about prosperity rather than yielding profits. The International Development Association (IDA) is a development finance institution that offers concessional loans and grants to low-income countries. The IDA is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. in the United States.

Compiled by Asiimire Diana & Christiana Ampeire





Israeli Ambassador Meets Regional Cooperation Minister

Kampala - H.E. Michael Lotem, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Uganda, with residence in Nairobi, recently paid a courtesy call on the Honorable John Mulimba, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala. The meeting, aimed at fostering bilateral relations between Israel and Uganda, served as a platform to discuss matters of mutual interest. Amb. Lotem extended heartfelt congratulations to Uganda on the successful hosting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Group of 77 (G77) conferences in January 2024. He commended Uganda for its exemplary leadership and organizational prowess in convening these significant gatherings, highlighting Uganda's pivotal role in global diplomacy.

Emphasizing the purpose of his visit, Amb. Lotem highlighted Israel's expertise in agriculture and agricultural value addition through agro-processing. He expressed Israel's commitment to exploring opportunities for collaboration with Uganda in these fields to enhance agricultural productivity & promote

economic growth. In response, Minister Mulimba conveyed his sincere appreciation to Israel for its continued support and collaboration with Uganda. He specifically thanked Amb. Lotem for the ongoing agriculture student exchange program between the two countries, which has facilitated knowledge sharing and capacity building in the agricultural sector. Mulimba expressed Uganda's keen interest in harnessing Israel's expertise in agro-processing to add value to its agricultural produce, stimulating rural development and improving livelihoods.



Minister Mulimba receives Israel's Amb. Lotem and Honorary Consul Mrs. Ishta Kutesa Muganga.

Hon. Mulimba Welcomes New High Commissioner of Cyprus



Kampala - Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in-charge of Regional Cooperation, received copies of the credentials of H.E. Mr. Savvas Vladimirov, High Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Cyprus with residence in Nairobi, on 17th April 2024, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala. Welcoming Mr. Vladimirov, Hon. Mulimba praised the historical relations between Cyprus and Uganda and highlighted the potential for further collaboration in diverse fields such as technology, agriculture, and education. Mr. Vladimirov affirmed his commitment to strengthening the longstanding ties of friendship and cooperation between Cyprus and Uganda.

Mr. Vladimirov emphasized the importance of enhancing bilateral relations in various fields, including agriculture, tourism, and education. As the ceremony concluded, Hon. Mulimba extended his best wishes to High Commissioner-designate Vladimirov for a successful tour of duty, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the diplomatic relations between Cyprus and Uganda.

Compiled by Susan Akello & Christiana Ampeire





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Unlocking Opportunities: Significance of the Uganda-Tanzania Oil & Gas Symposium.

The Uganda-Tanzania Oil & Gas Symposium emerges as a pivotal platform, fostering collaboration and illuminating opportunities within the energy sector in East Africa. This symposium, initiated with a specific purpose, underscores the strategic importance of regional cooperation and the immense potential for economic growth and development in Uganda and Tanzania. Anchored by ambitious projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), this symposium stands as a testament to the commitment towards harnessing the region's natural resources for sustainable progress.



Amb. Col (Rtd) Fred Mwesigye
Uganda High Commissioner
United Republic of Tanzania

The genesis of the Uganda-Tanzania Oil & Gas Symposium lies in the mandate of the Uganda High Commission to promote commercial and economic diplomacy in Tanzania. The symposium was then crafted under a collective vision to capitalize on the rich oil and gas reserves found in Uganda and Tanzania. Recognizing the need for strategic partnerships and a conducive environment for investment, stakeholders from both nations came together to initiate this symposium. Its primary objective is to facilitate dialogue, exchange insights, and forge collaborations that can propel the oil and gas industry forward in East Africa.

One of the key focal points of the symposium is to showcase the myriad opportunities available for private sector participation in the oil and gas sector of Uganda and Tanzania. From exploration and production to infrastructure development and downstream activities, there exists a vast spectrum of opportunities ripe for investment. The burgeoning demand for energy both domestically and regionally amplifies the attractiveness of these opportunities.

Moreover, the symposium serves as a platform for policymakers to outline conducive regulatory frameworks and investment incentives, thereby instilling confidence among private investors. By fostering an environment conducive to business growth and innovation, the symposium aims to catalyse private sector engagement, driving job creation, technology transfer, and economic diversification.

At the heart of discussions in the Uganda-Tanzania Oil & Gas Symposium lies the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. Spanning approximately 1,445 kilometres, the EACOP represents a landmark infrastructure endeavour that will connect Uganda's oil fields in Hoima to the Tanzanian port of Tanga. This monumental project not only signifies a significant step towards monetizing Uganda's oil reserves but also underscores the strategic partnership between Uganda and Tanzania in harnessing their natural resources for mutual benefit. The EACOP project holds immense promise for both countries. For Uganda, it represents a pathway to commercialize its oil reserves, unlocking significant revenue streams and fuelling economic development.

Simultaneously, Tanzania stands to gain from its role as a transit country, with the EACOP project stimulating infrastructure development, job creation, and fostering economic integration within the East African region. Furthermore, the EACOP project exemplifies a paradigm of sustainable development, with measures in place to mitigate environmental impacts and uphold social responsibility.

Through collaborative efforts, stakeholders are committed to ensuring that the EACOP project adheres to the highest standards of environmental stewardship and community engagement, thereby fostering inclusive growth and long-term sustainability.

----- *story continues on the next page*





In essence, the Uganda-Tanzania Oil & Gas Symposium serves as a beacon of opportunity and collaboration in the East African energy landscape. By leveraging platforms such as these, Uganda and Tanzania can harness their collective strengths, attract investment, and propel their oil and gas sectors towards sustainable growth and prosperity. With initiatives like the EACOP project leading the way, the symposium underscores the transformative potential of regional cooperation and strategic partnerships in unlocking the vast potential of East Africa's energy resources.

----- *The writer is the High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to the United Republic of Tanzania.*

MoFA Encourages Public Engagement in Uganda-Tanzania Oil & Gas Sector.



Kampala - The Ministry called on the public to explore the opportunities within Uganda's oil and gas sector during the 2nd Uganda-Tanzania oil and gas symposium, themed "Establishing linkages for sustainable partnerships." Amb. Richard Kabonero, the Head of Regional Economic Cooperation, while representing the Permanent Secretary Bagiire Vincent Waiswa, highlighted the symposium's significance in creating opportunities and collaboration between the two countries. Amb. Kabonero expressed confidence in the sector's partnerships, citing alliances with agencies like UNOC, Total Energies, and CNOOC, along with strong regulations enhancing sector potential. He emphasized the importance of sustainable partnerships and interdependence between Uganda and Tanzania, echoing President Museveni's message on integration and cooperation.

H.E Col. (Rtd) Fred Mwesigye, Uganda's High Commissioner to Tanzania, reiterated the benefits of the crude oil project, including job creation and enhanced socio-economic livelihoods. He urged stakeholders to stay connected, noting that symposiums and similar events foster strong connections. H.E Major General Paul Kisesa Simuli, Tanzania's High Commissioner to Uganda, commended both countries for their commitment to the oil project. Engineer Irene Batebe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, appreciated Tanzania's support amid challenges, emphasizing Uganda and Tanzania's commitment to sustainable resource exploration.

Minister of State for Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Phiona Nyamuturo, highlighted the value of the East African federation and Uganda-Tanzania relations, assuring Uganda's active involvement in the oil sector. The 2nd Uganda-Tanzania oil and gas symposium, held alongside the 9th oil and gas convention, follows the previous symposium in Dar es Salaam, further strengthening bilateral ties and economic partnerships between the two nations.





Uganda Breaks Ground for Chancery & Residence in Guangzhou, China.

Guangzhou - The Consulate General of the Republic of Uganda in Guangzhou marked a significant milestone on Friday, April 12th, 2023, with a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of its Chancery and Official Residence in Chigang Consulate zone, Haizhu District, Guangzhou. High-level officials from the Chinese government, including Ms. Qian Hongjie, Deputy Director General of the Guangdong Foreign Affairs Office (FAO), and senior officials from government departments of Guangdong Province, Guangzhou City, and Haizhu District, graced the event. Consul Generals from various countries with Consulates in Guangzhou were also in attendance.



Staff of the Uganda Consulate Guangzhou joined by colleagues from the Uganda Embassy Beijing at the Ground breaking ceremony.

The Ugandan delegation was led by the Consul General, Amb. Judyth Nsababera, and included Hon. Norah Bigirwa Nyendwoha, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Parliament of Uganda, a representative from the Uganda Embassy in Beijing, and leaders of the Uganda Diaspora community in China. Amb. Nsababera highlighted that the construction of a permanent home in Guangzhou signifies Uganda's commitment to strengthening relations with China. She emphasized that the upcoming direct flights between Entebbe and Guangzhou by Uganda Airlines will further enhance these relations.

Ms. Qian Hongjie congratulated the Consul General of Uganda in Guangzhou for the miles-

tone, highlighting the strong relations between Uganda and China. She assured the Consulate of continued support from Guangdong Province and Guangzhou City towards the project's completion. Mr. Jiang Junzan, Chairman of Hengsheng Construction Group Co. Ltd, the General Contractor for the project, expressed that this project is an important milestone for Hengsheng Group. He promised to deliver the project timely and with high quality, adhering to their corporate spirit of "integrity, harmony, innovation, and excellence." The ceremony also featured Ugandan coffee tasting and cultural performances, showcasing Uganda's rich culture and hospitality.



COMESA Secretary-General Receives Uganda's New Envoy.

Lusaka - H.E Col (Rtd.) Fred Mwesigye assumed office as Uganda's Permanent Representative to the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA). He presented his letters of credence to H.E Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, Secretary General of COMESA, at the COMESA Secretariat in Lusaka. Amb. Mwesigye emphasized Uganda's strong support for COMESA's endeavors, highlighting the country's commitment to intensifying cooperation in achieving the objectives within the COMESA treaty. He cited Uganda's collaboration with COMESA, including market access for Ugandan products valued at 2.26 billion in 2023, and emphasized the need for improved infrastructure interconnectivity among member states. In response, H.E. Kapwepwe congratulated Amb. Mwesigye on his appointment and discussed important areas of engagement in trade, agriculture, industry, gender and social affairs, infrastructure, and peace and security.





Uganda's Delegation Advocates for Implementation of the EAC Customs Union Treaty, at Uganda South Sudan Border.

Nimule - Uganda's delegation led by First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community (EAC) Affairs, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, recently visited South Sudan, where they participated in a joint border evaluation meeting. The meeting, attended by Border Agencies from both Uganda and South Sudan, focused on evaluating the Common Market Protocol between the two countries. Minister Kadaga emphasized the importance of adhering to and implementing the EAC Customs Union treaty. She highlighted current challenges, including infrastructure, management issues, and the needs of cross-border traders and travelers. Minister Kadaga stressed the need for efficient facilities to facilitate trade at the Nimule border, as detailed in the EAC Customs Protocol.



Officials from Uganda & South Sudan pose for a photo at the meeting.

Dr. Anne Itto, a member of the East African Legislative Assembly, also emphasized the importance of efficient facilities to enhance trade on both sides of the border. The meeting provided an opportunity for discussions on trade issues between the two partner states. Minister Kadaga reiterated Uganda's commitment to ensuring cooperation between border authorities from Uganda and South Sudan.



Nigeria & Uganda Commit to Strengthen Bilateral Relations.

Abuja - The longstanding bilateral relations between the Republics of Nigeria and Uganda have seen significant progress in various sectors, including trade and education, dating back to pre-independence years. Recently, Uganda's High Commissioner to Nigeria, Amb. Nelson Ochege, met with Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, in Abuja to further enhance these ties.

During the meeting, both representatives expressed their commitment to strengthening economic, commercial, and political cooperation. They discussed plans to increase interactions in business, trade, investment, tourism, and knowledge sharing. The commencement of direct flights between Entebbe and Lagos by Uganda Airlines was noted as a positive development that has addressed some challenges in the business sector between the two countries.

The discussions also focused on the progress made in reviewing bilateral agreements in key sectors such as energy, oil and gas, defense and security cooperation, and education. In line with these efforts, Uganda has expressed readiness to host the forthcoming Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) meeting in Kampala. The JPC meeting is expected to facilitate the signing of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to enable the private sectors in both countries to thrive.





Uganda-India Business Conclave Explores Joint Investment Opportunities.



Ugandan & Indian Business leaders during the meetings in Kampala, where they discussed economic ties, and joint ventures.

Kampala - Uganda recently played host to a delegation of 60 new Indian investors for the Uganda-India Business Conclave, held on April 9, 2024, at the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development. Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, who was the Chief Guest at the conclave, and Hon. Anite Evelyn, State Minister for Investment and Privatisation, welcomed the delegation. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Business Delegation, led by Chairman of Triyn Technologies Ltd. and Chairman of FICCI Africa Council, Mr. R. Ganapathi, focused on fostering business connections between Indian and Ugandan entities. The conclave aimed to promote sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, real estate, infrastructure, renewable energy, healthcare, digital public infrastructure, ICT, medical and nursing, textile, and tourism in Uganda. Following the conclave, discussions continued on April 10, 2024, between the Indian delegation and Ugandan officials, including Minister of State for International Affairs, Hon. Oryem Okello. The discussions centered around the available lines of credit worth USD 205.5 million offered by the Government of India to Uganda. These lines of credit include a grant window for studying priority projects in areas such as grid reinforcement and extension, infrastructure for agriculture and dairy sector, and solar-powered water pumping systems. The Uganda-India Business Conclave was jointly organized by the Uganda High Commission New Delhi, High Commission of India in Kampala, FICCI, the India Business Forum, and other national chambers, showcasing the strong partnership between the two countries and the potential for further economic cooperation and investment.



Uganda and Kenya Discuss NCIPs.

Nairobi - The National Coordinators of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIPs) for Kenya and Uganda recently convened a consultative meeting on April 15, 2024, at the Ministry of East African Community in Nairobi. Ambassador Richard Kabonero represented Uganda, while Hon. Mr. Abdi Dubat represented Kenya. The meeting aimed to discuss several key issues, including the revival of NCIPs, tracking the implementation progress of the 14th Summit Directives in preparation for the 15th NCIPs Summit, and agreeing on the action plan for convening pending NCIPs Cluster meetings. Additionally, they reviewed the progress of implementation of the regional joint verification mechanism on the status of the East Africa Tourism Visa (EATV) under the NCIPs Memorandum of Understanding. Both principals praised the efforts of the Partner States in reviving NCIPs, particularly through ICT and Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Cluster meetings. Uganda received special recognition for successfully managing and chairing two Cluster meetings, as well as engaging with Partner States to implement Summit instructions. In a unified effort, they both agreed to convene the NCIPs National Coordinators' meeting & pending Cluster meetings in May 2024 in Kampala.



L-R: Amb. Richard Kabonero and Hon. Mr. Abdi Dubat during discussions at the meeting in Nairobi





Uganda Participates in the first-ever UNGA Sustainability Week

New York – President Yoweri Museveni, represented by the Prime Minister Rt. Hon Nabbanja Robinah, delivered a powerful message at the UN headquarters in New York during a high-level thematic debate on debt sustainability and socio-economic equality. President Museveni urged international leaders to avoid exploiting developing nations through financing schemes and emphasized Uganda's commitment to inclusive socio-economic transformation. Accompanied by Amb. Adonia Ayebare, Uganda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the Prime Minister presented Uganda's perspective on global prosperity and condemned narrow-focused growth strategies. She highlighted Uganda's efforts for widespread prosperity through inclusive economic transformation.



Top: PM Nabbanja, Amb. Adonia Ayebare, and Staff of the Uganda Mission to the UN in New York during the session.
Bottom: The President of the UNGA hosts the PM for talks.

Amb. Ayebare reiterated Uganda's dedication as the chair of NAM and G77 to achieving the UN SDGs. He emphasized the G77's call for immediate action on debt sustainability and advocated for changes in the global financial system. The President of the United Nations General Assembly, Dennis Francis, stressed the need for tangible actions to achieve sustainable development goals. He emphasized the importance of international collaboration to reform the global financial architecture and achieve debt sustainability and socioeconomic equity. The high-level thematic debate, part of the first-ever UN General Assembly Sustainability Week, focused on the challenges of debt sustainability and the impact on developing nations. It aimed to accelerate national and international efforts toward socio-economic equality for all.



Uganda & Qatar Sign Bilateral Labour Agreement



Hon. Betty Amongi and her counterpart, Hon. Dr. Al Marri, at the signing ceremony of the BLA in Doha.

Doha – Hon. Betty Amongi, Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, and her counterpart Hon. Dr. Ali bin Samikh Al Marri, Minister of Labour, signed a Bilateral Labor Agreement (BLA) between the Republic of Uganda and the State of Qatar on April 1st, 2024, at a ceremony in Doha, Qatar. Hon. Betty Amongi welcomed the signing of the BLA, highlighting its significance in enhancing labor cooperation between the two countries and protecting the rights of workers. Hon. Dr. Ali bin Samikh Al Marri expressed optimism that the agreement would lead to an increased number of Ugandans working and living in Qatar, including skilled labor. The Ugandan delegation comprised; H.E. Dr. Stephen Chemoiko Chebort, Ambassador of Uganda to Qatar, Mr. Aggrey David Kibenge, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour Social Development, as well as senior officers at the Mission in Doha.





Uganda's Envoy Presents Credentials in Tonga; Explores Cooperation



Nuku'alofa - Uganda's High Commissioner to Australia, resident in Canberra and accredited to Tonga, H.E. Dorothy Samali Hyuha, recently presented her credentials to His Majesty King George Tupou VI of Tonga during a ceremony at the Royal Palace in Nuku'alofa. Amb. Hyuha conveyed warm greetings from President Museveni to King George Tupou VI and the people of Tonga, emphasizing the strong relations between the two countries. The High Commissioner reaffirmed her commitment to expanding cooperation through the promotion of commercial and economic diplomacy, tourism, education, and political relations. She held discussions with H.E. Samiu Vaipulu, Ag. Prime Minister & Minister of Justice and Prisons, exploring areas of cooperation such as water tourism, health, climate and disaster management, prisons management, constitutionalism, and labour export.

Amb. Hyuha also met with Ugandans living and working in Tonga, commending them for their patriotism and unity, and encouraging them to seek development opportunities for Uganda. Additionally, H.E. Hyuha paid courtesy calls on H.E. Dr. Viliami Uasike Latu, Minister of Tourism, Ms. Akanesi Taufa, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet, and Mr. Onetoto Anisi, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.



EAC Revives Sectoral Council on Foreign Policy Coordination

Dar es Salaam - The 14th EAC Sectoral Council on Foreign Policy Coordination convened on April 30th, 2024, at Four Points by Sheraton in Dar-es-Salaam. Uganda's delegation included Hon. Oboth Oboth, Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Regional Affairs, Hon. Gen. David Muhoozi, Minister of State for Internal Affairs, and other senior officials. The Council, last convened in 2015, faced challenges leading to its hiatus. The meeting aimed to review the progress of implementing previous decisions and directives, ratification status of the Protocol on Foreign Policy Coordination, Immunity and Privileges, and discuss the development of policies such as the EAC Diaspora Policy and the EAC Regional Framework on Return and Reintegration of Stranded Migrants from EAC countries.

Hon. John Mulimba, leading Uganda's delegation, expressed Uganda's commitment to the EAC's operations. He emphasized the importance of re-convening Council meetings to renew commitment to implementing the EAC directives promptly and effectively. He encouraged Partner States to adhere to the Sectoral Council meetings' calendar of activities.



Senior Officials from the EAC Member States pose for an official photo at the meeting in Dar es Salaam.





Uganda & Finland Commit to Bolster Ties at the First Political Consultations held in Kampala.

Kampala - The Government of Uganda and the Government of Finland held their First Political Consultations in Kampala on Friday, 26th April 2024, following a Memorandum of Understanding signed on Nov. 6, 2023. The aim was to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation in various areas of shared interest. Led by Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs/International Affairs, Uganda's delegation also included Amb. Margaret Otteskov, Uganda's Envoy accredited to the NORDICS. The Finnish delegation, led by H.E Pasi Hellman, Under Secretary of State for International Development, engaged in discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues, emphasizing their commitment to peace, security, sustainable development, and human rights. Both delegations expressed satisfaction with the existing partnership and pledged to further strengthen cooperation in regional politics, trade, civil society, human rights, education, and environmental issues. H.E. Mr. Pasi Hellman thanked Uganda for its hospitality and announced plans for the Second Political Consultations to be held in Finland on mutually agreed dates. In 2022, Uganda exported goods worth \$6.82 million to Finland and these included Coffee, vegetables and oil seeds. In the last 27 years, the exports of Uganda to Finland have increased at an annualized rate of 7.41 to \$6.82M in 2022.



Hon. Oryem and H.E. Hellman (centered) flanked by Senior Officers from the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, during the talks in Kampala.



Uganda Endorsed to Join Khartoum Process Steering Committee at Senior Officials' Meeting in Egypt.

Cairo - Uganda's membership in the Khartoum Process Steering Committee was confirmed during the Senior Officials' Meeting held in Cairo, Egypt, on April 17-18, 2024. The Khartoum Process, established in November 2014, serves as a platform for political cooperation among countries along the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route, focusing on collaboration and information exchange related to migration. The Uganda delegation, consisting of senior officials from the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Foreign Affairs, joins a diverse group of countries in the Khartoum Process, including several EU Member States and African nations. The Steering Committee, comprising five EU Member States and five African Member States, along with partners like the European Union Commission and the African Union Commission, guides the Khartoum Process's strategic direction.

Uganda's endorsement to the Steering Committee comes after a decision in 2023 to expand membership, allowing for six members from each block. **Ms. Agnes Birungi, a Consular Officer** in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a member of the delegation, highlighted "Uganda's wealth of experience in migration management, aiming to contribute significantly to the Khartoum Process's objectives." The Khartoum Process aims to foster a common understanding of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, promote balanced partnerships, and uphold shared responsibility and cooperation, with Uganda poised to contribute actively to these initiatives.





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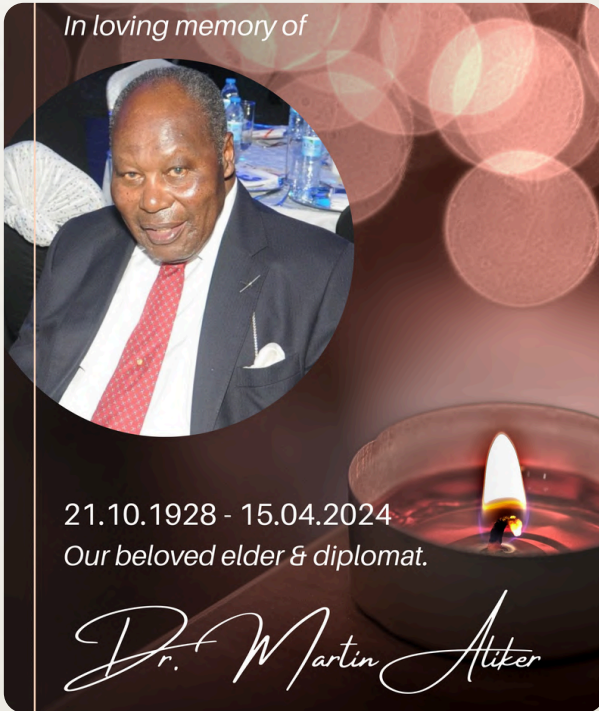


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CELEBRATING LIFE



Dr. Martin J. O. Aliker was an acclaimed Ugandan diplomat, businessman and one of the country's first dental surgeons. Born in Gulu District, Uganda, Dr. Aliker was an alumnus of Kings College Budo and Makerere University. He earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree from Northwestern University, Chicago, in 1959. Throughout his life, Dr. Aliker was an influential business leader and investor, serving on the boards of various companies, including Uganda Breweries Limited, Cooper Motor Corporation, Longman Publishing, Phoenix Assurance Company of East Africa, Coca-Cola Africa Region, Nation Media Group, and Heritage Oil, among others. Despite being forced into exile in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1972, Dr. Aliker returned to Uganda permanently in 1996. Dr. Aliker's contributions to Uganda extended beyond business. He served as an advisor to Presidents Yusuf Lule and Godfrey Binaisa (1979-80), as well as Senior Adviser, Special Duties, to President Yoweri Museveni in 1986.

He was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (1996-99).

Dr. Aliker also held roles as Chairperson, Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund, Uganda Chapter, 2012-13, and Chancellor of Gulu University from 2002 to 2014. In 2018, Dr. Aliker published his memoirs titled "The Bell Is Ringing: Martin Aliker's Story," detailing his life from his childhood in Aworanga, Gulu, to his achievements in education, politics, and diplomacy. Dr. Martin J. O. Aliker leaves behind a legacy of excellence, leadership, and service to Uganda. His impact on the country and to Uganda's Foreign Policy will always be remembered and cherished.

SOMEONE GOT MARRIED:

Newly Weds



Mr. Hannington D. Ddamulira
 Department of Finance & Administration





FITNESS AT MOFA

STRENGTHENING BONDS IN FOREIGN SERVICE, THROUGH WELLNESS.

Introducing Wellness Wednesdays!

For the past five years, the ministry has embraced a unique tradition: Wellness Wednesdays. Led by the office of the Undersecretary, these weekly fitness sessions bring together diplomats, administrative staff, and support personnel for invigorating exercise routines. Every Monday and Wednesday evening, the ministry's parking lot transforms into a lively arena of activity. Titles and roles are set aside as participants unite in a shared commitment to health and wellness. From stretching to cardio, these sessions have become a cherished part of the ministry's culture, fostering camaraderie and vitality among its members. *Stay tuned for our next issue, where we'll dive deeper into the world of Wellness Wednesdays.*



"These weekly fitness sessions not only strengthen our bodies but also our bonds as colleagues and representatives of Uganda. I can attest to the profound impact they have had on our collective spirit and effectiveness in our diplomatic endeavours." - **Sam Kayondo, International Economic Cooperation Department.**





Testimonial by Ms. Jacent Rose Nangooba: A Ugandan's Journey Through Black History Month in America



Washington - Representing Uganda, I embarked on a transformative journey to the United States during the 2024 Black History Month celebrations. Organized and sponsored by a coalition of individuals and organizations including Dr. Deborah and Reginald Freeman, founders of BTG, HBCUs in Virginia and Maryland, community organizations, churches, and the Ugandan Embassy in Washington DC, this two-week trip was a profound exploration of Black American culture and history, intertwined with the beauty of the USA. Departing from Entebbe International Airport in Uganda, my heart raced with a mix of terror and excitement as I boarded my first-ever flight, with a connection in Istanbul before landing at Newark International Airport in New Jersey. Stepping out into the chill of a snowy New Jersey evening, I marveled at the unfamiliar cold, a stark contrast to the warmth of my homeland. Despite the biting cold, the dazzling lights of New York City welcomed me for a late-night exploration, revealing a skyline adorned with towering skyscrapers and iconic landmarks like Times Square, the Empire State Building, and Rockefeller Center.

My accommodation at the Ramada Hotel provided a comfortable respite after the day's exhilarating adventures. Friday, March 1st, 2024, was a day filled with enriching experiences that broadened my understanding of different cultures and perspectives. It began with a podcast discussion with Bishop and Minister Walker of "The First Baptist Church of Freeman," where we delved into topics ranging from spirituality to tourism. It was more like engaging in a deep, soul-stirring conversation with wise aunts and uncles. Their wisdom and insight illuminated the room, sparking moments of introspection and revelation. As we discussed the role of faith in navigating the complexities of modern society, I found myself challenged and inspired in equal measure.

Following the podcast discussion was a journey to the Ugandan Embassy in Washington DC. Eager to meet fellow Ugandans, I was burning with excitement body and soul. As soon as I stepped through the embassy's doors, it really felt like home. I was greeted with warmth and hospitality, a testament of brotherliness and shared culture that existed among us. Ambassador Robie Kakonge's greeting in 'Runyoro', my native language, added a warm feeling to my heart and served as a great presence of Ugandan culture.

Accompanied by Counselor Jolly Bakwega, I was given a tour of the embassy museum, a treasure trove of artifacts that showcased Uganda's art, culture, history, and creativity. Each exhibit was a window into the soul of the nation, revealing the ingenuity and resilience of the people of my homeland. As I reflect on that day, I feel a sense of gratitude and awe. From the enlightening conversations with Bishop and Minister Walker to the immersive journey through Ugandan culture at the embassy museum, I had been blessed with moments of connection and discovery that would stay with me for a lifetime.

Amb. Kakonge's greeting in 'Runyoro', my native language, added a warm feeling to my heart and served as a great presence of Ugandan culture.

[Read full blog](#)





Experience the Thrill of the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon While Exploring the Majestic Rwenzori Theluji Experiences.

----- *Written by Syahuka Moses*

In the heart of Uganda (the pearl of Africa), lies a breathtaking mountain range known as the Rwenzori Mountains, also called the "Mountains of the Moon." These mountains offer a unique backdrop for the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon, a World Athletics Federation certified event featuring races of 42KM, 21KM, and a fun run of 5KM.

The marathon showcases the Rwenzori Theluji Experience, where the 42KM Elephant run starts from the Equator line to the mountains at 1182 meters above sea level through Kilembe mountain ranges. The 21KM Leopard run takes you from Kasese town to 1182 meters above sea level, while the 5KM fun run contributes to conservation efforts under the "My Tree, My Theluji" tree planting campaign.

As you test your limits in the marathon, you'll also immerse yourself in the Rwenzori Theluji stunning views of the savannah wilderness, lowlands of Queen Elizabeth National Park, and the diverse theluji cultural performances along the routes, with glimpses into the local livelihoods and coffee plantations.

The **Rwenzori Theluji Festival**, scheduled for 23rd August to 7th September 2024 in Kasese Municipality, is a celebration of biodiversity conservation, tourism promotion, and cultural heritage. This festival offers visitors a glimpse into the lives of the 52 tribes that call this region home, through traditional music, dance, and local cuisine, highlighting the deep connection between the people of Rwenzori and their surroundings. The festival not only celebrates the natural beauty and cultural richness of the region but also aims to conserve the Rwenzori Mountain ranges from the effects of global warming and climate change. It offers an unforgettable experience that will leave you with a lasting impression of this unique part of the world.



The world's athletics Board certified the Rwenzori Theluji Marathon with an International Measurements Certificate.





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WOMEN & FASHION

The British Council Creative Economy Week.

Kampala - The Head of the Public Diplomacy Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the Creative Economy Week hosted by the British Council Uganda on March 15, 2024. The event, held at the British Council's headquarters, showcased a range of innovative and environmentally conscious creations, all infused with Ugandan cultural elements.

The exhibition featured brands predominantly founded by Ugandan women, who have skillfully integrated traditional Ugandan culture into their modern designs. Live demonstrations were also a highlight, including Jose Hendo's live barkcloth production and Najuma's house virtual reality (VR) tour of the Buganda kingdom.

Jose Hendo, an eco-sustainable designer and artist with over 20 years of experience working with barkcloth, showcased a variety of creations, from elegant dresses to furniture and footwear. She emphasized barkcloth's environmental sustainability and its significance in addressing environmental issues.

Nantaba Elsie, a tech expert and CEO of Najuma's House, demonstrated the power of technology in preserving culture by providing audiences with immersive 3D tours of Ugandan kingdoms. She highlighted that virtual reality can help preserve culture for future generations and showcase Ugandan heritage to the world.

Ihato Designs, an accessory brand, displayed beautifully crafted jewelry made from recycled brass and cow horn, offering training opportunities for women in crisis situations.

Under the theme **"Reimagining Heritage and Textile through Commerce,"** the event celebrated the innovative spirit and creative talent within Uganda's creative economy.

----- *Compiled by Christiana Ampeire*



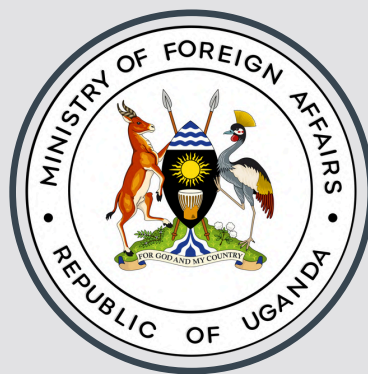
- 1 Diversity with technology as audiences are journeyed to Buganda Kingdom through VR glasses.
- 2 Award winning eco designer Jose Hendo talking to British High Commissioner to Uganda H.E. Kate Airey.
- 3 Exhibitors engaging with audiences during the British council creative economy week.
- 4 Live illustration of creation of Uganda's Bark Cloth at the British Council's Creative Economy Week 2024.



Spotlight Photo



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni receives a delegation from the African Union (AU), that was in the country to evaluate Uganda's bid to host the African Union Humanitarian Agency



Follow the conversation:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kampala