

Diplomatic Notes

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MAY 2024



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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



We are pleased to present the May 2024 edition of the MOFA Newsletter where we share significant developments and updates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the past month.

This issue covers the dynamic bilateral relations in the region, focusing on the recently concluded session of the Joint Ministerial Commission between Uganda and Kenya, as well as the Uganda-Tanzania Business Forum.

We highlight MOFA's successful diplomatic efforts leading to the safe return of trafficked Ugandan victims from Myanmar and we celebrate our Mission in UAE securing Uganda Airlines' direct flights to Abu Dhabi, marking a milestone in Uganda's relations with the great UAE capital, and several other Missions' milestones.

Our sports diplomacy section provides updates on the preparations of Ugandan athletes for the upcoming Paris Summer Olympics, demonstrating their dedication and resilience in breaking records, flying the flag and placing Uganda on the map.

I'm particularly thrilled to share the role of arts and culture in fostering connections, featuring notable theatre productions such as The Phantom of the Opera – Uganda Edition.

We trust you will find this edition both informative and insightful. Your feedback and suggestions are always valued as we continue to keep you informed about the latest developments in Uganda's Foreign service.

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.

DIPLOMATIC
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL
FEATURE
STORY



UGANDA
MISSIONS
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE



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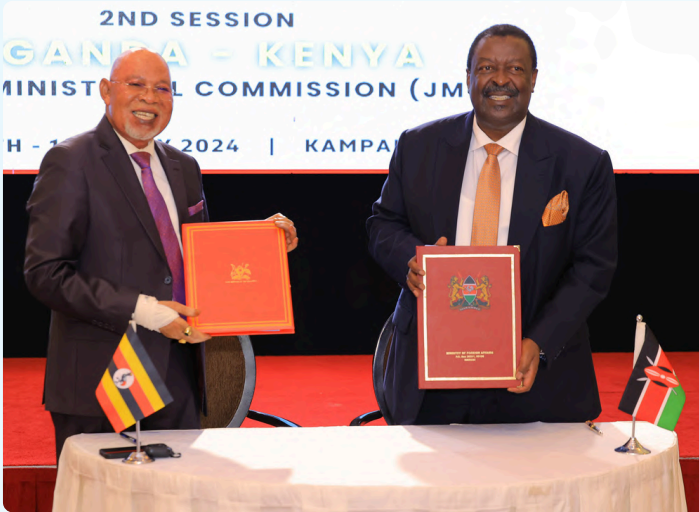
The Kayoola EVS, a fully electric low-floor bus manufactured and assembled in Uganda by the state-owned Kiira Motors. At full charge, the Kayoola EVS has a range of up to 300 kilometers. A sitting capacity of up to 90 passengers.

[Learn more](#)





Uganda & Kenya Renew Bonds at Joint Ministerial Commission.



Pictured: Hon. Gen. Odongo (L) and his counterpart Rt. Hon. Mudavadi (R) exchange an MOU at the JMC Meeting, Kampala.

Kampala - Uganda and Kenya successfully concluded the 2nd session of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala, underscoring their renewed commitment to fostering strong bilateral relations. The JMC, held from May 12 to May 14, 2024, witnessed the participation of Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, and Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Rt. Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi. The ministers praised the relentless efforts of officials from both countries in making the meeting a reality, attributing the previous delay of the scheduled 2021 JMC to the Covid-19 pandemic.

They acknowledged the longstanding historical, economic, and socio-cultural ties between Uganda and Kenya, which predate their independence. The Discussions comprehensively tackled bilateral cooperation and security, as well as economic and socio-cultural sectors. The Uganda-Kenya JMC meeting culminated in a state visit by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni to Nairobi, where he was warmly welcomed by H.E. President William Samoei Ruto.

At the conclusion of the JMC meeting, Hon. Gen. Odongo and Rt. Hon. Dr. Mudavadi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation between the Foreign Service Academy of Kenya and Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, Uganda and Kenya signed the following MOUs: Public Service Management & Development, Cooperation in the Field of Sports, On Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, In the Field of Youth Affairs, In the Field of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and Cooperation in Education, Training & Scientific Research. Kenya will host the third session of the JMC in 2026.

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



Pictured: President Museveni (in white shirt), flanked by Ugandan officials, during bilateral talks with President Ruto and senior Kenyan government officials in Nairobi.

Read more about the State Visit





MOFA's Diplomatic Efforts Lead to Safe Return of Trafficked Ugandan Victims from Myanmar.



PS MoFA Bagiiire Vincent Waiswa receives the Victims of Trafficking at Entebbe International Airport.

Entebbe – On Thursday, May 23, 2024, Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs successfully repatriated citizens who were victims of human trafficking in Southeast Asia, Myanmar. This achievement underscores the ministry's commitment to protecting Ugandans abroad and combating human trafficking. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Bagiiire Vincent Waiswa, expressed gratitude to Ambassador Betty Oyella Bigombe, Uganda's Ambassador to Thailand, for her crucial efforts in ensuring the victims' return. Mr. Bagiiire urged Ugandans to be cautious of suspicious job offers and reassured that the ministry is collaborating with government

agencies and international partners, such as the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), to prevent human trafficking. The successful repatriation followed intense diplomatic negotiations and determined efforts. During the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Kampala, Minister Hon. John Mulimba and Ambassador Dr. Betty Bigombe discussed the safety and extraction of the Ugandan citizens with Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister, H.E. U Than Swe. The case came to light with reports of 23 Ugandans being held captive in Myanmar, coerced into cryptocurrency schemes and trafficked with false promises of high-paying jobs.

PS Bagiiire extended deep appreciation to IOM for their critical support in providing shelter and helping the victims recover and reintegrate. The victims highlighted the significant support of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the tireless efforts of Ambassador Dr. Betty Bigombe in achieving this outcome.

Compiled by Githa Ogume

President Museveni Mourns the Passing of Iranian President Raisi

Kampala – President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni mourned the late President of Iran, H.E. Ebrahim Raisi, lauding him as a unifier and a dedicated leader. H.E. the President delivered these remarks at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kampala while honoring H.E. Raisi, who tragically died on May 19, 2024, alongside Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and several other officials in a helicopter crash near the village of Uzi in East Azerbaijan province. In his heartfelt address, President Museveni (pictured in white shirt) extended his condolences to the Iranian people, emphasizing Uganda's solidarity with Iran during this difficult time. He pledged continued collaboration between Uganda and Iran for the mutual benefit of both nations. "As I have written in the book here, we have been dealing with Iranian leaders ever since we came into government," he noted. H.E. Majid Saffar, Ambassador of Iran to Uganda, expressed deep gratitude for President Museveni's support, describing it as a testament to the strong friendship and unity between Uganda and Iran. "Your Excellency, we are deeply grateful to you for standing with us during this time of remembrance and reflection. Your assistance is extremely important to the Iranian people. May the memories of our martyrs inspire us to work together for a brighter and more peaceful future," Ambassador Saffar stated. Following the tragic incident, H.E. Mohammad Mokhber, the First Vice-President, has assumed the responsibilities of President in accordance with the Iranian Constitution, To ensure leadership continuity, Mr. Ali Bagheri Kani, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, has been appointed acting Foreign Minister. The commemoration ceremony was attended by Mr. Vincent Bagiiire Waiswa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with other Ugandan and Iranian officials.



Martyrdom of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, & other companions. Cultural Consulate of the Embassy of the I.R.IRAN. #IranInKampala

Compiled by Syahuka Moses





Hon. Oryem & COMESA Secretary-General Discuss Regional Development

Kampala - On May 17th, the Minister of State for International Affairs, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, held a pivotal bilateral meeting with H.E. Ms. Chileshe Mpundu Kapwepwe, Secretary-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), at the Ministry HQ. This crucial engagement focused on the upcoming 22nd COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit, set to convene later this year. Discussions included a thorough review of various programs and initiatives currently being implemented by COMESA, with particular emphasis on advancing infrastructure development across the region.



Hon. Minister Oryem expressed profound gratitude to H.E. Ms. Kapwepwe for her invaluable insights and reiterated Uganda's steadfast commitment to COMESA's goals and objectives. H.E. Ms. Kapwepwe, in turn, appreciated the warm reception and commended Uganda's exemplary leadership, reaffirming COMESA's dedication to fostering robust partnerships and advancing regional integration and development initiatives. They pledged continued efforts towards mutual interests and a collective vision for a prosperous and interconnected COMESA region.

----- *Compiled by Guma Jeremiah*

UNCC Pushes for Digital Transformation of the Creative Industry.



Kampala - On May 21, 2024, the Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC) celebrated World Culture Day under the theme, "Digital Transformation of the Culture and Creative Industries: Addressing Art and Culture as a National Public Good." The event highlighted the importance of integrating technology within the cultural sector. Dr. Mudrugo Dominic, Deputy Secretary of the Uganda National Commission for UNESCO (UNATCOM), emphasized the role of cultural positioning in ending

poverty, promoting globalization, and fostering inclusiveness in cultural education. He noted that the celebration of World Culture Day began in December 2001. The State Minister for Gender and Culture Affairs, Hon. Mutuuzo Peace Regis, underscored the significance of supporting the digital transformation of the creative industries while ensuring that art and culture remain accessible and beneficial to all. She assured that copyright issues would be addressed promptly.

State Minister for Youth & Children Affairs, Hon. Balaam Barugahara Ateenyi, pledged to support the copyright law to protect creative work. Keynote speaker, Prof. Juma Wasswa Balunywa, urged Africans to embrace technology to stay relevant, highlighting the need to digitize positive cultural elements. He called for documenting and preserving cultural history for future generations amidst a flurry of festivities i.e. cultural performances & heritage.

----- *Compiled by Diana Asiimire Maria and Herbert Ssekatawa*





The Honorable MFA Receives Newly Accredited Envoys.

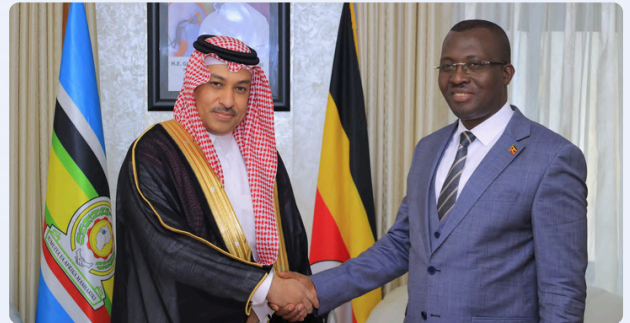
Compiled by Herbert Ssekatawa

Kampala - The Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubhaker received copies of letters of credence from the following newly accredited Ambassadors and High Commissioner to the Republic of Uganda, at the Ministry Headquarters. The MFA wished them successful tours of duty at this ceremony which precedes the official presentation of credentials to H.E. the President at State House in Entebbe.



Top - Bottom: H.E. Mohammed Mutair Ammash, Ambassador of the State of Qatar, H.E. Ms. Jenny Isabella Da Rin, High Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Australia, and H.E. Mr. Ruzaimi Mohamad, High Commissioner of Malaysia.

Uganda and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Strengthen Ties.



Kampala - On May 2, 2024, Uganda welcomed the Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mohammed Bin Khalil Faloudah, as he presented his letter of credentials to Honourable John Mulimba, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation. This momentous occasion highlighted the enduring friendship between the two nations. Saudi Arabia's unwavering support for educational initiatives in Uganda, such as the Islamic University of Uganda, exemplifies its commitment to fostering intellectual growth, cultural exchange. Looking ahead, Amb. Faloudah expressed his intent to facilitate a state visit by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to Saudi Arabia, promising to further strengthen diplomatic ties between the two countries. In a spirit of mutual understanding and respect, Hon. Mulimba warmly welcomed Ambassador Faloudah, encouraging him to explore Uganda's diverse landscapes and vibrant cultures during his tenure. Amb. Faloudah pledged to embark on a comprehensive tour of Uganda's rich heritage.

Compiled by Asiimire Diana Maria

MFA Gen. Odongo Holds Bilateral Meetings with the USA Ambassador and the British High Commissioner.



L-R: MFA meets with H.E. William W. Popp, USA Ambassador, and H.E. Kate Airey, British High Commissioner





Uganda Attends 2024 Nordic-African Foreign Ministers Meeting.

Copenhagen - Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs Uganda, participated in the 2024 Nordic-African Foreign Ministers (NAFM) meeting held in Copenhagen from May 2-3, 2024.

On the sidelines of the NAFM, Minister Odongo engaged in several key bilateral meetings, including discussions with: Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, the Foreign Ministers of Algeria, and Libya.

These meetings focused on strengthening bilateral relations, exploring opportunities for development cooperation, and addressing global climate policy issues. In addition to these productive meetings, the Honorable MFA co-chaired a significant session on peace and security, contributing to the dialogue on enhancing stability and security within the region.



Top: The MFA Gen. Odongo flanked by H.E. Margaret Otteskov, Ambassador of Uganda to the Nordics and the Baltic States, during the peace and security session.

Bottom: Gen. Odongo leads Uganda's delegation during bilateral talks with the Libyan Foreign Minister and his delegation.



Compiled by Angel Kabera

Uganda and Czech Republic Hold Bilateral Consultations.

Kampala - A delegation from the Czech Republic, led by Ms. Katerina Sequensova, Director General for Non-European Countries, Economic and Development Cooperation, embarked on a five-day consultative visit to Uganda to enhance bilateral cooperation. The delegation was warmly received by Amb. Elly Kamahungye, Director for Regional and International Economic Affairs, at the Ministry HQ. During their discussions, Amb. Kamahungye and Ms. Sequensova highlighted the close and friendly ties between Uganda and the Czech Republic. Both parties acknowledged the significant potential of their bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation across various sectors, including political, economic, health, defense, education, scientific, and social areas. The Czech Republic commended Uganda for its substantial contribution to regional peace and security and praised Uganda's open-door policy for accepting refugees. Both sides agreed on the importance of defense cooperation for prosperity and committed to enhancing collaboration in this sector. Additionally, the two nations expressed interest in building tourism cooperation, with the Czech Republic inviting Uganda to participate in the Annual Holiday Fair in the first quarter of 2025. The meeting was attended by heads of departments from MoFA, as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports and the Ministry of Energy & Mineral Development.



Compiled by Ivan Koreta



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Young Diplomats Changing the Scene of Sports Diplomacy with American Football

----- *Special Report compiled by Christiana Ampeire*

In a groundbreaking blend of sports and diplomacy, the American Football Federation of Uganda (AFFU) has teamed up with the Young Diplomats of Uganda (YDU) to transform the diplomatic landscape. YDU, a non-profit network, is dedicated to shaping the next generation of leaders and diplomats. Through this partnership with AFFU, YDU provides young Ugandans with unparalleled opportunities in sports and international relations.

This unique partnership offers aspiring young Ugandan football players professional training, marking a significant stride in both athletic prowess and international relations. The Annual Football Camp 2024; A Game Changer: On March 10, 2024, the annual flag football camp kicked off at Destiny Bridge Academy in Wakiso, bringing together enthusiastic children aged seven to sixteen. Part of AFFU's initiative to incorporate flag football into national school games, the camp featured exhilarating warm-up exercises and intense training sessions. The young participants, thrilled by the game, expressed heartfelt gratitude to AFFU, YDU, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for this unforgettable experience.



AFFU's Mission: Olympic Glory and Beyond:

Steven George Okeng, President of AFFU, is on a mission to secure Olympic glory for Uganda in 2028. With his team, he has engaged with communities, mobilized young talent, and brought in top-notch coaches. Every Saturday, AFFU scouts for new talent to build a formidable national team.

Of the 32 recognised teams by the NFL, Uganda currently boasts 3 (three) internationally-recognized players: Tanoh Kpassagnon, New Orleans Saints, NFL; Joshua Akena, Haux, German Football League; and Ojok Simba, NFL Academy, UK. In August, AFFU will host a thrilling two-day event, focusing on awareness and training athletic boys and girls. They aim to launch a league for ages 14 to 18, starting with at least six players.

This dynamic collaboration between AFFU and YDU is redefining sports diplomacy, creating pathways for young Ugandans to shine on the global stage while strengthening international ties.





Moses B. Mwase
 Chef de Mission - Uganda
 PARIS Olympics 2024

The 2024 Summer Olympics “PARIS 2024”.



329 Events	32 Sports	10,500 Athletes
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Olympic athletes inspire people of all ages to pursue their dreams and strive for excellence. Their stories of perseverance motivate individuals to overcome challenges and emphasize the importance of physical fitness and healthy living. Hosting the Olympics can boost tourism and attract investment, leading to economic growth. The infrastructure developed for the Games, such as sports facilities, transportation, and accommodation, provides long-term benefits, creating many job opportunities. Olympics foster national pride and community spirit, bringing people together to support their athletes. Their legacy includes improved infrastructure, enhanced sports facilities, and increased sports participation. The recent focus on sustainability promotes environmentally friendly games' practices and awareness.

The Games of the XXXIII Olympiad commonly known as “**the 2024 Summer Olympics**” or simply “Paris 2024” will be held from 26 July – 11 August 2024 in France with Paris as the main host city and 16 others cities within France including the island of Tahiti, a French overseas country. Paris has hosted the Games previously in 1900 and 1924, and by hosting the XXXIII Olympiad in 2024 will join London, also renown to have hosted the Games 3 times, in 1908, 1948 and 2012. The Games will be exactly 100 years from the last hosting in 1924, which indeed is remarkable. The Summer Olympic will return to the traditional 4-year cycle after the 2020 Tokyo postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Opening Ceremony is scheduled to take place on Friday, 26 July 2024, and for the first time, will not be hosted in a stadium as tradition has been. The opening will feature a 6kilomter “parade of nations” conducted as a boat parade along the River Seine with cultural presentations and views of Paris landmarks, and has promises to be one of the most spectacular ceremonies in Olympic history.

Paris 2024 will feature 329 events, 32 sports including the 28 “core” Olympic sports contested at Rio 2016 & London 2020, and four additional sports proposed by the Paris Organizing Committee of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), i.e. Breaking or Breakdance, that will be debuting, Skateboarding, Sport Climbing and Surfing that first appeared at Tokyo 2020. **10, 500 athletes** will

take part in Paris 2024 and this edition will be the first to feature an identical number of men and women athletes The Games will mark the last to be held under the leadership of current IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach, and are estimated to cost **€8.3 Billion**.



L-R: Jacob Kiplimo and Joshua Cheptegei in action during the 5000m race, and Peruth Chemutai triumphing in the 3000m steeplechase.

Beyond Games, The Olympics are more than a celebration of athletic prowess; they embody human potential and global cooperation. Here are key points highlighting their broader significance: The Olympics bring athletes from around the world together, fostering international friendship and understanding. They serve as a diplomatic tool, easing tensions and promoting dialogue and cooperation among nations. The Games celebrate cultural diversity, with the host country showcasing its traditions while participating nations share their heritage, promoting mutual respect and appreciation for different cultures.

Uganda first participated in the Olympics in 1956 and has competed in every edition since, except for the 1976 boycott. The Tokyo 2020 Olympics marked Uganda’s most successful campaign to date, with a total of four medals. As the qualification period for Paris 2024 continues, Uganda Olympic Committee expects to field athletes in Aquatics (Swimming), Athletics (Track & Field), Cycling, and Rowing. Boxing and Rugby are also in the process of securing qualification slots from upcoming international competitions. **Countdown to the final 50 days** will be celebrated on June 6, 2024, in Kampala. During this event, names of the qualified athletes, Uganda’s corporate partners, and the Paris 2024 Nike uniform will be unveiled.





Uganda Tourism Board and Emirates Sign MOU to Promote Uganda's Tourism.

The Uganda Tourism Board and Emirates Airlines on Wednesday 8th May 2024 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to drive inbound tourism and boost visitors to Uganda, the Pearl of Africa. The MoU was signed by Ms. Lilly Ajarova, the Uganda Tourism Board's CEO and Mr. Badr Abbas, Senior Vice President of Emirates Commercial Operations for Africa in the presence of Adnan Kazim, Emirates Deputy President and Chief Commercial Officer, along with H.E. Zaake W. Kibedi, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to the UAE, and other senior officials.

Commenting on the deal, Ms Ajarova said it will go a long way in promoting the country's unique features that make it the Pearl of Africa. "The signing of this MoU is a significant milestone in promoting Uganda which is also affectionately known as the Pearl of Africa as a competitive tourism destination. The Uganda Tourism Board is excited to partner with Emirates to benefit from its vast network across the world and attract tourists to Uganda," she added.

On his part, Mr Badr Abbas, stated, "Uganda has been a key destination on our global network for over two decades, and one of the most loved in Africa. Through this partnership with the Uganda Tourism Board, we are solidifying our commitment to driving international travellers to experience Uganda's stunning natural landscapes where some of the world's most exotic wildlife roam free, thrilling adventure sports and activities and, of course, the warm hospitality that characterises Ugandan culture."

INSIDE THE MOU:

Under the MoU, Emirates will identify key markets to promote Uganda as a favourable tourism destination and encourage travellers to experience its abundant natural, cultural and adventure attractions.

The Uganda Tourism Board will in turn work closely with the Airline to develop programmes for trade partners, hoteliers and tour operators to stimulate the industry. Both partners will explore incentives, familiarisation trips and other marketing initiatives to stimulate tourism bookings into Uganda.

Uganda's tourism and hospitality sector is undergoing a renaissance, with initiatives to attract more international tourists and create thousands of employment opportunities, as the country aims to become a premier destination on the global map.



Officials at the Signing of the Partnership Agreement between Uganda Tourism Board and Emirates Airlines.

The partnership between Emirates and the Uganda Tourism Board supports the next chapter of transformation, increasing Uganda's visibility and competitiveness as a tourism destination.

Emirates will also collaborate with Uganda Tourism Board to organise familiarisation trips to Uganda for key figures in the tourism industry, such as journalists, travel agents, and tour operators. These trips aim to promote Uganda's tourism sector and provide valuable insights to industry professionals who can share their experiences with potential travellers.

In addition to inflight promotion, Emirates Airlines is to offer exclusive benefits to support travel within Uganda's tourism sector. Passengers, including UTB staff, hoteliers, tour operators, and media personnel booking tourism-related travel through Emirates, will enjoy a 10% discount on their fares. This initiative makes embarking on a Ugandan adventure even more accessible for travellers.





Uganda's Economic Diplomacy in Southern Africa: A Path to Prosperity.

In a concerted effort to strengthen economic ties and foster collaboration, the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria has intensified on a transformative journey of engagement with Southern African nations under its jurisdiction. This strategic initiative marks a monumental step towards not just economic growth but also enhanced diplomatic relations between Uganda and its regional partners.

In the case of Botswana, renewed efforts of this journey can be traced back to a landmark meeting between President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and his Botswana counterpart President Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masi at the G77+ China Summit in Kampala on January 21, 2024. This encounter laid a concrete groundwork for a series of dynamic developments aimed at bolstering bilateral and economic relations between the two countries.



The Ugandan delegation holds meetings with officials during the exchange visit in April 2024, Gaborone.

One of the standout moments in this burgeoning partnership occurred on February 9, 2024, following a directive from Botswana's President, H.E Mokgweetsi Masi. This directive set in motion a mission wherein a delegation from the Botswana Vaccines Institute, coordinated by the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria and led by the Institute's CEO, Mr. Andrew Madeswi, ventured to Uganda. Their objective was to collect blood samples from regions affected by foot and mouth disease in Uganda, with the ultimate aim of developing tailor-made vaccines to combat this agricultural challenge, underscoring a spirit of collaborative advancement in the agricultural sector. Further deepening this alliance, a high-level delegation from Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, spearheaded by Hon. Bright Rwamirama, State Minister for Animal Industry, flanked by the MAAIF Permanent Secretary Gen. Kasura-Kyomukama engaged in a five-day working exchange visit in April 2024.



**Amb. Paul Amoru
Uganda High Commissioner
Republic of South Africa**

This visit, augmented by key stakeholders from NAGRIC, Makerere University, and NARO, resulted in pivotal agreements, including the procurement of Botswana FMD vaccines by Uganda. A significant delivery of one million doses is anticipated in the coming months, signifying a shared commitment to cooperation on animal disease control and assisted reproduction technologies. Discussions during the visit encompassed a wide spectrum of collaboration areas, including the importation of Ugandan agricultural products such as milk, cereals, coffee, tea, and fruits into Botswana. Plans were set in motion to establish animal feed production facilities in Uganda in partnership with both private and public sector entities, aimed at bolstering animal genetics and elevating product quality standards—a comprehensive approach to economic partnership.

The High Commission of Uganda in Pretoria, with additional accreditation in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, has been at the forefront of facilitating bilateral and commercial relations with these regions. A notable success has been the flourishing trade ties between Uganda and South Africa, with leading South African companies establishing regional bases in Uganda, thus fostering job creation and spurring economic development. Efforts are firmly underway to cultivate a balanced trade relationship, with a specific emphasis on exporting Ugandan products to the Southern African market. Impressive headway has been made by Mr. Andrew Mukiibi of Federal Foods Pty Ltd in exporting fruits such as bananas, pineapples, and avocados to South Africa, generating substantial interest in Ugandan agricultural products. Mr. Mukiibi has already established a cold room in Kempton Park, Johannesburg as a key Ugandan Foods market.

As Uganda continues to stride forward in its economic pursuits in Southern Africa, a promising horizon unfolds, characterized by collaborative economic and diplomatic endeavors by our Mission that lay the groundwork for mutual growth and prosperity in the region.





Uganda Consulate Mombasa Lights Up Kenya's Coast with Festival.

Mombasa - In a vibrant celebration of culture and diplomacy, the Consulate General of Uganda in Mombasa, in collaboration with stakeholders from both Uganda and the Kenya Coast, organized the inaugural Uganda Festival from April 17-20, 2024, across Mombasa, Kwale, and Kilifi counties. The festival, themed "Leveraging Culture to Promote Tourism, Trade, and Investment between Uganda and the Kenya Coast," showcased the unique attractions and opportunities Uganda has to offer.

The Uganda Festival, starting at Diani Reef in Kwale County, moved to Ocean Beach Resort & Spa in Kilifi, Vipingo Ridge, and finally at Fort Jesus in Mombasa. Over 1,500 guests attended cultural performances by the Ndere Troupe, tasted Ugandan cuisine, and participated in the inaugural Kilifi-Uganda Open Golf Tournament at Vipingo Ridge. Comedians Anne Kansime and Eric Omondi brought laughter and joy, adding to the festival's dynamic atmosphere.



L-R: The first-ever Uganda Festival Golf Tournament tees off at Vipingo Ridge, with the Governor of Kilifi County, pictured carrying the accolade, presiding over the awarding ceremony for the winners.

Amb. Paul Mukumbya, Consul General of Uganda in Mombasa, highlighted the growing partnership between Uganda and the Kenya Coast since the first Uganda-Kenya Coast Tourism Conference in 2022. He emphasized the complementary nature of Uganda's mountain gorillas and adventure tourism on the Nile with Kenya Coast's beautiful beaches and historical sites. Deputy Governor of Kwale County, H.E. Chirema Kombo, praised Uganda for its cultural preservation, while Mr. Herbert Mwachiro, representing the Governor of Kilifi County, commended the Uganda Consulate for bringing Uganda to Kilifi. Governor of Kilifi County, H.E. Gideon Mung'aro, officiated the golf tournament, expressing his commitment to supporting the tourism partnership with Uganda. Amb. Mukumbya announced plans to make the golf tournament an annual event, with the next tournament scheduled for November in Uganda.

The festival concluded with a grand event at Fort Jesus, where Hon. Mohamed Osman, County Executive Committee Member for Tourism, Culture, and Trade, representing the Governor of Mombasa, pledged continued support for the Uganda-Kenya Coast partnership. The festival marked the beginning of an annual tradition, fostering stronger ties and shared prosperity between Uganda and the Kenya Coast. Kenya remains Uganda's top source market for visitors, with **over 490,000 Kenyans visiting in 2023**. The Uganda Festival sets a new benchmark for cultural diplomacy, promising unity, cultural exchange, and mutual growth.



[Watch Uganda Festival](#)





Real Estate & Hospitality Sector Gets Major Boost in Uganda.

Dubai - Uganda's real estate and hospitality (tourism) sectors are set for significant upgrades, thanks to investments from Reportage Properties (RP) and Haliburg Group.

Transforming Urban Landscapes: Mobilized by the Consulate General in Dubai, UAE, Reportage Properties (RP) is redefining urban living in Kamwokya and Bukoto. With a strong presence in the UAE, Italy, Russia, and Saudi Arabia, RP is now making strides in Kampala's metropolitan area. RP's initial projects include deluxe apartments in Kamwokya, already 90% sold out, and an ultra-modern apartment block in Bukoto on NHCC land. These developments aim to address Uganda's severe housing shortage, which stood at 2.4 million units in 2021 and has likely increased due to urbanization and population growth. RP's CEO, Andrea Nucera, committed to this investment after a delegation led by Mr. Alkesh Rajput met with President Yoweri Museveni. The President encouraged collaboration with the National Housing and Construction Corporation (NHCC) to spur real estate development.



Artistic Impression of one of the properties under development in Kampala.

RP's projects offer flexible payment methods, making housing more accessible. Headquartered in Kololo, Kampala, RP has also signed an MoU with NHCC (May 2, 2023), guiding their partnership in real estate development, construction, and infrastructure sectors.

Elevating Tourism: The Consulate General also facilitated the entry of One Nature Hotels & Resorts/Haliburg Group, led by CEO Engineer Hani Saliba. The group plans to develop two ultra-luxury 5-star resorts—one in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and another in Queen Elizabeth National Park (QENP). In a meeting with President Museveni on March 5, 2024, the President directed the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities to identify suitable locations for these investments. Haliburg Group has since submitted a \$7 million proposal for a resort at Channel Track site within QENP to the Uganda Investment Authority. For the Bwindi resort, Haliburg Group's lawyers are negotiating terms with private landowners. Once finalized, the group will proceed with company registration and establishment of the resort.

These developments by Reportage Properties and Haliburg Group are set to enhance Uganda's urban living and tourism sectors, providing new opportunities for growth and prosperity.



L-R: Ongoing works at the Commercial Development Site, Kamwokya-Kampala. Amb. Henry Mayega (extreme right) joins NHCC Executive Director Eng. Kajuka (extreme left) to welcome the investment opportunities from Reportage Properties.

----- **The writer is Amb. Henry Mayega, Consul General of Uganda in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**





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Uganda Shines Bright at Zone 5 Handball Challenge Trophy.



Uganda Embassy & Uganda Community officials pose for a photo with the Uganda Handball Team, during the courtesy call in Addis.

Addis Ababa - Uganda's U20 junior team made a remarkable impression at the Zone 5 Challenge Trophy held in Addis Ababa from May 12 to 18, 2024. The team's journey began on May 2, 2024, as they arrived in Ethiopia to participate in the International Handball Federation (IHF) Zone 5 Challenge Trophy, organized by the Ethiopian Handball Federation. The young Ugandan team received a warm welcome from the Ethiopian authorities throughout their stay. They kicked off the tournament with a stellar performance, defeating Somalia 43:17 in their opening match and overpowering Tanzania 56:21 in the second match. Maintaining their winning momentum, Uganda secured a thrilling semi-final victory over the host nation, Ethiopia, with a score of 40:42. They then triumphed over Burundi, 43:27, setting the stage for an exciting final against Rwanda.

During their stay, the team visited Uganda's Embassy in Ethiopia, where they were warmly received by Amb. Rebecca Otengo Amuge, who hosted a dinner in their honor, attended by the Vice Chairperson of the Ugandan community and the entire Handball team. Mayanja William, Technical Director and Vice President of Ugandan Handball, presented Amb. Otengo with an official national team kit, nicknamed 'The KIKOOYI,' as a goodwill gesture. Amb. Otengo promised to place it on the Embassy's wall of fame. Despite their impressive performance, Uganda's winning streak ended in the final match against Rwanda. While they fell short of progressing to the continental challenge, finishing second in the tournament brought pride to many Ugandans. The Uganda junior team departed Addis Ababa on May 18, 2024, after the conclusion of the Zone 5 Challenge Trophy, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and sportsmanship.



Uganda Wins Award at the Annual Investment Meeting 2024.

Abu Dhabi - The prestigious award was presented to Hon. Evelyn Anite, Minister of State for Investment and Privatization at a gala dinner at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) as part of the 13th edition of the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) on 8th May 2024. Uganda's winning projects included;

Nexus Green: A solar energy company that manufactures and supplies affordable solar-powered solutions designed for over 458 million people in the East African Region without access to reliable energy. It has invested over \$100 million, with \$10 million in the factory alone and employs 200 Ugandans directly and over 1,000 indirectly.

IMTN: A high-quality nature-based carbon removal project developer in Africa. It is on a mission to restore one million hectares of degraded land by 2030 through planting polyculture native bamboo with an emphasis on biodiversity management. Its current investment is \$1.5 million and planned investment of \$100M in the next four years.

Spouts of Water: The largest manufacturer of ceramic water filters in Africa, producing a convenient and affordable solution using locally sourced materials. The current investment value is \$10 million with an extra \$80 to \$100 million planned in the next four years. The project employs 450 Ugandans.

The highly competitive AIM award recognizes the accomplishments of a country in attracting the most significant investment projects that contribute to economic growth and development.





Uganda Participates in 15th OIC Meeting, Gambia.

Banjul - Uganda actively participated in the 15th Islamic Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which commenced on May 4, 2024, in Banjul, The Gambia. The Ugandan delegation was led by Rt. Hon. Rukia Nakadama, the 3rd Deputy Prime Minister. The summit was officially opened by H.E. Adama Barrow, President of the Republic of the Gambia. The main focus of the meeting was addressing the crisis in Palestine, highlighting the collective efforts and solidarity of the OIC member states. The summit was preceded by a Senior Officials meeting and a Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, where H.E. Amb. Nelson Ochege, Uganda's Envoy to West Africa, represented the country. As Chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, Uganda's participation underscores its commitment to international cooperation and addressing key global issues through multilateral platforms.



Uganda's delegation poses for a photo at the Plenary Hall of the 15th Islamic Summit of the OIC, in Banjul, The Gambia.



Hon. Oryem poses for a group photo with Embassy Staff & Officials during the oversight visit to Ankara.

Hon. Oryem applauded the embassy staff for their dedicated work and urged them to double trade volumes by fostering total cooperation and dedication. He highlighted the importance of technological transfer from Türkiye, promoting agro-processing, mineral development, and tourism. The visit aimed to assess the state of the embassy and understand the dynamics of Turkish companies operating in Uganda, as well as those collaborating with Ugandan companies in the Republic of South Sudan.

Accompanying Hon. Oryem was H.E. Gen. Ronnie Balya, Uganda's Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, who advocated for unity among the embassy staff to achieve their goals. The delegation included directors from AZU Properties Ltd and MackMan Consultancy, representing the private sector's commitment to strengthening Uganda's economic ties with Türkiye. Hon. Oryem's visit underscores Uganda's strategic focus on economic diplomacy and the importance of leveraging international partnerships for national development. The collaborative efforts between the embassy, private sector, and Turkish companies are set to drive significant growth in trade and investment, enhancing Uganda's economic landscape.



Uganda Embassy Ankara Commits to ATM initiatives.

Ankara - During the first week of May 2024, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State in charge of International Cooperation, visited the Uganda Embassy in Ankara, where he was warmly received by Amb. Nusura Tiperu. The visit focused on bolstering economic and commercial diplomacy, with a strong emphasis on increasing trade volumes through enhanced ATM's (Agro-business, Tourism Promotion, Mineral development, Science & Innovation) initiatives.





Uganda-Tanzania Business Forum Boosts Economic Ties



Dar es Salaam - The second edition of the Uganda-Tanzania Business Forum took place from May 23rd to 24th, 2024, at the Johari Rotana Hotel in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, under the theme "Enhancing our win-win bilateral partnership." The event, organised by Uganda High Commission Dar es Salaam, and aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two nations, was officiated by Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. Prime Minister Majaliwa encouraged participants to explore the diverse opportunities presented by regional collaboration, emphasizing the forum's role in bolstering bilateral ties between Uganda and Tanzania, and within the region at large. He reiterated the Tanzanian government's commitment to maintaining strong trade connections with Uganda.

Leading the Ugandan delegation, Minister of State for Regional Cooperation Hon. John Mulimba, highlighted the deep-rooted friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He underscored key partnership sectors and the transformative impact of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) on citizens' livelihoods. "The World Bank projects that the EACOP project will generate \$20 billion in revenues for Uganda and Tanzania, creating over 10,000 jobs and immense opportunities for the private sector in various service sectors," said Hon. Mulimba.

Representatives from both governments and private sectors adopted the Declaration of the 2nd Uganda-Tanzania Business Forum 2024, which emphasized the need for the free movement of goods and services. The declaration also highlighted commitments by Uganda and Tanzania to address trade challenges, promote value addition, and strengthen trade linkages through joint ventures and investor missions.



Uganda Airlines Now Approved to Fly to UAE

Abu Dhabi - The General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the United Arab Emirates has given its approval to a request for Uganda Airlines to operate direct flights from Entebbe, Uganda to Abu Dhabi. The approval was conveyed on Wednesday 24 the April 2024 during a meeting between H.E. Zaake W. Kibedi, Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to the United Arab Emirates and H.E. Omar Ghaleb, Deputy Director General of the GCAA. The approval was premised on the pre-condition that Uganda Airlines fulfils all the required formalities. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Deo Nyanzi, Manager Government Relations and Routes Coordination, Uganda Airlines, Mr. Daniel Wadada, First Secretary, Uganda Embassy, Abu Dhabi, and Mr. Hassan Ahmed Barman, Officer in Charge of Air Transport, strategy and International Affairs at the GCAA.

The approval of direct flights to Abu Dhabi marks an important milestone in the expansion of the fast-growing Uganda Airlines which is Uganda's flag carrier. The airline was revived in 2019 and currently has ten international routes.



L-R: Mr. Nyanzi, Deputy Director General of GCAA, Amb. Kibedi, and Mr. Hassan Barman, at the meeting.





Enhancing our win-win bilateral partnership,
Johari Rotana Hotel, Dar es Salaam.

IN PICTURES





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Beyond the immediate benefits of improved physical health, the emphasis on wellness underscores a broader commitment to holistic well-being. In a profession characterized by high-stakes decision-making and demanding schedules, prioritizing health is not just a luxury but a necessity. By investing in the physical and mental well-being of its employees, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ensures that its diplomats are equipped to navigate the challenges of their roles with resilience and vitality.

Moreover, the significance of these exercises extends far beyond the individual level. As representatives of Uganda, the health and well-being of ministry staff directly contribute to the nation's image on the global stage. By promoting a culture of wellness within its ranks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sets an example of proactive self-care and demonstrates Uganda's commitment to the health and prosperity of its citizens.



Written by - **Guma Jeremiah, Department of Public Diplomacy**





THEATRE

The Phantom of the Opera, Uganda Edition Silences Skeptics.

By Margaret Awino Kafeero



“These guys must be out of their minds, bless their hearts,” I thought with a private chuckle, when in February 2024 the official request for partnership from Executive Producers Kabiito Karamagi and Moses Mwase hit my in-tray. I had several preparatory meetings for what I felt were more pressing engagements and decided to re-read the document again “when I get a breather”.

About a week later the follow-up phone call came from Kabiito and sure enough, he confirmed what the letter said. CompAction, the charity foundation of their Law Firm Ligomarc, together with a Production House called Timeless Arts, was staging a Ugandan adaptation of The Phantom of the Opera in May, at the National Theatre and they were seeking to deliver an invitation to creator and musical maestro, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, through the British High Commission, to come to Uganda and watch an adaptation of his classical musical production performed by an all-Ugandan cast accompanied by an all-Ugandan orchestra.

Cultural Cooperation and Public Diplomacy functions, with a spotlight on People to People Diplomacy, focusing on Education, Sports and Culture as vehicles of Bridging The Gap between countries. In Public Diplomacy, we get all kinds of correspondence on a daily basis that requires girding one’s loins, so to speak. It often feels like we collect all the shots in the dark from desperate creatives in the shrinking space of the arts in Uganda.

When catchy phrases like Agriculture, Tourism, Minerals, Commercial Diplomacy, Regional Peace and Security are having their moment in the sun, Theatre, the Arts and Entertainment can feel pretty lightweight when vying for resources. However, as I sat across from the duo listening to their audacious project, over a cup of coffee, I did not just feel their energy and conviction, I felt, growing in my chest, the adrenaline of the underdog’s kindredship. Succeeding at something very few would give a chance. Timeless Arts, was by no means doing this for the first time, having previously successfully staged Sir Bernard Shaw’s My Fair Lady and Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice. More than putting on the production though, it was the purpose that got me; Theatre For Mental Health. The proceeds will go to support the Special Olympics Uganda team. As a Ministry, supported by the Permanent Secretary, we jumped in with both feet and started knocking on doors right alongside them, ignoring the polite incredulity of one potential sponsor after another as they offered to “think about it”.

Once in a while I privately questioned whether we had, in the city, let alone the entire country, the kind of resources and talent needed to do an adaptation of the original London Royal Theatre production justice. To understand the sheer audacity of what they were attempting to do, one needs a comparison. The Phantom of the Opera has sold over 100 million tickets since it was first staged in 1986, winning numerous awards that include the coveted Olivier and Tony awards and it is still showing every evening and twice on Saturdays, in London, with box office tickets selling for between £50–£200. In Africa, it has only had one adaptation in 1990 in South Africa. Who did Timeless Arts think they were to even look at the shoes, let alone think they could wear them? Even worse, with the advent of the internet and mobile phones, Theatrical productions have struggled in Uganda with an entire generation having never experienced what the inside of a Theatre is like. Who, in this city was going to part with 50k to watch an Amateur theatrical production? Fast forward to May 2024 as I received my velvet-like invitation, walked the red carpet and sat in the glammed up transformed, Kampala Conference Centre, for the Debut show, with tears in my eyes, listening to the thunderous Overture played by an all-Ugandan orchestra conducted by Kiggundu-Musoke, and the sweet soprano of Think of Me by Gloria Geria who plays Christine Daeé. I was proud to represent the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in supporting Theatre for Mental Health.

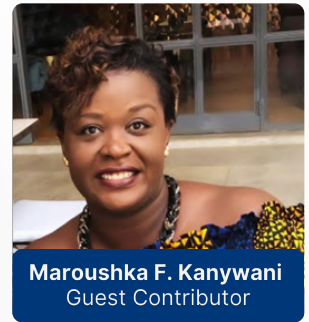
Ultimately, CompAction may not have succeeded in bringing over Sir Andrew, but they have won over Uganda’s brutal skeptics. The show pulled corporate sponsorships from Uganda Breweries Ltd, Stanbic Bank, The New Vision and the Kampala Serena Hotel, Kampala Music School and the UNCC among others. It has provided paying jobs to the hundreds of actors, vocalists, instrumentalists, makeup artists, events companies, clothes and set designers, artists and carpenters that put it all together. It has shown to a full house every weekend this month, successfully closing on Sunday May 26th. Timeless Arts has given a new lease of life to Theatre in Uganda and we look forward to watching the next production bringing out of our literature text books, the African love triangle of Sidi, Lakunle and Baroka in, Wole Soyinka’s The Lion and The Jewel, scheduled for October 2024. Dear corporate Uganda, pull out your checkbooks!





THEATRE

Alex Mukulu Woos Ugandans Back to the Theatre with a Trip Down Our National Memory Lane.



Maroushka F. Kanywani
Guest Contributor

After exiting stage left 17 years ago, Alex Mukulu returned to the Ugandan performing arts scene at the end of March 2024 with a highly thought-provoking play called ***Kulunkalu ne Kulumbisi: Yellow City vs. Red Ghetto***, staged at the Uganda National Cultural Centre and running until April 21, 2024—free of charge.

Referring to this play, which makes reference to two types of grasshoppers native to Uganda, simply as an African re-imagining of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* does it a great disservice. *Kulunkalu ne Kulumbisi* is more than an African rendition of the famous feuding Montague and Capulet families.

Instead, this stinging satirical piece is a trip down Uganda's collective national memory lane through the lens of music, dance, and dialogue. Cleverly ensconced in a running dialogue between a Caucasian foreigner and an all-knowing Ugandan native, played by Alex Mukulu, *Kulunkalu ne Kulumbisi* positions the Ugandan native as the subject matter expert on events in his country—a not-so-subtle dig at how foreigners are often deemed experts on African matters, especially in the international development and foreign affairs landscapes.

Mukulu, however, sensing that audience members may be driven to feeling guilty or satisfied at this presentation and interpretation of historical events, quickly flips the script by deftly illustrating that foreign agents cannot still be held responsible for many of the challenges post-colonial African states face today. So while there are several moments of hilarity, there are just as many uncomfortable moments—moments of truth.

Kulunkalu ne Kulumbisi, in true Mukulu style, unabashedly pokes at the national consciousness on current political and civil affairs in Uganda. This is overtly achieved in two ways: by depicting two feuding groups that wear red or yellow bandanas as their sign of fealty, and of course by having the second part of the play's title highlighted as *Yellow City vs. Red Ghetto*.

In addition to providing a much-appreciated and perhaps better-understood rendition of *Romeo and Juliet*, Mukulu draws the audience into how national affairs in one sphere of the world transcend to the rest of the world by using the now-famous plea from African American George Floyd, "I can't breathe"—but applying it to a wholly Ugandan context.

This subtle theme of suffocation in various dimensions of life could be said to be the connecting thread in the various scenes depicted in *Kulunkalu ne Kulumbisi*. From Colonial to Post-Colonial Uganda; from the deaths of Romeo and Juliet down to the two grasshoppers trapped in a container, the desire to not only live but thrive is clear.

After the final curtain fall, Alex Mukulu stepped out to address the audience and lamented the surging trend of passive digestion of content such as movies on Netflix or attending concerts, thereby evading—perhaps deliberately—active participation in changing our collective society for the better.

Kulunkalu ne Kulumbisi: Yellow City vs. Red Ghetto is a must-watch, even with all its uncomfortable moments. Every now and then, and especially amidst the plethora of entertainment options available today, a moment of introspection is required. If not to jolt one into considering becoming a change agent, then at least to cleanse one's mental palate.





Calls for Unity and Prosperity at Africa Day Commemoration.

Kampala - On May 25, 2024, Uganda joined other African nations in celebrating Africa Day at the Kololo Independence Grounds under the theme "Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa." President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in a speech delivered by Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs Hon. Jacob Marksons Oboth-Oboth, emphasized the importance of African solidarity and urged African states to avoid isolation. "Africa's future lies in unity and not isolation. As a Pan-Africanist, I take the issue of Africa's unity as a must. It is our only source of survival," said President Museveni. He called on Pan-Africanists to work towards political and economic integration to achieve liberation and freedom for all African states, recognizing the crucial role of young people in shaping Africa's future.



The guests tour the exhibition space of the Ethiopian Embassy at Kololo.



The Republic of South Sudan makes its way into the main celebration.



The Defence Minister, flanked Amb. Xingwana, delivers remarks at the Africa Day 2024 celebrations.

South Africa's High Commissioner to Uganda, Her Excellency Ms. Lulama Xingwana, who also serves as the Dean of African Ambassadors in Uganda, highlighted Africa Day as an opportunity to showcase the continent's social and economic successes while addressing contemporary educational challenges. Various African embassies exhibited cultural items, including traditional food, dances, and songs, each telling unique stories from their countries. Embassies in attendance included representatives from African states, Cuba, and Venezuela, among others. Africa Day commemorates the establishment of the African Union, initially founded as the Organisation of African Unity on May 25, 1963, in Addis Ababa, to oppose colonialism and economic exploitation.

Compiled by Githa Ogume & Christiana Ampeire





NATIONAL RECORD

HALIMAH NAKAAYI
800M 1:57.56



▶ Nakayi Hits New National Record At Los Angeles Grand Prix.

----- *Written by Christiana Ampeire*

Los Angeles - Halima Nakayi made headlines by setting a new national record of 1:57.56 in the Prevegan women's 800m final at the Los Angeles Grand Prix. This remarkable achievement comes after her victory at the 2019 World Championships in Doha, where she clocked 1:58:04. The race saw fierce competition, with Ethiopia's Gemiecu Tsigie Duguma leading until the final lap. It was during the last 100 meters that Nakayi surged ahead, demonstrating her strategic prowess and finishing strong to claim victory.

Reflecting on the race, Nakayi described the intense start and her need to stay composed until the perfect moment to unleash her pace.



Halimah Nakaayi beat Ethiopia's Duguma in a photo finish at the LA Grand Prix to shatter her own national record | Lindsay Mbabazi

"The race began at a terrific speed, and I had to calm myself until I was ready to release my pace in the final 100 meters," she said. Nakayi expressed her excitement about the strength and increasing number of women athletes in the 800m race. "The ladies are super strong, which is good. We keep getting new athletes in the 800m race. This is a great motivation for the younger generation if we keep training hard," she added.

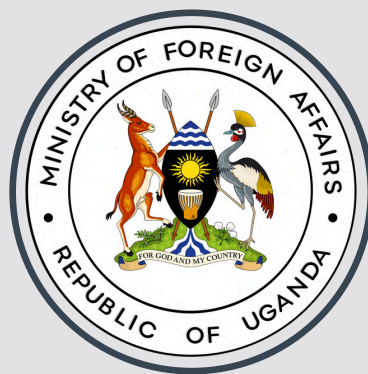
Grateful for her progress and preparations for the Paris Olympics, Nakayi acknowledged the support and expressed her determination to make the most of every minute leading up to the 2024 Games. "I am thankful to God for the progress made in Paris preparations. I will continue to cherish every minute as I prepare for my journey to the 2024 Olympics," Nakayi stated.



Spotlight Photo



The Secretariat of the Second Session of the Uganda-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission grinding like a pepper mill, to ready the agreed minutes and communique of the meeting at Sheraton Kampala Hotel.



Follow the conversation:



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kampala