

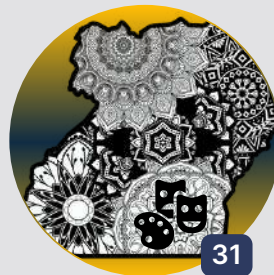
Diplomatic Notes

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THIRD SOUTH SUMMIT
KAMPALA, UGANDA 2024

"LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

Uganda's Chairmanship:

Non-Aligned Movement (2024 - 2027)
The Group of 77 and China (2024 - 2025)



HEY,
DEAREST READER,



Dear Esteemed Readers,

Uganda turned 62 last month and just like that, October ended and what a month of activity it has been and what an apt time to listen to the Minister of Foreign Affairs give his annual lecture on Uganda's Foreign Policy.

Marking Independence month, is always so exciting at the MoFA because while the rest of Government attends one day of celebration on October 9th, we get to experience it throughout the month, as our Missions mark this important milestone in their various cities of accreditation, celebrating our identity and heritage and uniting our diaspora. Sometimes we take the celebration right into the month of November! Ugandans love their parties and in these pages we share a colorful pictorial of how we did it.

In the October issue we are taken all over the world, to Apia, Samoa for CHOGM 2024, to Bujumbura for the 23rd COMESA Summit. We mark the 60th Anniversary of the G77 in New York and attend the 107th OPCW Executive Council Meeting at the Hague. We take Commercial Diplomacy to new heights with bilateral business fora in Prague, Amsterdam, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

We have built people-to-people bridges in celebrating what unites us, inviting our second and third generation diaspora to tour Uganda and truly appreciate its beauty. We engaged with the US Mandela Fellowship returnees and celebrated wins in cinema, theatre and creative economy.

Do not miss our Sports Diplomacy section as we cheer our fellow flag bearers, the Uganda Cranes in the 2025 AFCON Qualifiers.

With this issue, Diplomatic Notes Editorial Team warmly welcomes Ms. Christiana Ampeire as new Art Director as we look forward to what design tricks she has up her sleeve.

DIPLOMATIC
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL
FEATURE
STORIES



UGANDA
MISSIONS
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE
MEETINGS



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“

This document is a publication of the Department of Public Diplomacy. Any comments or recommendations can therefore be channeled to the Department for feedback or action.

”



The Uganda Independence Monument, unveiled on October 8, 1962 symbolizes Uganda's independence which was achieved a day later on October 9, 1962 from British Colonial rule. This iconic sculpture stands as a powerful representation of Uganda's journey to self-governance.

[Learn more](#)





Minister Odongo Offers Unwavering Support to Uganda Council on Foreign Relations



Hon Gen Odongo Jeje Abubakher addressing delegates during the annual Minister's address at the Uganda Council on Foreign Relations.

Kampala - Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakher affirmed the continuous support and participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the activities of the Uganda Council on Foreign Relations (UCFR).

This revelation was made during his remarks at the annual Minister's address that took place on October 15, 2024 at Fairway Hotel in Kampala, attended by members of the diplomatic corps, foreign policy practitioners, media and academia.

Hon Odongo gave a detailed presentation borrowing from both personal and institutional insights about Uganda's foreign policy.

He informed the audience that in its relations with others, Uganda is guided by international interventions, norms and principles such as Peaceful settlement of disputes, Respect of international law and treaty obligations, strong belief in multilateralism among others to guide foreign policy.

Hon Odongo added that relations with neighbouring countries with Uganda have been good, reflecting on the establishment of Joint Permanent and Ministerial Commissions where Uganda exchanges high level visits with these countries.

He highlighted key aspects of Uganda's Foreign Policy, including the open-door refugee policy, regional integration, efforts to promote peace and stability, support for African economic integration, the Pan-Africanism agenda, and the fight against international terrorism. He also noted Uganda's active involvement in global platforms like the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and G77+China, along with its relations outside Africa.

Hon Odongo, recognized achievements such as maintaining strong international relations, leadership roles in NAM and G77, and contributions to peacekeeping, but pointed out challenges in execution, such as underfunding and political dynamics.

Ambassador Francis Katana, CEO of UCFR, explained that the Council, established in 2016, seeks to address gaps in Uganda's foreign policy by offering a platform for debate and information sharing. UCFR aims to become a center of excellence in promoting foreign policy, serving as both an academic resource and a mentor for youth. General Ivan Koreta, Chairman of UCFR, expressed appreciation to Hon. Odongo for participating in the discussion on foreign policy, emphasizing that the annual foreign minister's address provides an interactive forum for key stakeholders.



Pictured: Hon Gen Odongo (C) handed an appreciation gift from Gen Koreta (2nd left) alongside Amb. Katana, CEO of UCFR(extreme right).

By **Christiana Ampeire**
Photo by **MoFA Press**





Uganda Council Of Foreign Relations Inspires Future Diplomats At Cavendish University

By Diplomatic Students Union

Kampala - Cavendish University Uganda on October 11, 2024, through its Diplomatic Students Union, hosted a public lecture in partnership with the Uganda Council on Foreign Relations (UCFR) and Diplomacy Ignited (DI). With a focus on **"Roles of Regional Bodies in Africa,"** the event engaged future diplomats on regional integration's impact on peace, stability, and development.



DI's Executive Director Ms Caroline Mbura delivering her remarks during the Public lecture in partnership with the Uganda Council on Foreign Relations.

DI's Executive Director Ms Caroline Mbura Muhindo, highlighted the crucial role of regional entities like the EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC in fostering African stability. He emphasized that peacekeeping, mediation, and direct interventions—exemplified by ECOWAS's 15 peacekeeping missions over 30 years—are foundational for a secure continent. The EAC's frameworks for conflict prevention have similarly supported Uganda's economic and political goals, such as boosting trade volumes by 27% in 2022, reflecting robust regional integration efforts.

Dr. Feta Simon, UCFR Fellow, underscored the need to deepen Africa's diplomatic and security understanding, noting the influence of security and military priorities in diplomatic outcomes.

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Cavendish University, Prof. Olutayo Osunsan said, as a continent, much emphasis ought to be put on regional integration, adding that Africa's success is in regional integration. "For there is nothing we can't achieve when we come together". Prof. Olutayo encouraged the youth to take Diplomacy and International relations studies seriously, explaining that it is the young generation that will change the status quo. He, urged young people to nurture and build knowledge in this field if they are to become distinguished diplomats in future. He also made the clarion call to learn, read and write Kiswahili, as the necessary asset to completing continental integration as Africa.



Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olutayo Osunsan addressing the audience during the public lecture.



Members of the Diplomatic Student's Union under Cavendish University in a group photo after the Public lecture session.

Photo credit: Diplomatic Students Union.





Vice President Alupo Represents Uganda At CHOGM Convention In Samoa



Vice President of Uganda H.E. Jessica Alupo (L) together with Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom (R) at the CHOGM convention in Samoa

Apia- Uganda's Vice President HE Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo arrived in Apia, Samoa to represent President Yoweri Museveni during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting from 21-26 October 2024. HE Alupo was received by Samoa's Minister of Finance Hon. Lautimuia Ueese Va'ai and Hon. Laaulialemalietoa Leuatea, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries Scientific Research Organisation of Samoa Export Authority at Faleolo International Airport. Others included Hon Okello Oryem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, HE Nimisha Madhvani, High Commissioner of Uganda to the United Kingdom and Ambassador John Leonard Mugerwa of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Samoa hosted CHOGM under the Theme, **"One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth."** The Summit was addressed by the Prime Minister of Samoa Rt. Hon Naomi Mata'afa, the outgoing Secretary-General Rt Hon Patricia Scotland, and His Majesty King Charles III in his capacity as Head of the Commonwealth as well as other Heads of Government. They assessed the progress made since the last CHOGM in Rwanda, two years ago and focused on key priorities including resilient economies for recovery and prosperity, addressing climate change, democratic institutions and improving livelihoods.

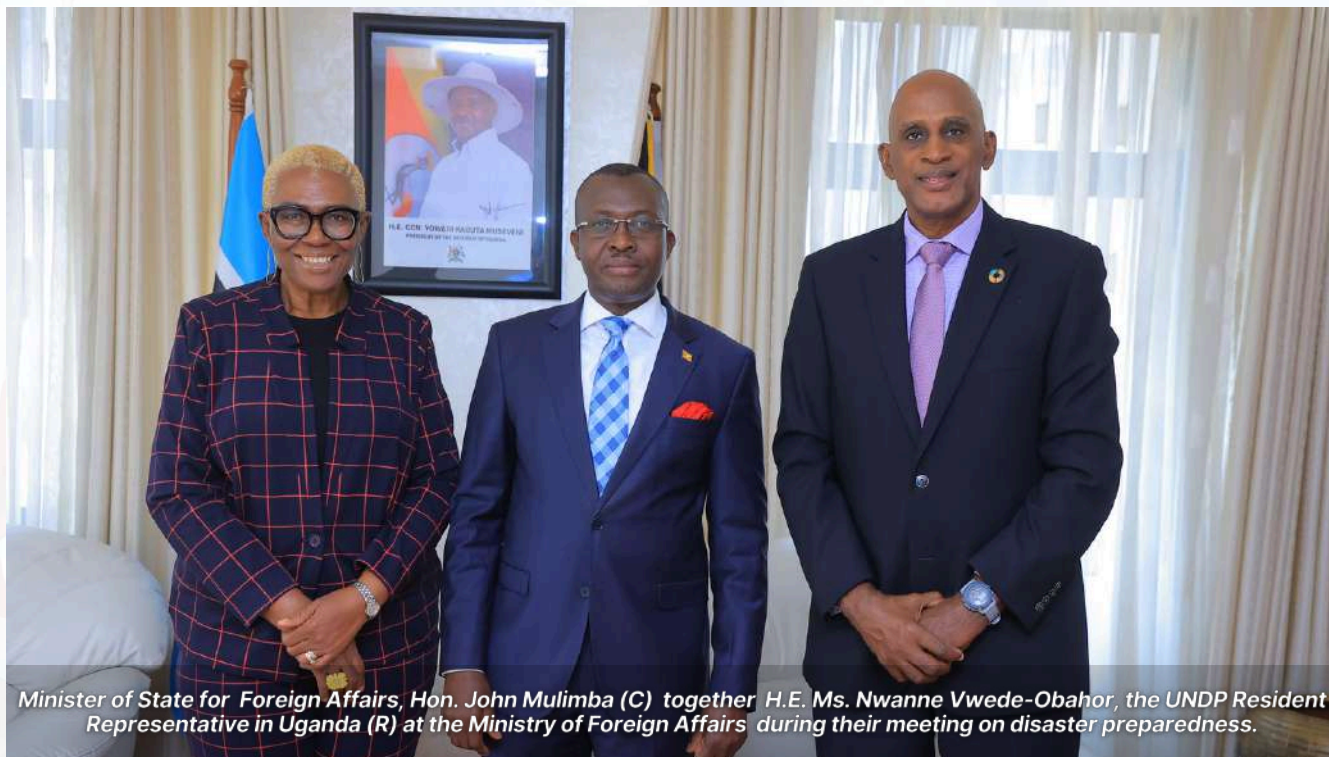
There were several ongoing Women, Youth, Business and People's Forums and other side events, which brought together about 5,000 delegates from 56 member countries which have a combined population of 2.7 billion people. The meeting also discussed how to enhance intra-commonwealth trade, tourism and investment.

The Heads of Government selected a new Commonwealth Secretary-General, from candidates of Lesotho, Ghana and Gambia. The official opening was slated for 25 October followed by Executive Sessions and a Retreat on 26 October, during which the Vice President Alupo delivered President Museveni's message to the meeting. The Leaders adopted a Communique, a Commonwealth Ocean Declaration and a Declaration on Reparatory Justice.



Minister Mulimba Advocates For Improved Disaster Preparedness In Busia

Compiled by *Wabusimba Amiri*



Kampala - On October 2, 2023, a pivotal meeting took place between Hon. John Mulimba, Uganda's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Ms. Nwanne Vwede-Obahor, the UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kampala. The focal point of their discussion was the recently secured funding for the project titled "Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Building," specifically targeting Busia Municipality.

This initiative is set to significantly enhance disaster risk management and resilience in Uganda's vulnerable communities. Hon. Mulimba expressed gratitude to UNDP for its ongoing support and emphasized the Ministry's role in fostering collaboration with local governments across Uganda and Kenya. He highlighted the urgency of addressing the recurrent health crises in Busia, including cholera, typhoid, and malaria, while simultaneously promoting economic growth by transforming Busia into a key trade and tourism hub along the Uganda-Kenya border.

Busia faces numerous challenges, such as environmental degradation linked to inadequate waste management, insufficient drainage systems causing regular flooding, and ineffective land-use planning. These issues are compounded by overcrowding and informal settlements, resulting in significant gaps in essential services like water and sanitation. The UNDP previously assisted in developing a Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Profile for Busia District, a critical tool to guide the new project's implementation.

The project aims to empower marginalized and vulnerable populations, ensuring their active participation in governance and development initiatives. It will also enhance the capacity of institutions and communities to adapt to climate change and disaster risks. Hon. Mulimba reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to collaborate with UNDP and other stakeholders, underscoring the project's potential to significantly improve the livelihoods of the residents of Busia Municipality and contribute to broader regional development.



Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Unites Stakeholders To Strengthen Uganda’s Diaspora Engagement



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, Mr Vincent Bagiire addressing delegates and the audience during the Diaspora symposium.

Kampala- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Diaspora Department hosted a crucial stakeholders' symposium at the Kampala Serena Hotel on October 15, 2024, marking a significant step towards enhancing diaspora engagement in Uganda's development.

Permanent Secretary Vincent Bagiire emphasized the diaspora's role in regional cohesion and economic growth, while UNDP Representative Nwanne Vwede-Obahor highlighted the community's significant contributions through Foreign Direct Investment.

She cited Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam as an example of successful diaspora engagement. Ambassador Johnny Muhindo, Head of the Diaspora Department, revealed that diaspora engagement efforts have been ongoing since 2007, calling for public-private cooperation in developing comprehensive mapping and assessment methodologies.

Key stakeholders, including representatives from IOM, Uganda Investment Authority, and FAO, discussed various aspects of diaspora engagement. IOM's representative in Uganda, Victoria Vanny Nabiteeko emphasized that diaspora contributions often exceed traditional development aid, while FAO's Antonio Querido highlighted potential agricultural innovations through diaspora expertise.

The symposium concluded with stakeholders pledging support for a national diaspora policy, setting the stage for the upcoming Inaugural Diaspora Homecoming Summit scheduled for December 18-20, 2024, in Kampala.



Pictured: Left(L) Photo of UNDP representative Nwanne Vwede-Obahor giving remarks at the symposium and right Diapsora department head Amb Johnny Muhindo

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi
Photos by MoFA Press





60th Canonization Anniversary of Uganda Martyrs Sparks Reflections on Faith and Social Values

Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi

Italy - The Uganda Martyrs' Canonization anniversary was celebrated on October 19, 2024 at the St Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Rome - Italy and led by Chief Celebrant, His Eminence Cardinal K. A. Turkson, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy for Sciences and Special Envoy of Pope Francis.

The anniversary marked 60 years since the Uganda Martyrs were proclaimed as Saints by Pope Paul VI at the Basilica in Rome. It was attended by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Thomas Tayebwa, who delivered a speech on behalf of the President of the Republic of Uganda, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

President Museveni recognized Christianity's positive influence on Uganda, noting its contribution to spiritual understanding, reverence for God, and the advancement of education and scientific knowledge that has alleviated disease burdens and fostered social values.

He praised the symposium's timely focus on essential themes, such as social and environmental advocacy, and highlighted core Christian values like hard work, unity, and love—principles that guided Uganda through periods of conflict.

Cardinal Peter K. A. Turkson, Special Envoy of Pope Francis, praised the Uganda Martyrs as true Africans transformed by the Gospel into dedicated disciples of Jesus, urging Africans to draw inspiration from their faith, integrity, transparency, and commitment to governance in building a better future for Africa.

Notably, H.E. Most Rev Luigi Bianco, Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda, hailed the exemplary actions of the Uganda Martyrs and called for all to become creators of hope and instruments of peace and defenders of the God-given dignity of every human being.

Emmanuel Cardinal Wamala, Archbishop Emeritus of Kampala, commended the Uganda Martyrs for their exceptional courage, expressing gratitude to all who supported their canonization.

H.E. Ambassador Stephen Mubiru, Uganda's Ambassador to Germany, underscored the Uganda Martyrs' importance to the African Church and the relevance of the theme, "The Blood of the Martyrs: Seeds of Hope for an Integral Ecology."

Ugandan dignitaries joined the ceremony at the Basilica to mark the 60th Anniversary included Ugandan Ambassador to Italy H.E. Elizabeth Napeyok, Minister Justine Kasule Lumumba, State Minister of Finance, Henry Musasizi, MPs Sarah Opendi, Herbert Ssewungu and former opposition leaders, Mathias Mpuuga and Salam Musumba among others in attendance.



Rt Hon Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa (C), together with Ambassador of Uganda to Germany H.E. Stephen Mubiru 1st (R), Ambassador of Uganda to Italy H.E. Elizabeth Napeyok 2nd (R) and State Minister of Finance, Henry Musasizi 2nd (R).



Rt Hon Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa (C), alongside Hon Musasizi and other Ugandan Catholic religious leaders and dignitaries, cut a cake to mark the 60th Martyrs' Anniversary.



Photo Credit: Deputy Speaker's Press





UNICEF Representative Bids Uganda Farewell at the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs



Kampala- Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakher, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Dr. Munir Safiieldin, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)'s outgoing Country Representative for Uganda, on September 17, 2024, as he concluded his tour of duty in the country after four years of dedicated service.

During the meeting, Dr. Safiieldin expressed deep gratitude to the Government of Uganda for its support and cooperation throughout his tenure, describing Uganda as the most rewarding experience of his 31-year career, which included working in 11 countries.

He announced that the UN, via UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), will soon open its first UN-owned facility in Mbuya, Uganda, hoping for attendance by President Yoweri Museveni and Gen. Odongo.

Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakher expressed gratitude for Dr. Safiieldin's efforts, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting UNICEF's role in managing the crisis and addressing post-pandemic issues like school dropouts and child support.

He reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to welcoming refugees, underscoring the President's belief that no African should suffer if Uganda can provide refuge. He welcomed the new UN facility and pledged support for UNICEF's incoming Country Representative, wishing Dr. Safiieldin success in his future endeavors.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Gen Odongo (R) together with outgoing UNICEF country representative Dr Dr. Munir Safiieldin as he bid farewell at the Ministry headquarters.

Compiled by Amiri Wabusimba
Photo by MoFA Press





Ministers Of Foreign Affairs Gather In Bujumbura To Discuss Peace And Security At COMESA Pre-Summit Meeting.



Bujumbura- The 19th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was held at the Presidential Pavilion B3 in Bujumbura, Burundi. This key gathering aimed at addressing regional Peace and Security, review of a report by the Committee on Peace and Security, consider a candidacy for the African Development Bank, and launch the COMESA Mediation Strategy.

Preceding the summit, activities began on October 28, 2024, with the 17th COMESA Business Forum and Exhibition. The main summit, themed "Accelerating regional integration through the development of regional value chains in climate-resilient agriculture, mining, and tourism," was held on October 31, 2024. The theme aligned with Uganda's ambition to attain upper-middle-income status by 2040.

Peace and security were highlighted as essential for regional integration, with Ministers of Foreign Affairs emphasizing sustainable peace's importance in fostering a business-friendly climate. This summit was the first gathering of Heads of State after the EAC-SADC-COMESA Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) took effect in July 2024. Uganda, host of the inaugural 2008 Tripartite Meeting, reaffirms its commitment to the FTA's implementation to leverage benefits, protect achievements, and enhance member participation in the AfCFTA.

COMESA remains a key export market for Uganda, accounting for over 60% of Uganda's global exports and offering significant trade potential.

Uganda benefits from COMESA initiatives in industrial productivity, agriculture, food security, finance, and infrastructure. Vice President Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo, Uganda's delegation attended the 23rd COMESA Summit, which emphasized regional cooperation to drive economic growth through trade and integration, with peace and security as cornerstones of sustainable development.

Uganda Hosts 60th Anniversary Celebration of G77+China in the UN

New York-The Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations, in its role as Chair, organized a celebration to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the G77 +China at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event, themed "The Contribution of the Global South Coalition to International Development and Politics," highlighted the pivotal role of the G77+China in shaping global discourse.

The first segment featured formal proceedings with participation from member states and a video presentation chronicled key milestones of the coalition, followed by a panel discussion and addresses from distinguished speakers. Among them were Mr. Vincent Bagiire, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, Uganda's Permanent Representative to the UN; His Excellency Dennis Francis, President of the United Nations General Assembly and Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet to the UN Secretary-General.

The second segment transitioned to a cultural celebration, showcasing Ugandan hospitality. Attendees were treated to a dinner featuring authentic Ugandan cuisine, beverages, and performances by traditional dancers, providing a vibrant display of Uganda's rich cultural heritage.

This segment underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering unity and understanding among the diverse member states of the G77+China. The event reaffirmed the coalition's commitment to advancing the interests of the Global South on the international stage.



Compiled by Amiri Wabusimba
Photo by MoFA Press





Uganda Welcomes New Country Representative Of Médecins Sans Frontières



Kampala - The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. John Mulimba on October 15, 2024 received Letters of Credence from Ms. Maria Gema, the new Country Representative of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to Uganda. The official ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala.

Hon. Mulimba warmly welcomed Ms. Gema to Uganda and emphasized the significance of the long-standing partnership between Uganda and MSF.

He reaffirmed Uganda’s commitment to working closely with MSF to deliver more impactful outcomes in providing critical healthcare services.

Ms. Maria Gema, in her remarks, expressed her gratitude for the warm reception and outlined MSF’s continued mission in Uganda. She pledged MSF’s commitment to support the healthcare needs of the country in emergency medical services, maternal health, and response to disease outbreaks.

Both parties acknowledged the critical role MSF has played over the years and highlighted future areas of collaboration, to enhance Uganda’s capacity to respond to public health emergencies and ensuring access to quality healthcare for all.

Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi
Photo by MoFA Press

Minister Odongo Welcomes United Kingdom High Commissioner-Designate



Kampala - The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar on October 15, 2024, received copies of letters of credence from Ms. Lisa Chesney MBE, the High Commissioner-designate of the United Kingdom to Uganda. The ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters in Kampala.

Hon. Gen. Odongo welcomed High Commissioner Chesney to Uganda, highlighting the strong ties between the two countries and the UK’s significant contributions to Uganda’s social and economic development in areas like trade, investment, education, health, and governance.

Ms. Lisa Chesney, MBE, conveyed her appreciation for the warm welcome and expressed her enthusiasm to serve in Uganda.

She reaffirmed the United Kingdom’s commitment to maintaining and deepening the strategic partnership between the two countries in tackling pressing global challenges such as climate change and ensuring sustainable development.

The meeting concluded with both parties reiterating the importance of continued cooperation on global and regional issues and expressed confidence in the deepening of bilateral relations for the mutual prosperity of both Uganda and the United Kingdom.

Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi
Photo by MoFA Press





Uganda's High Commissioner to Australia Presents Credentials to President Vurobaravu.

High Commissioner of Uganda to Canberra, H.E. Dorothy Samali Hyuha, officially presented her credentials to H.E. Nikenike Vurobaravu, President of the Republic of Vanuatu, at the Presidential Palace in Port Vila. During the ceremony, H.E. Hyuha extended warm greetings from H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, to President Vurobaravu and the people of Vanuatu.

H.E. Hyuha praised the strong ties between Uganda and Vanuatu, pledging to strengthen collaboration in economic, cultural, diplomatic, and political spheres. She highlighted the shared natural landscapes and hospitable populations of both nations. H.E. Hyuha stressed the importance of exchanging knowledge in tourism, fisheries, and forest management, aiming to promote sustainable development and mutual prosperity.



Uganda's High Commissioner to Canberra, H.E. Dorothy Samali Hyuha, presented her credentials to the President of the Republic of Vanuatu at the Presidential Palace in Port Vila.

Uganda And Uzbekistan Deepen Diplomatic Engagement Ahead of NAM Chairmanship Transition.

H.E. Moses Kawaaluuko Kizige, Uganda's first Ambassador to Uzbekistan, recently presented his credentials, marking a historic milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two countries. This pivotal moment signifies Uganda's commitment to strengthening bilateral ties with Uzbekistan. It also underscores a mutual dedication to cooperation, especially as Uzbekistan prepares for its Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) from 2027 to 2029, with Uganda currently holding the chair.

The credential presentation enables Uganda and Uzbekistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to engage in political consultations, aiming to establish a collaboration framework, foster business connections, increase international cooperation, and explore new sectors. This partnership embodies a shared vision for peace, prosperity, and development, offering significant benefits to both nations' citizens.

Prof. Kikafunda's Credential Ceremony Marks a New Chapter in Uganda-Bangladesh Diplomacy.



Uganda's High Commissioner to New Delhi, Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, presented her credentials as Uganda's Non-Resident High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

On 17th October 2024, Her Excellency Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, Uganda's High Commissioner to New Delhi, India, also accredited to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan presented her credentials as Uganda's Non-Resident High Commissioner to Bangladesh. The ceremony was held at the Office of the President, Bangabhaban, in Dhaka, where she presented her Letter of Credence to His Excellency Mohammed Shahabuddin, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The event featured a Guard of Honour by the Bangladesh Army's Special Security Force Regiment, followed by a meeting between the High Commissioner and the President. The two discussed high-level visits to enhance bilateral relations, exploring collaborations in agriculture, foreign affairs, defense, and waiving visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders. High Commissioner Kikafunda highlighted investment opportunities in Uganda's agro-industry, particularly in the cotton value chain, and encouraged partnerships in pharmaceuticals, ICT, and education.



H.E. Moses Kawaaluuko Kizige, Uganda's first Ambassador to Uzbekistan, recently presented his credentials.

Compiled by Amiri Wabusimba
Courtesy photos





National Days



Republic Day (Turkey) also known as **Cumhuriyet Bayramı** is commemorated on October 29.



Republic of Hungary national day commonly known as **Nemzeti ünnep** is celebrated on October 23.



Austrian National Day is commemorated on October 26



Republic of Guinea commemorates its independence day on 2nd October



Equatorial Guinea commemorates its national day on October 12



Korea National and Armed forces day is commemorated on October 2.



The National Day of Spain commonly referred to as **Fiesta Nacional de España** is celebrated on October 12



Cyprus Independence Day is celebrated on October 1



German Unity Day is celebrated on October 3 remembering German reunification.



Nigeria's Independence day commonly referred to as **October First** is celebrated this month.



National Day of the People's Republic of China is celebrated annually on October 1



Independent Czechoslovak State Day is celebrated on October 28 yearly



Zambia Independence day is celebrated on October 24 yearly





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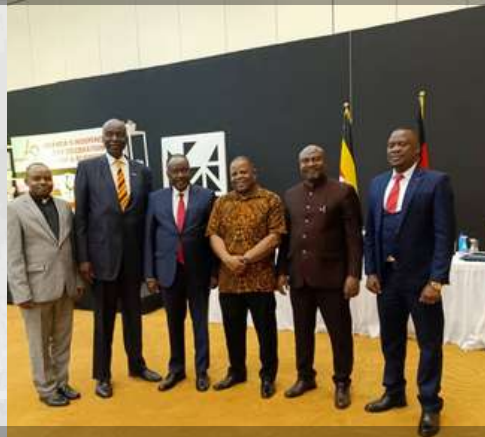
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Uganda Consulate Arusha



Uganda High Commission Kigali



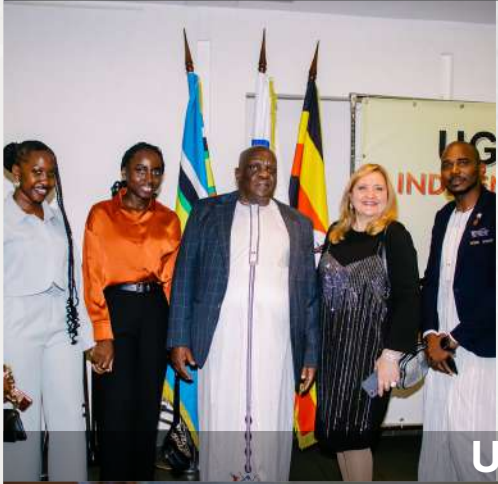
Ug @62 Mission's Celebrations



Uganda Embassy Brussels



Uganda Embassy Beijing



Uganda Embassy Moscow



Uganda High Commission Nairobi





PM Nabbanja Emphasizes Commercial Diplomacy During 3rd Uganda-UAE Business Forum In Abu Dhabi



L-R: Uganda's Prime Minister, Rt.Hon. Robinah Nabbanja together with His Excellency Sheikh Shakhboot Nahyan during the business forum; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs/ Regional affairs Hon. John Mulimba together with the Prime Minister and the Ugandan delegation in a group photo at the Uganda- UAE Business Forum.

Dubai – Uganda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, delivered a keynote address at the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy in Abu Dhabi. The event gathered government officials, diplomats, academics, policymakers, and scholars from the UAE and Africa. Nabbanja's visit to the UAE coincided with the 3rd UAE-Uganda Business Forum, aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two regions.

In her speech, Nabbanja highlighted Africa's vast potential, driven by its youthful demographic, with a significant portion of the population under 25. "This young workforce," she noted, "can drive innovation and entrepreneurship, creating new markets and industries." She also emphasized Africa's rich natural resources, including minerals, renewable energy, and vast arable land, which are pivotal for food security and economic growth. She further reflected on the strong economic and diplomatic relationship between Uganda and the UAE, established with the opening of the Uganda Embassy in Abu Dhabi in 2009 and a consulate in Dubai in 2022. She underscored the UAE's significant investment in Uganda, totaling approximately US\$3 billion across various sectors such as energy, healthcare, agribusiness, and tourism.

During a bilateral meeting with Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Shakhboot Nahyan Al Nahyan, Nabbanja reaffirmed the robust ties between the two nations, built on mutual respect and shared goals for peace and prosperity. The Prime Minister acknowledged the UAE's hospitality towards the 150,000-strong Ugandan diaspora, with Sheikh Shakhboot praising their contributions to the UAE society as peaceful, hardworking, and trustworthy.

In a separate meeting with H.E. Rashed Alblooshi, Under-Secretary of the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development, Nabbanja discussed potential areas of economic cooperation and foreign direct investment, focusing on agriculture, minerals, and aviation. Accompanying her, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hon. John Mulimba highlighted the UAE as Uganda's top export market in the Middle East and welcomed further investment from Emirati companies. Mulimba also discussed the launch of direct flights between Uganda and Abu Dhabi by Uganda Airlines, suggesting a code-share agreement with Etihad Airways. This partnership could leverage Uganda Airlines' strong network in Africa to complement Etihad's global reach. He also requested the resumption of Etihad Airways flights to Entebbe, which were suspended in 2017, citing increased demand from the growing Ugandan community in the UAE.

The Prime Minister's delegation included Uganda's Ambassador to the UAE, H.E. Zaake Kibedi, and other key officials, who actively engaged in discussions to bolster economic and diplomatic ties. The 3rd UAE-Uganda Business Forum, held from October 28 to 31, 2024, in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, focuses on attracting foreign direct investment, promoting Uganda's exports, and fostering tourism. Themed "Unlocking New Horizons: UAE-Uganda Partnership for Economic Prosperity," the forum aims to deepen economic collaboration and project a positive image of Uganda, while engaging the Ugandan diaspora for national development.

----- *Compiled by Margaret Kafeero | Photos MoFA Press*





Uganda-Czech Strengthen Bilateral Relations In The 1st Business Forum In Prague.



L-R: Dep. Head of Uganda Embassy Berlin, Amb. Danny Ssozi giving his remarks at the Uganda- Czech Business Forum; Ugandan delegation in a group photo at the Business Forum.

Prague - The Uganda-Czech Business Forum, organized by the Uganda Embassy in Berlin, took place at the Czech Chamber of Commerce in Prague from October 3-4, 2024, under the theme "Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Investment: Harnessing Opportunities for Sustainable Economic Growth."

Opening the two-day forum were Mrs. Jana Havrdova, Vice President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce, and Ambassador Danny Mayanja Ssozi, Deputy Head of Mission at Uganda's Embassy in Berlin. The first day featured a plenary session, including a coffee cupping event showcasing Ugandan products, while the second day offered immersive farm and company visits, highlighting opportunities within Czech industries.

Ambassador Ssozi welcomed the delegates and spotlighted Uganda's wealth of investment opportunities across sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, infrastructure, ICT, and tourism.

Ms. Havrdova expressed gratitude to the Ugandan Embassy for fostering cooperation, noting this as Uganda's inaugural major representation in the Czech Republic and underscoring the potential of accessing Uganda's growing economy and sizable market.

Representing the tourism sector, Ms. Susan Muhwezi, Senior Presidential Advisor and Chair of the Uganda Hotel Owners Association, emphasized Uganda's stunning natural beauty and strategic geographic position as a gateway to East Africa's tourism markets—an enticing opportunity for European investors.

The forum highlighted the importance of advancing collaborations, suggesting steps like drafting and signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and organizing trade and investment missions between Uganda and the Czech Republic.

Among the attendees were key members of the Czech Chamber of Commerce, the Czech Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Ugandan representatives from the Czech Republic, led by Mr. Steven Musana. Key coordination was provided by Counselor and Forum Coordinator Ms. Jessica Namuddu, Second Secretary at Uganda's Embassy.

----- *Compiled by Anthony and Jessica, Uganda Embassy Berlin | Courtesy Photos*





Uganda Secures \$3 Billion SGR Deal to Boost Regional Integration.

Kampala –Uganda, on October 14, 2024, signed a historic \$3 billion contract with Turkish construction firm Yapi Merkezi to construct a 272-kilometer segment of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). This ambitious project, a key component of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP), aims to strengthen regional trade and economic integration among Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and South Sudan. The deal was formalized in Kampala by Mr. Waiswa Bageya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Transport, and Yapi Merkezi Holdings' Vice Chairman Erdem Arıoğlu, with Minister Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala and Turkish Ambassador Fatih Ak in attendance.

The SGR initiative, directed by Uganda's SGR Project Coordinator Conon Perez Wamburu, will lay the foundation for a larger 1,700-kilometer electric railway network. This initial segment, budgeted at 2.7 billion euros, is set to begin construction in November and is expected to be completed in 48 months. Uganda will fund the project through a combination of national financing and credit from export credit organizations.

Ambassador Richard Kabonero, National Coordinator for NCIP, praised the agreement as a milestone for regional cooperation, stating that the SGR project's success hinges on attracting private investment to maximize its impact. Kabonero highlighted the NCIP's success with other initiatives, such as the One Network Area (ONA), which reduces cross-border communication costs, and emphasized the importance of similar partnerships in the SGR project to expedite development.

Kenya is extending its SGR line from Naivasha to Malaba and Kisumu, complementing Uganda's efforts to enhance regional connectivity. A joint communique by transport ministers earlier this year committed to mobilizing resources to expedite the Mombasa-Nairobi-Naivasha-Kisumu-Malaba-Kampala SGR extension.

This railway initiative will revitalize regional connectivity, enhance economic growth, and reduce trade costs, marking a significant step forward in Uganda's infrastructure and economic integration efforts.

----- *Compiled by Amiri Wabusimba | Photo By MoFA Press*



Ambassador Richard Kabonero together with officials at the Regional Cluster meeting which took place at the Lake Victoria Serena resort Kigo.

Feature Story: Uganda Takes Center Stage at Tourism Exhibition in Japan

Tokyo –The Tourism Exhibition of Japan (TEJ) opened on September 26th at Big Sight in Tokyo, marking the start of the annual event under the theme "Travel, An Encounter with New Value Awaits." Uganda participated this year with exhibits from Buganda Kingdom, Bic Tours, and Uganda Mission Tokyo.

Buganda Kingdom showcased aspects of Buganda's rich cultural heritage, with a focus on the Kasubi Tombs UNESCO World Heritage site. Bic Tours and the Uganda Embassy are promoting Uganda's tourism potential and opportunities in the growing sector. Joining them is Gorilla Highland Coffee's Kaori, serving Arabica coffee from Uganda's Kisoro Highlands.

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The exhibition run through September 30 aiming to stimulate travel and mark the upcoming 2025 Osaka World Expo. Concurrent meetings involve ministers of tourism from participating countries

Representatives from Italy's ITA Airways, expressed interest in expanding routes to Africa beyond current destinations. They were pleased to hear of new Uganda Airlines flights connecting Abuja and Lagos, seeking potential for partnership to accommodate future Accra routes.

Ms. Tomoyo Isono of the NPO Heart & Earth whose organization connects children worldwide through music, invited two Ugandan children to participate in August 2025's "3rd Five Continents Exchange Festival in Japan" during Expo 2025.

The Ugandan presence at TEJ 2024 effectively promotes the country's sights and sounds to potential Japanese travelers and partners. This positive exposure boosts Uganda's profile within the vital Asia tourism market.



Amb. Kazuaki Kameda, Secretary General of Japan Platform and former Honorary Consul of Uganda in Hokkaido Prefecture at the TEJ 2024



Gorilla Highlands coffee exhibited at the TEJ.

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

Northern Corridor Member Countries Commit To Private Sector Funding



Kampala – Northern Corridor countries Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda reaffirmed their commitment to private sector funding during the Finance and Private Sector Participation Cluster meeting on October 15, 2024 in Kampala. Delegates reviewed progress on key projects under the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP), focusing on infrastructure and economic integration.

Representing Uganda's Ministry of Finance, Mr. Patrick Ocaïlap highlighted Uganda's achievements, including securing 58% of the right-of-way for the Malaba-Kampala Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and completing right-of-way acquisition for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) with a \$376 million equity contribution.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Elizabeth Shungula, praised the meeting's focus on private sector-led infrastructure financing, noting Kenya's collaboration on over 45 projects. Rwanda's High Commissioner to Uganda, Joseph Rutabana, reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to regional integration and announced the 15th NCIP Summit in Rwanda. South Sudan's Samuel Yanga Mikaya pledged swift legal measures to support SGR development.

Ambassador Richard Kabonero, Uganda's NCIP National Coordinator, emphasized the essential role of the private sector in regional growth, referencing EACOP's successful private sector engagement.

----- **Compiled by Amiri Wabusimba**





Uganda Hosts Content Creatives Based in the UK Diaspora

By Susan Okodi | Photos by MoFA Press

Kampala - Ambassadors Johnny Muhindo (Head of Diaspora) John Leonard Mugerwa (Deputy High Commissioner to the UK), along with Mrs. Margaret Kafeero (Head Public Diplomacy) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on October 10, 2024, attended a dinner hosted by Ms. Diana Kyaremera Museveni to honor talented UK-based Ugandan creatives visiting Uganda under a campaign "62 since 62."

The group was here on a 3 week familiarization (FAM) trip, organized by the Uganda High Commission in London, the Ministry of Tourism, UTB, UWA, Kyaninga Lodge, and Speke Resort Munyonyo, with plans to promote Ugandan content upon their return to the UK.

During the event, Ministry representatives highlighted the significant role of the diaspora in supporting Uganda's growth and the value of creatives in promoting a positive global image for Uganda. They emphasized that these creatives are integral not only for entertainment and cultural expression but as active contributors to Uganda's economic development.



L-R Amb Muhindo together with other counterparts; Chief guest Diana Kyaremera at the appreciation dinner; Ms Margaret Kafeero addressing the audience at the dinner.

URA Raises Duty-Free Baggage Allowance to \$2,000 at Entebbe Airport

By Amiri Wabusimba

Kampala - Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has introduced updated baggage regulations at Entebbe International Airport, aligning with the East African Community (EAC) Customs Management Act. The changes aim to simplify customs processes for travelers.

According to Robert Kalumba, URA's Assistant Commissioner for Public and Corporate Affairs, the duty-free baggage allowance has increased from \$500 (UGX 1.8 million) to \$2,000 (UGX 7.2 million) for travelers who have been outside the country for more than 24 hours.

This new limit applies only to personal items, not gifts, goods for resale, or company items. To benefit from the duty-free allowance, travelers must declare their belongings and provide receipts for verification. Alcoholic beverages (1 liter of spirits, 2 liters of wine) and tobacco products (up to 250 grams) are also subject to specific limits.

The URA Commissioner General John Musinguzi highlighted that rising trade has led to some passengers attempting to pass off commercial goods as personal items to avoid taxation.

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The new rules stipulate that goods over 50 kilograms or items of commercial nature, such as electronics and footwear, must be processed through the cargo terminal, with taxes settled within two hours to avoid delays.

The returning Ugandans who have spent over a year abroad can bring back personal belongings tax-free, provided these items are cleared at the cargo terminal. Certain restricted items, such as used refrigerators and old televisions, will be confiscated. The objective of these changes is to streamline customs procedures and safeguard Uganda's trade interests.

PRESS RELEASE

Entebbe, Uganda – 10th October 2024

URA Enhances Passenger Baggage Clearance Procedures at Entebbe International Airport

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has introduced updated measures to streamline passenger baggage clearance procedures at Entebbe International Airport, effective 1st July 2024. The guidelines take into consideration the East African Community Customs Management Act fifth schedule amendments that increased a threshold for passenger baggage allowable limit from USD 500\$ to USD 2000\$ for passengers who have been outside the country for a period exceeding 24hours. It is important to note that the passenger baggage allowance applies to accompanied baggage in the names of the benefiting passenger and does not apply to gifts or goods for distribution to other persons or items for commercial/for sale purposes. The exemption does not also apply to items that belong to a company imported as passenger accompanied baggage.

In compliance with Section 46 of EACCOMA, 2004 as amended the passenger is required to declare to the URA officer and avail authentic receipt of purchase confirming the value in the names of the passenger who intends to benefit from passenger allowance exemption. The passenger allowance does not apply to goods sent by other persons through the passenger for delivery to a third party in Uganda. The passenger baggage allowance exemptions are subject to the quantity limitations and fulfilment of conditions specified in item 5 of the fifth Schedule of the EACCOMA, 2004 as amended.

With 19 scheduled flights to major trade hubs including China, India, Dubai, and Turkey Uganda's trade activities have expanded increasing the risk of potential non-compliance with some passengers engaged in commercial activities disguising trade goods as passenger baggage and seeking to benefit from the exemption facility. In response to this surge in trade and these potential risks, URA has implemented updated customs clearance procedures to ensure efficiency and compliance.

Key Changes in Passenger Baggage Clearance

1. Timely tax Payment: Passengers who arrive with goods as passenger baggage that are subject to payment of taxes, a simplified customs clearance process shall be used to assess taxes payable upon which the assessed taxes must be paid within two hours to avoid congestion. Failure to comply will result in baggage being transferred to the cargo terminal for further processing.

2. Baggage Weight Limit: Passengers with goods of commercial value (dutiable goods) exceeding 50kg will have their baggage transferred to the cargo terminal for normal customs clearance requiring the traders to use their tax identification numbers. These goods include: phones, shoes, perfumes, clothes, phone accessories, motor vehicles spare parts, Information Technology (IT) equipment, goods that belong to a corporate body /company imported as passenger accompanied baggage among others.

In addition, the law provides for specific limits for passengers arriving from outside Uganda as follows; Spirits: maximum of 1litre, Wine: maximum of 2litres, Perfumes and toilet water: maximum of 250ml, Cigarettes, cigars, cheroots, cigarrillos, tobacco, and snuff: total weight not exceeding 250 grams

3. Returning Residents Exemption: Ugandan residents returning after at least one year abroad will have their personal and household effects exempt from taxes, provided the goods were used and are for personal use in their previous residence. These individuals will also clear their items through the cargo terminal. However, contraband items such as used refrigerators, used computers, and used televisions are not allowed into the country and will be forfeited to the state after payment of the applicable penalty.

Robert Kalumba, URA's Assistant Commissioner for Public & Corporate Affairs, emphasized the importance of these changes. "We urge passengers to familiarize themselves with the new guidelines. These measures are not only aimed at facilitating trade but also ensuring smoother customs clearance for all."

For Media Inquiries, Please Contact: For more information or assistance, reach us on our toll-free numbers: 0800117000 or 0800217000, email: www.ura.go.ug or WhatsApp: 0772140000.

Successful Seventh Edition of the Uganda-Netherlands Business Convention in Amsterdam

By: Titus Seruga.

Amsterdam hosted the seventh Uganda Netherlands Business Convention (UNBC) from August 20-25, 2024. The annual event connects Uganda's diaspora business community with Ugandan and Dutch leaders, innovators, and policymakers. This year's theme, "Cultivating an AgriTech Revolution," highlighted technology's crucial role in advancing agriculture and promoting economic partnerships between Ugandan and Dutch enterprises.

Representing the President of Uganda, Hon. Balaam Barugahara Ateenyi, the State Minister for Gender, Labour, and Social Development led Uganda's delegation. The event focused on establishing robust partnerships, exploring best practices, and sustainable solutions within the Dutch agribusiness landscape. The first two days featured insightful field trips to leading Dutch agricultural companies, offering Ugandan delegates a firsthand look into innovative agricultural practices. Day three showcased a vibrant conference with keynote speeches, investment panels, and business pitches, fostering connections between Ugandan and Dutch stakeholders. The final days celebrated Ugandan culture through a series of social activities, blending professional ambitions with cultural warmth, creating lasting bonds between both nations.

The UNBC has distinguished itself as Uganda's premier international business convention, uniting professional goals with interactive field experiences and family-like social gatherings. In a world focused on sustainable growth, the convention highlighted the mutual benefits of Ugandan-Dutch private sector cooperation, cementing UNBC's role as a catalyst for agribusiness innovation. With plans underway for the next convention, both Uganda and the Netherlands eagerly anticipate expanding this partnership, advancing agricultural development and exploring new avenues for collaboration.



Hon. Balaam delivers his address the seventh Uganda Netherlands Business Convention (UNBC) in Amsterdam.





Uganda Hosts Pan African Congress Business Forum and Expo to Drive Economic Growth.

Compiled by **Wabusimba Amiri and Herbert Sseketawa** | Photos by **MoFA Press**



Vice President Jessica Alupo(C) next to PACEID Chairman Odrek Rwabwogo(R) at the Pan African Congress Business Forum
Photo Credit: PACEID

Uganda played a pivotal role in Africa's economic transformation by hosting the Pan African Congress Business Forum and Expo at the Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort. This prominent event drew government officials, business leaders, international development partners, and representatives from the African diaspora.

Discussions centered on the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), infrastructure improvements across the continent, and leveraging opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

In his keynote address, Mr. Odrek Rwabwogo, Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Export and Industrial Development (PACEID), highlighted the essential role SMEs play in Africa's economic future. He emphasized that Uganda, like many African countries, has the potential to become a global economic player, contingent upon adequate support for its SMEs to compete internationally.

Rwabwogo urged young entrepreneurs to be bold and innovative, stating, "Uganda's future rests in the hands of its young entrepreneurs. By equipping them to compete globally, we can transform our SMEs into engines of economic growth."

She stressed the need for practical partnerships to unlock Africa's economic potential and highlighted Uganda's steady economic growth, with a GDP growth rate of 6 to 7% annually over the last 35 years. Alupo also connected the forum's discussions to the African liberation movements, referencing the historical African Congress held in Kampala in 1994. She noted the inspiring role of business leaders in pursuing African unity both on the continent and globally.

Mr. Odrek noted that, despite housing 17% of the world's population, Africa contributes only 3% to global trade. He argued that addressing this disparity requires the removal of trade barriers and the establishment of a more favorable business environment.

The AfCFTA, designed to create a unified market of 1.2 billion people, was praised as a crucial instrument for enhancing Africa's global trade competitiveness. "To compete effectively in global markets, Africa must increase its exports and streamline cross-border trade," Rwabwogo stated.

A critical issue discussed was Africa's infrastructure challenges, which Rwabwogo identified as major barriers to economic growth. He called for increased investments in transport and energy infrastructure to reduce business costs and improve continental connectivity, asserting, "Infrastructure is the backbone of any economy."

Additionally, the forum underscored Uganda's goal of becoming a leading exporter of manufactured goods. Rwabwogo shared a vision for Uganda to transition from raw material exports to manufacturing by 2062.

Vice President Alupo urged investors to partner with Ugandan entrepreneurs to enhance the value of commodities like coffee, fish, and minerals.

The Pan African Congress Business Forum and Expo showcased Uganda's economic aspirations and potential, focusing on infrastructure, international partnerships, and the AfCFTA to position the country as a hub for African trade and development.





Uganda Independence Celebrations Bloom in Kenya.

By **Wabusimba Amiri**

Nairobi - The Uganda High Commission in Nairobi, in partnership with the Ugandan Diaspora community in Kenya, hosted the 62nd Independence Day celebrations at the Chancery on October 5, 2024. The event was marked by a spirit of unity and cooperation, underscoring the strong bilateral ties between Uganda and Kenya.

The Chief Guest, represented by Amb. Dennis Mburu, Director of Africa Affairs at Kenya's Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, emphasized the importance of the Uganda-Kenya partnership for regional stability and East African Community (EAC) integration. Diplomatic representatives from Eritrea, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, South Africa, and Turkey also attended, reflecting Uganda's regional and global growth.

A Free Medical Camp organized by Smart Medical Hub kicked off the celebrations, offering health services to attendees. Alongside the camp, an exhibition of Ugandan businesses operating in Kenya highlighted the contributions of the Ugandan diaspora to the Kenyan economy, Uganda Airlines, Upesi, Uganda Breweries, and Sumz Products where among the exhibitors who showcased their offerings, symbolizing Uganda's entrepreneurial spirit abroad.

Additionally, a standout attraction was the Rolex maker, whose stall became a hub of "gastro-diplomacy," with the popular Ugandan street food selling out even before the official program began. Uganda's High Commissioner to Kenya, Dr. Hassan Galiwango, thanked the Kenyan government for supporting Ugandans living in Kenya and emphasized the critical role of the diaspora in strengthening bilateral ties. The event was a celebration of Uganda's past achievements and its promising future in East Africa.



L-R, Amb. Mburu, together with delegates and Mission staff cutting cake to commemorate Uganda's independence; Baganda cultural dancers grace independence celebrations in Nairobi. | Photos by Uganda High Commission, Nairobi.

Uganda Shines at Independence Celebrations in China

By **Jeremiah Guma** | Photo by Embassy.

Beijing - The Uganda Embassy in Beijing and the Consulate General in Guangzhou jointly hosted the "Explore Uganda" Independence celebrations. These events, held at the prestigious Kempinski Hotel and the iconic Great Wall of China, were strategically designed to spotlight Uganda's tourism potential and promote its vibrant cultural heritage.

The celebrations kicked off with a grand reception at the Kempinski Hotel, where H.E. Ambassador Oliver Wonekha passionately highlighted Uganda's unparalleled beauty and tourism opportunities. Guests were treated to stunning cultural performances, a showcase of Uganda's world-renowned coffee, and an immersive display of Uganda's iconic tourist attractions. The following day, Uganda's cultural and tourism showcase took center stage at the Badaling section of the Great Wall.

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These events underscored Uganda's efforts to position itself as a key destination for Chinese tourists and investors. The tourism sector is expected to play a pivotal role in creating jobs and increasing foreign exchange earnings, while coffee remains a leading income earner for many rural households.

The "Explore Uganda" campaign at both the Kempinski Hotel and the Great Wall of China was a resounding success in showcasing Uganda's cultural depth and tourism potential. The Uganda Embassy in Beijing and the Consulate General in Guangzhou expressed their optimism about the future of Uganda-China relations, particularly in the tourism and investment sectors. As the celebrations came to a close, both diplomatic Missions reaffirmed their commitment to promoting Uganda's tourism gems, high-quality coffee, and investment opportunities.

The success of these events is expected to lead to increased Chinese tourist arrivals and greater trade and investment flows between Uganda and China. Uganda's captivating showcase of culture and tourism has undoubtedly left a lasting impression on the Chinese audience and positioned the country as a must-visit destination.



L-R: Uganda's Consul General in Guangzhou, Amb. Judyth Nsababera, and H.E. Oliver Wonekha, Uganda's Ambassador to China, with other delegates at the 'Explore Uganda' Independence Celebrations; 3D sculpture commemorating Uganda's 62nd Independence. | Photos by Uganda Embassy Beijing, China.

Uganda Emerges as Promising Partner in Africa as UAE Strengthens Bilateral Ties

By Daniel Wadada, Uganda Embassy UAE | Photos by Embassy.



H.E. President Yoweri Museveni together with his counterpart and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

The relationship between the United Arab Emirates and Uganda stands as a shining example of successful international cooperation, marked by remarkable growth in trade, investment, and cultural exchange. As Uganda celebrates its independence on October 9th, commemorating its journey since 1962, both nations reflect on their flourishing partnership built on mutual respect and shared aspirations.

The economic partnership between the two nations has witnessed extraordinary growth, with bilateral trade surging from \$1.4 billion in 2019 to an impressive \$3.8 billion in 2023.

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This robust expansion shows no signs of slowing, as experts project trade volumes to double in the coming years. Additionally, the UAE's commitment to Uganda's development is particularly evident in key infrastructure projects.

A flagship initiative is the construction of Kidepo International Airport, spearheaded by the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Located near the renowned Kidepo National Park, home to lions, giraffes, and diverse wildlife, this project aims to boost international tourism to the region.

In the energy sector, the UAE has made significant strides with investments such as the 1-Gigawatt Solar Power Station, demonstrating its dedication to sustainable development. This project will help Uganda meet its growing energy demands while maintaining environmental responsibility. The partnership extends to education, with projects like the Busoga International Polytechnic College preparing Ugandans for the modern economy. These initiatives reflect the UAE's holistic approach to development cooperation.

The strengthening ties between the two nations are facilitated by improved air connectivity, with over 23 weekly flights now operating between Entebbe and the UAE.

This increased access has catalyzed growth in Business travel, Tourism, Cultural exchange and People-to-people connections.

H.E. Zaake W. Kibedi, Ambassador of Uganda to the United Arab Emirates, emphasizes the significance of these relations: "The strong bonds of friendship between Uganda and the United Arab Emirates have been built on a foundation of mutual respect, shared interests, and a commitment to peace and prosperity."

As both nations continue to deepen their partnership, the future holds promising opportunities for expanded cooperation and mutual growth.

With strategic investments in infrastructure, education, and sustainable development, coupled with growing trade relations, the UAE-Uganda partnership serves as a model for successful international collaboration in Africa.



DID YOU KNOW!

- 1 Trade between the two nations has significantly increased, reaching over \$3.8 billion in 2023 from \$1.4 billion in 2019.
- 2 Ugandan and UAE officials are conducting frequent high-level visits, strengthening their relationship .
- 3 The UAE has advanced Uganda's renewable energy sector with investments i.e. 1-Gigawatt solar power station and the Busoga International Polytechnic College
- 4 UAE-Uganda ties strengthen with over 23 weekly flights between Entebbe and the UAE, boosting business travel, tourism, and cultural exchange.
- 5 The UAE supports Uganda's development with key projects like Kidepo International Airport, led by Sharjah Chamber, to boost regional tourism





Uganda Chairs Key NAM Negotiations at the 107TH OPCW Executive Council Meeting

The 107th Session of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council took place at The Hague, the Netherlands, on October 8th, 2024, marking another critical juncture in international diplomatic negotiations. Uganda read the statement on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) plus China.

The statement was read by H.E. Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow, Head of Mission at the Embassy of Uganda in Brussels. In a significant demonstration of unity and collective diplomatic effort, the negotiations leading to the statement got more consensus than before.

A pivotal development during the session was Lebanon's introduction of new language, which received overwhelming support. The addition addressed the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, with the statement calling on Israel to cease its alleged illegal aggression on Lebanon and violations of its sovereignty. This addition underscored the broader geopolitical concerns reflected in the negotiations, showcasing the diverse national interests and priorities within the NAM and its allies.

However, the negotiation was not without its challenges. Notably, six countries, Chile, Peru, Colombia, Singapore, Ecuador, and India, chose to disassociate from specific paragraphs of the statement mainly related to the Middle East conflict, claiming that these paragraphs bring political elements into a largely technical organisation. This differentiation highlights the nuanced and sometimes divergent perspectives within the NAM member states, reflecting varied national interests.

The role of Uganda in chairing this session further cements its growing influence and leadership within international diplomatic forums. Its ability to guide discussions and achieve consensus among a diverse group of nations is indicative of both its diplomatic acumen and strategic positioning.

This session of the OPCW Executive Council brought to the forefront the intricate balance of international diplomacy, emphasising the ongoing debates around chemical weapons and the broader geopolitical challenges faced by member States. As the OPCW continues to implement its mandate on the elimination of chemical weapons and uphold international security, such negotiations and statements play a crucial role in shaping global discourse and action.

The outcomes of these negotiations are set to influence future sessions and the broader dialogues within international diplomatic circles. As nations reconvene to address these critical issues, the precedence set by Uganda's Chairmanship at this session will likely serve as a guiding example for effective multilateral negotiations.



Heads of State and Senior officials at The Non-Aligned Movement summit earlier this year in Kampala. | Photos by MoFA Press



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo delivering address at the Non-Aligned Movement summit earlier this year in Kampala. | Photos by MoFA Press.

Story by Uganda Embassy Brussels








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Public Diplomacy Meets Cultural Identity at Mandela Fellowship Celebrations.

By Christiana Ampeire | Photos by American Centre .



The 2024 Mandela Fellowship Alumni in a group photo after the Debrief session at the American Centre in Kampala.

The Head of the Public Diplomacy department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda, Ms Margaret Kafeero, had the opportunity to interact with the 2024 returnees of the Mandela Fellowship and some of the previous Alumni of the program. This took place on September 19 2024 at the American Centre Kampala during the 10th year celebrations of the program.

In her opening remarks, she gave a background of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and dived deeper about the public diplomacy department, its genesis and responsibilities, appreciating its role in creating deeper relations. "... African Ministry of Foreign Affairs have lots of paper work but this department is special because it resonates with interactions and the heart...," said Margaret.

Ms Kafeero also appreciated the unique education system of America because of the good quality it produces, reflecting on her previous learning experience while on her time there. She noted that as a department, they are trying to expand from merely social media to the full spectrum of what Public Diplomacy actually is.

Ms Amy Petersen, head of Public Diplomacy at the American Embassy, explained that the Mandela fellowship is not only about Uganda but Africa as a region, echoing that as an appreciated fact by one of the scholars.

During the Mandela fellowship debrief, alumni students shared their experiences and thoughts about the fellowship. Mariam Nakigudia, who was in Pennsylvania, expressed a deeper love for Uganda during her time their.

John Patrick, another alumni, noted the struggle of identity as Ugandans. Humphrey Nabimara expressed grief and encouraged embracing Uganda's cultural attire.

Lukwago Rajab, an alumni, noted fear around the USA and its government due to political skepticism. He admired other countries' patriotism and urged Uganda to improve.

Interestingly, Ms Petersen reported that Uganda was named with the country whose fellowship students had the best conduct earning the country great respect.

Ms. Kafeero highlighted the impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Maryland, noting that many students sought to connect with their African heritage, including a desire to visit Uganda.

The Uganda Mission in Washington introduced a curriculum focusing on Ugandan culture, fostering deeper engagement with students and allowing the mission to establish a basement museum of Ugandan instruments.

The Debrief culminated in an Alumni dinner celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Mandela Washington Fellowship and welcoming back 2024 exchange program participants. The event was hosted by US Ambassador to Uganda, H.E William W Popp, who explained the importance of these programs in idea exchange between the two countries.

"...These exchange programs are built on the foundation of partnership and mutual understanding...,symbolizing our belief in the power of education, collaboration, and the global exchange of ideas,..," said Amb Popp.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship, YALI's flagship program, celebrates 10 years in 2024, having empowered nearly 6,500 young Sub-Saharan African leaders to drive positive change.





How a Broken Car Led Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine on a 22-Year Journey to Capture Uganda's Soul

By Angel Kabera

California- Ugandan filmmaker Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine's latest documentary, *Memories of Love Returned*, is a remarkable 22-year project that chronicles the life and work of the late photographer Kibaate Aloysius Ssalongo. The film, which recently won Best Documentary Feature at the Silicon Valley African Film Festival, began in 2002 when Ntare's car broke down in Mbirizi, Uganda. While waiting for repairs, he encountered Kibaate's small photo studio—a meeting that would spark a decades-long artistic and personal journey.

Kibaate, born in 1939, was a self-taught photographer who began his career in the late 1950s with a Rolleiflex camera. His work focused on capturing the essence of rural life in Masaka and surrounding areas, preserving moments that now serve as a historical record of Uganda's communities during that period. From opening his own studio in 1964 to becoming a beloved figure in his community, Kibaate's images transcended mere photography—they became visual memories etched into the collective consciousness of those he photographed.

For Ntare, the connection with Kibaate was immediate. Over time, he saw a reflection of himself in the Ugandan photographer—a parallel between their lives, though separated by geography and circumstance. Ntare felt compelled to document not just Kibaate's work, but also the profound impact it had on him and the people of Mbirizi. This film, he said, was a promise he made to Kibaate after his passing in 2006, to ensure that his legacy lived on.

Memories of Love Returned will screen next at Film Africa in London on October 26th and at the African International Film Festival in Lagos, Nigeria, from November 3rd to 9th, 2024.



L-R Ntare Guma receives award for the Best Documentary Feature at the Silicon Valley African Film Festival; photo of the award sculpture.

Ugandan Cultural Extravaganza Captivates Global Audience at INTAC24 in Kuala Lumpur



Ugandan Exhibits unique produce and tourist sites at INTAC24

Uganda's presence at INTAC24 showcased its tourism potential and cultural ties with Malaysia. Visitors were attracted by traditional dances, iconic dishes like Rolex and Mandazi, and Uganda's coffee varieties.

The event boosted Uganda's position as a top tourist destination in Africa. The High Commission's commitment to promoting Uganda's cultural diplomacy and tourism sector paved the way for future collaborations and partnerships.

In a vibrant display of cultural richness and tourism allure, Uganda made a lasting impression at the International Tourism and Cultures Exhibition and Conferences (INTAC24) held in Kuala Lumpur.

Compiled by Githa Ogume | Photo By Uganda Embassy in Kuala Lumpur





CREATIVES & INNOVATION

Motiv Unleashes Creativity Through Media And Arts Training

By Christiana Ampeire & Angel Kabera



Esteemed reader, welcome to another edition where we spotlight the creative space MoTIV. This edition features the media and arts cluster within the space in Uganda.

Leading the charge is Marie-Franz Fordjoe from Ghana, who has been living in Uganda for at least six months, spearheading MoTIV's expansion across Africa and shaping its media and arts programs.

In an exclusive interview with the Diplomatic notes' Christiana Ampeire and Angel Kabera, Ms Fordjoe explained that the classes are free. This is because they are funded by the MasterCard foundation and this allows them to use the available resources.



At MoTIV, we interacted with coaches like Mr. Kevin Masaba, a radio and podcasting expert with 22 years of experience, who highlighted MoTIV's diverse, expert-led classes.

MoTIV offers a wide range of classes led by experienced coaches, including Ugandan actor Philip Luswata in performing arts, media developer Gerald Businge, radio and podcasting expert James Onen (Fat Boy), photographers Douglas and Ken, and editor Sylvia Nankya in creative writing. This diverse expertise provides students with a comprehensive learning experience.



The institution's art residency program offers a unique opportunity for artists, providing three months of support including production materials worth \$100 monthly and free lunch. MoTIV extends its impact through international partnerships with institutions like Noldor Art Residency in Ghana and Mad House in Nigeria, offering artists valuable exposure through exhibitions and exchanges.

Despite these achievements, Fordjoe notes challenges including limited exhibition space and the need for greater appreciation of art in Uganda. She advocates for strengthening the cultural foundation to better support creative expression. Through its partnerships, MoTIV continues to expand its reach, fostering the next generation of creative professionals in Uganda.

The media cluster has successfully trained 1,463 students across various disciplines, including multimedia production, podcasting, photography, performing arts, events management, creative writing, and hospitality. These intensive one- to three-month programs equip aspiring creatives with hands-on, practical skills.

Pictured above, Public Diplomacy team sitted next to **Invocation, 2024** one of the prestigious paintings by art creative **Nsimbe Grace** at MoTIV.





Miss Teso Beauty Queen Championing Climate Change for a Better Uganda

Interview by Christiana Ampeire | Courtesy Photo.

Kampala - In the heart of Uganda's Teso region, where the sun beats down relentlessly on semi-arid landscapes, Jessica Aanyu Sheillah is orchestrating a green revolution.

The former Miss Tourism Teso finalist has transformed her platform into a powerful environmental movement, co-founding the ambitious Trees for Life Initiative that aims to plant 25 million trees across the region.

"I vividly recall seeing little children and animals seeking refuge from the scorching sun under the scanty shade of verandas," Aanyu reflects, describing the moment that sparked her environmental mission.

This personal observation in Ngora District's Tilling village crystallized into a commitment to restore Teso's diminishing tree cover.

The initiative has already made remarkable progress, with 150,000 trees planted with co-founders Mr Anis Ogeuna and Prof Ogwang Patrick Engeu, and partnerships with the National Forestry Authority and Roofings Uganda. But for Aanyu, this is just the beginning.

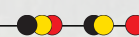


Pictured above, Miss Tourism Teso Jessica Aanyu.

Her vision extends beyond mere numbers – it's about creating sustainable communities and preserving Uganda's natural heritage for future generations. As the YALI Uganda Chapter Eastern Cluster Chairperson, Aanyu brings a unique perspective to environmental leadership.

Her participation in the YALI program in Nairobi opened new horizons for inclusive environmentalism. One of her standout projects involves engaging students at Ngora School for the Deaf in beekeeping and tree nursery management, demonstrating that environmental stewardship knows no boundaries.

"Climate action involves different interventions," Aanyu advises young activists. "Do your best in your different capacities to fight climate change." She champions a culturally-rooted approach to environmental conservation, leveraging local languages and customs to build community trust and participation.





Uganda Cranes Clinch Back-To-Back Wins Against South Sudan.

By Herbert Ssekatawa



Khalid Aucho Uganda' captain (R) defending an attack by South Sudan's striker Alfred Leku (L) at Juba stadium

The Uganda Cranes soared to victory at Mandela National Stadium, defeating South Sudan 1-0 in the 2025 AFCON qualifiers. Bevis Mugabi scored the decisive goal just after the start of the second half, finding the net in the 47th minute on Friday, November 11, 2024. The "Cranes Stars" traveled to Juba for a return leg against the "Bright Stars," emerging victorious with a 2-1 win. Denis Omedi opened the scoring in the 16th minute, followed by an own goal from Alfred Leku in the 66th minute.

This victory propelled the Cranes to the top of Group K, where they now sit with ten points. The match was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at Juba Stadium.

Paul Put, the coach of the Cranes, made three changes to the lineup that started at Mandela National Stadium. Taddeo Lwanga, Derrick Nsibambi, and Allan Okello were brought into the starting eleven for the match.

Right from the kickoff, the Uganda Cranes demonstrated their strength, even in the face of a heavy downpour at Juba Stadium, bolstered by the enthusiastic support of Ugandans residing in South Sudan. The Cranes need just one point from their remaining two matches—one against South Africa at home and another away against Congo Brazzaville—to secure a chance of qualifying for the 2025 AFCON Cup in Morocco. Additionally, the Pearl of Africa, along with Kenya and Tanzania, is in the running to host the 2027 Pamoja Africa Cup of Nations.



Pictured L-R : The Crane Stars at Juba Stadium before the match ; Uganda' supporters in the stands ready to show their support to the players





Uganda's Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa (C), alongside Hon. Musasizi, Ugandan Ambassador to Italy, H.E Elizabeth Napeyok (L) and other Ugandan Catholic religious leaders and dignitaries, cut a cake to commemorate the 60th Martyrs' Anniversary. *Courtesy Photo.*



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