

The Presidency

March, 2022



Your Monthly Round-Up of State House News





H.E. GEN. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA





Jacob L'Okori Oulanyah

1965-2022





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Dear Reader,

This is to present to you the March edition of our monthly e-magazine, *The Presidency*. The e-magazine is one of our *Open Government* initiatives at the GCIC, to bring the Government closer to the citizens. The monthly e-publication highlights the major engagements of His Excellency the President for the month.



In every edition, we try as much as possible to include the feedback received from readers of the previous edition, and to make your reading very comfortable.

As is the practice, we bring you His Excellency's major speech of the month. In this edition, we have annexed the President's address to the nation on the occasion of marking the International Women's Day, delivered on 8th March, 2022, at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

The month of March was very busy for His Excellency the President. He increased his upcountry engagements with launch of cattle compensation programme for Northern Uganda, in Soroti. He launched the Alumni Public Library and E-learning Centre at Teso College, Aloet, in Soroti, and addressed the newly accredited Ambassadors and Heads of Missions at National Leadership Institute, Kyankwanzi. On a more important note, the Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF), Asia's most influential leadership platform honoured President Yoweri Museveni with a Statesman Award in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the economic, political and cultural developments in Uganda. We congratulate His Excellency the President.

Lastly, we encourage the citizens to give us their feedback and suggestions about the e-magazine and our other services through our platforms; email: citizen@gcic.go.ug, Whatsapp: 0414670288 or through our social media handles; GCICUganda. We also encourage the citizens who have benefited from the different interventions, programmes and projects commissioned by the President to send us their experiences in form of articles. We shall publish them. In this edition, we have published an article on the progress of silkworm farming in Uganda, by Fred Nangoli, an Information Officer at State House.

I now have the pleasure to present to you the tenth edition of *The Presidency*.



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PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS UTB, PRIVATE TOUR OPERATORS

“Talk properly; look for people who can add value on what you’re doing. Harmonise!”

MAR
01

President Yoweri Museveni told officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, the Uganda Tourism Board and Tourism Sector Stakeholders who met him at State House, Entebbe.

The President was meeting the officials over several contentious issues including Government handling of investment in marketing tourism, which markets to focus on, marketing initiatives, the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo brand and the Dubai expo, skilling and capacity building and conservation initiatives, and agreed to a request by tour operators to visit one of the National Parks as part of Government efforts to promote tourism.

The private tour operators also want inclusion on the board of Uganda Airlines, Uganda Tourism Board, Uganda Investment Authority, Export Promotions Board and the Petroleum Authority of Uganda among others.

“The Ministry should work with the private tour operators and harmonise. You all have good ideas, look at all of them, and involve all stakeholders. If they want to be included on the boards, there is no problem with that,” the President said.

The meeting was attended by among others; State Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities; Martin Mugarra Bahinduka, the Permanent Secretary; Doreen Katusiime, Chairman of UTB; Daudi Migereko, UTB CEO; Lilly Ajarova and the leaders of the Uganda Hotel Owners Association (UHOA) and of the Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO).

Tourism is Uganda’s biggest export, contributing US\$1.6billion to Uganda’s GDP and accounts for over 660,000 jobs as of 2019. The sector was however seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with the airport closure and lockdown.

Civy Tumusiime of Acacia Safaris, the Board Chair of the Association of Tour Operators urged the President to intervene among the communities living in the National Parks including fishermen, pastoralists and agriculturalists who are in constant conflict with wildlife.

Tumusiime called for an aggressive marketing strategy and proper coordination and strengthening of the private sector.

She later requested the President to meet and address the private sector players in the industry with over 3,800 hotels, 600 tour operators and over 700 tour guides, most of whom are young people, a request he granted with a visit to one of the parks post COVID-19.

The President also directed that the stakeholders meet and come up with an agreed position in three weeks’ time ahead of another meeting.



President Museveni poses for a photo with UTB and Private Tour Operators after a meeting at State House, Entebbe

MAR
03

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni held a bilateral meeting with the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, H.E. Vladlen Semivolos, during which they discussed matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

Ambassador Vladlen Semivolos was accompanied by Dr. Evgeny Kalashnikov, the Ideology Head of Mission of the Russian Federation, Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gen Abubaker Jeje Odongo and Ambassador Arthur Kafeero.



President Museveni meeting H.E. Vladlen Semivolos at State House, Entebbe

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI PASSES OUT 2,018 PRISON WARDERS AND WARDRESSES

“I tell my colleagues that; can’t a poor man guard his house? The problem is a failure of analysis. We had problems from all over the place but we defended Uganda by ourselves.”
President Museveni

The President and Commander in Chief of the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF), Gen. Yoweri Museveni, urged the management of Uganda Prisons and Police Forces to emulate the UPDF in the bid to secure the welfare and the future of the security personnel using cost-effective methods.

Gen. Museveni made the remarks at Kololo ceremonial grounds while officiating at the pass out ceremony of 2,018 prisons warders and wardresses that comprised 554 females and 1,464 males who have been undergoing an eleven months training course at the Prisons Academy and Training School.

H.E. Museveni was responding to a call by the Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Johnson Byabasaija, for more accommodation for both staff and inmates in prisons, among other concerns.

The President noted that during a visit to Luzira prison last year, he had seen some good structures constructed by the prisons construction unit and called on them to utilise the same unit for putting up facilities across the country for the staff and inmates.

“If you can build houses, why can’t you build more prisons? Let’s stop the issue of crying for houses and buildings. The only demand should be for construction materials and may be recruiting more

engineers,” he noted.

He also advised the prisons service to build primary and secondary schools as well as medical facilities for the biological children of the prisons officers where they can study free of charge and the Government pays salaries of the teachers, and also receive medical attention.

He pointed out that this will offset challenges faced by security officers of paying school fees for their children as well as medical care yet their salaries are inadequate.

H.E. Museveni, however, commended the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prisons service for reinforcing the force with more human resource. He noted that the problem in many African countries has been conceptual pointing out that NRA/UPDF overcame that challenge by prioritising ideology. He added that with a small economy, UPDF managed to defend the country from retrogressive forces and has never called the United Nations (UN) to defend Uganda.

“

*I tell my colleagues that;
can’t a poor man guard
his house? The problem is
a failure of analysis. We
had problems from all over
the place but we defended
Uganda by ourselves.*

”



Gen. Museveni expressed his gratitude and satisfaction with the exemplary standard exhibited by the graduands whom he equally praised for being very smart in the parade. He congratulated the leadership of the prisons service and the commandant of the Prisons Academy and Training School, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons Brenda Sana, for churning out good products.

He further called on the prisons and police services to emulate the concept he used for the UPDF, a formidable force today that was built from zero to now an international force that has contributed to the restoration of peace and stability in several countries in Africa.

“I appeal to you to learn my technique; how I built an army that defeated many retrogressive forces and is now an international army that has contributed to the restoration of peace and stability in African countries. Listen to the success story and use it. I am telling you what I did in person,” he counseled.

The Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, welcomed the graduands into the prisons service noting that prisons today are a correctional center and not a place for punishment.

“I want you to treat these inmates as human beings and concentrate on behavioural change and lay emphasis on skills that can help prisoners after their term of incarceration,” he pointed out.

Hon. Otafiire also called for the increase in the budget for ICT use in the hearing of cases to lessen the burden of transporting inmates to court.

The Commissioner General of Prisons, Dr. Johnson Byabashaija, thanked President Museveni, for giving the green light for increasing the human resource in the prisons service.

He raised concern over the congestion of inmates in prisons noting that it increases the risk of the spread of various diseases and also strains the logistics of the prisons service.

Dr. Byabashaija assured the President that the growing of the cotton project to meet the target of one million bales is ongoing and will be achieved as more land is under acquisition in several parts of the country.

“With your help, Your Excellency, I am sure we shall meet the target of one million bales of cotton,” he stressed.

Addressing the graduands, he urged them to be disciplined. He also assured the President that the officers of the prisons services are very loyal and will always support Government’s efforts to elevate Uganda into a middle income country.

He urged graduands to be disciplined and to be ambassadors of the Prisons Service.

The Commandant of the Prisons Academy and Training School, the first female Commandant ever at the academy, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons Brenda Sana, expressed optimism that the graduands will ably handle inmates professionally in whichever prisons they will be posted to in the country, and will churn out well rehabilitated prisoners upon release.

“They will handle inmates professionally while placing human rights at the center of whatever they do. I can comfortably say they are ready for the task ahead of them,” she said.

She congratulated graduands upon successfully completing their course and encouraged them to be disciplined.

The best warders and wardresses during the eleven months training course received gifts for their excellent performance. They included Aryong Marshal Jude who was the overall best student while the best student in academics in the male category was Wolwenje Fred. Chemutai Flomena led in the female category.

The best male student in parade was Nyanga Eric Disi while the best female student was Christine Gassi.

“With your help, Your Excellency, I am sure we shall meet the target of one million bales of cotton”



Dr. Johnson Byabashaija
Commissioner General of Prisons



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

MAR
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STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

The Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF), Asia's most influential leadership platform honoured President Yoweri Museveni with a Statesman Award in recognition of his achievements and contributions to the economic, political and cultural developments in Uganda.

"It is with great happiness that I write to you with the news that the ABLF Executive Council and Grand Jury would like to honour you with the ABLF Statesperson Award - the highest award category of the platform in recognition of your incredible achievements and contributions to the economic, political and cultural development of Uganda," said Ms. Malini N. Menon, Co-Founder and President, ABLF and Permanent Member, ABLF Executive Council in a letter to President Museveni.

The ABLF Awards is the recognition platform of the ABLF Series that has promoted the values of integrity, excellence, commitment and innovation in leadership. In 2022, the Awards, themed "Resilience Rising: The Great Reset," aim to recognise the spirit of resilience, a defining narrative in the post-pandemic world, across all the distinctive ABLF Award categories.

"Your Excellency, your commitment to the cause of Pan-African unity, focus on healthcare and education, and vision for sustainable development has put Uganda on the path of growth for the past several decades. The prestigious ABLF Statesperson Award is in recognition of your achievements," Ms. Malini N. Menon said.

The Minister of Finance Planning and Economic Development Hon. Matia Kasaija and the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, picked the award on behalf of the President.

"It was so gratifying to see our Head of State being chosen by the Asian Business Leaders Forum in United Arab Emirates, to be the first statesman outside Asia to receive this prestigious award. The kind comments towards his precious contribution on the transformation of Africa by business leaders at the event made me feel proud as a Ugandan," Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, the Government Chief Whip who received the award alongside the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Matia Kasaija, on behalf of President Museveni said during the ceremony at the on-going Dubai Expo.

According to Hon. Tayebwa, the business community at the expo was eager to exploit business and investment opportunities in Uganda due to the country's stability and visionary leadership. "Uganda now is their number one choice of FID in Africa, thanks to the stable leadership of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni," he said.

The President was awarded alongside Asian global leaders including former UN Secretary General. H.E. Ban Ki Moon, H.E. Mahinda Rajapaksa, H.E. Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, among other leaders who were honoured by H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan. The Guest of Honour was H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Group.



Hon. Matia Kasaija (holding award) and Hon. Thomas Tayebwa (extreme right) at the awards ceremony in United Arab Emirates

Established in 2007, the ABLF has always engaged with luminaries in the field of business, politics, academia and social change through its various initiatives that aim to foster intra-Asia ties. During the past two years of the pandemic, the ABLF, through its groundbreaking monthly

leadership series titled 'ABLF Talks' that aligned closely with the vision of the UAE leadership, continued to engage with global leaders bringing them together in conversations and collaborations, thus showcasing the nation as a symbol of hope and resilience in these uncertain times.

The ABLF awards are always held under the patronage and in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan, the Minister for Tolerance and Coexistence and in association with the UAE Ministry of Economy.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS A DELEGATION OF TURKISH INVESTORS

MAR
09

*“Uganda will be hosting the Uganda-Turkey Investment Summit in Kampala this May and we request the President to be the official guest”
Hon. Evelyn Anite*

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni said Uganda has great potential in mineral exploration and development and only needs investors they can partner with to refine and add value for export.

“We are very interested in mineral development. On the gold, we have our own but also because of the security exports have gone up in the region. We have removed all taxes on refined minerals. If we can refine gold here, our people can benefit through making jewelry,” the President said.

The President said other priority minerals include industrial steel, phosphates, copper, tin, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing.

“We have got high grade iron-ore and we need an integrated steel industry. We are now importing steel from China which is very expensive. We have some steel mills using recycled steel which is low quality. But we need strong steel for railways, dams, etc,” he said.

The President was meeting Turkish investors introduced by the Turkish Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Fikret Kerem Alp, and included the Dog-Yap Insaat Tur.Energi Ur, a subsidiary of the Doganlar Yatirim Holding company led by the Vice President and Chairman of the DEIL Business Council, Dogan Ali Dogan.



President Museveni posing for a photo with the Turkish delegation after the meeting at State House, Entebbe

The Company deals in retail, energy, construction and furniture and is already involved in the construction of Uganda's national industrial and business parks and agro-industrial business parks.

The company has already signed a letter of intent with Government to explore investment opportunities in Uganda with an estimated value of US\$125,000,000.

"Turkish companies can partner with us and process 100% and link with industries. The areas for investment opportunities are endless," the President said.

Turkish Ambassador to Uganda Fikret Kerem Alp said Turkish investors are

interested in agro-industrial business including fruit and vegetable processing, cold stores, training centres and agro-industrial schools.

Uganda's exports to Turkey increased by 30% in the first 9 months of 2021, according to Amb. Fikret Kerem Alp.

The Minister of State for Finance in charge of Investment and Privatisation, Hon. Evelyne Anite, said Uganda will be hosting the Uganda-Turkey Investment Summit in Kampala this May and request the President to be the official guest.



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS CHINESE INVESTORS

"Power should go directly from generation to the consumer, especially the industrial consumer. We should amend the law. I will talk to the Speaker," President Museveni

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni said he will engage the Speaker of Parliament to fast-track the amendment of the UMEME Act and ensure that electricity goes directly from generation to the industrial consumer to spur economic growth through industrialisation.

"Power should go directly from generation to the consumer, especially the industrial consumer. We should amend the law. I will talk to the Speaker," the President said during a meeting with Chinese investors from the Mbale Industrial Park who protested their omission from the direct power consumption despite having a

bigger industrial park than MMP Industrial Park in Buwampa, Buikwe district.

MMP Industrial Park and Kapeeka Industrial Park are on a pilot trial for direct power consumption pending the amendment of the law to allow all industrial parks to access direct power affordably.

The meeting was attended by Ms. Zhang Zhichun; CEO Tang Group, Wang Wentong; General Manager Tian Tang Group, Li Wenchao; Deputy General Manager Mbale Industrial Park, Ming Qian Sun, an investor and Yang Li, an Investor.

During the meeting, a power investor, Mr. Ming Qian Sun of Zhurong Hydropower Consumption Park also presented a proposal for a Power Purchase Agreement guaranteeing 300MW of power supply at a tariff of US\$ 3.5cents and 15 acres of land close to Karuma Hydro Power Plant.



President Museveni gifts a Chinese investor a copy of his autobiography; Sowing the Mustard Seed, during the meeting at State House, Entebbe

Zhurong Hydropower is interested in bulk power purchase, potentially being the largest power off-taker in Uganda.

“Once we reach full capacity, power bills paid by us alone will equate to 2% of the Government spending. We connect directly to Karuma substation at 142kV, no other off taker in

Uganda at a voltage higher than 33kV. We will build our own substation which will be transferred to the ownership of UETCL, thus significantly reducing the upfront investment needed from the public sector to facilitate the project,” Ming Qian Sun said.

Ming Qian Sun said they are also interested in investing in a Crypto-currency industrial park with an initial US\$15million in the

first year and subsequently grow it to US\$20 million in the second year.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of State for Finance in charge of Privatisation, Hon. Evelyn Anite, Minister of State for Mineral Development, Hon. Peter Lokeris, and the Minister of State for Energy Hon. Sidronius Okaasai Opolot.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ATTENDS MINISTRY OF DEFENCE/UPDF THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST

“Yes, the soldiers may be getting small salaries but let their children study free in Government army schools. Because the Government can build army schools, have teachers and pay them. Maybe the parents can only buy uniforms and books. Why should the soldiers have to bear the burden of educational costs for their biological children?” President Museveni

KOLOLO CEREMONIAL GROUNDS:

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who is also the Commander in Chief (C-i-C) of the Armed forces reminded the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs and the UPDF of his advice to improve the welfare of soldiers and their families, including providing free education for the children of the soldiers until they finish secondary level. He says this has been his wish since 1986.

“Yes, the soldiers may be getting small salaries but let their children study free in Government army schools. Because the Government can build army schools, have teachers and pay them. Maybe the parents can only buy uniforms and books. Why should the soldiers have to bear the burden of educational costs for their biological children?” the President said.

He said this was earlier sabotaged by acts of indiscipline where soldiers would bring their relatives to flood army schools that were set up in different parts of the country.

The President was speaking at the 11th Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs - MODVA/UPDF thanksgiving breakfast at Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala,

where he also revealed his intentions of setting up an Armed Forces University to continue offering free education with specialised courses.

“We shall go for the basic courses; medicine, science, chemistry, biology, mathematics and languages. We can educate these children for free as long as they are doing those courses. So that the children of the veterans, whether living or dead, can be supported to have something for their families,” he stressed.

On free healthcare, the President said, “there’s no reason why soldiers should be going to private clinics.”

About thanksgiving, Museveni whose message rotated around the book of Genesis- “to establish dominion over nature,” urged Ugandans to use God-given talents to get good results as has been exhibited by the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces since they took over power in the many battles they have fought and won.

He gave an example of the ongoing operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo to flush out the ADF rebels that started in November last year, which he said has gone very well.

“It’s now almost 5 months, total success, we have demolished the terrorists in that area and we have lost only three soldiers in all this time. And that was because of the good training of the soldiers involved and the good commands given to them,” Museveni said, quoting a Luganda saying; “*Lubaale mbeera nga n’embiro kwotadde*,” loosely translated as “pray as you work.”



President Museveni reads the prayer book during the UPDF thanksgiving breakfast at Kololo

Gen. Museveni also concurred with the day's preacher Bishop Joshua Lwere to meet religious leaders about the emerging sentiment of tribalism in the country and the need for National dialogue.

"We want this spirit of nationalism and patriotism to be built. And if you can allow us as religious leaders that we can join together to diffuse that spirit. And we think that a national dialogue will be a very good idea and we can spearhead it as you have always suggested, we still hope and pray that you consider it," Bishop Lwere said, prompting a positive response from the President.

"I will be very happy to meet them (religious leaders) and we will discuss it," Museveni assured.

President Museveni also commented on the rising prices of commodities, saying

some of them are caused by the ongoing conflicts in Europe, specifically the tensions between Russia and Ukraine. He gave an example of wheat whose prices are likely to go up because Russia and Ukraine are the biggest producers.

The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, acknowledged the protection, wisdom and courage given to the 27 men who launched the liberation struggle on 6th February, 1981, paying tribute to the militant veterans who he said are the special stakeholders for this year's prayer breakfast.

"We recognise the commanders of missions, we recognise the widows of the revolution, we recognise the children of the fallen soldiers, we recognise the soldiers with disability, we recognise the spouses of soldiers, we recognise the

serving officers, staff and men of UPDF and the children of our soldiers,” Minister Sempijja said, adding that those who want to understand the great contribution of the veterans should think about where Uganda was before 1986 and where it is now.

This was earlier re-echoed by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs, Mrs. Rosette Byengoma, whose speech rotated around the day’s theme: “I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord” Psalms 118:17.

“Permit me Your Excellency, on behalf of this great congregation, to pay enormous tribute to your statesmanship and wise leadership and also giving special status to our veterans by domiciling them under this Ministry of Défense where we’re able to continue taking charge of their welfare and that of their families,” Mrs Byengoma said.

The thanksgiving breakfast was attended by the top leadership of the Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs and the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces who included Ministers; Hon. Huda Abason Oleru, the Minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs (Veteran Affairs); the State Minister of Defence (General Duties) Jacob Oboth-Oboth and the Deputy Chief of Defence Forces Lt. Gen Peter Elweru.

Others were; Hon Milly Babirye Babalanda, the Minister for Presidency; Hon. Lt. Col (Rtd) Bright Kanyontore Rwamirama, the Minister for Animal Industry; the Minister of State, Gender, Labour and Social Development in charge of Elderly, Dominic Gidudu Mafabi; Members of Parliament and the veterans.

The 41st UPDF Tarehe Sita Anniversary and Defence Forces Week activities were held in Bugisu and Sebei subregions of Eastern Uganda in February this year.



Some of the veterans pray during the thanksgiving breakfast at Kololo



GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS SILKWORM FARMING IN UGANDA

By Fred Nangoli

At a distance, they look like tiny strips of white thread. But up close, you see some forward movements as the silkworms measuring about 35cm nibble at green mulberry leaves. The silkworm looks nothing like silk. Where the fabric is light, lustrous and delicate, the caterpillar is fat and grayish. A few metres away from a writhing mass of these worms, you can hear them joyfully devouring leaves in what sounds like a light rainfall on an old tinned roof.

Michael Wekhola, a 23-year old silkworm specialist in Namasumbi in Mukono district has been attending to these caterpillars for close to three years now and has watched them feed countless times every day. It is from these worms that he has been getting his bread and

butter as the worms give rise to cocoons, the much needed raw materials for the beautiful silk garments, desired by millions of people across the globe.

In the adjacent room, another young man, Oscar Biiyi 25 is busy harvesting cocoons and placing them in baskets. His face is beaming with excitement as he counts the benefit of a successful harvest.

“The process of breeding silkworms from the beginning to and after the cocoon is woven and harvested is very interesting and spectacular,” he says with another wide smile.

“We have to ensure that we harvest most of these cocoons today because any slight delay means that the cocoons will turn into butterflies and all the long efforts we have

put in will be a total waste,” he reveals stressing that no silk materials can be realised once the cocoons develop into butterflies.

According to Biiyi, putting silkworms in a two-story wooden structure, feeding them with mulberry leaves, and weaving cocoons around the worms takes some time. “But the end product of all these efforts is a master piece of textile,” Wekhola chips in as he joins Biiyi in harvesting cocoons.

Despite their small size, silkworms have played a significant role in shaping cultures across the world as silk, which is possibly the most beautiful; most delicate and most lustrous material ever discovered by mankind continues to rule the garment industry as the “queen of textiles.”

Sheen, light weight, soft touch and high durability makes silk the most elegant textile. In Mukono, like many other areas in Uganda, silk farming is increasingly becoming a central source of income for hundreds of families. One such organisation that is taking a leading role in promoting and engaging hundreds of households into silk farming is the Tropical Institute of Development Innovations (TRIDI) based in Namasumbi in Mukono. The innovation firm which has kick started silkworm farming activities in over 18 districts in Uganda is currently employing over 900 Ugandans in the silk industry as mulberry cultivators, leaf harvesters, silk worm rearing, reeling, twisting and weaving among others.

The project is one of the Presidential initiatives to transform Uganda from subsistence economy to an industrialised nation.

It is also one of the countries efforts in implementing textile and industrial policies for export promotion and import substitution.

And indeed with support from the Government of Uganda, TRIDI has also assembled two silk making factories in Sheema and Kween districts and will soon be producing and unveiling its first silk fabrics onto the local and international market once installation of the machines is complete.

Dr. Clet Wandui Masiga, the Principal Investigator at TRIDI says sericulture or silk farming is an eco-friendly agro based labour intensive and commercially attractive economic activity falling under cottage and small scale sectors. He says sericulture is a long chain industry from mulberry cultivation to fabric making and is also the only cash crop which provides frequent and attractive

returns all year round.

He says in a move to enhance commercial production of silk across the country, the organisation has established over 627 acres of mulberry plantations and productions at 25 stations spread across 18 districts in the different regions of Uganda. He says silkworm rearing in particular is going on in Sheema, Mukono, Kamuli, Pallisa, Iganga and Kayunga and cocoons from these areas are being collected in one central area in preparation for mass silk production when the newly installed machines in Sheema and Kween become operational.

Masiga recently displayed TRIDI's innovations at the just concluded Science and Innovation show at Kololo where he attracted the attention of President Museveni who raised a number of questions on the progress of the silk project. The President also noted that he was impressed with the direction the country's Science, Technology and Innovation portfolio was taking adding that he would do everything in his power to ensure the sector is funded.

"I am determined to make sure scientists working for the Government are well paid and all positive efforts and innovations of our scientists will be funded either by the Government directly or through Uganda Development



Michael Wekhola (L) and Clet Masiga (R) harvesting silkworm cocoons at Namasumbi in Mukono recently

Bank,” the President stressed as he interacted with the innovators.

But while industrialisation is one of the key areas that the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government is focusing on to transform Uganda’s economy and push the country into the middle-income status, one wonders what Government has done for TRIDI and its ongoing silk innovations.

Masiga says during the 2017/2018 financial year, Government set up an innovation fund and TRIDI was among the 17 innovators that were selected to benefit from the fund. That financial year, TRIDI received sh1.5billion from Government which was used to set up experimental fields in Sheema district where they also set up mulberry plantations to feed the silkworms.

“We identified Sheema as a very conducive area for silkworm farming while using the GPS technologies that we employed in mapping out areas which are suitable for mulberry production and silkworm farming across the country. That is how we identified Sheema in the first place before identifying other areas later on,” reveals Masiga who is also participating in the feeding and harvesting of ready cocoons at their farm in Namasumbi today.



Clet Masiga displays samples of the silkworm ready to start making cocoons

“

By scanning the environment with technology, we were also able to identify which kind of production models would be used to produce the best mulberry needed for feeding the silk worms

”

During the 2019/2020 financial year, the silk innovators received their second batch of financial support of sh5bn from the Government through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. “These funds came after Government had evaluated our progress on the ground. We proved that this was an income generating activity which was increasingly

creating employment opportunities for people in places we had established in. We demonstrated that more jobs would be created as the project expanded to many other parts of the country, not forgetting those who will be working in the processing plants,” he explains further.

According to Masiga, the innovation firm used this second batch of funds to place an order for the purchase of two silk processing machines from Hangzhou City in China. They made a down payment of 30% of the funds towards the machines. And indeed during the financial year 2020/2021, the innovation firm received another batch of Shs.10billion shillings from Government which was used to pay for

the remaining balances to machine manufacturers in China. On completing payment, he says the machines were shipped and delivered to TRIDI. One set of the machines was installed in Sheema District while the second one was installed in Kween.

Today, Masiga says they have received a total of 21 billion shillings from the NRM Government which has greatly boosted their efforts to set up several investments in the silk industry including setting up the two factories in Sheema and Kween districts besides expanding their activities in 18 of the targeted 50 districts they have identified.

Presently TRIDI is carrying out silkworm farming in 24 of the 50 targeted districts in Uganda. These include among others Mukono, Nakaseke, Kayunga, Luwero, Kamuli, Iganga, Pallisa, Busia, Bukedea, Bulambuli, Lira, Otuke, Amorater, Padel, Agago, Nakasongola and Kitagata.

Masiga says Government has decided to invest in silk because its value is 20 times more than cotton disclosing that the global demand of silk fabrics is far more than its supply.

"Globally, China produces 75% of the world's silk followed by

India at 20% while the other 5% is shared by all the other silk producing countries including Uganda."

Today, he says they need a minimum of 50,000 acres of land under mulberry to be able to feed the silkworm and produce enough silk yarn. He revealed that already they have received requests from global brands like Marks & Spencer of UK, Pierre Cardin from France to supply them with about 200 tons of silk yarn every month.

According to Masiga, more than a million jobs will also be created as TRIDI continues to extend silk farming to many other districts of Uganda in her bid to meet the high demand. But to accomplish this investment, he says it requires approximately Shs.700bn saying out of that investment, they will have an output of at least US\$100 million annually.

"Our projection is US\$300m which will bring us to almost one trillion shillings through the export of silk yarn every year. And if we go into making the final clothes of which equipment we have already secured, we will be making about sh3 trillion per year," he explains.

Silkworm eggs are lemon yellow when laid, but turn white or black within a few

days. White eggs are infertile and black eggs are fertile. Once laid, eggs typically hatch in about 2 weeks, but the incubation period is temperature dependent. Freshly-hatched caterpillars (larvae), also called silkworms, look like small black strings. Once hatched, silkworm larvae normally eat only mulberry leaves. The caterpillars molt 4 times passing through 5 larval instars (an instar is the stage between molts) over a period of 23 to 28 days. After the 4th molt, the caterpillar begins to secrete a single, continuous silk fiber through its salivary gland. The strand of silk produced by a silkworm is usually about 1.5kms long.

Presently Masiga says using the bivoltine cocoons, one kilogram of silk yarn is equivalent to 6kgs of cocoons. He says from just one acre of mulberry per year, they are able to harvest 1,080kgs of cocoons from six cycles of silkworm rearing which will result in 180kgs of silk yarn produced per year using the current innovations. He says this will earn them up to sh33.7 million from every single acre of mulberry annually.



The writer is an Information Officer at State House

“In 1966, Uganda had a population of only 7,000,000 cows. In 1986 when NRM came, it had only 3,000,000 cattle. Today, it has approximately 16,000,000 cows. So, really the issue is not on the size (number) of cattle and not the rate of body built. Those cows, you can take them for Olympics and they win medals because they spend a lot of time walking. And if other cows are walking like these ones, they can’t put on that weight” President Museveni

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni urged National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to sensitise farmers against nomadic farming and instead adopt zero grazing to let the cows gain weight necessary for modernising beef production for trade.

He said nomadic farming makes cows use a lot of energy, which can affect the rate of buildup of its flesh.

“In 1966, Uganda had a population of only 7,000,000 cows. In 1986 when NRM came, it had only 3,000,000 cattle. Today, it has approximately 16,000,000 cows. So, really the issue is not on the size (number) of cattle and not the rate of body built. Those cows, you can take them for Olympics and they win medals because they spend a lot of time walking. And if other cows are walking like these ones, they can’t put on that weight,” the President said.

The President was meeting technocrats from NARO over modernising beef research, production and improving trade. The meeting was attended by Dr. Nassan Mutembeya Tandekwire, Dr. Ambrose Agona - Director General; Dr. Yona Baguma - Deputy Director Research coordination, Professor Justus Rutaisire

- Director Corporate Services; Dr. Swidiq Mugerwa - Director Livestock Research; Mr. Abasi Kigozi - Senior Research Officer Livestock; and Mr. Hussein Kato Walusimbi - Senior Research Officer Livestock.

The former Prime Minister who is now the President’s Special Envoy to South Sudan and Ethiopia and Chairman African Global Security Foundation, Amama Mbabazi and Ambassador Dr. Rashid Yahya Ssemuuddu in charge of seven countries including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Yemen also attended the meeting.

The President urged NARO to promote breeding cows for both beef and milk.

“In 1950s, we had a Chief in Rukungiri area who was against nomadic pastoralism. The chief accused us of being local because we were seen roaming in the bush with cows. He advised us to have few cows, build them a shed and feed them obuhaturu (banana peelings). The chief’s cattle were very fat,” he said.

He advised NARO to solve the issue of pasture through sensitising agriculturalists to adopt the idea of planting grass, clearing bushes and liberate the grass from the shadow.

On the issue of ant-tick vaccine, the President pledged to support NARO in the development of vaccines.

Dr. Ambrose Agona, Director General NARO said in order to contribute to public sector’s capacity to conduct research, there is need to establish and operationalise a state of the art beef and science research centre of excellence at NARO’s research institute at Maruzi.

He said NARO needs funding of US\$ 300 million in order to enhance national capacity to undertake beef production. The project needs a systematic production system including the National Beef Research Centre, National Halal Laboratory, Forage/ Feed production centres, a National Beef Breeder and conservation centre, commercial cow-calf farms, Commercial Goat Stocker Farms, Commercial Beef Feedlot Farms, 5 Commercial Goat Feedlot Farms, Commercial Abattoirs, meat processing centres and Community Agro-Resources centers.

Dr. Ambrose Agona said they developed four novel anti-tick vaccines and are constructing a UGX 20 billion state of the art vaccine research and production complex at Nakyesasa.

He urged the President to support funding under the Beef Research and Agribusiness Project (BRAP) from the Government of Qatar, which is part of the special Emir Fund for investment in specific countries in Africa.

He said the funding would finance the establishment of a fully-fledged research centre of excellence at Maruzi.



President Museveni posing for a photo with NARO officials at State House, Entebbe



Mr. Odrek Rwabwogo (standing) speaks during the meeting at State House, Entebbe

**MAR
16**

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI COMMISSIONS THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EXPORTS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

STATE LODGE, NAKASERO:

President Yoweri Museveni said there is a need to sort out the business roles between the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) and KACITA, a business support association in Uganda in order to promote trade and development.

“KACITA is a business group. They buy from others and bring here. Ours is to do production ourselves, do import substitution and export promotion for tangible economic transformation,” he said.

The President was commissioning the Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID) intended to generate the necessary consensus across key Government institutions, the private sector, exporters, producers, lawmakers, technical staff and all categories of leaders on deliberate actions to make exports a key growth weapon.

“I will also support and boost the Uganda Air Cargo Corporation to transport our exports in the region and beyond,” the President said.

Uganda Air Cargo is Africa's biggest C-130 operator and second to none on the African continent and offers reliable, high quality cargo service to regional and international partners.

The President commended what he described as volunteers and patriotic Ugandans who agreed to come in and fill the gaps, a responsibility which should have been done by the Ministry of Trade.

"It's good that the stakeholders are getting engaged. Once something is built by stakeholders, you are surer," he said. Using a local saying, the President said if the owner of a cow does not know what to do about his cow, the vet wastes his time. "We now have both the vets and the owners," the President said referring to the newly-commissioned committee that is focused on doubling Uganda's total exports from the current USD\$6.6298bn to US\$12bn by 2026.

The Committee has stakeholders from the private sector dealing in beef, cement, grains and pulses, flowers and plants, fish, coffee, steel, animal feeds, tourism, bananas, poultry, sugar etc. It also includes members of the public sector technical support team.

The Presidential Advisor for Special Duties, Odrek Rwabwogo said, while Government's strategic initiatives including Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA), OWC, NAADS etc, have led to increased agricultural and industrial production, its presence in regional and international markets shares is still limited.

"The establishment of the PACEID does not create a new institution but is using administrative interventions to revitalise institutions already in existence which may be underperforming for various reasons," he added.

Rwabwogo said the committee will act as a Think Tank to advise the President on strategic and systematic interventions aimed at accelerating exports growth and industrial development for national transformation.

The meeting was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries Frank Tumwebaze and Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, David Bahati, among others.

“

I will also support and boost the Uganda Air Cargo Corporation to transport our exports in the region and beyond

”

KOLOLO CEREMONIAL GROUNDS:

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who is also the National Chairman of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) briefed the party caucus about the ongoing Operation Shujaa which is being implemented following a Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Uganda and the DRC to conduct joint operations for the eradication of ADF and other foreign armed groups in the eastern part of DRC.

During the meeting held at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, the President said they did not come to Parliament before the operation not because they did not know that it was necessary, but that Security in Africa is a big problem because many people do not know what to do and the situation is complicated by foreigners who cause endless suffering of the African people.

“We did not come to Parliament because that operation had to be agreed upon by the Governments of Congo and Uganda. That’s why we decided to first dialogue with our Congolese brothers,” he said. The President said insecurity in Africa is caused by bad politics and armies.

“Our army is built on the four principles of Patriotism, Pan-Africanism, Social economic transformation and Democracy,” he said.

He assured the NRM Parliamentary caucus that the operation in Congo is moving on well.

The President used the same occasion to caution Members of Parliament against interfering in the work of fighting crime saying the people mandated to fight crime constitutionally are the security forces who later brief the Ministries concerned.

“The anti-crime warriors for the country are well-known, supervised by DPC, RPC, and RDC in a district. Let them do their work.

The anti-crime warriors for the country are well known, supervised by DPC, RPC, and RDC in a district.

In case it is judged necessary by the Central Government to dispatch people to reassure the population, it should be for a limited period so that they do not distract the anti-crime fighters, but also with a briefing from those responsible for fighting crime,” he said.

President Museveni said that Uganda is one of the few countries in Africa that is peaceful and added that under the NRM, Uganda has never needed security support

of UN etc.

“The NRM has been able to achieve this through patriotism of UPDF/NRA. We have tried to spread to the other security agencies like the police etc. We have achieved peace with a low budget. Handling crime is a technical matter and all actors must follow protocol if the country is to win the war against crime,” he said.

The President commended Parliament for the great work done especially in handling the Oil Bill.

“I am very happy with the work being done by Parliament and the NRM caucus. Because, as the Bible says, we shall know them by their fruits. One in particular was the one of the Oil Bill. It was needed urgently for the pipeline to move very well. You behaved and supported it and we moved,” he said.

The President also urged the caucus to handle the issue of the Electricity Bill very quickly to enable industrialisation so that our country grows.

The NRM Parliamentary Caucus Chairperson and the Government Chief Whip, Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, said they have made a lot of strides with 9 bills processed out of the 16 presented in the House.

“We have processed 9 bills out of the 16 presented to the house. I thank you all members for making sure assignments are handled on time. We have surpassed the legislation performance,” Hon. Tayebwa said.

Hon. Tayebwa commended the President for always guiding the caucus and promised that Parliament will handle the Electricity Bill within two weeks.

“I want to congratulate you on the launch of Parish Development Model but we need to sensitise the population and I request the caucus to sit another time specifically for this. We also promise you to expedite the Electricity Bill in two weeks,” Tayebwa said.

The caucus agreed to convene at its earliest to discuss the issues of the rising commodity prices and the Parish Development Model. The caucus also tasked the Security Ministry to officially brief Parliament about the operation in Congo.



President is received by Government and Party officials at Kololo ahead of the NRM Caucus meeting

MAR
17

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS SUDAN'S TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL LEADER

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni said fair elections where political actors rely on numbers and not tribes forces them to form alliances to get the numbers and helps bring unity. He said during civil wars, tribal wars sometimes occur.

“What is important is to have fair elections. Elections force people to unite to get numbers. Holding elections disciplines politicians; they are forced to make alliances to win elections since there is no tribe which has got more than 40 percent to win elections. It is also important to have a neutral interim Government,” the President said.

President Yoweri Museveni was holding bilateral talks with His Excellency General

Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Al – Burhan, the Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of the Sudan.

Gen. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Al-Burhan was in Uganda on a one-day official visit at the invitation of President Yoweri Museveni. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation of Ministers and other Senior Government Officials.

On the bilateral relationship, President Museveni said the best thing is for the Joint Permanent Commission to meet and agree on what to do to improve trade between the two countries.

“We can export tea, coffee etc. We now have a direct airline that can promote trade,” he said.



*President Museveni and Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Al-Burhan in a tete-a-tete at
State House, Entebbe*

They agreed to reactivate the meetings of the Joint Ministerial Commission and Joint Political Consultative Committee and directed the Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs to convene the 7th Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission; and the 5th Session of the Joint Political Consultations Committee, as soon as possible, with the view to taking stock of, and exploring, new areas of cooperation between the two countries and ensure the implementation of all outstanding Decisions, Agreements and MoUs.

On the regional issues, particularly the relationship between Ethiopia and Sudan, President Museveni said if there is peace in Africa, the problem of fighting over water would be solved saying the continent is gifted with large water sources including the Congo River. Each second, the Congo River pours 1,200,000 cubic feet (34,000 cubic meters) of water into the Atlantic Ocean compared to Ethiopia's Blue Nile waters which flow at an annual 3.85 billion cubic meters from Lake Tana that can be exploited. He said they had proposed an IGAD summit to handle these issues including South Sudan.

President Museveni congratulated H.E. Gen. Al – Burhan, for his efforts towards ensuring peace and stability in the region and working towards a broad-based and inclusive governance architecture in the Sudan.

Gen. Al - Burhan congratulated President Museveni upon his successful re-election as the President of the Republic of Uganda, and commended him for his outstanding leadership on matters of peace, security and stability in the region, and the socio-economic transformation of Uganda.

“We wanted to update you on the current situation in Sudan and consult with you on

prospects and way forward using a chain of bilateral and multilateral relationships. You are very respected by the people of Sudan and appreciated for the leadership of your people. You have managed to lead your country and develop it,” he said.

Gen. Al – Burhan extended an invitation to the Ministry of Defence of Uganda to cooperate with their counterparts in Sudan.

The two Heads of State discussed current situation in Sudan. They also exchanged views on the security situation in the Great Lakes Region and underscored the need to maintain peace, security and stability, inclusive and sustainable development and socio- economic transformation of the region and Africa.

They reviewed the state of bilateral relations and observed that although a number of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding had previously been concluded between the two countries, their implementation had not been satisfactory largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gen. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Al – Burhan, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to President Museveni, the Government and the peoples of the Republic of Uganda for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation during the visit. He invited President Museveni to visit the Sudan in the near future and the invitation was gladly accepted.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs; Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, Hon. John Mulimba; Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in-Charge of Regional Cooperation and other Government officials.

“For us, we are moving on with what we call the pathogenic economy. The issue is whether Africa will move with us. We started long time ago with AIDS drugs. Why should foreigners make money out of our sicknesses and not us”
President Museveni

STATE HOUSE ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni said that Uganda is aggressively investing in the pathogenic economy and is building on its experience in manufacturing AIDS drugs for the last ten years through the Quality Chemicals Industry, adding that the industry has grown to produce other drugs including anti malaria, antibiotics and anti-tuberculosis drugs among others.

“For us, we are moving on with what we call the pathogenic economy. The issue is whether Africa will move with us. We started long time ago with AIDS drugs. Why should foreigners make money out of our sicknesses and not us,” he said.

The President was addressing a team of nine African Union members on a verification mission of countries bidding to host the African Medicine Agency (AMA) Headquarters at a meeting held at State House, Entebbe.

The African Union Assessment team was led by Prof. Aggrey John Douglas Ambali from the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), Mr. Samory Badona Monteiro; Office of Legal Counsel, Mr. Marie Madeleine Goungoulou; Management of Information Services, Mr. Michael PAYE Gonqoi; Finance Directorate, Mr. Mahamat Zene Moussa; Safety and Security Services, Mr. Ewnetu Ferede Yitbarek; Facilities

Management Services, Mr. Stepples Muchimba; Protocol, Dr. Margaret; Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Mrs. Hiliana Wassihun Meseret; Health, Humanitarian Affairs.

On 1st November, 2021, the Republic of Uganda became the 26th African Union (AU) member state to sign the Treaty for the establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) at the AU Commission in Addis Ababa

Uganda is among the eight African countries including Rwanda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco bidding to host the Agency. The new agency will provide a streamlined regulatory authority that would improve quality medicines access, and combat substandard imports according to reports.

AMA will also guide the regulation of medicines, and facilitate access to quality medicines on the continent.

The AMA Treaty was adopted by Heads of States and Government during their 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly on 11th February, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The African Medicines Agency aspires to enhance capacity of State Parties and AU recognised Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to regulate medical products in order to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medical products on the continent. AMA shall build on the efforts of the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Initiative (2009), which is led by the Africa Union Development Agency - the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD). The AMRH Initiative

provides guidance to AU recognised Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Health Organisations (RHOs), to facilitate harmonisation of regulatory requirements and practice among the national medicines authorities (NMRAs) of the AU Member States. AMA will be the second specialised health agency of the African Union after the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

The President said Uganda has invested heavily in the medical industry with several more infrastructure coming up, given its history with HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Marburg and now CORONA pandemic.

“We have dealt with all these epidemics and now our people have the capacity. They are highly educated and qualified

human resource. Uganda is now at stage six in two of the vaccine developments. We are moving and we shall continue moving,” he said.

President Museveni called for Africa to work in a more collaborative way to produce a vaccine.

“We are already in advanced stages in what we are doing. For example, the Uganda Virus Institute was actually the one which worked on the vaccine for Ebola. We would want our brothers to work with us. If one produces this reagent, others can produce a different one. There are also special mice which are used in experiments which need to be worked on. We can work in a collaborative way depending on who can do what best. East Africa should work as a team because it’s a big effort,” he said.



President Museveni posing for a photo with the African Union team after a meeting at State House, Entebbe

“We want these 39% of the people who are still working for the stomach to get out and also work for the pockets. They must get out. Everybody must work for the benefit of his family”

NALI, KYANKWANZI:

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni said that the Government is now focusing on getting all Ugandans out of poverty through the Parish Development Model.

“We want these 39% of the people who are still working for the stomach to get out and also work for the pockets. They must get out. Everybody must work for the benefit of his family,” President Museveni said.

The President was speaking at the National

Leadership Institute in Kyankwanzi District while closing a week-long orientation retreat of Uganda’s Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

In February 2022, Government of Uganda launched the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Kibuku district to lift the 39% of Uganda’s population from the subsistence to money economy.

Areas of focus include agriculture, livestock, poultry and fish farming among others. Government intends to inject Uganda shillings 100 million per Parish to implement the model which will focus on production, storage, processing and marketing. It will also include infrastructure and economic services, financial inclusion,



President Museveni on arrival at NALI, Kyankwanzi for the meeting

social services, mindset change and parish based management information system, governance and administration.

Museveni said after solving this internal problem and paying scientists better, the Government will then consider effectively supporting its foreign missions.

“Then if there’s some money remaining we can see how to support other sectors including Foreign Affairs. It is not that we don’t want, but we can’t do everything at a go. That’s the issue,” the President stressed.

This was after the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gen. Abubakar Jeje Odongo, informed the President that the Ministry continues to face severe funding constraints, which makes it difficult to deliver on its mandate. Gen. Odongo said for example the country is now unable to attend meetings of the Joint Permanent Commissions with their African counterparts which provide a unique forum to among other things negotiate for a greater market access for our goods and services.

“The Ministry of foreign Affairs is contributing in a tangible way to the economic development of our country. It is my humble view that it deserves reclassification,” Gen. Odongo said.

The President reminded the Ambassadors about the story of the National Resistance Movement which he said “is a mission-oriented story,” anchored on three points of; creating prosperity for the people of Uganda, creating strategic security and fraternity among the African people.

“There’s no way Uganda can be alright if the rest of Africa is not alright. The work of the Ambassadors should be part and parcel of the four (4) principles of

the NRM,” which are; patriotism, pan-africanism, socio-economic transformation and democracy,” he said.

On strategic security, President Museveni gave an example of Uganda’s deployment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which he said was done in the spirit of Pan Africanism to bring about peace in the region.

“Africa cannot be secure if we cannot work together. We in the NRM, we have always emphasised the oneness of Africa,” he said.

Hon. Jeje Odongo informed the President that Uganda was in February elected to the African Union Peace and Security Council for a two-year term.

“Our election was a recognition of our Pan African credentials and also the important contribution that Uganda has played and continues to play in regional peace and stability,” Gen. Jeje Odongo said.

The Director NALI, Brig. Gen. Charles Kisembo, said the retreat enhanced the synergies and cohesion required for “significant effect as they pursue political, commercial and economic diplomacy.”

According to the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vincent Bagiire, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners were equipped with knowledge in different areas that include; ideology and leadership philosophy, civil military relations, the harnessing of resources for empowerment and prosperity, logic as a tool for understanding reality, tourism opportunities in the country, commercial and economic diplomacy, the NRM Manifesto, National Development Plan III, investment opportunities in the country, digital and cyber diplomacy and the role of foreign service in maintenance of stability in the face of terrorism.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI LAUNCHES LIVESTOCK COMPENSATION IN NORTHERN UGANDA

MAR
27

SOROTI CITY:

President Yoweri Museveni launched the livestock compensation payments for claimants and beneficiaries from Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions with a strong call on them to use the money for wealth creation at house-hold levels by engaging in modern commercial and calculated agriculture.

“If you get compensated, use the funds for modern commercial calculated agriculture. The only way to get out of poverty is through modern agriculture,” he emphasised.

The ceremony took place at Soroti University where Government, political, religious and cultural leaders from the three regions gathered to witness the launching of the program.

A total of 25,000 claimants in the first group from the 29 districts in the three regions will receive their payments as each district will have funds for its beneficiaries.

President Museveni attributed the delay of the compensation exercise to dishonest people who were giving false information to the verification and validation teams about the animals lost.

He however, assured the remaining beneficiaries that they will be paid gradually in the subsequent financial years.

President Museveni strongly encouraged the beneficiaries of the compensation to properly utilise the money for eradication of poverty. He stressed the importance of following the NRM counsel of embracing modern commercial and calculated agriculture according to the 4-acre model.

The President reminded the people of the three regions to concentrate on intensive farming with enterprises that have high returns and leave extensive agriculture to farmers with huge chunks of land. He reminded the people of the region to grow on one acre of land fruits then coffee for those who can grow the crop, then on the third acre grow pasture for zero grazing and on the 4th acre food crops like cassava.

President Museveni particularly advised the people of Teso and Lango sub-regions to use the edges of swamps to open up ponds for fish farming instead of growing rice that destroys the water bodies.

On the issue of cattle rustlers from Karamoja sub-region, President Museveni assured the people affected by the vice to remain calm as the Government is soon going to resolve that problem.

He however, expressed his sympathies and condolences to families who lost their loved ones to the rustlers.

“I am very sorry about the people who have died because of these avoidable problems,” he said.

The Vice President Hon Jessica Alupo extended her sincere heartfelt condolences to the people of Acholi sub-region upon the loss of the Right Hon. Jacob Oulanyah

“He was a national leader to us all the people of Uganda,” she said.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Muruli Mukasa, thanked President Museveni and all the stakeholders for making the exercise a success.

The Deputy Attorney General, Jackson Karugaba Kafuuzi, said an Inter-Ministerial Verification Committee was constituted to verify, evaluate and confirm claims of genuine livestock claimants/beneficiaries from the affected sub-regions.

He said the Committee, in conjunction with the Local Government authorities, conducted a verification exercise in 2016 and a report was submitted to the Office of the President.

“The report submitted had claimants/beneficiaries from the three sub-regions including; Acholi sub-region 16,946, Lango sub-region 42,042 and Teso sub-region 33,664, totaling to 92,652 beneficiaries,” he said.

In the FY 2021/2022, MOJCA budgeted for and received UGX Shs 50billion in respect of compensation for the war debt claimants from the sub-regions of Acholi, Lango and Teso. The Sub-regions comprise of 29 districts.

A total number of the submissions from the districts received to date by the Ministry stands at over 25,000 claimants/beneficiaries.

Kafuuzi thanked the Vice President, Hon. Jessica Alupo, as well as the Speaker of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Anita Among, and other stakeholders for supporting the programme.

The Minister of State for Teso Affairs, Hon. Kenneth Obote Ongalo, described the day as a big one for the people of the three sub-regions as the long awaited exercise of compensation was finally kick started by President Museveni.

He thanked President Museveni for supporting the people of Teso when they lost their Cultural Leader Papa Emorimor Augustine Osuban.

The LC 1 Chairperson of University Cell, Charles Oluka, thanked President Museveni for the University and reported that his area was peaceful as manifested by the development activities now taking place.

President Museveni later handed out dummy cheques to the first beneficiaries; one from each of the three sub-regions of Acholi, Lango and Teso.



President Museveni hands over a dummy cheque to one of the beneficiaries at the ceremony

“Let us plan, prioritise and resolve the issue of constructing simple and cost effective schools that will cover everybody instead of building storied flats that are very expensive”
President Museveni

TESO COLLEGE, SOROTI CITY: President Yoweri Museveni called for the construction of simple, cost effective structures at the institutions of learning that will leave room for the expansion and accommodate more students.

“Let us plan, prioritise and resolve the issue of constructing simple and cost effective schools that will cover everybody instead of building storied flats that are very expensive,” he said.

The President made his remarks while officiating at the commissioning of the Alumni Library and E-Learning Centre at Teso College - Aloet West Wing near Soroti City.

The Alumni of Teso College Aloet, the school that was founded in 1954, pooled resources and constructed the state of the art facility at the cost of over UGX 700 million.

President Museveni launched the construction of the Alumni Library on the 26th July 2015 and commissioned the structure on 26th March, 2022.

The President who thanked the Alumni of Teso College Aloet for their initiative observed that the old schools though founded along

denominational lines and later taken over by the Government, played a big role in producing resourceful persons as was seen by the alumni present at the function.

“Modern education was initially spearheaded by churches supported by colonial Governments like Buddo, Kisubi, Mwiri and Nyakasura were all church founded. In the East there was St. Peters Tororo, Ngora High School and others,” he said.

The President further gave an account of the old schools that were founded by Government and were very few like Teso College Aloet, Sir Samuel Baker, Ntare and Butobere.

He pointed out the NRM strategy of constructing a secondary school at every sub-county and added that the old schools that played a big role in the education sector had to be refurbished.

“Along the way we saw that old schools needed attention one of them was Masaba SSS,” he said.

President Museveni said following the fund raising drive organised by the management of Masaba SSS, he noted that the rehabilitation exercise would not go far and proposed to develop a programme that would see the old schools in the country rehabilitated and expanded at the cost of UGX 500 million that was required at Masaba SSS.

“

*Let us plan,
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”



Students of Teso College-Aloet cheer President Museveni during his visit to the school

He however, attributed the delay of the rehabilitation of the old schools to poor planning by the Commissioners in the Education ministry who preferred to build expensive storied structures.

He therefore, called on all concerned to plan for simple structures that can be spread all over the country and are cost-effective.

The President later pledged to provide computers to the Alumni library of Teso College Aloet.

Awards were given to some of the Alumni of Teso College Aloet for their distinguished service to the nation and among them the recipients was the Principal Private Secretary to the President, Dr. Kenneth Omona.

The Vice President Hon. Jessica Alupo pointed out that it was during her time of stewardship in the Education and Sports Ministry that President Museveni mooted the idea of refurbishing old schools in the country and Teso College Aloet was one of the beneficiaries.

She appreciated Mrs. Janet Museveni for continuing with the project of building the human resource by constructing more schools in the country.

The Minister of Education and Sports Mrs. Janet Museveni in her message presented by the State Minister for Sports, Hon Dennis Obua, thanked the President for the construction of 117 seed secondary schools spread throughout the country and of which seven are in Teso sub-region.

She also thanked President Museveni for appointing the daughter of the soil, Rtd. Maj. Jessica Alupo, as the Vice

President and congratulated the Rt. Hon. Anita Among for her election as the new Speaker of Parliament.

The First Lady also extended her condolences to the family, Members of Parliament and to all people of Uganda upon the demise of the Speaker of Parliament Jacob Oulanyah.

“We join the people of Uganda in mourning the late Oulanyah,” she said.

The President of Teso College Aloet Alumni, Professor Godfrey Akileng, thanked President Museveni for honoring their invitation adding that the Alumni was founded in 2014 and has since supported the college in various areas including the construction of the Alumni library.

He said the College has produced prominent people now serving in the Government that include the Rt. Hon. Deputy Prime Minister; Moses Ali, the PPS to the President; Dr. Kenneth Omona, Medical Doctors, Military personnel, the former Commissioner General Uganda Revenue Authority; Besweri Akabwai, Professor Pius Okong, the Secretary to the treasury Mr. Ocailap among many others.

The Head Teacher of the School West Wing Mr. Opasso Julius thanked President Museveni for supporting Teso College Aloet and conveyed his appreciation to the Alumni of teso College Aloet for the great support they continue to offer to the College.

Present was the newly elected Speaker of Parliament the Rt. Hon. Anita Among.

STATE HOUSE COMPTROLLER MEETS TOORO LEADERS OVER PRESIDENTIAL INDUSTRIAL HUBS

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KYENJOJO DISTRICT:

The Tooro Presidential Industrial Hub will train youth in different skills including bakery, block making and stone cutting, shoe making, tailoring and knitting, coffee and maize processing, welding, hair dressing and others through common user facilities to empower them to join the money economy, the State House Comptroller Jane Barekye said.

Ms Barekye was meeting district leaders from Rwenzori sub-region on Saturday at Kijwiga Village, Kyenjojo District, said that the programme intends to assist the youth who have not had a chance to go to school but can get skills which will help them earn some money and join the money economy.

The Tooro Presidential Industrial Hub, one of the 21 Presidential Industrial Hubs around the country, is one of the President's initiatives to skill Ugandan youth and can accommodate up to 300 students per semester.

The leaders at the meeting included RDCs, LCV Chairpersons and District NRM Chairmen, from the districts of Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kamwenge and Kitagwenda.

The meeting was held to explain to the leaders the benefits and the guidelines of the regional Presidential Industrial Hubs as they prepare to officially commission them and start using them to skill the youth.

"No student will pay any school fees, Government will cater for the welfare of the students and therefore they're required to only report at the industrial hub after going through all other necessary processes and they will be fed and taught at the industrial hub for six months and graduate with certificates," she said.

The Presidential Industrial Hubs managed under State House are set to revolutionise youth empowerment and drive to promote social transformation of the Ugandan society from a predominant peasant and low-income economy to a competitive middle-income economy.

She however warned leaders against any form of corruption in selecting the beneficiaries that may fail this program.

Eng. Kamugisha Raymond, the Head of the Presidential Industrial Hubs applauded President Museveni for initiative aimed at empowering youth into money economy.

Eng. Kamugisha said that training will be conducted in the local languages so that everyone is able to understand.

"There will be no use of English in order not to leave anybody behind since the programme is targeting the youth who have not had a chance to go to school," he said.

He said that the youth who will be studying from the Presidential Industrial Hubs will also have a chance to go through exercises and drills (*Kyakamukyaka*) to keep them fit and healthy and will be assisted by the UPDF.

John Nyakahuma, the Chief Administrative officer (CAO) of Kyenjojo District, hailed Government for giving a chance to uneducated youth to get skills that enable them to fight poverty in their villages.

Gilbert Rubaihayo, Chairman LCV Kyenjojo District, thanked the President for fulfilling his pledge of setting up skills training industrial hubs for the needy people and trusting the local leaders to be part of the project.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI MEETS FRENCH DELEGATION

“There are bad roads inside Congo which the Government of Uganda is working on. It would be good if your Government supported this” President Museveni

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni said that for the last 600 years Africa has developed many linkages with Europe through sharing various things including governance, democracy, multi-party politics and even speak the same language like English and differ on some issues like gay rights because “we still think it’s not a normal way” of life.

He however, said the weakness in Europe is its deficiency in following up ideas of accumulating wealth through socio-economic transformation.

“They don’t have spectacles to see opportunities and utilise them effectively,” he said.

He cited an example of opportunities in Uganda which aren’t seen by the Europeans but Chinese who are awake come and immediately identify the opportunities in infrastructure development, trade, mineral development, etc.

He noted that there is under-utilisation of resources in Africa because of sectarianism and promoting identity instead of interests of the people.

The President was presenting a lecture of opportunity to a delegation from France led by Mr. Remy Rioux, the Chief Executive Officer of the Agence Française de Développement Group of France and Mr. Hatem Chakroun, Directeur-French Agency of Development in Uganda at State House, Entebbe.

The President and his guests discussed various issues on strengthening Uganda’s cooperation with France.

Using his local situation as an example, the President said people from his home area are cattle keepers, produce milk, beef and matooke.

“They don’t buy their products because they have similar goods but instead their products are bought by the people in Kampala and they too buy goods from Kampala such as clothes etc,” he said.

He said promoting one’s identity over interests hinders wealth creation as there would be lack of markets for their products.

The President said Uganda has surplus production of maize, sugar, etc, which are consumed by other countries thus creating wealth through exportation.

Regarding the security situation, the President said Uganda has played a big role in fighting terrorists in the region and is also promoting regional trade by building roads in other countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo.

President said Uganda is investing in maintaining peace and promoting trade and has built hard surface roads to the borders of DR Congo, South Sudan, etc.

“There are bad roads inside Congo which the Government of Uganda is working on. It would be good if your Government supported this,” he said.

On Environmental conservation, President Museveni urged the French Government to support Uganda’s conservation efforts by training farmers against farming in swamps.

Mr. Hatem Chakroun, Directeur-French Agency of Development appreciated the President for the good lecture and called for strengthening of the bilateral relationship between Uganda and France.

He said France is working on the problem of environment degradation practiced by rice farmers in the valley of the Senegal River which has led to soil exhaustion and said Uganda has a similar problem which can be handled.

Mr. Hatem said they are on a regional mission and asked the President for guidance on regional integration in the Great Lakes regions.

In response, the President cited blocks like the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and EAC that are key. He also cited Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

Other leaders of the delegation included H.E Jules-Armand Aniambossou; the Ambassador of France to Uganda, Mr. Tristan Mouline; Chief of Staff, French Agency of Development, Mrs Cynthia Fleury; Professor of the “Humanities and Health” Chair at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Metiers, Mrs Helene Ngarnim; the Regional Director for East Africa-French Agency of Development, Mr. Hatem Chakroun Directeur; French Agency of Development, Mr Jeremy Pellet; Director General-Expertise France, Mrs Anais Rieu Communication Officer; Expertise France, Mr Jean-Francois HASPERUE; First Counsellor, Uganda’s Minister of Energy and Mineral Development; Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa and Andrew Mwenda; the Executive Director of The Independent news magazine.



President Museveni speaks to the French delegation at State House, Entebbe

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ATTENDS THE EAC HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT

"I have been involved in these efforts for almost 60 years and this is really very pleasant that DRC has finally reconnected formally. What we call DRC now was part of Great Lakes. We were connected before colonialism. But when colonialism came we got disconnected. It is good we are assembling. In 1960, towards the end, even Zambia and Somalia had applied to join the Community," Museveni said.

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

East African Heads of State officially admitted the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) into the East African Community effectively making it the latest and largest member of the trading block.

During the EAC Heads of State 19th Extra-Ordinary Summit held virtually, the summit considered the report of the Council of Ministers on the negotiations between the East African Community (EAC) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on admission of DRC into the EAC.

EAC Heads of State officially admitted the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) into the East African Community.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, Chair of the Summit of EAC Heads of States announced the admission of DRC to the East African Community during the 19th Extra-Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State.

President Uhuru Kenyatta said DRC was first assessed by a council of the EAC ministers who concluded that the DRC is eligible to join the EAC, adding, that the aim of regional integration blocks is to strengthen our relationship, expand our markets for goods and services, create



President Museveni addresses the 19th Extraordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State Summit

wealth, create more opportunities for investment and services across without hindrance, and for easy movement of goods and services in the EAC.

"Today, EAC Heads of State by show of hands adopted the agenda and unanimously seconded the programme of integrating DRC in the EAC region," he said.

President Yoweri Museveni described the joining of EAC by DRC as a big event of great significance.

"I have been involved in these efforts for almost 60 years and this is really very pleasant that DRC has finally reconnected formally. What we call DRC now was part of Great Lakes. We were connected before colonialism. But when colonialism came we got disconnected. It is good we are assembling. In 1960, towards the end, even Zambia and Somalia had applied to join the Community," Museveni said.

Museveni said DRC's coming is very crucial and that, "it is good it has happened when I am alive."

"This means this part of the world is connected to coast. For people looking for prosperity, this is good contribution. Prosperity means we produce and sell.

The more buyers you have, the better. On behalf of the people of Uganda, I welcome H.E. Tshisekedi and DRC in joining us," he said.

The President said they now need to work on issue of peace in Eastern DRC.

"That area has been disturbed for a long time by different groups. If we work together, that problem can be resolved. I thank President Uhuru for chairing the Summit and thank everybody for supporting the reassembling of the African people," he said.

President Museveni urged all the Heads of State of the EAC to work on the issue of peace collectively.

Rwanda's President , H.E. Paul Kagame also congratulated DRC on joining the block and pledged to always play its role in the EAC.

The President of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan, welcomed DRC to the EAC and urged the new entrant to take advantage of broader market for goods and services, security, peace and trade.

"The United Republic of Tanzania heartily welcomes DRC into the bloc. *KAZI IENDELEE!*" H.E Samia Suluhu- President, United Republic of Tanzania said.

The Vice President of Burundi, H.E Prosper Bazombanza who represented President H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye, thanked the Almighty God who okayed the great event to take place today.

He welcomed DRC on board and said they are now convinced that the integration agenda will be achieved and promised to contribute to peace, stability and development of the EAC.

South Sudan also welcomed the DRC to the community and said they look forward to consolidating peace and security.

Hon. Bernaba Marial Benjamin, the Minister of Presidential Affairs of South Sudan, who represented President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

congratulated DRC and revealed that they are looking forward to consolidating peace in South Sudan and he promised to continue working with the EAC.

"The Republic of South Sudan openly welcomes DRC into the region. The admission of DRC strengthens the bloc," Hon. Barnaba Marial said.

The First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, said the Democratic Republic of Congo will be expected to sign the deed of Accession to the Treaty with H.E Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Chair of the Summit by the 14th April 2022. Thereafter, the DRC will handle internal processes leading to deposit of instruments of ratification.

Dr. Peter Mutuku Mathuki, the Secretary General of EAC on behalf of other Heads of State of EAC first consoled H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and Uganda for the demise of a National Speaker, Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah.

He read the meeting resolutions and thanked the Excellencies for the profound support to the integration process.

Trade in Eastern Africa is set for a boost after officially welcoming the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), into the East Africa Community (EAC).

The DRC is the largest and most populous country to join the EAC, bringing a market of 90 million people and immediately upgrading the region's GDP from \$193 billion to \$240 billion, according to reports.

“Elections are good medicine for politics if it is free and everybody participates, it disciplines leaders. Leaders learn how to be careful with the people. If not careful, they can’t elect you” Museveni said.

STATE HOUSE, ENTEBBE:

President Yoweri Museveni received credentials from 8 new envoys including; the Republic of Cuba, People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Republic of South Korea, the State of Libya, the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the State of Israel and the Kingdom of Thailand.

During his meeting with the new Cuban envoy to Uganda, Mrs. Tania Pérez Xiqués, the President said he is looking forward to strengthening the bilateral relationship between their two countries. H.E. Amb. Xiqués relayed greetings from President Miguel Díaz-Canel of Cuba to President Museveni and also briefed him about the situation in Cuba. She said her country is recovering well from the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Museveni also welcomed the new Algerian Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Cherif Oualid, with whom they discussed various issues including the situation in Western Sahara, regional security and the economic transformation.

Amb. Cherif Oualid relayed greetings from President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of the Democratic Republic of Algeria and also delivered condolence message to the President and the people of Uganda upon the death of the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Jacob Oulanyah.

“The security situation in Algeria is much better now, our next battle is economic recovery,” he said.

While meeting the new South Korean Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Park Sung-Soo, President Museveni called for unity between South and North Korea, saying a united Korea can be a very strong power centre. He welcomed the Ambassador to Uganda.

Amb. Park Sung-Soo relayed warm greetings from the President of the Republic of South Korea, H.E. Moon Jae-in, to President Museveni and the people of Uganda. He also briefed the President about the situation in South Korea.

President Museveni later met the new Ambassador of the State of Libya to Uganda H.E. Ibrahim Ahmed Sultan, with whom they discussed the situation in Libya.

President Museveni said elections are good medicine for politics if it is free and everybody participates.

“It disciplines leaders. Leaders learn how to be careful with the people. If not careful, they can’t elect you,” he said. He called on the leaders to ensure that all parties participate without any exclusion.

Amb. Ibrahim Ahmed Sultan delivered greetings from the Chairman of the Presidential Council of the State of Libya, H.E. Mohamed al-Menfi to President Museveni and thanked him for being a great friend of the people of Libya.

“Libya has suffered a lot for many years. We got to know our true friends like Uganda who opened their doors and welcomed us,” he said.

In a meeting with the new Ambassador of Colombia to Uganda H.E. Monica De Greiff Lindo, President Museveni welcomed her to Uganda and encouraged her to exploit the rich natural resources that the two countries compete with to promote their mutual relationship.

Amb. De Greiff relayed greetings from the President of the Republic of Colombia H.E. Iván Duque Márquez, to President Museveni and said she looked forward to working with him in Uganda.

President Museveni also met the new Sierra Leone High Commissioner to Uganda, H.E. Isatu A. Bundu, a daughter to current Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament and former commonwealth observer in the 1980 elections in Uganda.

Ms Bundu relayed greetings from the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, H.E. Julius Maada Wonie Bio.

Later, the President met the new Israel Envoy to Uganda H.E. Micheal Lotem, who briefed him about the situation in Israel. He also delivered greetings from the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, H.E. Naftali Bennett to President Museveni.

The President called for the implementation of a two-state solution and also called on the African Union to let Israel be an observer at the African Union. He also called for Israel to establish an Embassy in Kampala.

The President met the new Thailand Ambassador to Uganda Mrs. Sasirit Tangulrat who relayed greetings from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, General Prayuth Chan-o-cha (Ret), to President Museveni.

She congratulated President Museveni upon his recent election victory and commended Uganda’s efforts in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said despite her country’s economy being affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, it is recovering gradually with support from the export sector. She said her country was now open for business without any COVID-19 restrictions.

The meeting was attended by among others; Hon. John Mulimba; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of Regional Cooperation, Vincent Waiswa Bagiire; the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Julius Kivuna; Head for Regional Peace and Security Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Joyce Onek; Head of the Department of International Economic Cooperation.

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SPEECH BY PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ON THE OCCASION TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, DELIVERED AT KOLOLO CEREMONIAL GROUNDS ON 8th MARCH, 2022

*Your Excellency the Vice President;
Your Lordship the Chief Justice;
The Right Honorable Prime Minister;
Rt. Honorable Deputy Prime Ministers;
Hon. Ministers;
Honorable Members of Parliament;
Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High
Commissioners;
Your Royal Highnesses the Cultural and Traditional
Leaders;
Religious Leaders;
Development Partners;
Ladies and Gentlemen.*

I salute all Ugandans on this occasion to commemorate the International Women's Day. Since 1991 when this day was gazetted as a national day and a public holiday, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government has been able to demonstrate its commitment to achieve women's social, economic and political emancipation. This has been achieved through a supportive legal and policy framework as well as programmes that provide women and all community members with the required services for improved livelihoods and well-being.

On this day, we remember all women of Uganda for their contribution to national development in different ways. The majority of women till the land to sustain their families or work as labourers in commercial agriculture and in the informal sector. Women are providing care for the sick in health units and at home, they are selling produce in the markets, teaching the young ones, serving in the Armed Forces and many other professional fields. Today, we recognise all of them for their contribution towards our achievement as a country.

I am, therefore, pleased that the theme selected for commemorating this year's International Women's Day: "Gender Equality

Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow" stresses the fact that what we achieved in gender equality and women's empowerment is the basis for securing sustainable development and hence a sustainable future. Sustainable development refers to the ability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own needs.

This, therefore, enables us to use the experience of the past and present to guide the goals for the future. At the center of sustainable development is the need to ably address climate change and environmental degradation, the effects of which have come in the form of draught, floods, and other natural disasters that affect the productivity and livelihoods of communities.

Our focus now is to take advantage of the gains in women's empowerment to strengthen the efforts for tackling and mitigating the impact of climate change and environmental degradation.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government placed the emancipation of women at the forefront of its agenda and the benefits of the supportive policies and laws are evident today. One of the key milestones of this Government was the promulgation of the 1995 Constitution which ushered in provisions for women's increased participation in political leadership and recognition of their roles in social economic development.

Some of the recognisable indicators of the progress in the status of women are in the following areas:

Education and literacy:

Presently, most of our children are in school. More girls than before are attending schooling. For example, girl's enrollment in Primary school was at 24.6 % in 2001 and rose to the current

49.9%. Uganda has attained gender parity in Primary Education. Literacy rates of females have improved from 70% in 2012 to 71% in 2020. The Literacy rate for females now stands at 72% (UBOS 2019/20), an improvement from 68% in 2002. This is still lower than literacy rate for men at 81%.

Skilling Uganda in Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTVET): Reforms in this sub-sector have contributed to increased enrolment of females in this area, from 28.5% in 2007 to 34.6% in 2016 (MoES Factsheet). These efforts will lead to increased participation of women in the Manufacturing and ICT Sectors.

Health:

Health services have improved and the maternal mortality rate has progressively declined to 336 deaths per 100,000 live births from 438 in 2011. 73% of births are delivered in a health facility, an increase from 57% in 2011. Nine in every ten persons (91%) can access health care within a 5 km radius. This is a good indication of progress in the provision of health services to the population.

Access to clean water and sanitation:

Nationally, there is an increase in the households using improved water sources which stands at 80% and 83% of households using pit latrines. Overall, 79% of households have access to improved source of drinking water and 96% are within

30 km of the main drinking water source.

Increased power generation and expansion of electricity:

Access to grid electricity among Uganda's households has increased from 14% in 2012/13 to 24% in 2020. The national electricity access rate comprising both grid and off-grid connections, stands at 57% (UBOS 2020). The target is to ensure that 60% of the population have access to electricity by 2025.

Infrastructure:

Government's increased investment in infrastructure has facilitated production, trade including movement of goods, value addition and access to services. These investments include construction and maintenance of national, district and community roads. There has been an increase in ICT infrastructure development and uptake of services by the population. As of 2020, 74 percent of households owned a mobile phone and 84% are connected to internet services which is used for social networking.

Political Participation:

In Cabinet, women Ministers are currently 36 percent. In the Parliamentary Elections, 175 Women were elected as Members of Parliament. Of these, 146 are District/City Women Representatives, 13 are representatives of Special Interest Groups and 16 are directly elected. This gives us a percentage of 34% which is still above the

global target set for 30% representation of women in the national legislature. It is also a significant increase from 18% in 1996.

In addition to political participation, we have prioritised the participation of women in our development agenda that will guarantee a sustainable future for our country. Our Vision 2040 is a transformed society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country, where men and women are accorded opportunity to participate as equal partners in development. It will be paramount for us to reduce gender inequalities as a prerequisite for accelerating and sustaining socio-economic transformation. Uganda, under the NRM Government, will continue to treat women and men as equal partners in development right from household to national level.

These areas of progress for women set a firm foundation for ensuring a sustainable future, hence Government's priority programmes and interventions provide opportunities for women to consolidate the gains so far achieved. The areas of Government's focus are the following:

Economic growth:

A growing GDP is vital for sustainable development. Uganda's GDP now at 6.5% per annum is projected to increase with good prospects of transforming Uganda into a modern, industrial and

prosperous nation. The role of women is critical here, as producers, traders, marketers and promoters of value addition.

Overall, poverty levels have remained the same since last year but the overall population in poverty is slightly low at 20.3%, a decrease from 21.4% in 2017.

Most importantly, the Parish Development Model which I launched last week is a game changer because it focuses on family enterprises for poverty eradication and is available to all parishes in Uganda. Under the specialised pillars of the programme, duplication will be avoided and available resources will be utilised efficiently. Mobilisation of SACCOs is already ongoing and this will facilitate organised production and marketing.

Modernising agriculture;

The Agriculture sector is the largest employer with females at 73.1 % and males at 63.0 %. The predominant rain fed agriculture is not sustainable especially in areas prone to drought. Government has introduced irrigation systems to support food production and security. The Government will provide direct support to 68% of the population to get out of subsistence farming. Our focus is to get every woman and man out of poverty through commercialisation of agriculture, value addition, marketing and industrialisation. Partnerships through SACCOs are an

important mechanism adopted by the NRM government to achieve this.

Conserving biodiversity:

Expanding the forest cover through forestation and re-forestation of timber and fruit trees is one of the aspects of conserving biodiversity. Women are key players in this area because of their indigenous knowledge and constant relationship with the environment as they play their day to day roles of production.

Water conservation:

Women are the primary users of water because of their caring roles that involve fetching and using water for cooking, washing and cleaning. Whereas Government has embarked on increasing water coverage, our scientists must develop and disseminate appropriate technologies for conserving the water.

Industrialisation:

The NRM Government has identified the necessity to involve the private sector in expanding non-traditional exports, focusing on expanding external markets and providing incentives for most efficient small firms to grow. We have also focused on reducing the costs of production such as electricity and allocating more credit (working capital) to manufacturing. Our aim is to satisfy the local market while expanding the exports, to ensure, “not working for the stomach alone.”

Expanding markets for goods and products: The NRM government has put attention on wealth creation at household and community levels as a prerequisite for overall national transformation. To this end, the Wealth Creation Model and now the PDM are geared towards enhancing household income. The national coverage of these programmes is ultimately meant to ensure that every Ugandan is on board.

The progress notwithstanding, there are some challenges that we still have to tackle within the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend Ugandans for their cooperation with Government to implement the measures that were put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19. The measures led to success in controlling the spread of the virus, morbidity was reduced to manageable levels by the health care system and mortality rates remained relatively low as compared to other counties around the world.

Having persevered through the worst periods of the pandemic, I now call on Ugandans to intensify their livelihood activities in order to revitalise the economy and move towards our goal for social economic transformation. This will only be achieved when all of us continue to observe the SOPs and to take the COVID 19 vaccines which are available throughout the country.

The 2020 Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs (MIWE) ranked Uganda as one of the top three economies having the most women business enterprises owners at 39.6%. Most of these businesses are still micro in nature.

This year 2022, Uganda will mark 60 years of Independence. As we reach yet another milestone, it is necessary for us to reflect on the progress and achievements made for women over the last 60 years. We have had to struggle against cultural bottlenecks, poverty, illiteracy and negative perceptions to bring the women to the level where they are right now.

In achieving all this, Government has worked with other stakeholders including Civil Society, Faith-Based Organisations, Traditional and Cultural Institutions, the Academia, the Private Sector etc. In addition, the partnership we have at regional level through the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) under the African region as well as at the United Nations and other global forums has supported the national efforts.

I applaud this unity and commend the spirit of partnership that you have exhibited through the collaboration on women's empowerment. In this respect my Government appreciates the partnership with our Development Partners, the UN Agencies and other well-intentioned actors.

The NRM Government has put in place programmes which provide avenues for women, the youth, Persons with Disability, older persons and other marginalized groups to liberate themselves from poverty and engage meaningfully on social economic transformation.

Last month, on 26th February, I launched the Parish Development Model as the “vehicle” that will deliver social economic transformation to all communities in Uganda. As with all other Government initiatives, women who constitute 51% of the population are at the center of the 7 pillars of the PDM which include support to Emyooga and support to Production, storage, Processing and Marketing. 100 million shillings will be available in each of the 10, 475 parishes across the Country. 30 percent of this has been earmarked for women. This translates into Ush.30 million per parish per year for women. This means that there will be money for women enterprises revolving in the parishes annually.

The PDM is, therefore, an opportunity for women, youth and other interest groups to consolidate the gains so far achieved under the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP); the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and Operation Wealth Creation (OWC).

I now call upon the women to embrace the services that Government is providing as active participants under the PDM so as to be able to obtain its benefits.

I wish to also take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of appreciating the critical role that men play in the process of attaining gender equality and women's empowerment. Experience from our journey as the NRM Government shows us that it is only through working together as men and women, girls and boys, young and old that we reach greater heights.

Looking forward to the future, I would like to reiterate the Government's commitment to fulfilling the promises that it has made to the people of Uganda. These include; better access to education, better infrastructure, improved health services, clean water and sanitation facilities for all, as well as the means to create wealth within each household.

I wish all of you and your families joyful celebrations as we remember the achievements attained for the women of Uganda and look forward to a sustainable future of prosperity.

#UGGovtDirectory



Republic of Uganda
The Government Directory



**Understanding the Mandates of Different
Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDAs)**

Coming Soon



**GOVERNMENT CITIZEN
INTERACTION CENTRE**

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Government Citizen Interaction Centre
SRK House, Plot 67a, Lugogo Bypass



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