



PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NRM MANIFESTO FOR 2021-2026

Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubaker
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

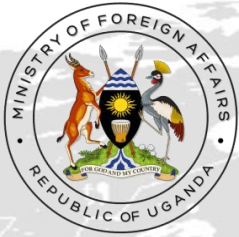
May 2023



Presentation Outline



1. Introduction
2. Contributions towards Creating jobs and wealth for all Ugandans
3. Contribution towards achieving economic and political integration
4. Challenges faced during the implementation period
5. Proposed way forward.
6. Conclusion



Introduction

- The mandate of Ministry of Foreign Affairs is “To promote and protect Uganda’s Interests Abroad”. Uganda implements its foreign policy in the ring States (EAC region) to achieve peace, security and economic prosperity. This is done through political and economic collaboration.
- To achieve, peace, security and economic prosperity, the Ministry organizes and participates in Joint Permanent Commissions (JPCs). This is one of the main frameworks for inter-state cooperation whose primary objective is to strengthen bilateral relations.



Introduction Cont'd



In the Manifesto for 2021-2026, there are five priority areas of focus for the ruling Party, these are:

1. Creating jobs and wealth for all Ugandans;
2. Delivering education, health and water;
3. Ensuring justice and equity;
4. Protecting life and property; and
5. Achieving economic and political integration.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Missions Abroad directly contribute to two focus areas No. 1 and 5. This presentation highlights the contribution made by MoFA and the Missions abroad towards the two priority areas of focus.



Contribution Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



In the period under review, Uganda held JPC meetings and Business fora with Tanzania, Burundi, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Rwanda and Algeria.

Outcomes from JPCs and Business Fora

a. 4th Uganda- Tanzania JPC Session held at Sheraton Hotel, Kampala

- Uganda was granted permission to start exporting additional 10,000 tons of sugar to Tanzania annually;
- Road user charges on Ugandan cargo trucks using the Dar es salaam –Mutukula route were reduced from \$500 to \$142 dollars;
- Ugandan electric pole supplying companies were permitted to supply Tanzania National Electricity Company with electric poles not from their plantations inside Tanzania only as the case has been, but also directly from their plantations in Uganda; and
- Tanzania agreed to increase the ratio of Ugandans recruited by Ugandan investors in Tanzania, this has created more employment opportunities for Ugandans to work in the host Country.



Contributions Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



b. **3rd Burundi-Uganda JPC Session held in Bujumbura**

- Two MOUs on cooperation in the Energy and Hydrocarbon sector were signed. This would enable Uganda to export her surplus electricity and petroleum products (after completion of Hoima refinery) to Burundi; and
- Access to the Democratic Republic of Congo through Burundi.



Contributions Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



c. 2nd Uganda-south Africa JCC Serena Hotel Kampala 7th-12th July 2022

- Commitment secured from South Africa to increase her investments in Uganda beyond the current \$ 1.3 billion dollars;
- South Africa committed to introduce visa free access for Ugandans with ordinary passports effective August 2023 who would be travelling to South Africa for business and investment purposes;
- A Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance (CMAA) Protocol was signed between Uganda Revenue Authority and South African Revenue Services to harmonize revenue services such as custom duties between the two countries; and
- In addition to exporting sweet bananas and yams, South Africa committed to allow more Ugandan products on her market as a way of improving the balance of trade which is currently in favor of South Africa.



Contributions Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



d. Uganda-DRC Business Forum Kinshasa and Goma 29th May-8th June 2022

- 300 business deals were reached between the Ugandan businessmen and their Congolese counterparts. For example:
 - Ms. Salma Buwembo and Mr. Mbabazi's Poltini Group to supply 15,000 trays of eggs to Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo weekly
 - Yo Kuku Chicken company to supply 12 tons of Chicken products to DRC
 - Supply of fresh and dried mushrooms, and Tooke brand under the Presidential Banana initiative are already being executed
- During the business forum, Equity bank Ltd accepted to create a \$5-billion-dollar credit financing facility to provide credit financing to business activities between Uganda and DRC;
- Commitment was secured from DRC to clear Uganda Airlines to start flying to Goma, Lubumbasha and Kisangani as additional destinations. This will promote trade between Uganda and the DRC. (talks between CAA and their DRC counterparts scheduled to take place in Kampala this month of May 2023);
- Sino Group of Uganda and Groupe Taverne Sarl from DRC signed a MoU on exporting Uganda's beef to DRC.



Contributions Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



e. South Sudan- Uganda Business Forum, Juba 18th-22nd July 2022

- Agreed that the memorandum of understanding signed between Uganda and South Sudan in 2012 on removal of non-tariff barriers be urgently revised to have all remaining NTBs between the two (2) countries removed; and
- Commitment secured from the Government of South Sudan on safe guarding Ugandan investments in South Sudan and Ugandan investors invited to invest in South Sudan.



Contributions Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



Uganda- Algeria Relations

- During the State Visit to Algeria by H.E the President, the two Heads of State agreed that Uganda will export powdered milk worth USD 150 Million annually to Algeria;
- Ugandan coffee is now permitted to be exported to Algeria directly from Uganda. In the past, it had been exported to Algeria through Sudan (Khartoum) where it attracted a levy;
- Algeria delegation from the energy sector visited Uganda during the month of May 2023 to discuss opportunities in the development of the oil and electricity sector; and
- A delegation of ISO (International Organization for Standardization) business personalities from Algeria will be in the Country in June 2023.



Contributions Towards Creating Jobs and Wealth for All Ugandans



Outcomes from other Trade, Tourism and Investment Engagements:

- a. Participated in the Kenya – Uganda agribusiness symposium and exhibition to enhance Uganda’s export performance. Through this event, Mr. Mayambala a fruit farmer in Luweero District obtained a contract to supply 08 trucks of pineapples to a Juice factory in Mombasa per week;
- b. UAE STREIT Company constructed a USD 50million factory for manufacturing armored vehicles in Nakasongola;
- c. Registered 70 Ugandan fish exporters with Saudi Food and Drug Authority for eligibility to export in the Saudi market;
- d. Negotiated 08 Bilateral Air Service Agreements between Uganda Airlines and the host countries to fly in the following destinations; Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Somalia, South Sudan, UAE, South Africa and Burundi;
- e. URA officials in Uganda met their counterparts in Rwanda to iron out customs issues affecting trade between the two countries; and
- f. The Mission in Abu Dhabi facilitated 6,129 Ugandans to obtain jobs in the UAE as drivers, cleaners, maids, maids, security guards, sales representatives, porters and masons.



Contribution Towards Achieving Economic and Political Integration



Participated in events to promote regional and continental economic integration. These included:

- Establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which brings together 1.3 billion people with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$3.4 trillion. This is an opportunity to boost trade and economic integration for our country; and
- The 22nd East African Community Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (EAC MSME) trade fair in Kampala attended by more than 1,233 traders and entrepreneurs across the EAC and Great Lakes Region.



Challenges Faced During the Implementation Period

- The Ministry and Missions Abroad are underfunded to effectively carry out their mandate. In the current FY 2022/23, there was a budget cut on items of travel abroad and workshops, meetings and seminars; and
- Some of the critical activities undertaken by the Ministry include participation in regional and international engagements under the frameworks of UN, AU, IGAD, EAC, TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development), ICGLR and hosting of JPC sessions with partner States which are not financed because of the freeze on some budget items.



Challenges Faced During the Implementation Period Cont'd



- Outbreak of COVID -19 and its attendant travel restrictions affected implementation of some planned activities;
- Weak follow-up mechanism on decisions taken from summits, State visits, conferences, symposium and conventions by relevant MDAs;
- Inadequate institutional capacity to provide consular services for distressed Ugandans abroad especially in the Middle East; and
- Slow rate of acquisition, development and maintenance of properties abroad resulting into increased rental costs. Currently, Missions Abroad spend over UGX 32 Billion on rent, which could be reduced through construction or procurement of Chanceries and official residences.



Challenges Faced During the Implementation Period Cont'd



- Continuous accumulation of arrears on contributions to International Organizations which has dented Uganda's image abroad; and
- Tariff and non-tariff barriers against Uganda's exports within the region.



Proposed Way Forward

Strengthening commercial and economic diplomacy to:

- Increase Uganda's commodity exports;
- Market Uganda's tourism products and potential in traditional and non-traditional markets (Africa, China, South East Asia and the Arab world) through our Missions abroad;
- Continue to engage MoFPED for additional financial resources to implementation commercial and economic diplomacy; and
- Attract cooperation assistance in form of training opportunities, in priority areas of National Development.



Proposed Way Forward Cont'd

- Strengthening the country's engagement with regional and international partner States to enhance peace and security in the region;
- Enhance the capacity of Foreign Service officers to deliver on their mandate;
- Enhancing the role of ICT in service delivery; and
- Strengthen the provision of consular services to Ugandans living and working abroad especially in the Middle East.

Conclusion

- Joint Permanent Commissions are an important framework through which challenges affecting political and economic bilateral relations between partner States are addressed;
- The bilateral engagements have resulted into reduction of NTBs and increasing market access for our exports in the region. This has a multiplier effect on creating jobs and wealth for Ugandans; and
- Where Uganda has participated in the pacification of countries with conflicts in the region, this has paved way for our traders to penetrate the markets in the respective countries for example, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.



Thank you.