

Diplomatic Notes

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AFRICA

RUSSIA



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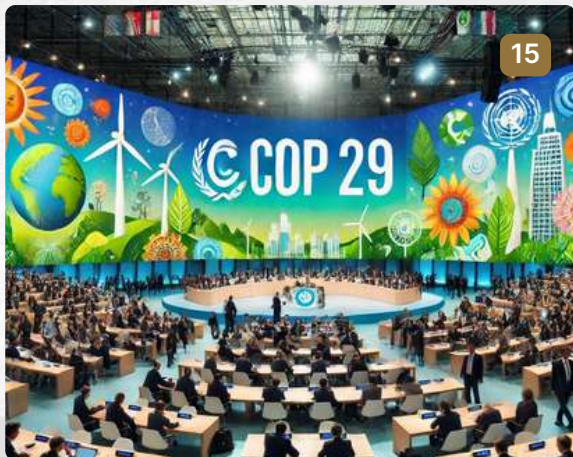
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THIRD SOUTH SUMMIT
KAMPALA, UGANDA 2024

"LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

Uganda's Chairmanship:

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



HEY, DEAR ESTEEMED READERS



Dear Esteemed Readers, Just like that, we begin to wind down 2024 with our November issue of Diplomatic Notes. November is Coffee and Tourism month. Working with our partners at the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) and the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), our Missions have gone into overdrive, promoting these two attractions for Uganda. From China to Australia, to Kenya to Malaysia Uganda's delicious coffee aroma has left many a palate hungry for more.

The November issue shares highlights of the 3rd Uganda-Kenya Coast Tourism Conference and the East African Community Summit. Regional Peace and Security, including the First Ministerial Conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum and bilateral meetings took up a large part of this month's activities. This month we received several new Envoys and celebrated milestone National Days. November is also Climate change month which we have marked with the inclusion of the Green Corner where we share some insights and opinions from guest writers on the just-concluded COP29 in Azerbaijan, as well as efforts by the Uganda private sector working with resident Missions in Uganda to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

Gender-based violence is a world-wide concern and this issue of Diplomatic Notes makes mention of the 16 days of Activism against SGBV as one of Uganda's priorities. The school holidays are around the corner. Don't leave room for idle minds and mischief! Learning a foreign language teaches and encourages respect for other peoples: it fosters an understanding of inter-cultural dialogue. In Diplomacy, being multi-lingual breaks the ice in otherwise difficult situations. Encourage your holiday-makers to practice cultural diplomacy by signing up for a foreign language at the Alliance Francaise or Goethe-Zentrum. How about learning to play a music instrument or a vocational skill at the International School of Music, Languages and Polytechnic studies? We shall not pass up the opportunity to use our bragging rights to hail the Uganda Cranes and the She Cranes who are flying Uganda's flag high across the continent. If you haven't seen our back-page picture of the month, please take a look. We think you will love it as much as we did!

It never ceases to amaze us how much activity takes place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We greatly value your feedback and suggestions as we strive to keep you informed about the latest developments in Uganda's Foreign Service. Share your thoughts with us at editor@mofa.go.ug.

Editor-in-Chief
Ag. Head, Public Diplomacy Department

DIPLOMATIC
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL
FEATURE
STORY



UGANDA
MISSIONS
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE





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— “ —
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The E-Bus Xpress has commenced operations on the Jinja-Iganga route, providing both intracity and intercity transport. Powered by electricity, these buses contribute to reducing carbon emissions while ensuring reliable mass transit. Designed with affordability in mind, the E-Bus Xpress serves the everyday traveller.

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Russia and Uganda Deepen Partnership at Russia-Africa Forum.



Pictured: Hon. Gen. Odongo (L) and his counterpart Minister Lavrov (R) during the bilateral talks at the the First Ministerial Conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum.

They acknowledged the potential for expanding trade and investment ties, particularly in energy, mining, agriculture, science, education, medicine, and digital technology. Their conversation reflected a shared vision of creating sustainable partnerships that will advance the development goals of both nations.

Minister Lavrov and Gen. Odongo underscored the growing importance of coordinated efforts within international organizations, notably at the United Nations. Both leaders committed to enhancing collaborative diplomacy to address global challenges and support peace and stability on the international stage.

Moscow - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held bilateral discussions with Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakher, on November 9, during the First Ministerial Conference of the Russia-Africa Partnership Forum. This significant engagement highlights Uganda's ongoing commitment to fostering dynamic and multifaceted cooperation with African nations. During the meeting, both ministers emphasized the importance of strengthening Uganda-Russian relations across various strategic areas.

The Russia-Africa Partnership Forum presents a valuable platform for fostering mutual respect and shared aspirations for growth and stability between Russia and African nations. This engagement promises to fortify Russia-Uganda relations, paving the way for impactful projects that will bolster the countries' global standing and yield long-term benefits for both parties.

Compiled by Wabusimba Amiri





Arusha Hosts the 24th Ordinary Summit for Heads of State and Government in Commemoration of EAC's Silver Jubilee.



Arusha - The East African Community (EAC) marked a significant milestone as it commemorated 25 years of regional integration and cooperation during the 24th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in Arusha, Tanzania. Under the theme of "Promoting Trade, Sustainable Development, Peace and Security for Improved Livelihoods," the high-profile event brought together regional leaders to reflect on the EAC's accomplishments and chart a course for the future. The summit, which commenced on November 29 and concluded on November 30, 2024, at the Arusha International Conference Center, served as a platform for discussing pressing issues shaping the region, with a focus on bolstering economic resilience, enhancing peace and security, and fostering initiatives to promote intra-regional trade and sustainable development.

During the summit, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda called for the EAC to embrace a broader historical perspective and advance the cause of regional unity, emphasizing the region's deep roots in trade and cooperation spanning over 1,000 years. "While we are here to celebrate 25 years of the revised EAC, I propose that we also acknowledge more than 1,000 years of trade connectivity in this region," noted President Museveni. He underscored the importance of integration for economic prosperity and strategic security, urging leaders to seize the opportunity to build a stronger and more united East Africa.

President William Ruto of Kenya commended President Museveni for his pivotal role in promoting East African unity and reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to advancing the EAC agenda. "Mzee, we congratulate you. Having you in our midst reminds us of why this journey is important," said President Ruto, highlighting the collective efforts of member states to deepen integration and ensure peace and stability in the region.

Tanzania's President, H.E Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, expressed pride in her country's role as the custodian of the EAC headquarters and emphasized the importance of collaboration among member states in achieving the community's goals. President Suluhu commended the strides made over the past 25 years and called for renewed dedication to realizing the ultimate goal of a Political Federation.

.....**story continues on next page**





Story continued from previous page

Somalia's President, H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, described his country's membership in the EAC as a landmark achievement in advancing regional integration and economic development. He expressed confidence in Somalia's potential to contribute meaningfully to the region, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and infrastructure, highlighting the country's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for investors.

Representing President Évariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi, Vice President H.E Prosper Bazombanza underscored the need to eliminate non-tariff barriers and enhance cross-border trade within the EAC. He emphasized the importance of standardized quality measures, improved transparency, and the prioritization of e-commerce and renewable energy initiatives to drive sustainable development and boost trade across the region.

The summit also saw the participation of key officials from the EAC Secretariat, high-level representatives from other African regional blocs, and international development partners, underscoring the collaborative efforts aimed at realizing the EAC's vision of a more prosperous and integrated East Africa.



Chairman Madaraka Nyerere Honors Father's Legacy at Uganda Embassy in Havana

Mr. Madaraka Nyerere, Chairman of Culture and Development East Africa, and son of the esteemed late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, paid a respectful visit to the Uganda Embassy in Havana on November 8, 2024. Accompanied by Dr. Kitembo Ronex, Group CEO of Afrika Mashariki Feist, the duo were warmly welcomed by Her Excellency Ambassador Elizabeth Sylvia Musazi, Uganda's Ambassador to Cuba.

Mr. Madaraka and Dr. Kitembo were part of a distinguished delegation visiting Cuba for the "Kongamano la Kimataifa la Kiswahili International Conference," an event jointly organized by the governments of Tanzania and Cuba to promote the Kiswahili language. The conference, originally set to be inaugurated by Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania, is currently taking place at the Gran Muthu Habana Hotel in Cuba.

During their visit, the delegation also took part in the unveiling ceremony of the statue honoring Mwalimu Julius Nyerere at the revered Heroes' Park in Havana.



Amb.Elizabeth Sylvia and Mr. Madaraka Nyerere posing for a photo at the Uganda Embassy in Havana

Compiled by Githa Ogume





President Museveni Embarks on Malaba-Kampala Standard Gauge Railway Construction

Malaba – President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni initiated the construction of the Malaba-Kampala Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), a pivotal project in Uganda's infrastructure development strategy aimed at modernizing the transport network, streamlining logistics, and enhancing regional trade.

The SGR, which will connect Kampala to Malaba, attracted attention from both local and international stakeholders, with a recent agreement signed with Turkish firm Yapi Merkezi to construct the 273-kilometre railway.

During the groundbreaking ceremony in Tororo District, President Museveni praised the cost



President Museveni next to the artistic impression of the Malaba Kampala SGR railway line . | Photos by PPU

efficiency of rail transport, stating, "Transporting a 20-foot container from Mombasa to Kampala by train will cost 50% less than by road. Roads should primarily serve passengers, while cargo moves on trains." He further advocated for the expansion of efficient rail services, citing the success of Kampala's passenger train from Nalukolongo to Namanve and highlighting the benefits of mass transportation, "Why should one vehicle transport a single person when a train can transport 1,000 people at once? Fewer vehicles on the road mean less congestion and better efficiency."

In his address, President Museveni underscored the crucial role of accessible transport, electricity, and capital in fostering economic growth. He stated, "We are already working on cheap electricity and transport. Now, we must address the cost of capital." President Yoweri introduced the Parish Development Model (PDM), which offers low-cost capital to support businesses. Additionally, he emphasized the need to combat exploitative moneylenders, warning against fraudulent practices and urging citizens to report such cases to ensure justice prevails. Vice President Jessica Alupo commended the launch of the Malaba-Kampala Standard Gauge Railway, recognizing its potential to attract foreign investors, create jobs, and stimulate economic growth.

"The planned Standard Gauge Railway network will connect to the capitals of the respective partner states and to Mombasa Port which is the main. Entry port on the Northern Corridor," Minister of Works and Transport Gen. Katumba Wamala said as he highlighted the project's alignment with Uganda's National Development Plan, Vision 2040, and the NRM Manifesto, emphasizing its role in advancing regional integration and reducing transportation costs and overall expenditure of businesses.

Ambassador of Turkey to Uganda H.E Mehmet Fatih AK said "For a country positioned as a growing hub in East Africa, the railway project is more than just a transportation initiative. It will create tens of thousands of jobs during and after its construction," underscoring Turkey's commitment to Uganda's prosperity.

Yapi Merkezi Holdings Vice Chairperson Erdem Arioglu highlighted the significance of the Malaba-Kampala Railway (SGR) project, connecting Uganda to Kenya, as a symbol of progress and a testament to shared vision. The 273-kilometre railway can transport 25 million tonnes of cargo x annually, enhancing trade and mobility in the region. Arioglu emphasized the project's potential to reduce transportation costs, increase efficiency, and unlock Uganda's economic potential. The SGR project is expected to drive economic development, enhance regional connectivity, and facilitate trade in the East African region.



Pictured: President Yoweri, joined by Yapi Merkezi Chairman Erdem Arioglu, VP Alupo, and key leaders, cuts the ribbon to launch the Malaba-Kampala SGR construction.

Compiled by Githa Ogume





Uganda Praised by African Union Delegation for CAADP Summit Preparedness



The African Union (AU) Commission delegation, led by Secretary to the Commission Ms. Dalitso Bonongwe (center), poses for a group photo with Deputy Chief of Protocol Amb. Aisa Ismail and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry Headquarters. Photos by MoFA Press.

The African Union Commission delegation, led by Secretary to the Commission Ms. Dalitso Bonongwe, has wrapped up their assessment mission in Uganda to evaluate the country's preparedness to host the AU Extraordinary Summit on Agriculture - CAADP from January 9th to 11th, 2025 at the Speke Resort Convention Centre in Munyonyo. CAADP is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

During their visit, the delegation inspected the conference and accommodation facilities, medical services, and reviewed airport operations and immigration procedures. The team also engaged with the Security and Publicity subcommittees to align strategies for a smooth execution of the Extraordinary Summit on Agriculture. This upcoming event follows Uganda's successful hosting of the NAM and G77+China Summits at the same venue last year.

"We are impressed by the Host country's early preparations to host this Summit and the level of preparedness. A lot of effort has been made to ensure that we are where we are," Ms. Bonongwe said. The Ugandan delegation, led by Permanent Secretary Maj. Gen. David Kasura-Kyomukama and deputized by Amb. Aisa Ismail, Deputy Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reiterated Uganda's dedication to ensuring a successful summit.

Maj. Gen. Kyomukama affirmed Uganda's readiness to host the summit, highlighting the nation's embrace of the draft Kampala declaration in 2025 and the impact assessment of the Malabo declaration of 2014 on economic growth. He extended an invitation to experience the beauty of the "Pearl of Africa".

The Extraordinary summit which will focus on the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme 2026-2035 will set the agenda for economic growth and transformation through Agriculture Development for the next decade. The 2014 Malabo Declaration introduced funding targets of (10% of national budgets) and growth of the sector at 6% per annum for member states.

Compiled by Githa Ogume





President Museveni, EU Special Envoy Discuss Security and Development in Great Lakes Region



H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni (C) together with Head of EU envoy in Uganda Ambassador Jan Sadek (1R), H.E. Johan Borgstam, EU Special Envoy representative for the Great Lakes Region (1R) in a group photo

Kampala - H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni engaged with H.E. Johan Borgstam, the European Union representative (EU) Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region on November 9, 2024 at State House, Nakasero.

HE Borgstam emphasized the ongoing efforts to enhance security in the Eastern DRC and informed the President about the contribution the EU had made towards the Luanda and Nairobi processes. Notably, he met with the President of Angola, Burundi and Rwanda and intends to meet other leaders in the region.

During the discussion, President Museveni provided insights on the regional conflict dynamics, underscoring the need for a shift from identity-based politics to addressing mutual interests. He commended the positive strides in economic collaboration, citing joint road construction projects between the DRC and Ugandan government including cooperative security operations to uphold peace for economic growth. The Special Envoy, appreciative of the President's perspective, expressed the EU's commitment to supporting peace efforts in the region for sustainable development.

The meeting also saw the presence of key dignitaries including Ambassador Jan Sadek, Head of EU Delegation to Uganda, Ambassador Guillaume Chartrain, Deputy Head of EU Delegation, alongside the Advisor to the Special Envoy. This highlights Uganda and EU's efforts to advance peace and harmony in the Great Lakes region.

Compiled by Githa Ogume

Uganda - Tanzania Trijunction Meeting Concludes Successfully

Bukoba - The Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Meeting on the Reaffirmation of the International Boundary between Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania successfully concluded with the signing of the Agreed Minutes. The meeting took place from November 4-7, 2024, at Kolping Hotel in Bukoba Municipality, Kagera Region, Tanzania. The meeting was a follow-up of the bilateral meeting between the technical teams of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Uganda held on June 5 2024 in Kisumu, Kenya on the side-lines of the Tripartite meeting.

During the meeting, the Joint Technical teams agreed to meet in Tanzania to discuss the modalities for continuing with the process of completion of the boundary re-affirmation exercise. The Tanzania Delegation was headed by Mr. Hamdouny Mansour, Director of Surveys and Mapping-Tanzania, while the Ugandan delegation was headed by Ms. Jacqueline Banana Wabyona, Minister Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda.

Notable attendees included Amb. Elizabeth M. Allimadi, Deputy Head of Mission at the Uganda High Commission in Dar es Salaam, and Mr. Teritoi Bunto, Minister Plenipotentiary and representative of the Tanzanian High Commissioner in Kampala. The successful conclusion of the Bukoba meeting marks another step forward in strengthening bilateral relations and ensuring clarity and cooperation along the shared boundary between Uganda and Tanzania.



Pictured: Mr Hamdouny Mansour and Ms Jacqueline Banana Wabyona exchanging the report of agreed Minutes at the JTC meeting on the Uganda-Tanzania Border.

Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi





French Business Delegation Explores Investment Opportunities



HE, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni hosts MEDEF International Business Leaders delegation at State House Entebbe, led by H.E Celine Gouveia, the President of the France–East African Business Council.

Kampala - From October 28-30, 2024, the Ugandan Embassy in Paris coordinated a visit by a delegation from MEDEF International in a bid to strengthen economic ties between France and Uganda. Led by Ms. Celine Gouveia, President of the France-East Africa Business Council, the group met with President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at State House Entebbe to discuss investment opportunities. President Museveni emphasized Uganda's investment potential, highlighting the need for infrastructure development and a strong private sector. He commended the government's pro-business policies, noting the vital role of the private sector in the country's economic growth. H.E Museveni also stressed the importance of affordable power generation and irrigation for industrial and agricultural development.

Ms. Gouveia expressed French companies' commitment to Uganda's sustainable growth, citing the presence of 40 French companies across various sectors. French investments in Uganda go beyond energy and oil, focusing on specialized skills and technology transfer for sustainable development. The support of French public institutions in fostering long-term projects was also highlighted.

MEDEF International's role in promoting sustainable business practices in Uganda was acknowledged, aligning with France's vision for economic resilience and job creation. President Museveni tasked the Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development to oversee matters related to MEDEF's interests in Uganda.

The delegation also held meetings with key government ministries and entities, including the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Works and Transport, Uganda Investment Authority, and Kampala Capital City Authority, to explore further collaboration opportunities.



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni interacts with MEDEF International Business leaders at State House Entebbe

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





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December**



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Uganda Signs Youth and Climate Action Declaration at COP29

Special Report compiled by Amiri Wabusimba



Amb. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations with António Guterres, UN Secretary General.

At the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) in Baku Azerbaijan, Uganda demonstrated exceptional leadership by unanimously securing the Chair position of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Ambassador Adonia Ayebare led this body focusing on climate governance, youth empowerment, and sustainable energy advancement. Uganda made a historic commitment by signing the Declaration on Children, Youth, and Climate Action, a global pact to integrate young voices into the climate agenda. This milestone highlighted Uganda’s recognition of the vital role children and youth play in addressing the climate crisis and creating a sustainable future.

The declaration emphasizes respecting children’s rights, including them in climate decision-making processes, and investing in their capacity to contribute to innovative solutions.

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Minister of Energy, Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa, speaks on Investing in Energy, Resilience and Nature in Africa at the COP29

COP 29, the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCC), took place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024, serving as the world’s primary multilateral forum on climate change, uniting leaders, negotiators, and stakeholders to address the climate crisis. COP’s is where the world comes together to agree on the actions to address the climate crisis, such as limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. To learn more, visit <https://unfccc.int/>



Opinion: Did COP29 Fail the Global South?



As COP29 concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan, the global North's promises once again fell short. While rich countries pledged \$300 billion annually by 2035 to help vulnerable nations adapt to the climate crisis, the figure—mostly tied to loans, not grants—barely addresses the \$1.3 trillion needed annually. It's a continuation of the broken promises from 2009, where the \$100 billion target by 2020 remains unmet. Rather than a clear, grant-based financial framework, developing nations received vague assurances with loopholes for voluntary contributions from major emitters like China.

This lack of accountability reflects the systemic inequities in climate negotiations. While countries like India and Sierra Leone decried the inadequacy of the deal, their voices were overshadowed by congratulatory statements from U.S. President Joe Biden and EU climate envoy Wopke Hoekstra. COP29 also failed to build on the momentum of COP28, which had acknowledged the need to phase out fossil fuels. This year, that progress was erased, with no explicit call to transition away from coal, oil, or gas. In the face of rising emissions and worsening climate impacts, COP29 once again prioritized rhetoric over real solutions, leaving the global South to bear the brunt.

Instead, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, presiding over a nation built on fossil fuel wealth, described these resources as a "gift from God." His remarks set the tone for a summit that seemed more interested in appeasing oil and gas interests than in charting a serious course toward renewable energy. This backsliding reflects the grim reality that the fossil fuel industry's influence on climate talks remains unchecked. A report by the Kick the Big Polluters Out coalition revealed that over 1,700 summit attendees were linked to fossil fuel interests. With such heavy representation from industries actively contributing to the crisis, is it any wonder that the transition to clean energy was left on the sidelines?

Adding to the summit's pessimism was the imminent political shift in the United States, where a climate-skeptic Donald Trump administration is set to take office. Trump has made no secret of his disdain for international climate agreements and has pledged to withdraw the U.S. from global climate efforts. His potential influence cast a long shadow over the negotiations in Baku, leaving many nations scrambling to secure whatever financial commitments they could before the U.S. exits the room. But this reactive approach is exactly the problem with the COP process. Rather than building resilient and accountable systems for climate action, the negotiations remain hostage to the whims of political cycles and entrenched interests.

As the planet hurtles toward climate catastrophe, the gap between rhetoric and reality at these summits becomes more glaring. COP29 demonstrated that the current process is no longer fit for purpose. It's not just the inadequate pledges or the failure to address fossil fuels; it's the very structure of the negotiations, which prioritizes incrementalism over the urgent, systemic changes needed to avert disaster.

For the global South, the stakes are dire. Countries like Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and India are already facing rising seas, harsher droughts, and extreme weather. Yet, they are forced to wait while wealthy nations offer insufficient solutions disguised as progress.

COP29 should be a wake-up call—not for the global South, which has long sounded the alarm, but for rich nations whose inaction is pushing the world closer to catastrophe. Developing countries' patience is wearing thin, and rightly so. What's needed is not just more money but a complete overhaul of climate negotiations. Rich nations must treat climate finance as a historical obligation, not charity. Fossil fuel interests must be sidelined, and the COP process reformed to prioritize accountability and real ambition over empty optics. Without meaningful change, COP30 risks repeating the same failures: grand speeches, hollow promises, and growing frustration. The world can't afford another misstep.

Ms. Caroline Mbura-Muhindo, an International Relations analyst and the Executive Director of Diplomacy Ignited Initiative



Dutch Ambassador Praises Innovative Entrepreneurs Driving Uganda's Bamboo Innovation

Special Report compiled by Amiri Wabusimba & Herbert Ssekatawa

Nestled in the lush Elgon Mountains of eastern Uganda, bamboo has been a culinary treasure for generations, known as malewa in eastern Uganda's Elgon Mountains, has long been a culinary staple in the Bagisu community. Once a regional delicacy, bamboo is now becoming a key player in Uganda's green economy, driven by industry leaders like Bijimu Bamboo Farming and Amabanda Uganda Limited. Mr. Lukas J. den Admirant, General Manager of Bijimu Bamboo Farming, leads efforts to promote bamboo farming as an economic opportunity. "We assist individuals in establishing bamboo plantations, from providing seedlings to offering annual maintenance and support through harvest," he says. Bamboo farming is profitable, with mature clumps yielding up to 50 poles, with 10 poles harvested annually, each worth at least UGX 3,000. Bamboo's fast growth and continuous harvest potential offer greater returns than traditional timber crops like eucalyptus and pine. "Bamboo is not a tree but a grass that helps biodiversity and sustainability," Admirant adds.

Mr. Taga Niwagaba, a bamboo farmer, has expanded bamboo's uses, creating furniture and utensils without cutting any trees. "Bamboo regenerates after harvest, preserving the environment while absorbing CO2 and releasing oxygen," he says. Mr. Sjaak de Bloois, Agronomist at Bijimu, explores bamboo as a concrete alternative in construction, particularly for earthquake-resistant structures, though he calls for policy support in establishing standards. Mr. Robert Ssemakula, General Manager of Bamboo Uganda, sees bamboo as Uganda's potential next big industry, similar to coffee. The recent After Work Bamboo Gathering in Muyenga demonstrated the sector's potential in design and construction, highlighting bamboo's growing role in Uganda's green economy.

Her Excellency Frederieke Quispel, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda, praised Uganda's entrepreneurial spirit and innovation with bamboo, committing to support local entrepreneurs. Bamboo has enormous potential, similar to coffee. Its innovative uses in design and construction are impressive, and I am dedicated to supporting Uganda's entrepreneurs in this field," she commented. Mr. Collin Muhumuza General Manager at Amabanda Uganda Limited highlights bamboo composites for use use in car bodywork and aircraft structures. It's lighter, stronger, and more sustainable than traditional materials, making it the material of the future," he shares. With ongoing collaboration among stakeholders, innovative entrepreneurs, and government support, Uganda's bamboo industry is set for remarkable growth. Events like the Bamboo Gathering are paving the way for the sector's expansion, offering a promising outlook for bamboo as both an economic and environmental powerhouse.



Her Excellency Frederieke Quispel, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda expressing her views at the Bamboo Event.
Photos by Environmental Alert.

Through this green revolution, Uganda is nurturing a sustainable industry that holds great promise for long-term economic development and environmental protection.



Exhibits of the Bamboo crafts.





Preserving Heritage at the 3rd Harvest of Barkcloth in Kampala.

The third harvest of lubugo (barkcloth) from the mutuba tree (*Ficus natalensis*) took place on November 2, 2024, at the NACCAU gardens near the National Theatre on Plot 4/6 Dewinton Road, Kampala. This harvest marked a significant milestone following the tree's initial planting in 2018. The exercise, led by Peter Samula Katamiira, was facilitated by former Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC) Board of Trustees member Kato Fred Mutebi and hosted by Nuwa Wamala Nyanzi. Attendees included notable figures such as Dr. Nambatya and Dr. Maureen Muwanga Senoga, a senior lecturer at Kyambogo University, accompanied by her Master's degree students. Teachers and students from Kampala High School also actively participated in the event. Katamiira began by explaining the preparation, norms, and tools required for the process. He tested the bark's readiness by slicing the base and, upon confirmation, carefully scraped off the outer layer using a blunt panga. The stem, initially left bare and whitish, quickly turned light brown as the sap reacted to sunlight.

He then determined the appropriate area to cut, from the top of the stem (just below where branches begin) to the base, ensuring the incision passed through the large scar left by a pruned branch. This technique helps the stem grow higher and produce a larger, smoother bark suitable for barkcloth.

Using the sharpened end of a banana plant stalk, Katamiira carefully peeled the bark upwards. Volunteers were invited to try their hand at peeling, and many eagerly participated. Once removed, the bark was handled with care to avoid contamination with soil, which could compromise its quality.

The bare stem was massaged to smoothen fibers, then wrapped in banana leaves to protect it from sunlight and aid healing. Depending on the weather, the leaves will remain on the stem for four to seven days. The harvested bark was folded and placed in boiling water to reduce sap and ensure flexibility. Charcoal stoves and improvised lids were used to speed up the boiling process. The bark was periodically turned to expose all parts to heat evenly. Removing the sap prevents stiffening, making the subsequent stretching process manageable.

After boiling, the bark was laid on the omukomago (wooden frame) for the final stage, known as okukomaga. Using an ensaamu (mallet), Katamiira stretched and thinned the barkcloth by evenly striking it from end to end. This labor-intensive process, repeated multiple times, transforms the bark into the durable, soft fabric known as lubugo. Witnessing the centuries-old tradition of barkcloth making in the middle of Kampala is both educational and inspiring. Katamiira's expertise made the process appear effortless, though his dripping sweat revealed the physical exertion involved.

This remarkable exercise will be repeated in November 2025 at the same venue, offering another opportunity to experience this historic craft. In the meantime, visitors are encouraged to explore the "Art on Barkcloth" exhibition at Nyanzi Art Studio, Shop No. 30, in the NACCAU Arts and Crafts Village.



STEP ONE: Scraping (**Okuwalira**): The outer skin is scraped off with a blunt panga.



STEP TWO: Peeling (**Okusoka**): The bark is peeled using **Omunokwanokwa** (banana plant stalk) in a process called **Okuyimbula**.



STEP THREE: Smoothing (**Okuzza Omutuba**): The bare stem is massaged to restore raised fibers and promote healing.



STEP FOUR : Covering (**Okusabika**): Banana leaves (**ebireka**) are wrapped around the stem to shield it from sunlight.



STEP FIVE: Boiling (**Okufumba**): The bark (**olulere**) is boiled for 3-5 minutes to soften it and reduce sap.



STEP SIX: Beating (**Okukomaga**): The bark is stretched and thinned using a mallet (**Ensaamo**) on a wooden frame (**Omukomago**).

Compiled by Nuwa Wamala Nyanzi





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President Museveni Bolsters Uganda's Diplomatic Ties with Arrival of New Ambassadors



Pictured: His Excellency President Museveni in a group photo together with newly appointed Ambassadors at State house Entebbe **Photos by MoFA Press.**

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni officially received credentials of seven newly appointed Ambassadors at State House Entebbe on November 14, 2024.

The envoys included H.E Lisa Chesney MBE from the United Kingdom, H.E Leonard Zulu, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uganda, H.E Dr. Madou Diallo from Mali, H.E Firas Khouri from Jordan, H.E Gentiana Serbu from Romania, H.E Katarina Zuffa Leligdonova from Slovakia, and H.E. Tone Tinnes from Norway.

In his remarks, President Museveni welcomed the Ambassadors, noting that Uganda is committed to fostering strong, mutually beneficial relationships with each represented nation.

He emphasised Uganda's dedication to strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation on various regional and international issues. The arrival of these Ambassadors underscores Uganda's active engagement with global partners in areas of trade, security, and humanitarian efforts. The ceremony was also attended by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello.

Uganda Strengthens ties with Slovakia during Credential Presentation

On November 6, 2024, H.E. Ambassador Stephen Mubiru officially presented copies of his letters of credence to the Chief of Protocol at Slovakia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador was accompanied by Hon. Consul Andreas Agama Woling Anthony and Minister Counsellor Anthony S. Kihika from Uganda's Embassy in Berlin. Mr. Vladimir Soltys, the officer in charge of the African desk at Slovakia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also attended the meeting.

Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations, including proposals to establish Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in key areas, signaling a new chapter in Uganda-Slovakia cooperation. The date for Amb. Mubiru to present his original letters of credence to the Slovakian President will be announced later. Beyond diplomacy, Amb. Mubiru met with coffee buyers interested in Ugandan coffee, with further meetings planned to explore trade opportunities.



Pictured: His Excellency President Museveni in a group photo **Photos by MoFA Press.**

Compiled by **Mildred Anne Nasirumbi**





Newly Appointed Ambassadors to Uganda



British High Commissioner to Uganda Lisa Chesney poses for a photo with President Museveni after presenting her credentials at State House, Entebbe.



UNRC ambassador to Uganda Leonard Zulu poses for a photo with President Museveni after presenting his credentials at State House, Entebbe.



Jordan's new ambassador to Uganda Firas Khouri hands over a gift to President Museveni shortly after presenting his credentials at State House, Entebbe.



Slovak's new ambassador to Uganda Katarina Zuffa poses for a photo with President Museveni after presenting her credentials at State House, Entebbe.



Mali's ambassador to Uganda Madou Diallo meeting President Museveni after presenting his credentials at State House, Entebbe.



Norway's new ambassador to Uganda Tone Tinnes poses for a photo with President Museveni after presenting her credentials at State House Entebbe on Thursday. PPU Photo



Romania's new ambassador to Uganda Gentiana Serbu (C) poses for a photo with President Museveni after presenting her credentials at State House Entebbe on Thursday. (L) is the Honorary Consul Godwin Murungyi.





The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, located in North Africa celebrates **Revolution day** on November 1 every year.



The Republic of Angola, located in Southern Africa commemorates its **Independence day** on 11 November every year.



The Republic of Poland also known as **Rzeczpospolita Polska** celebrates its national day on November 11.

Uganda joins the UK to celebrate King Charles III's Birthday.



Pictured: MFA Hon.Gen. Odongo delivering his remarks at the birthday celebration of King Charles at the British High Commission. **Photos by British High Commission, Uganda.**

Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Gen Odongo Jeje Abubhaker joined the British High Commission to celebrate His Majesty, King Charles III's birthday.

The event, hosted by British High Commissioner H.E. Lisa J. Chesney, went beyond commemorating the King's birthday. It spotlighted critical themes such as youth, climate action, and inclusive development.

In her remarks, High Commissioner Chesney emphasized the enduring partnership between Uganda and the United Kingdom, noting the shared commitment to shaping a sustainable and prosperous future together. The celebration underscored the strong bilateral ties between the two nations and the shared vision of fostering mutual growth and collaboration.

Compiled by Christiana Ampeire

Uganda Marks King's Day 2024 with Belgian Flair

Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Affairs Hon Oryem Henry Okello joined the Embassy of Belgium in Uganda to celebrate King's Day 2024 with a spotlight on Enabel Belgium's 20 years of impactful work in Uganda.

Over 300 guests enjoyed a vibrant evening of Belgian beer, cuisine, and culture. The event highlighted the strong partnership between Belgium and Uganda, showcasing Enabel's contributions to development over the past two decades.



Pictured: Celebrations of King's day at the Embassy of Belgium in Uganda **Photos by Belgium Embassy Uganda.**





EABC CEOs-EAC Meeting in Uganda Champions Regional Integration and Trade Opportunities.

Kampala -Ambassador Anne Katusiime Kageye, representing the Uganda Consulate in Arusha, recently joined in the Uganda Edition of the East African Business Council (EABC) CEOs-EAC Secretary General's Breakfast Meeting at the Kampala Serena Hotel. This event was the 4th edition following successful gatherings in Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda. Under the theme "Enhancing competitiveness in EAC: Addressing Barriers to Trade and leveraging opportunities in the Regional Integration," the meeting aimed to boost the private sector's role as a driving force for socio-economic development and address critical business challenges in the region.

The dialogue provided a platform for Uganda's private sector to outline priorities for enhancing trade, investment, and seizing opportunities within the context of regional integration. Discussions centered on the perspectives of Uganda's private sector on intra- and extra EAC trade and investment opportunities, challenges, and viable solutions.

This engagement between the Secretary General's Office and Private Sector is planned to be a yearly event that signifies a commitment to fostering collaboration, addressing barriers, and maximizing the benefits of regional integration for sustained economic growth.



Ambassador Anne Katusiime (1st R) together with other dignitaries at the East African Business Council (EABC) CEOs-EAC Secretary General's Breakfast Meeting at the Kampala Serena Hotel.

Young Engineers Uganda Wins Big at Pan Africa STEM Competition



Kampala - A team of 15 children from Young Engineers Uganda triumphed at the 2nd Young Engineers Pan Africa STEM Competition, winning the top prize with their "Sustainable Smart City of Kampala" project. The competition, hosted at Aga Khan Primary School in Tanzania, brought together nearly 200 participants aged 6-14 from Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Under the theme "Design Sustainable Cities with Integrated Transportation Systems to Solve Urbanization Challenges," young innovators showcased projects including smart cities, wind-powered electricity generators, and modern bridges.

Using motorized LEGO kits with over 300 pieces, Uganda's team impressed judges with their visionary Smart City project, earning them the overall trophy. Other schools won categories like Best Teamwork and Most Innovative. Young Engineers Uganda CEO Maureen Karamagi commended the team's resilience, saying, "These children have made Uganda proud. Uganda has a bright future." The event, part of a global Young Engineers initiative present in over 70 countries, continues to equip children with critical STEM skills, fostering creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving to prepare them for the future.

Compiled by Githa Ogume





Uganda-Kenya Coastal Tourism Conference Paves Way for Sustainable Partnership

Compiled by Githa Ogume



Kampala - In a progressive development for regional tourism, the 3rd Uganda-Kenya Coastal Tourism Conference concluded with a resounding call for joint partnerships and sustainable practices in the industry. The event, held under the theme "The Uganda-Kenya Coast Tourism Partnership: Promoting job creation, inclusivity, and sustainability," brought together high-level dignitaries, tourism industry leaders, and private sector players from both countries.

Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional) in Uganda, highlighted the importance of collaboration between the two nations to enhance tourism offerings and create economic opportunities. The conference attendees echoed the need for prioritizing sustainability in tourism promotion and protecting the environment for future generations.

The conference aimed to strengthen joint partnerships, conduct training programs, and participate in global initiatives like COP2020 Bako Declaration and Glasgow Action Plan. Delegates also agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in the tourism sector. Plans are underway for Uganda tourism stakeholders to participate in a familiarization trip to Kenya Coast and the Kilifi County Investment Conference, scheduled for 2025.

Pictorial Highlights of the Uganda-Kenya Coastal Tourism Conference.





Uganda-Kenya Coastal Tourism Conference in Pictures.



Photos by MoFA press.





Uganda Missions in China and UCDA Showcase Excellence at Xiamen Coffee Fair and Shenzhen Investment Conference

China - The Uganda Missions in China, in partnership with the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA), successfully co-hosted a coffee fair and exhibited a vibrant booth at the prestigious Xiamen International Coffee Fair from November 21 to 24. This renowned event brought together coffee enthusiasts, industry experts, and global buyers, offering a platform to highlight Uganda's rich coffee heritage, premium products, and appeal as a top tourism destination.

With a strong commitment to expanding Uganda's coffee footprint in China, the Uganda Mission's booth highlighted the country's premium Arabica and Robusta coffees, known for their distinctive flavor profiles and sustainable farming practices. Visitors were treated to tastings of freshly brewed Ugandan coffee, while learning about the rich history of coffee production in Uganda – one of the world's top coffee exporters.

The participation in this major international event is part of Uganda's broader strategy to strengthen its economic and cultural ties with China, particularly within the burgeoning coffee trade. By highlighting both the excellence of Ugandan coffee and the allure of Uganda's tourism, the event marked a milestone in boosting the visibility of Uganda's unique offerings in the Chinese market.

Two days later, in the City of Shenzhen, both Missions collaborated in hosting the Uganda-Shenzhen Investment Conference, in partnership with Shenzhen Municipal Commerce Bureau. The event, brought together over 300 representatives from leading Chinese companies to explore investment opportunities in Uganda.

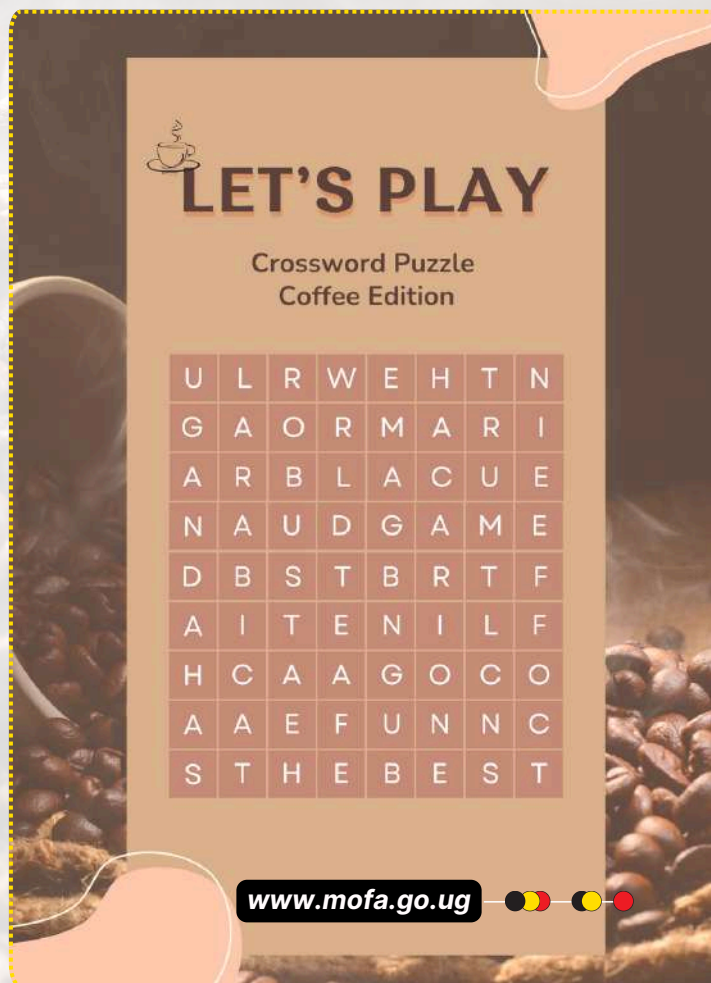


Uganda's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Amb. Oliver Wonekha delivering her remarks at the Xiamen International Coffee Fair.



Consul General of Uganda in Guangzhou ,Amb Judyth Nsababera giving her insights at the Xiamen International Coffee Fair.

Compiled by Tina Kabzaire & Viola Kajjuge





Australian Coffee Trade Association Annual Meeting Features Ugandan Coffee in Thrilling Spotlight



Mr. Kenneth Barigye, Managing Director of Mountain Harvest Coffee making a presentation about Uganda Coffee at the ACTA Annual General Meeting held at the Park Hyatt Sydney.

Sydney - In a bid to boost Uganda Coffee exports to Australia and the Pacific region, the Uganda High Commission in Canberra in conjunction with Mountain Harvest Coffee (U) Ltd showcased and served Uganda Coffee to Australian Importers and Traders of Coffee at their Associations Annual General Meeting held at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Sydney, New South Wales.

During his presentation about Ugandan coffee, Mr Kenneth Barigye, the Managing Director of Mountain Harvest Coffee, drew on the data from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries showing the increased annual production of coffee in Uganda to show that the country can be a stable source of supply of the commodity to Australia and the Pacific region.

Mr. Barigye implored Australians to take advantage of the favourable investment climate and good weather in Uganda to invest in our coffee industry as well as increase imports from Uganda. He pointed out that Australia imports US \$ 49.7m worth of Coffee from the African continent annually with Uganda only getting US \$4.4 m and yet Uganda currently accounts for 50% of Coffee exported from the continent.

The Australian Coffee Traders Association, established in 1940, brings together all stakeholders involved in the Country's Coffee Industry and includes Importers and Distributors of green coffee beans, Roasters and Wholesalers, Growers, Manufacturers of Coffee Machines, Food Service/Distributors involved in the coffee industry and support services to the industry like logistics, transport to mention but a few. The ACTA AGM was preceded by Uganda Coffee cupping on Wednesday, November 20th organised by Mountain Harvest at Padre-Coffee, a speciality coffee roaster at their Sydney café, where Australian bean connoisseurs were introduced to Arabica Coffees from Bugisu, Kigezi, West Nile and Rwenzori regions as well as Robusta Coffee grown in Central Uganda.



L-R Frame 1: The Uganda Delegation led by Ambassador Patrick Muganda-Guma, Deputy High Commissioner (2nd from L) pose for a group photo with Emilie Coulombe (C), Secretary of the International Women's Coffee Alliance Australia Chapter, Mr. Kenneth Barigye (2nd from R), Managing Director of Mountain Harvest Coffee, Mr. Paul Nuwagaba (extreme R), Coffee Trader & Member of Uganda Diaspora Community in Australia and Mr. Mulekezi Daniel (Far Left), First Secretary.



Frame 2: Australian Bean Connoisseurs sample Ugandan coffees at the coffee cupping at Padre Coffee in Sydney

----- **Compiled by Mildred
Anne Nasirumbi**





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The Untold critical role of Theodore Roosevelt's East African expedition on global Conservation, a revived socio-economic development asset.

Compiled by Joshua Ssali Sentongo

During the **19th Annual Theodore Roosevelt Symposium at Dickinson University**, North Dakota, on 5th September 2024, entitled Conservation and Sustainability, the keynote Speaker Darrin Lunde, author of *The Naturalist*, brought into focus the journey of Theodore Roosevelt, a budding New York naturalist who at only 7 years of age acquired his first scientific specimen: a seal that was laying on the street outside a store in New York, which he requested from a shop keeper to start a personal natural history museum in his bedroom. This was the beginning of a journey that led to the famous 1909/10 Smithsonian expedition to Africa to collect specimens for the new Natural History Museum in Washington DC. Roosevelt's naturalist journey as a museum scientist was catalyzed by the participation of his father, who had helped establish New York's American Museum of Natural History in 1869, with the formal draft of the charter of the museum being drafted in the front parlour of the Roosevelt home.

A family trip to Egypt at fourteen years of age turned into an expedition for young Roosevelt, with him shooting some birds and bats that he stuffed and donated to the new American museum—still at the museum today. This passion guided the future President to his initial choice for natural history as a freshman at Harvard, although he later switched his major to history and government to honour his father's life after his death by pursuing a career in public service. The highlight of the expedition at the Ajai reserve was the collection of 14 white rhinos for posterity who at that time were on the brink of extinction and were later kept for study between the two natural museums in New York and Washington DC.



Roosevelt knew museum specimens would be a key data source, so he led the **Smithsonian expedition** where he and his son Kermit collected **11,400 specimens of flora and fauna in Kenya, Uganda and now South Sudan**. In Northern Uganda in the Ajai Reserve where they spent four weeks, they collected more than 300 specimens documenting 30 different species. These species included rodents and other small mammals and critters that are essential for a healthy savannah ecosystem for endangered White Rhinos to survive. The highlight of the expedition at the Ajai reserve was the collection of 14 white rhinos for posterity who at that time were on the brink of extinction and were later kept for study between the two natural museums in New York and Washington DC.

The Northern White rhino, previously thought to exist only in South Africa, **was confirmed by Roosevelt's expedition to also be in Uganda**, a finding critical for the species' reintroduction 114 years later. Rodent specimens collected during the expedition helped the Smithsonian research team study habitat changes affecting mammal composition, highlighting the risks to rhino survival. The reintroduction of rhinos from the Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary will revitalize Uganda's tourism sector, benefiting local communities by creating unique offerings, boosting cultural craft production, and promoting habitat conservation.

Joshua Sentongo, Chief Business and Strategy Officer of the Theodore Roosevelt East African Impact Initiative, emphasized the expedition's enduring legacy, including its influence on American racial progress and democracy through encounters with advanced societies like the Buganda Kingdom, as highlighted by Professor Jonathon Earle in *POLITICO Magazine* and his forthcoming book. Telling this story creates an opportunity for East Africa to tap into the robust heritage economy where states like Texas earn as much as \$17.2 bn worth of heritage capital annually.





Uganda and DRC Strengthen Bilateral Ties at 62nd Independence Celebration in Kinshasa



Amb. Matata posing with Ugandan cultural entertainers during the 62nd Independence celebrations at Kinshasa's Kempinski Hotel.

Kinshasa - At a commemorative event held at Kinshasa's Kempinski Hotel on November 1, 2024, Uganda's Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) celebrated Uganda's 62nd Independence Day under the theme "A Recommitment to Secure and Fortify Our Destiny." The occasion brought together high-ranking dignitaries, including ministers, parliamentarians, ambassadors, and members of the Ugandan diaspora.

Chargé d'Affaires, Ambassador Matata Twaha, acknowledged the DRC's recent national achievements, congratulating President Félix Tshisekedi and the Congolese people on successful elections and the appointment of Hon. Judith Tuluka Suminwa as Prime Minister—a historic milestone reflecting DRC's progress in gender equality. Ambassador Matata also recognized Uganda's advancements under President Yoweri Museveni, including strides in democracy, socio-economic growth, and regional collaboration.

He emphasized Uganda-DRC ties, noting collaborative progress across security, infrastructure, energy, and trade. High-level exchanges illustrate the deep connection between the two nations, which share a Joint Permanent Commission dedicated to enhancing bilateral relations. The Commission's October 2023 meeting in Kinshasa further cemented their partnership, with the next session scheduled for Kampala in 2025.

Uganda's visa waiver for Congolese visitors fosters cultural and economic exchange, with Ambassador Matata urging DRC reciprocity. He highlighted Operation Shujaa against ADF insurgents and key infrastructure projects modernizing road links such as Mpondwe/Kasindi-Beni, promoting regional cooperation and connectivity.

Compiled by Amiri Wabusimba

Uganda Advocates for Sustainable Cities at Twelfth World Urban Forum

Cairo - The Twelfth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo concluded with a week of enriching dialogues and collaborations convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). From November 4 to 8, 2024, global stakeholders gathered in Nasr City to delve into the theme "It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities." Uganda's delegation, led by Hon. Judith Nabakooba, Minister of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development, played a prominent role as a speaker in the African Ministerial Round-Table and panelist in various sessions showcasing Uganda's commitment to urban development initiatives.

The delegation also included Hon. Kania Obiga, Minister of State for Urban Development, Mr. Ben Kumumanya from the Ministry of Local Government, Mr. Byendaimira Vicent from KCCA, and Minister Counsellor Mr. Aryabaha Evans from the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi, alongside officials from the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development. Throughout the forum, delegates from Uganda participated in constructive conversations aimed at refining urban development strategies and fostering sustainable solutions. The delegation, including the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and key members, were privileged to extend a courtesy visit to the Embassy, culminating in a warm and hospitable dinner reception.



Compiled by Azenam Nambalirwa





Uganda Calls for Inclusive and Dignified Migration Policies at the 115th IOM Council Session.

Geneva - Uganda reaffirmed its commitment to promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration, as Minister of State for Labour, Employment, and Industrial Relations Hon. Esther Anyakun Davinia addressed the High-Level Segment of the 115th Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council in Geneva on November 26, 2024. Themed “Regular Migration Pathways: A Global Call for Action,” the session provided a platform to tackle key challenges and opportunities in global migration governance. Hon. Anyakun underscored Uganda's leadership in advancing regional migration strategies, highlighting the nation's commitment to harmonized policies that promote labor mobility and address climate-induced displacement.

Uganda's active role in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and East African Community protocols has facilitated the free movement of labor, goods, and services. Central to these efforts is the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change, a pioneering framework for addressing climate-induced migration comprehensively. Uganda's open-door policy continues to provide refuge for over 1.7 million refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants fleeing conflict, persecution, and natural disasters. With frameworks aligned to international laws, Uganda ensures protection and integration into local communities, offering access to essential services and opportunities. Additionally, the nation takes a robust approach to combat irregular migration, leveraging the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, advanced technology, and multi-agency coordination to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.



L-R Hon. Esther Anyakun delivering her remarks during the 115th Session of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council in Geneva , receiving gift during the session.

To enhance labor migration pathways, Uganda has signed bilateral labor agreements with countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, safeguarding the rights of its workers abroad. Plans are underway to expand these agreements to high-skilled sectors, boosting economic returns for Ugandan citizens. Consular support services, including legal aid and emergency repatriation, remain critical to protecting Ugandans overseas. Recognizing the importance of robust data systems, Uganda prioritizes data-driven policy development with technical support from IOM. Enhanced migration data collection and analysis will align national policies with global standards, fostering safe migration pathways and promoting regional collaboration.

Hon. Anyakun concluded by calling for global collaboration to mobilize resources, align policies, and build resilient frameworks that facilitate safe migration. She reiterated Uganda's dedication to integrating migrants into communities and promoting inclusive and dignified migration policies, ensuring no one is left behind.

**Compiled by Ronald Basimwa,
Second Secretary , Uganda Mission ,
Geneva**





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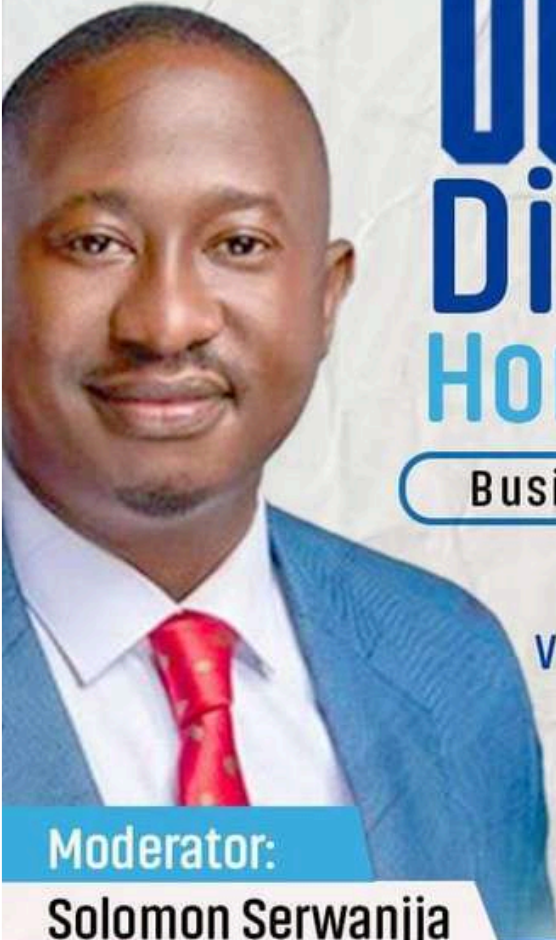


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Uganda's Commitment to Ending Gender-Based Violence: A Diplomatic Priority

Uganda joins the global community in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) from November 25 to December 10, positioned as a pivotal player in the international community, not only through its economic initiatives and peacekeeping missions but also in its dedication to upholding human rights. As the world marches towards the landmark Beijing +30 review, Uganda's commitment to addressing gender-based violence (GBV) take center stage in its diplomatic engagements. This year's theme, **"Towards Beijing +30: UNiTE to End Violence Against Women and Girls,"** aligns with Uganda's commitment to achieving gender equality and eradicating GBV by 2030.

Gender-based violence remains alarmingly prevalent worldwide, with nearly one in three women experiencing physical or sexual violence. In Uganda, the government has made significant strides in passing laws to combat GBV, yet challenges in enforcement, public awareness, and cultural norms persist. The government continues to leverage its diplomatic platforms to advocate for increased international cooperation, resource mobilization, and knowledge-sharing to address GBV effectively. Uganda calls upon member states to reaffirm their commitments to international frameworks, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and to support initiatives aimed at strengthening accountability for perpetrators and justice for survivors.

Uganda remains committed to empowering women's rights organizations, promoting gender-responsive justice systems, and creating zero tolerance for violence in all its forms. The government is engaging with regional and global partners to integrate innovative strategies, such as digital advocacy, to tackle the rising threat of online violence against women and girls. As Uganda moves toward the landmark Beijing +30 review, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates its resolve to champion gender equality as a cornerstone of national development and diplomacy. Together, let us unite to end violence against women and girls, ensuring a brighter, safer future for all.



GENDER BASED VIOLENCE FACTS !!

Gender-based violence increases during crises, exacerbated by societal tensions. It can manifest in intimate partner violence, sexual assault, forced marriages, and traditional practices. Disarmament and peacekeeping efforts are crucial.



Gender-based violence has been described by the WHO as a global public health problem of epidemic proportions and a fundamental violation of human rights. with recent reports estimating that 1 in 3 women are affected by violence.



[Click here to learn more](#)

Compiled by Wabusimba Amiri





Uganda Shines in Geneva: A Cultural Extravaganza Celebrating 62 Years of Independence

The Embassy of Uganda to the Swiss Confederation and Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, on 6th November 2024 lit up the resplendent lobby of the WIPO Headquarters in a Cultural Extravaganza marking the 62nd Independence Celebration of Uganda. Receiving over 300 guests from Permanent Missions, the Private Sector, Civil Society and the Ugandan Diaspora, Permanent Representative Marcel Tibaleka and his staff, entertained guests with Ugandan music by local Ugandan DJ Raymond, energetic traditional dances like Larakaraka, Orunyeye and Maganda as well as a show of gastro-diplomacy with a fusion of a Swiss and Ugandan buffet.

Guests attentively listened to and watched the exciting tourism videos that punctuated the remarks of the Permanent Representative. Recalling that the Swiss are the most travelled people in Europe, with a per capita income of US\$105,000 Amb. Tibaleka called on them to Explore Uganda, The Pearl of Africa. Ambassador Tibaleka said Uganda's progress under HE President Yoweri Museveni has been marked by resilience, and it is a peaceful, vibrant democracy with a rising economy. He reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to the UN's core pillars of peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. He reiterated Uganda's commitment as Chair of NAM and the Group of 77 + China, to foster global cooperation and building a fairer world order that promotes peace, economic justice and sustainable development.



The Ugandan Embassy staff based in Geneva graced in cultural attire at the WIPO Headquarters, marking the 62nd Independence Celebration of Uganda

In attendance was, Margaret Kafeero, Head of Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while reminding the guests about the forthcoming COP29 in Baku, drew attention to Uganda's rich cultural heritage and its contribution to conservation and sustainability as illustrated in the art and craft decor on display. She invited guests to examine the large sheets of handmade barkcloth, through a UNESCO-recognized 700-year old technique as well as sharing the benefits of the Omutuba tree from which it is harvested.

Kafeero also showed off the spectacular giant Ankole Cow horns that decorated the Hall and shared their potential as an eco-friendly alternative to plastic.

The highlight of the evening was a speech by Mr. Bryan Conway proprietor of Galen Spirits, a Swiss Wine and Spirits distribution business and an importer of Uganda Waragi into Switzerland. Mr. Conway, who spent a considerable amount of time in Uganda, and was at one time a volunteer at the Entebbe Wildlife Education Centre, shared about his love of Uganda and his readiness to working with the Embassy to build a bridge between both countries and making Ugandan products available in Switzerland.

Guests were served with sample shots of the drink and complimentary cocktails of the same. Gifts of freshly roasted coffee from the Uganda Tourism Board and the Uganda Coffee Development Authority were also given to guests to take away.

The energy in the room was so palpable that a guest was heard commenting that the event was an unforgettable experience, and many Missions would have to go back to the drawing board to match it.

Compiled by Ronald Basiimwa, Second secretary





Ugandan Talent on display at Creative Africa Nexus Weekend

Algiers - In a display of talent and cultural exchange, (CANEX WKND 2024) in Algiers witnessed a convergence of creativity that left attendees spellbound. Leading the charge was the Karizm Organization, spearheaded by the visionary Ms. Dorothy Nabunjo, who brought a wealth of experience and passion for nurturing talent to the forefront. Their active participation and engagement with the Uganda Embassy underscored their commitment to fostering partnerships within the arts sector on an international stage.

Not to be outshone, the Sandra Suubi Band, XENSON Company, and the sensational Ghetto Kids captivated audiences with their electrifying performances, showcasing the rich artistic tapestry of Uganda. From music masterclasses to collaborative showcases, these talented groups seized every opportunity to shine at the VIP events and Summits, leaving a lasting impact on attendees and industry insiders alike.

As the curtain fell on CANEX WKND 2024, the echoes of Ugandan talent reverberated throughout Algiers, paving the way for future collaborations and artistic endeavors across Africa. The event not only celebrated culture and creativity but also solidified Uganda's position as a powerhouse of artistic innovation on the global stage.



The Triplet Ghetto Kids in Algeria at the Ugandan Embassy in Algiers.

----- Compiled by Githa Ogume

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Uganda National Football Team Clinches a Spot in the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations.

By Herbert Ssekatawa and Denis Kabila, Political Assistant at the Embassy of Uganda in DRC, Kinshasa



Juba - The Uganda Cranes secured a spot in the 2025 AFCON, which will be held in Morocco, following South Sudan's 3-2 victory over Congo Brazzaville at Juba Stadium. Uganda's historic qualification in Group K came with two matches to spare, despite their 2-0 loss to South Africa at Mandela National Stadium. Congo Brazzaville lost 0-1 to Uganda in their final Group K match at Stade Alphonse Massemba-Débat. This clash had no bearing on the qualification of either team, as the hosts were already eliminated and the visitors had already qualified. Uganda finished with 13 points, securing qualification behind South Africa, who topped the group with 14 points.

The Ugandan Embassy hosted a celebratory dinner at the Grand Lancaster Hotel, bringing together the Uganda Cranes and members of the diaspora. The Deputy Head of Mission, Ambassador Matata Twaha, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the team's commitment, skill, and camaraderie, which were instrumental in securing qualification for the 2025 AFCON. He also underscored the vital role of sports in enhancing Uganda's international relations, noting that the Uganda Cranes serve as Ambassadors for the nation and play an essential part in projecting Uganda's positive image on the global stage. Amb. Matata appreciated the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Education and Sports, the State Minister for Sports and FUFA for their continued support to the Uganda Cranes.

She Cranes Make History with Third-Place Finish at Fast5 Netball World Series.

Oceania - The two-day competition brought together the world's top-ranked netball nations, including hosts New Zealand, defending champions Australia, as well as Jamaica, England, South Africa, and Uganda. The She Cranes defied the odds to secure third place in the Fast5 Netball World Series in Christchurch, New Zealand, winning three of the six matches played. The Uganda National Netball Team triumphed with victories against England (31-22), Jamaica (43-26), and South Africa (46-42) in an electrifying African derby that captivated fans across the continent.

With their impressive win against South Africa and two victories in the round-robin games against England and Jamaica, Uganda achieved their highest-ever finish in the tournament's history. In the classification match, Nuba and Nassanga spearheaded the Cranes' attack, keeping South Africa on the defensive throughout the contest. Nakitto and Kadondi excelled in limiting South Africa's scoring opportunities, while Margaret Baagala, named Player of the Match against Jamaica, displayed exceptional skill in midfield.



Nassanga Shadiha Uganda' GA attacking the Jamaican side to secure a goal for Uganda





Crested Cranes Triumph DRC in 2 International Friendly Matches.

The Crested Cranes have again demonstrated their prowess on the field by securing victories in both international friendlies against DRC's Leopards at the Stade des Martyrs in Kinshasa. On October 27, the Cranes clinched a 2-1 win, followed by an impressive 3-1 triumph in the second match on October 30.

The team's coach, Sheryl Botes, emphasized that these matches were crucial in preparing for the upcoming 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). The victories boosted the team's morale and highlighted their readiness for the continental showdown.

In a congratulatory meeting, officials from the Ugandan Embassy in Kinshasa, led by Ambassador Matata Twaha, Charge d'Affaires, met the unstoppable ladies to express their heartfelt appreciation. Ambassador Matata reaffirmed their unwavering support for the Crested Cranes, emphasizing the importance of promoting Uganda's talent and enhancing international relations through sports.

He highlighted that sports could be pivotal in promoting Uganda's image and fostering cultural exchange on a global scale. The Crested Cranes' dedication and hard work are commendable, and their success in these friendlies is a testament to their determination and skill. As they gear up for AFCON 2025, the nation stands proudly behind them, ready to cheer them on to more remarkable victories.



Phionah Nabulime shoots to score a goal for Uganda during the 2nd International friendly game

Ivan Byekwaso Wins Mr. Olympia Title in Historic Victory.



Ivan celebrates a sensational win at the INBA with A Silver Gold medal.

Ugandan Bodybuilder Makes the Nation Proud at the International Natural Bodybuilding Association (INBA), Bringing Home Prestigious Silver and Gold Medals. Ivan Byekwaso fulfilled his lifelong dream by defeating Switzerland's Urs Zumstein and Taiwan's Wen-Chung Tseng to win the Masters Gold and the Overall Title at the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. He triumphed over more than 600 competitors from 108 nations.

Byekwaso won three medals in a single day, taking silver in the Juniors Masters category before securing two golds. Within just two weeks, he earned a total of five medals in the US.

Before competing in the INBA, Ivan first participated in the Masters' category (40-49 years) at the El Segundo Performing Arts Center in California, where he won a gold medal in the Mr. World Cup and added a silver in the Men's Open category.

Ivan Byekwaso, speaking at a press conference, said he never expected to win, but his intense and consistent training played a key role in his success. He sacrificed a lot, as his coach, Philip Ricardo Jr. who guided him through a rigorous training regimen. Ivan expressed his joy when he heard the Ugandan national anthem being played, realizing that he had brought the Pearl of Africa to the pinnacle of the sport.

By Denis Kabila, Political Assistant at the Embassy of Uganda in DRC

By Herbert Ssekatawa



Spotlight Photo



Team work at its best as Mary Nuba lifting one of her team mates at the Fast5 Netball World Series in Christchurch, New Zealand



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