

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 ESTEEMED READERS



Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. This issue captures the vibrant activities and achievements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the past month.

We are pleased to announce the completion of the newly constructed Ugandan Embassy in Paris, a stunning blend of modern architecture and traditional Ugandan elements, including the use of bark cloth in its design. This embassy not only symbolizes our strong diplomatic presence in France but also celebrates our rich cultural heritage.

Additionally, we highlight the successful Uganda Film Festival, which showcased the incredible talent of our filmmakers and promoted Ugandan cinema on an international platform. This event underscores our commitment to supporting the creative industries and sharing Uganda's stories with the world.

On the diplomatic front, we have seen significant strides in strengthening our international relations, with a series of productive engagements and collaborations with various nations. Furthermore, our Minister of Foreign Affairs has been at the forefront of these efforts, fostering new partnerships and reinforcing existing ones to advance Uganda's global interests.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to your feedback as we continue to promote Uganda's interests globally.

For any thoughts, suggestions, or additional editions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at editor@mofa.go.ug.

DIPLOMATIC
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL
FEATURE
STORY



UGANDA
MISSIONS
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE



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for feedback or action.*



The Uganda Martyrs Shrine Namugongo is one of the largest Christian pilgrimage destinations in Africa dedicated to the 22 Martyrs and saints of Uganda who were martyred between 1885 and 1887 by the Kabaka (King) of Buganda, Kabaka Mwanga II.

[Learn more](#)





Minister Odongo Commends UNCTAD, WIPO, and WTO for Economic Support to Uganda during Working Visit to the UN in Geneva.

Geneva – The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubaker recognised the support rendered by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) towards Uganda’s economic development, and aimed at enhancing trade, investment, and sustainable development. This was during the Global Leaders Forum, at the commemoration of UNCTAD’s 60th Anniversary, under the theme “*charting a new development course in a changing world*,” which took place on June 13, 2024, where he represented H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at the UN in Geneva.

Gen. Odongo revealed that the Summit of the Future is expected to demonstrate that international cooperation can effectively tackle current challenges. Notably, the UN Secretary-General, Antonia Guterres emphasised that the world cannot afford splits into rival blocs and called for a global economy to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. On her part, the UNCTAD Secretary-General Rebeca Grynspan recognised the digital economy as a powerful new engine of development, transforming trade into an intangible and scalable activity while risking deeper divides and inequalities.

On the sidelines, Hon. Gen. Odongo held bilateral meetings with the Director-General (DG) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Dr Ngozi Ikonjo-Iweala DG of the World Trade Organization (WTO) at their respective headquarters in Geneva. Dr. Ngozi emphasised the importance of diversifying the economy for a more effective African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), adding that the WTO supports Uganda in implementing AfCFTA protocols and reducing trade barriers through the Trade Facilitation Agreement.

DG Tang thanked the Minister for Uganda’s role in the Traditional Knowledge Convention negotiations and reported that since January 2022, WIPO added Uganda to project support, potentially expanding to Geographical Indications. Hon. Odongo expressed gratitude for WIPO’s support to Uganda, “we thank you for your support over the years, including project support to the establishment of 34 Technology and Innovation Centres; building capacity for Patent Examiners and Drafters, development of a National Action Plan to protect and benefit from Uganda’s traditional knowledge, genetic resources and traditional cultural expressions and the development of the National Intellectual Property Policy in 2019,” said Odongo.

Compiled by Christiana Ampeire



TOP LEFT - BOTTOM: MFA Odongo poses for a photo after his meeting with DG WTO; Accompanied by officials of Uganda’s Mission to the UN Geneva, the MFA met with the DG WIPO; Gen. Odongo joins other world leaders for a group photo at the Global Leaders Forum.





Uganda and South Korea Forge Stronger Ties with a New Diplomatic Mission in Seoul, and Enhanced Economic Cooperation.

Seoul – Uganda and South Korea are poised to take their relationship to the next level. This was evident at the recently concluded Korea-Africa Summit in Seoul, where Uganda’s high-powered delegation, led by Vice President Jessica Alupo, forged new partnerships and secured increased economic cooperation.

One of the most significant announcements was Uganda’s plan to open a resident embassy in South Korea. A permanent diplomatic presence signifies a commitment to maximizing the benefits of the existing ten Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the two nations.

Furthermore, two new MoUs were signed during the Summit, focusing on trade and investment promotion, along with loan financing (increasing South Korea’s concessional loan to Uganda from \$34 million to \$500 million for 2024-2028). These agreements will create a more predictable and stable environment for Korean investors venturing into the Ugandan market.

During a bilateral discussion on June 2, 2024, in Seoul, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in-charge of International Affairs, and Deputy Foreign Minister Hon. Chung Byung-won of the Republic of Korea, delved into critical issues such as climate change, food security, supply chain stability, and health security.



Hon. Oryem was accompanied by Amb. Elly Kamahungye, Director Regional & International Economic Affairs (1st left) and Uganda’s Ambassador to Korea H.E. Kaahwa Tophace (2nd left), to the meeting with Korea’s Deputy Foreign Minister Hon. Byung-won.

These topics which are essential for Africa’s growth aligned with the summit’s theme, "The Future We Make Together: Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity."

"We’re excited about the prospect of a trade agreement and a significant increase in Korean loan commitments," stated Uganda’s Minister for International Affairs. He revealed plans to propose several infrastructure and energy projects for Korean funding, potentially unlocking up to \$500 million in concessional loans over the next five years. This financial support could be instrumental in propelling Uganda’s development initiatives.

South Korea, on the other hand, sees Uganda as a strategic partner in Africa. Deputy Foreign Minister Byung-won emphasized Korea’s commitment to knowledge and technology sharing. Programs focusing on capacity building, technology transfer, and skill development will be at the forefront of their collaborative efforts. This expertise exchange aims to bolster Uganda’s industrial growth and equip its workforce with future-proof skills.

The Ugandan delegation actively participated in various side events, delving into critical areas like tourism development, agricultural advancement, healthcare security, Information & Communication Technologies, and infrastructure development. A Business Summit at Lotte Hotel, Seoul, further explored opportunities for industrialization, trade promotion, and job creation.



Uganda’s Vice President (Head of Delegation) flanked by Minister Oryem, exchange courtesies with H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of South Korea.

----- **Compiled by Githa Ogume**





Gen. Odongo Decries Slow Negotiations for UN Security Council Reform.

----- *Compiled by Herbert Ssekatawa*

Algiers - Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Gen Odongo Jeje Abubaker called out the sluggish nature of the Inter-Governmental Negotiation (IGN) for the UN Security Council, observing convergences on a number of clusters within major negotiating groups.

These remarks were made during his speech at the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the African Union Committee of Ten (C10) on the reform of the United Nations Security Council, which took place on June 10, 2024, in Algiers, Algeria.

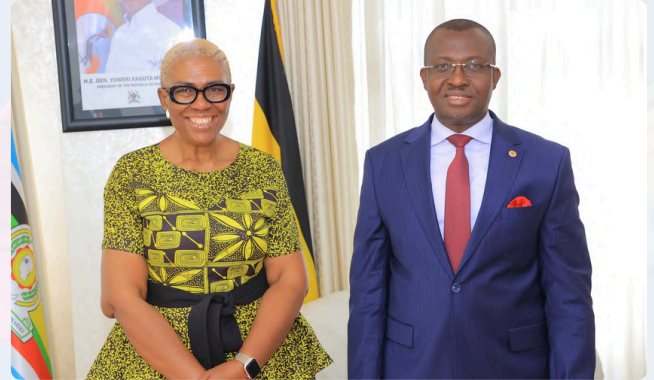
Gen. Odongo observed that despite having some convergences on a number of clusters within major negotiating groups, there are simply many lacking common grounds to move the process towards fruitful intergovernmental negotiations.

The conference allowed C-10 Foreign Ministers to discuss the status of IGNs at the UN General Assembly, in order to devise strategies to advance the Common African Position and determine the next stages of the IGN process.



Gen. Odongo is received, and greets the President of Algeria; the MFA later joins colleagues (Foreign Ministers) from the AU C-10 to pose for a photo ahead of the opening session.

Uganda & UNDP to Strengthen Collaboration on Climate Change, Sustainable Development.



Kampala - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a high-level meeting between Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Affairs), and Ms. Nwanne Vwede Obahor, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, on June 12, 2024. The two discussed initiatives to combat climate change and enhance agricultural sustainability.

Both parties acknowledged Uganda's crucial role as a food basket in the region and explored avenues for bolstering agriculture, particularly through projects supporting women groups and the cassava value chain production. UNDP's commitment to providing equipment and funding for these initiatives was met with strong support from the Ugandan government.

Furthermore, the meeting highlighted UNDP's broad spectrum of support across various sectors, including natural resources, trade, tourism, and minerals. Minister Mulimba emphasized the importance of collaboration between UNDP and the Ugandan government in achieving shared development goals. Ms. Obahor echoed this sentiment, underscoring UNDP's longstanding partnership with Uganda and its commitment to furthering mutual objectives.

They also explored new areas of cooperation, particularly in promoting regional integration within the East African Community (EAC). Hon. John Mulimba emphasized Uganda's efforts to engage border communities and manage cross-border natural resources, highlighting the potential for joint initiatives with UNDP's support.

----- *Compiled by Jadrine Komukyeya*





National Days



Swedish Embassy in Kampala Celebrates National Day; Commits to Boost Cooperation with Uganda. The Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubhaker joined the celebration on June 6th, 2024, emphasizing the strengthening of bilateral ties between the two countries.



Italian Embassy in Kampala Celebrates 78th National Day; The Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and his wife, joined H.E. Mauro Massoni and other dignitaries, at the Festa Della Repubblica on June 5th, 2024. Both countries committed to reinforcing bilateral cooperation in key sectors, including health, education, and support for refugees, among others.



Royal Danish Embassy in Kampala hosts Partnership and National Day Reception; At the event held on June 12th, 2024, Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Regional Affairs, joined Danish Ambassador H.E. Signe Winding Albjerg, to launch the Bilateral Development Program 2023-2028.



Norwegian Embassy in Kampala hosted a last reception before its official closure. Celebrating continued partnerships between the two nations.



Russia National Day; commemorated every June 12th



Iceland National Day; commemorated every June 17th

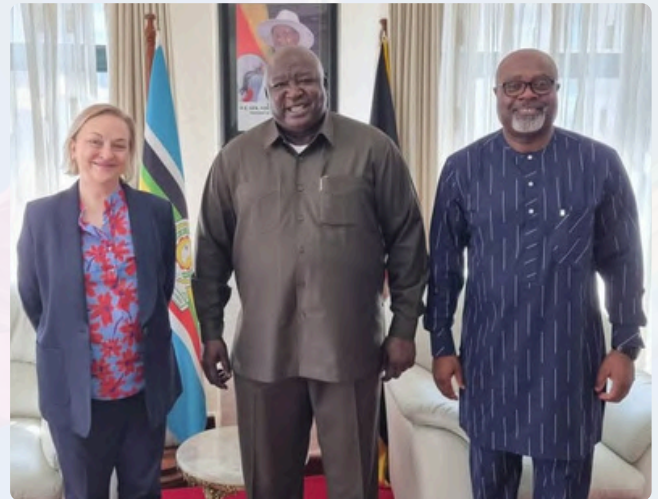




Uganda, UN to Boost New Strategies for Peacekeeping Operations.

----- *Compiled by Githa Ogume*

Kampala - The Minister of State for International Affairs, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello and Ms. Lisa Buttenheim, the UN Assistant Secretary General for Operational Support, held a meeting focused on boosting collaboration in support operations, peacekeeping, and sustainable development. Both parties emphasized the need for ongoing cooperation to tackle regional security challenges and promote peace and stability.



Hon. Oryem (center), highlighted the positive impact of UN programs & initiatives on the nation's development agenda reaffirming Uganda's commitment to uphold the principles of international cooperation contributing to global peacekeeping efforts.

ASG Lisa Buttenheim (L) who was accompanied by the Director RSCE Paulin Djomo (R) reiterated the United Nations' commitment to supporting Uganda's efforts in achieving its development objectives and enhancing the capacity of its peacekeeping missions. The meeting concluded with both parties expressing optimism for the future of Uganda-UN relations and a shared commitment to fostering a robust and dynamic partnership. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs looks forward to further strengthening its engagement with the United Nations and other international partners in the pursuit of sustainable development, peace, and security.

Uganda and Sweden Discuss Enhanced Humanitarian Cooperation.



The Honorable Ministers joined by their respective delegations, pose for a picture in the Wapakhabulo Auditorium at the MoFA Headquarters.

Kampala - The Minister for migration and asylum policy of Sweden, Ms. Maria Malmer Stenergard met with Minister of State for International Affairs Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, providing an opportunity for both Ministers to engage constructively on the humanitarian challenges faced by refugees in Uganda. The discussions focused on aligning policies, sharing best practices, and promoting cooperation for both countries.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to upholding international obligations, protecting the rights of refugees and providing them with a safe and dignified resettlement experience. The two also emphasized the importance of increase of civil society participation to address the ongoing refugee crisis and work towards sustainable solutions. The Ministers committed to regular communication and cooperation and to strengthen their partnership and advance the shared goals of promoting refugee protection.

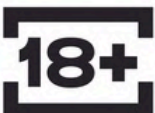
----- *Compiled by Jadrine Komukyeya*





The Original

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L-R: The team before embarking on a boat cruise at the 40km stretch of Kazinga channel which connects lakes George & Edward; Pictured at the QENP entrance.

IEC Explores the Wonders of Queen Elizabeth National Park.

Special Report compiled by Diana Maria Asimire

In a collaborative effort between the International Economic Cooperation department and the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), a delegation of 15 delegates embarked on a comprehensive exploration of Western Uganda, focusing on the iconic Queen Elizabeth National Park among other attractions. Led by Connie Nuwagaba, a counselor in the department, the expedition aimed to deepen understanding and promote the park's potential for international tourism.

Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP), sprawling over 1,978 square kilometers, serves as a sanctuary for an astonishing diversity of wildlife, i.e. 10 primates, 95 mammals, etc. The team's game drive provided close encounters with lions, elephants, kobs, and a myriad of bird species (618), showcasing Uganda's rich ecological tapestry.

Beyond its natural beauty, the team observed ongoing challenges such as poaching and habitat degradation caused by human activities. They noted the park's dedicated efforts in anti-poaching measures and habitat restoration projects, crucial for preserving Uganda's natural heritage and supporting sustainable tourism.

Peace Nankinga, the Personal Secretary in the IEC Department, noted that several staff have never been to a single national park in Uganda.

"The trip offered invaluable insights into Uganda's natural treasures," remarked Connie Nuwagaba. "It reinforced the importance of showcasing these attractions globally to attract tourism and investment that benefit both our economy and conservation efforts." she added.

"Every ambassador and foreign representative ought to be taken around this country to feel and witness the natural endowments that we have in terms of tourism among several other investment opportunities which have to be marketed outside the country," Ms. Nuwagaba emphasised.

"This initiative will not only enhance our understanding of several endowments but also equip us with knowledge of several investment opportunities that can be sold to investors out of Uganda," urged Peace Nankinga, a delegate on the trip. During discussions, the delegates emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to promote Uganda's tourism potential. They highlighted plans to engage international partners in joint marketing campaigns and infrastructure development aimed at enhancing visitor experiences.

The delegates appealed to the Uganda Tourism Board to continue providing branded material and other informative merchandise to embassies and foreign missions, which can be used to attract tourists and investors. On his part, Daniel Irunga, the 'Explore Uganda' brand manager, said the visit to Queen Elizabeth was a continuation of an earlier initiative to have UTB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implement a joint international marketing strategy, support crisis communications, and collaborate with diaspora associations to promote investment in Uganda.

Both entities remain committed to implementing this unified strategy aimed at positioning Uganda as a premier tourism destination and conservation leader on the global stage.

All Photos by Julius Luwemba, Journalist, New Vision

[Read full article](#)





MoFA Joins Africa Public Service Day 2024 Celebrations!

By Herbert Ssekatawa

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) commemorated the Africa Public Service Day on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at Kololo Ceremonial Independence Grounds.

Organized by the Public Service Commission, this year's theme focused on **"Empowering a Citizen-Centric Public Service for an Inclusive and Thriving 21st Century Africa."**

With a colorful vibrant setup, MoFA showcased its key roles, highlighting how the Ministry and its missions abroad promote Uganda's interests abroad.

H.E. President Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, represented by the Vice President H.E. Maj. (Rtd.) Jessica Alupo (who is pictured below), emphasized teamwork for successful service delivery.

"We must quit working in cliques and maintain our service delivery standards. By doing so, we will secure long-term growth," he stated.



Staff from various departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pose for a group photo at the MoFA's exhibition stall at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

Ms. Lucy Nakyobe, Head of the Public Service Commission, echoed the event's theme, advocating for an inclusive public service that meets the needs of Ugandans. "Public service is at the core of our social contract. We must listen to the voices of the people and meet their demands. Empowering our public service to be more inclusive and citizen-centric is critical," Nakyobe added.

The event featured various government agencies presenting their roles to the public, reinforcing the importance of a collaborative and citizen-focused public service.





Uganda Spearheads Regional Economic Transformation at Joint Commercial Diplomacy Retreat.

By *Diana Maria Asiimire & Ivan Koreta*

In a bold move to boost and strengthen regional economic growth and development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs convened a historic retreat bringing together heads of diplomatic missions in the Ring States. The event, held under the theme "Enhanced Economic Growth and Development through Promotion of Economic and Commercial Diplomacy," ran from June 11th to 14th 2024, at Serena Kigo.

The retreat aimed to bolster missions' ability to attract regional economic cooperation and investments. It convened government officials, private sector leaders, and industry experts to discuss strategies for enhancing economic and commercial diplomacy, with a focus on the regional economic outlook, energy sector development, Uganda's trade performance, and the private sector's role in driving socio-economic growth.

Hon. John Mulimba, the Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, emphasized the need for Uganda's plans to align with the National Development Plan (NDP 4) and highlighted the significance of a clear economic diplomacy strategy. "We must ensure our initiatives are in line with the NDP 4 to promote sustainable development and economic growth," he stated.

Mr. Bagjiire Vincent Waiswa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the retreat as a crucial platform for addressing regional challenges and exploring opportunities for economic growth. "This retreat is a crucial platform for addressing regional challenges and exploring opportunities for economic growth," he said, stressing the need for a robust resource mobilization strategy to access lucrative regional markets.

A key highlight of the retreat was the call to action by Ms. Lilly Ajarova, CEO of Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), who urged Uganda's missions abroad to support tourism efforts.

"We are calling upon our missions abroad to support us in branding, marketing, and attracting investors to our 'Explore Uganda' campaign," she said. Ms. Ajarova noted the success of past collaborations and expressed confidence in achieving even more positive results with continued support.

Amb. Richard Kabonero, Head of Regional Economic Cooperation, outlined a new framework aimed at promoting economic growth through commercial diplomacy.



Minister Mulimba (yellow tie) poses with Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and Senior Officials at the Ring States Retreat.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi tasked Uganda's Ambassadors to attract credible investors and secure markets for exports, urging them to leverage their diplomatic presence to drive economic growth. He emphasized the importance of negotiating non-tariff barriers to boost Uganda's export market within the East African Community and COMESA.

Amb. Richard Kabonero explained that, "The MoFA has developed a framework to guide our missions abroad in marketing Uganda, increasing exports, attracting foreign direct investments, and boosting tourism." The retreat also addressed barriers to trade, the importance of data and communication infrastructure, and the need for a regional data framework to improve data affordability and access to sea cables.

Ms. Julianne Mweheire, Director of Industry Affairs and Content Development at the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), highlighted the significant progress in reducing data costs and the shift in data consumption trends.

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





Ms. Mweheire noted that despite the decrease in data prices, smartphone penetration remains low due to high taxes on digital devices.

The retreat concluded with a draft action plan for economic and commercial diplomacy for FY 2024/2025, showcasing Uganda's commitment to strengthening regional economic ties and promoting economic growth and development in the East African region. The participants expressed optimism about the future and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration & strategic initiatives to achieve their economic goals.



THE RING STATES

Joint Regional Economic & Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) Retreat

IN PICTURES



Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation speaking to officers at the Retreat.



Permanent Secretary, Mr. Bagiire Vincent Waiswa delivers his remarks at the Joint ECD Retreat at Kigo.



L-R: UTB CEO Lily Ajarova, Uganda's Ambassador to Burundi, PS Bagiire, Amb. Kabonero, UCC's Julianne Mweheire at the Retreat.



Finance Permanent Secretary Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi engages officers.



The Head of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID), Mr. Odrek Rwabogo, addresses the Retreat.



A Cross section of participants (Ambassadors and Foreign Service Officers), listening to presentations and engaging in discussions at the Joint ECD Retreat at Serena Hotel Kigo





Uganda Commemorates Martyrs Day 2024 Worldwide!


By Githa Ogume





President Museveni flanked by First Lady Janet Museveni interact with Clergy at the Namugongo Catholic Shrine.


Uganda joined the global Christian community on June 3, 2024, to commemorate Martyrs Day, organized by the Nebbi Diocese. This year's celebrations saw numerous Christians flock to the Namugongo Shrine. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni expressed gratitude towards the Uganda Martyrs for fostering Christianity. "The blood of the Martyrs watered the seed of Christianity. Their death served as a catalyst for the growth of Christianity," he said.

GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS:

 **Rome:** On June 8, the Uganda Embassy in Rome, the Uganda Embassy to the Holy See in Berlin, and the Uganda Ecclesiastical Community in Rome hosted global Martyrs Day celebrations at the White Fathers' Headquarters.

 **Johannesburg:** The Catholic Diocese of Johannesburg, along with Ugandan clergy and Christians in Gauteng Province, designated Mother of Mercy Shrine in Magaliesburg as the annual pilgrimage site for Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations, observed on June 15.

 **Los Angeles:** St. Charles Lwanga, Daudi Okello, and Jildo Irwa's relics are preserved at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Panorama City. Martyrs Day is observed on the third Sunday of June. Mr. Kigoye Damian, a Ugandan from LA, visited Uganda and brought back a wooden sculpture funded by Ugandans in LA.

 **Cologne:** On June 8, Ugandans celebrated in Cologne, Germany. The celebration, officiated by Fr. Klaus Peter Vosen, included over 100 attendees, including Ugandans living in Germany, Uganda's Ambassador to Germany, Amb. Stephen Mubiru, his staff, and visiting Ugandan MPs attending UN Climate Change meetings. Priests from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Uganda also assisted.





Ugandan Diaspora Community Shines as Key Driver of Economic Growth.

The Ugandan diaspora community has emerged as a crucial contributor to the country's economic development, with remittances surpassing traditional foreign direct investment and official development assistance.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, remittances from the diaspora reached \$1.42 billion (UGX 5.5 trillion) in the last 12 months, a 13.4% increase from the previous year. This significant influx of foreign currency has helped stabilize the economy, invest in real estate, and support household expenditures.



Amb. Johnny Muthahi Muhindo
Head, Diaspora Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Beyond remittances, the diaspora community has invested in businesses, created jobs, and transferred skills and knowledge to Uganda. Amb. Johnny Muhindo, Head of the Diaspora Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the diaspora's role during the Joint Retreat of Uganda Missions from the Ring States.

He highlighted the need for a comprehensive national diaspora policy to fully harness their contributions and address the challenges they face. "We need a comprehensive national diaspora policy to fully harness their contributions and address the challenges they face," Amb. Muhindo said.

Despite their significant contributions, Ugandans living abroad encounter numerous challenges, including legal and immigration issues, employment and economic instability, access to healthcare, mental anguish, and difficulties in transferring funds to their home country.

Ambassador Muhindo stressed the importance of addressing these challenges and creating an enabling environment for the diaspora to invest and contribute to Uganda's development. "The diaspora community is eager to contribute to Uganda's development, and we believe that with the right policies and support, they can make a very significant impact," he explained. "We urge the government to prioritize the diaspora policy and create an enabling environment for them to invest and contribute to Uganda."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Diaspora Department has outlined tasks to enhance diaspora engagement, including completing the Regulatory Impact Assessment, launching the National Diaspora Policy, promoting diaspora agri-preneurs, and creating a diaspora bond. The department also plans to collaborate with international organizations to bridge the financing gap in implementing its mandate.



L-R: Ugandans in North America receive consular services at the UNAA Convention 2023; Amb. Muhindo joins Senior Presidential Advisor on Diaspora Affairs Amb. Abbey Walusimbi for a Strategy Meeting at the Office of the President HQ.

"Countries that have recognized the value of their diaspora population to development efforts have instituted policies, legal and institutional frameworks that harness diaspora contributions," said Ambassador Muhindo. "We must do the same to reap the benefits of our diaspora community."

The retreat, attended by diplomats, government officials, and diaspora representatives, called for a concerted effort to support the diaspora community and promote Uganda's development. Participants agreed on the need for a coordinated approach to engage the diaspora community and harness their contributions to Uganda's growth.

----- *The article was written by Margaret Kafeero, Head of Public Diplomacy, MoFA.*





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Uganda Embassy Brussels Enhances Diaspora Engagement with Monthly Consular Outreach Programs in the Netherlands

Amsterdam - In a commendable move to strengthen the bond with its citizens abroad and enhance national development, the Embassy of Uganda in Brussels has initiated a series of monthly consular outreach programs in the Netherlands. These sessions, designed to cater to the needs of Ugandan nationals living in the diaspora, have proven to be a valuable bridge between Ugandans abroad and their homeland.

The monthly consular outreach sessions have become a vital lifeline for many Ugandan citizens residing in the Netherlands as they provide a platform where Ugandans can access essential consular services such as registering national IDs, processing of passport renewals, and legalising documents. This initiative has been met with immense appreciation from the Ugandan community, who previously faced challenges in accessing these services from afar.

One of the cornerstone achievements of these consular programs is the registration of national IDs. This crucial service enables Ugandans in the diaspora to partake more actively in the nation's progression.



Officials from Uganda's Embassy to the Benelux Region extending consular services to Ugandans in the Netherlands, Amsterdam.

By securing their national IDs, diaspora members can engage in various civic responsibilities and benefit from government programs. This inclusion fosters a deeper connection with Uganda and encourages contributions towards national growth. Moreover, facilitating passport renewals and document legalizations ensures that Ugandans abroad remain compliant with international regulations, thereby simplifying their travel and professional endeavours. These services are indispensable for maintaining smooth logistical connections between Uganda and its global diaspora.

The consular outreach programs also offer a host of other services, as required, tailored to meet the unique needs of individual participants. By legalizing documents, the embassy helps Ugandans manage their legal affairs more effectively in a foreign country, whether for education, business, or personal reasons.

These monthly sessions are a testament to the proactive stance of the Ugandan Embassy in Brussels. They showcase their dedication to fostering strong relationships with Ugandans abroad. They underscore the importance of a responsive and accessible foreign service in promoting national development and unity.

With proper documentation and support, diaspora members can contribute more effectively to Uganda's economic growth through remittances, investments, and sharing of skills and knowledge. Additionally, these outreach programs help collect data, enabling the government to better understand and support its citizens abroad. This, in turn, can inform more targeted and effective policies that benefit both the diaspora & the nation.

The Embassy of Uganda in Brussels, through its monthly consular outreach programs in the Netherlands, has taken a significant step in enhancing the lives of Ugandans abroad. This initiative provides essential services and underscores the country's commitment to integrating its global citizens into the national fold. Uganda is paving the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future by empowering the diaspora.

----- **The article was written by Titus Seruga, Second Secretary, Public Diplomacy & Diaspora Affairs, Uganda Embassy Brussels.**





Uganda Airlines to Commence Direct Flights to London, U.K.



A team from Uganda Airlines led by the CEO Jennifer Bamuturaki, with officials from Uganda High Commission London, after their meetings with UK aviation authorities, from 11 – 15 June 2024.

London - Uganda is set to launch direct flights between Entebbe & London, a significant milestone announced by the Uganda Mission in London on June 19, 2024. The groundbreaking event featured a team from Uganda Airlines engaging with UK aviation authorities, the business community, and the Ugandan diaspora in preparation for the direct flights.

Uganda Airlines secured slots for departures and landings at London Heathrow Airport after receiving its two Airbus A330-800 Neo aircraft in December 2020 and February 2021. Despite this, no trips had been made to the UK due to delays caused by the need for updated certification from the UK Civil Aviation Authority and the European Aviation Safety Agency.

Aviation Development Chief Analyst, James Pearson, highlighted the potential market, noting that over 84,000 passengers flew on the Entebbe-London route in 2019, making Entebbe the second-largest unserved market from Africa to London.

The introduction of the London route is expected to further enhance Uganda's connectivity and boost economic ties with Europe. Ms. Bamuturaki emphasized the strategic importance of these flights in strengthening Uganda's position as a key player in regional and international aviation. "The direct flights to London mark a new chapter in Uganda Airlines' growth and our commitment to connecting Uganda to the world," she stated.

Both the MoFA and Uganda Airlines are optimistic that the new route will significantly impact tourism, business travel, and the diaspora community, providing a seamless travel experience and fostering greater economic cooperation between Uganda and the UK.



Ugandans in Somalia Remit UGX 223 Million Daily Back Home.

Kampala - Remittances from Ugandan expatriates in Somalia have increased to \$60,000 daily, approximately shs223 million, according to the Ugandan embassy in Mogadishu.

This was revealed by Uganda's Ambassador to Somalia, Prof. Sam Tulya-Muhika at the Joint Regional Economic & Commercial Diplomacy retreat which ran from June 11 to June 13, 2024.

Amb Tulya-Muhika (pictured) recognized UPDF's role in promoting peace in Somalia as part of the AU Transition Mission, aiding in the export of various goods.

He highlighted the growth in exports between Uganda and Somalia, increasing from \$3.1 million to \$8.2 million since the establishment of the Joint Permanent Commission.

The Permanent Secretary Bagiire Vincent Waiswa, emphasized the importance of Uganda's foreign missions in promoting East African integration and accessing new markets.

Amb. Elly Kamahungye, Director Regional and International Economic Affairs, praised Uganda's 38 diplomatic missions for attracting foreign direct investment through economic diplomacy, aiming to boost exports and the economy.





Uganda Coffee Blooms at Coffex Exhibition in Istanbul, Turkey.



Istanbul - Uganda Embassy Ankara, under the Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) initiative, joined the rest of the world in promoting Uganda Coffee at the Coffex International coffee exhibition in Istanbul, the capital that connects Asia and Europe.

Uganda was chosen as the focus country for the 2024 coffex edition due to the consistency of the Embassy in promoting Uganda Coffee in Turkey and participating in coffex since 2020.

Statistics show that Turkey has a population of 86 million and a GDP of 1.14 trillion USD creating significant market for Ugandan exports, particularly coffee. Istanbul, the country's commercial center, was the most visited city in the world in 2023, followed by London, the United Kingdom, Dubai, UAE and Antalya. Turkey's GDP per capita is \$44,900, making it a vital destination for Ugandan businesses.

Records show that Uganda coffee exports to Turkey have been improving exponentially with 2,260 bags in 2019 to 44,019 bags in 2023. This exponential jump in coffee exports is attributed to the efforts of Uganda Embassy in Ankara and the unending support from UCDA in partnership with the Embassy & MoFA in promoting Uganda coffee abroad.

----- The article was written by Julius Mwijutsya, Counselor in-charge of ECD, Uganda Embassy Ankara. Photos by Uganda Embassy.



Uganda Showcases Tourism Potential at 'Let's Travel Russia'.

St. Petersburg - Uganda participated in the 4th "Let's travel Russia", from 12th to 16th June, 2024. This Russian Tourism Forum is one of the most influential events in the tourism industry and showcases the tourism potential of countries around the world. **Uganda was the only African country that showcased her tourism potential.**

The Uganda delegation was led by Hon. Martin Mugarra Bahinduka the Minister of State for Tourism accompanied by Uganda's Envoy to Moscow Amb. Moses Kizige, and Mr. Vivian Lyazi the Commissioner for Tourism development. Six Ugandan tour operators participated in the Tourism Expo, i.e. Bantu Africa Tours, Dolphin Tours & travel, Curious tours, Ratel Tours. The tour operators built commercial relationships with those in the Russian Federation, allowing Russian travelers to explore Uganda's tourism potential.



The tour operators also attended the Africa-Russia tourism business meeting held by the Africa Tourism Board, where the Honorable Minister presented on Uganda's potential. The forum facilitated cooperation in promoting sustainable tourism and investment opportunities in Africa and Russia, enhancing their global visibility as leading tourism and investment destinations. It also facilitated the exchange of resources and experience in areas of mutual interest.





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SOMEONE GOT MARRIED:

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Amb. Elly Kafeero Kamahungye weds Dr. Catherine Namakula Kamahungye.

MoFA's Joseph Barigye shines at Foreign Policy Executive Program

Mr. Joseph Barigye, First Secretary officer from the Department of Consular Services, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, successfully completed the 2024 Foreign Policy Executive Program offered by the Lincoln Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations at the American Center, Kampala on 20th June, 2024.

During the ceremony which was presided over by the US Ambassador, H.E William W. Popp, successful participants received Advanced Executive Certificates in Foreign Policy Analysis.





My China Experience: A Journey of Learning and Discovery

By Guma Jeremiah

The experience of traveling abroad begins with ensuring you have adequate travel documentation. Obtaining a visa can be a challenging task, but once you have it, you are almost 90 percent certain of your trip. The Embassy of the People's Republic of China facilitated my visa within 48 hours.

The purpose of my 14-day stay in China (20th June to 3rd July) was to attend a Seminar on International Development Cooperation for Uganda. The fully-funded trip was sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and organized by the Hunan International Business Vocational College in Changsha Province.

My eagerness to understand China's national conditions, particularly their experiences in poverty reduction and alleviation, was greatly rewarded. The program was rich in content, covering various aspects. We learned about the development of China's economy, society, and politics since the founding of the People's Republic of China, as well as its reform and opening-up. The transformation was astounding, showing how far the nation has come.



We discussed effective measures and useful experiences on eliminating absolute poverty. Hearing firsthand accounts of success stories from remote villages was incredibly inspiring. The session on China's Modernization and Sino-African Common Development explored the impact of China's modernization on cooperation and development between China and Africa. The parallels and potential for shared growth were eye-opening. The importance and impact of actively engaging in international development assistance to expand international cooperation were highlighted using iconic case studies.

We explored the importance, implementation methods, achievements, and challenges of friendly cooperation between cities. The stories of city partnerships fostering economic and cultural exchange were particularly memorable. The achievements and future development aspirations of the Belt and Road Initiative were discussed, stressing the ambitious and inspiring vision for global connectivity and cooperation.

We received lectures from highly acclaimed experts, including Wu Chuanhua, Secretary-General of the China-Africa Institute, Liu Qi Feng, Deputy Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hunan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, Li Peng, Deputy Director of the Hunan Provincial Department of Commerce, Jiang Yanhui, Professor and Doctoral Supervisor at the Department of Accounting, School of Business Administration, Hunan University, and Xie Yuhua, Professor and Doctoral Supervisor at the Department of Business Administration, School of Business Administration, Hunan University.

During the seminar, we visited the China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation Promotion Innovation Demonstration Park, Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd., and Chengdu City, where we experienced the lifetime opportunity of seeing the pandas. The sheer number of tourists got me thinking about what Uganda can do to draw similar attention to the mountain gorillas that are unique to our nation. One of the most striking observations was the prevalence of electric vehicles (EVs) from various brands. It was clear that green energy is the future, and China is at the forefront of this transformation.

We also had the chance to visit the historic Yuelu Academy. Established in 976 AD during the Song dynasty, the academy has long been a bastion of Chinese culture and values. Learning that Chairman Mao was an alumnus added a profound sense of connection to China's revolutionary past and its commitment to education. Another highlight was our visit to Du Fu's Thatched Cottage in Chengdu. This serene spot, dating back to the Tang dynasty in the 7th century, was captivating. The preservation of such historical sites underscores the importance of history to the Chinese people and how it shapes their future.

The kindness and hospitality of the Chinese people left a lasting impression on me. From sharing meals with locals to navigating bustling markets with friendly vendors, the warmth of the people was palpable. The variety of food was amazing, from exotic local dishes like Peking duck and hotpot to international cuisine. Each meal was an adventure, offering a taste of China's rich culinary heritage. Shopping was another delightful experience, with options ranging from world-renowned brands to more affordable outlet stores. Walking through glitzy malls and bustling street markets, I marveled at the endless array of goods available. The infrastructure in China is nothing short of spectacular, featuring efficient domestic flights, high-speed railways, and well-maintained metro stations. Traveling from city to city was seamless and comfortable.

Our course coordinators worked tirelessly to ensure that all participants were well taken care of. They made sure to even arrange special meals for those with dietary restrictions. This dedication was evident during the emotional sending-off ceremony and last-day goodbyes, which testified to the bond built over the two weeks.

My China experience was not just about learning but also about building friendships and understanding a culture rich in history and modern achievements. Every moment was filled with discovery. The most vital lesson I took away from this journey was the timeless wisdom of Confucian ideologies: the importance of education, respect for others, and the pursuit of harmony in society. These principles were evident in every aspect of Chinese life and the country's remarkable progress. China, now the second-largest economy in the world, is undoubtedly destined for the very top. My journey left me with valuable insights, lasting memories, and a deep appreciation for a nation that harmoniously blends its ancient traditions with modern advancements.





MoFA Calls for Collaboration with GEN-Z Creatives & Resident Missions.



Kampala - The Head of the Department of Public Diplomacy (PD), Mrs. Margaret A. Kafeero, hosted an interactive meeting with Diplomatic Cultural Attaches accredited to the Republic of Uganda at the Ministry HQ in Kampala. The session emphasized the importance of connecting with Uganda’s creative Gen-Z demographic to develop skills in IT, Science, and innovations.

The interactive session, held on June 4, 2024, aimed to establish connections between cultural and education officers and forge future collaborations to enhance Uganda’s cultural and educational landscape. Mrs. Kafeero (*pictured right*) underscored the significance of engaging with young Ugandans to foster their talents and capabilities in various fields.

Ms. Amy Peterson from the American Embassy highlighted the value of connecting Ugandans with Americans through impactful programs and significant investments. She noted the embassy’s commitment to fostering mutual understanding and growth through cultural exchange. Mr. Musitwa Robert from the Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC) emphasized youth-oriented cultural activities, showcasing efforts to engage and inspire the younger generation through cultural heritage and arts.

Meanwhile, Mr. Godfrey Musinguzi of the Uganda Film Club discussed ongoing initiatives to professionalize filmmaking in Uganda and address industry challenges, highlighting the need for structured support and resources. Notably, Mr. David Nsubuga of Promote Uganda Limited urged partnerships with UNDP to overcome resource constraints in documentary production. He expressed gratitude towards the American and Turkish embassies for their continuous support in promoting Ugandan culture and talent.

This meeting signifies a robust effort by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote interaction and collaboration among cultural and education officers, fostering a vibrant cultural and educational environment in Uganda. By connecting with international partners and leveraging their support, Uganda aims to empower its youth and drive innovation and creativity across the nation.



Compiled by **Jadrine Komukyeya**





WOMEN & FASHION

Unveiling the Ugandan Youth Fashion Rhapsody In Haute Couture.

By Christiana Ampeire

Fashion enthusiasts, don't we just love a good old runway show?

Well, prepare to be dazzled by **The Millennium Fashion Show**. The Ugandan fashion landscape was showcased in a groundbreaking 2023 edition, featuring a 40-meter runway that embodied the country's unique style.

Organised by Mawazo fashion house, founders Derrick Sserwanga and Peter Bugosera, established a youth-led retail establishment to showcase their potential in enhancing textile value.

This show under the theme **Discovering the African Signature** has become a beacon of hope for young talents in Uganda's textile industry since its inception in 2019.

Mr. Sserwanga highlights that the event aims to incentivize African youth to embrace African fashion and culture, as fashion connects to music, listening, and communication.

Mawazo Fashion House, despite facing limited resources envisions an annual event with hopes of scaling it up to East African countries and beyond.



1 Founders Mawazo fashion house Sserwanga and Bugosera waving at guests end of the runway show



2 A model showcasing a stunning banana fiber ensemble at the 2023 Millennium Fashion Show.





FILM

Lights, Camera, and Economic Action at the Uganda Film Festival.

By Angel Kabera



Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, First Deputy Prime Minister, dances on stage with actors and filmmakers | UCC Photo.

The Uganda Film Festival (UFF) recently illuminated the vibrant cinema scene of the country on June 8 2024. Organized by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), the festival celebrated the creative process of local filmmakers, highlighting how this dynamic sector could drive significant economic growth.

In a keynote address, Hon. Nyombi Thembo, the Executive Director of UCC, emphasized the economic significance of the film industry, "the industry is a vital economic driver that can propel our nation to new heights," Hon. Nyombi remarked, emphasizing the sector's potential to create jobs, attract foreign investment, and promote Uganda's cultural heritage globally.

Nyombi's address elaborated on how film can contribute to national economic growth through tourism, international collaborations, and attracting multinational film productions to Uganda. "Our landscapes, stories, and talents are unique. By harnessing these, we can position Uganda as a prime destination for filmmakers worldwide," he added.



The awards gala, a highlight of the festival, saw filmmakers gracing the red carpet and receiving accolades for their work. Among the notable attendees was First Deputy Prime Minister Rebecca Kadaga, who presented the award for Best Feature Film to "Makula."

The event celebrated both established filmmakers and emerging talent through its student film category, fostering a supportive environment for the next generation of Ugandan filmmakers.

Established in 2013, UFF aims to promote the growth of the local film industry by showcasing Ugandan films and providing a platform for filmmakers to network and gain international recognition.

Uganda's film sector presents an exciting opportunity for global investors, supported by UCC's efforts and government commitment to nurturing creative industries. The Uganda Film Festival continues to highlight the storytelling prowess, talent, and economic prospects that define Uganda's evolving film landscape.



L-R: Ugandan creatives exhibit a performance at the event; Amb. Richard Kabonero hands over an award to the Best Supporting Actress in a feature film during the Awards Ceremony of the Uganda Film Festival in Kampala | UCC Photo.





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Catherine Nanziri: The Unsung Boxing Hero

By Syahuka Moses

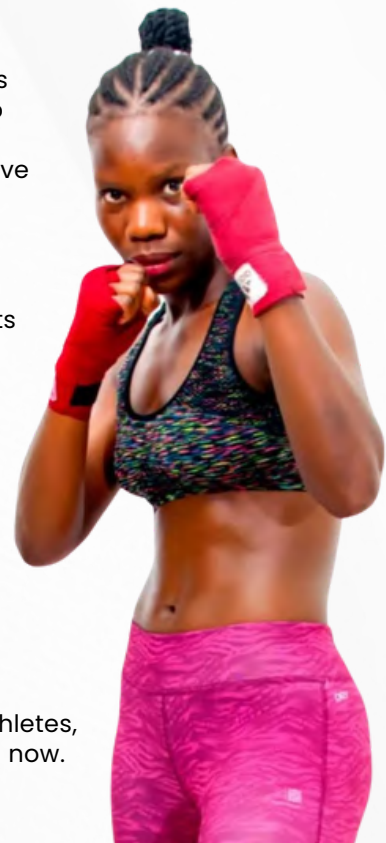
In Uganda, there's ample enthusiasm for cheering international athletes in global competitions, but a noticeable gap emerges when it comes to celebrating our own talent. While financial support is imperative, embracing our local athletes and bestowing the recognition they deserve is vital.

In the bustling streets of Kampala, there walks a champion whose presence often goes unnoticed. Catherine Nanziri, a professional boxer and former Olympian, carries the pride of Uganda, yet her achievements seem to fade into the background of everyday life.

Nanziri, the current belt holder of the African Boxing Union's women's bantamweight division and **the first female boxer to represent Uganda at the 2020 Japan Olympics, is currently ranked #23 in the world and #2 in Africa.**

Ugandan athletes have a rich history of triumphs, from John Mugabi's legendary fight against Marvin Hagler to numerous global athletes who seek recognition abroad due to lack of community support.

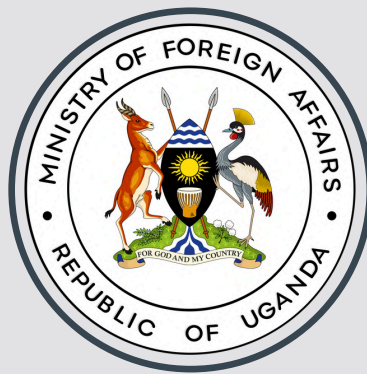
Nanziri's story underscores the urgent need for investment in Uganda's sporting infrastructure and grassroots programs. Let's champion our athletes, nurture their talents, and celebrate their triumphs. The time for action is now.



Spotlight Photo



The Permanent Secretary MoFA, Bagiire Vincent Waiswa shares a light moment with Uganda's Ambassadors; Gen. (Rtd) Robert Rusoke (Rwanda), Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Matayo Kyaligonza (Burundi). In the background, left to right, Amb. Prof. Sam Tulya-muhika (Somalia) chats with Amb. Alhaji Farid M. Kaliisa (D.R.C), while Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya (South Sudan) reads through a publication, during the Ring States Retreat at Serena Hotel Kigo.



Follow the conversation:



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