

# Diplomatic Notes

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- AU Launches Bold Agricultural Strategies at CAADP Summit in Kampala **04**
- Museveni Champions Economic Transformation at ADSW **09**
- Ruto & Museveni Inaugurate 20,000-Seat Jaramogi Odinga Stadium in Kenya. **26**



26

### Arts & Culture

Diving into Diversity: Theatre, Sports, & the Africa Cultural Spectacle!



13

### Uganda's Missions

Exploring the Work and Social Life of Uganda's Foreign Service Officers.



09



**Uganda's Chairmanship:**  
Non-Aligned Movement (2024 - 2027)



## HEY, DEAR ESTEEMED READERS



This being our first issue of Diplomatic Notes in 2025, we would like to wish our readers a Happy New Year! January hit us like a tsunami with the CAADP Kampala Summit taking place in the first week before we could shake off the holiday cheer. Followed closely by the UAE Sustainability Summit.

In this issue we congratulate our team in New York and the chapter Missions for successfully completing Chairmanship of the G-77, which Uganda held concurrently with the Non-Aligned Movement in 2024. Do not miss the pictorial trip down memory lane as we recall highlights of both Summits.

The MoFA had reason to smile this month as a record 11 staff members were awarded various National Medals for exemplary service during the G77 and NAM Summits.

On a particularly sad note, we share an obituary for one of our Diplomatic staff, Ms. Martha Okumu-Ringa, who passed away on the 29th of January in Rome, where she was serving a tour of duty. Martha, known for her compassion, generosity and optimistic spirit, positively impacted every community she joined, having served for 15 years in the Foreign Service. She will be sorely missed. May Martha's beautiful soul rest in eternal peace.

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

DIPLOMATIC  
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL  
FEATURE  
STORY



UGANDA  
MISSIONS  
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE





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— ” —



*The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi is a stunning cultural landmark, blending global artistry with Islamic architecture, featuring gold-plated chandeliers, marble mosaics, and the world's largest hand-knotted carpet.*

[Learn more](#)





## AU Unveils Bold Agricultural Strategies at CAADP Summit in Kampala



**Kampala** - Ministers of Agriculture from the African Union's (AU) 55 member states recently concluded a three-day Extraordinary Summit in Kampala, Uganda, marking a pivotal moment for the continent's agricultural future. The summit culminated in the adoption of the Kampala Declaration and the unveiling of a landmark ten-year Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan, designed to accelerate agricultural growth, enhance food security, and improve livelihoods across Africa. The strategy, which spans from 2026 to 2035, was developed over ten months under the directives of African Heads of State and Government.

It builds on the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, adopted in 2014, and aligns with the 2021 African Common Position to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. By focusing on sustainability and inclusivity, the CAADP Strategy seeks to address the continent's persistent challenges in achieving food security and agricultural transformation. Speaking at the summit's opening, Uganda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, highlighted Africa's vast agricultural potential. She pointed to the continent's rich soils, abundant arable land, and the fact that 60 percent of its population is engaged in agriculture.

However, she also underscored the challenges Africa faces, particularly its staggering food import bill, which stands at USD 100 billion annually. "For us to guarantee our future as Africans, we must feed ourselves," she declared, calling for concrete solutions to reverse the continent's dependence on imported food. Africa's food security crisis remains a pressing concern, with over 280 million people suffering from chronic hunger. Rapid population growth, climate change, conflicts, and economic disruptions have exacerbated these challenges.



The CAADP Strategy aims to address these issues by promoting climate-resilient agriculture, improving infrastructure, reducing food waste, and fostering regional trade in agricultural goods. It also envisions increasing agrifood output by 45 percent by 2035, tripling intra-African trade in agricultural products, reducing post-harvest losses, and boosting the share of locally processed food in the agrifood GDP. Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni delivered a comprehensive address outlining his vision for agricultural transformation. He emphasized the need for Africa to shift from raw material production to value addition, retaining economic benefits within the continent. "We must create finished products locally to retain value and generate employment opportunities," he stated. He also stressed the importance of open borders for trade and collaboration among African nations, urging leaders to address non-tariff barriers that hinder agricultural progress.

The summit showcased success stories, including Ethiopia's integration of CAADP into its National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP). Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Dr. Girma Amente, highlighted his country's achievement in meeting CAADP's 6 percent annual growth target by significantly increasing agricultural outputs.

*Story continues on next page*





Ethiopia's emphasis on public investment in agriculture has improved crop yields, livestock production, and overall food security, setting an example for other nations. The strategy's inclusivity was a central theme throughout the summit.

H.E. Ambassador Josefa Sacko, AU Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, emphasized the importance of empowering women, youth, and marginalized groups. She noted that the CAADP Strategy aims to expand value addition, create millions of jobs, and build resilient agrifood systems capable of withstanding shocks and stressors.

It builds on the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, adopted in 2014, and aligns with the 2021 African Common Position to the United Nations Food Systems Summit. By focusing on sustainability and inclusivity, the CAADP Strategy seeks to address the continent's persistent challenges in achieving food security and agricultural transformation. Speaking at the summit's opening, Uganda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, highlighted Africa's vast agricultural potential. She pointed to the continent's rich soils, abundant arable land, and the fact that 60 percent of its population is engaged in agriculture. The summit concluded with a strong call to action from Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, Uganda's Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries, who chaired the drafting of the CAADP Strategy. He stressed the urgency of moving from planning to execution. "The planning phase ends during this summit. We must now focus on execution to make a meaningful impact on our continent and our people," he said. Tumwebaze called for advances in agricultural research, the establishment of resilient farming systems, and the promotion of agro-industrialization.

## President Museveni Holds Side Meetings to Boost Trade and Address Bilateral Challenges



- 1 President Museveni, held a meeting with Algeria's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Youcef Cherfa, on the sidelines of the African Union CAADP summit at Speke Resort Munyonyo.
- 2 President Museveni met Eswatini Prime Minister HE Russel Mmiso Dlamini at CAADP summit
- 3 President Museveni engaged with Liberia's Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung
- 4 President Museveni meets Sahrawi President HE Brahim Ghali





## Uganda and UNESCO Sign Agreement on Upgrade to Antenna Office

Compiled by Githa Ogume

**Kampala:** Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, alongside the Director of UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Ms. Haxthausen Louise, signed a Host Country Agreement this morning, upgrading the UNESCO Office in Uganda from a Project Office to an Antennae Office. The Project Office in Kampala collaborates with the Government of Uganda, Civil Society, Private Sector, and development partners within the UN Delivering as One framework to enhance policies and programs in peace-building, poverty eradication, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue through education, sciences, culture, communication, and information.



Ms. Haxthausen highlighted that the Antenna Office status will enable enhanced collaboration avenues, granting direct access to UNESCO's network of experts and resources. This will facilitate addressing resource challenges more effectively and implementing impactful projects aligned with UNESCO's priorities. Hon. Odongo described the signing as a "pivotal" moment in Uganda's partnership with UNESCO, ensuring seamless operations and synchronized collaboration with partners for advancing shared objectives in various fields of UNESCO's competence in Uganda.

## Uganda and Pakistan Foster Diplomatic Ties through Political Consultations in Kampala



**Kampala:** The Government of Uganda and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, through their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, successfully held the inaugural session of Political Consultations in Kampala on Friday, January 17, 2025. Ahead of the technical-level talks, the Pakistani delegation paid courtesy calls on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Affairs, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, on January 16, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, on January 17, 2025.

Both Ministers welcomed the initiative, emphasizing that formalizing this framework would pave the way for a stronger bilateral relationship. They noted that Uganda and Pakistan could collaborate extensively in agro-processing, mineral development, and ICT investment. The Ugandan delegation to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was led by Ambassador Charles Ssentongo, Chief of Protocol and Acting Permanent Secretary, while the Pakistani delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary.

Story continued to next page





## Story continued from previous page

## Bilateral Meetings

The session marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations, following the signing of an MoU on Political Consultations. This agreement underscores a shared commitment to strengthening cooperation in political, economic, commercial, scientific, technical, and cultural fields at both bilateral and international levels. Held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere, the consultations covered a wide range of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to promoting peace and security while deepening their partnership. Discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation, advancing regional diplomatic relations, and addressing common concerns on international and multilateral platforms.

Amb. Ssentongo highlighted that the talks laid the groundwork for greater collaboration between the two Ministries and their respective Governments while fostering stronger people-to-people interactions. "I believe we shall progressively translate these aspirations into concrete actions for the benefit of our countries," he stated. H.E. Mr. Hamid Asghar Khan, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, expressed gratitude to the Government of Uganda for its warm hospitality during his delegation's stay in Kampala. Both sides agreed to hold the second round of Political Consultations in Islamabad, Pakistan, on mutually agreed dates, reaffirming their commitment to sustaining this platform for dialogue and cooperation.



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni met with U.S. Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. William W. Popp, at State House Entebbe for discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared interests between Uganda and the United States.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Jeje Odongo Abubakhar, met with H.E. Fatima Fernandes Juarez, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Uganda, to discuss key bilateral issues of mutual interest.



**PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:**  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs), Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, held a meeting with H.E. Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary of Pakistan.

Amb. Hamid Asghar Khan, Additional Foreign Secretary and Amb. Charles Ssentongo, Chief of Protocol and Ag. Permanent after signing the MoU on Bilateral Political Consultations.

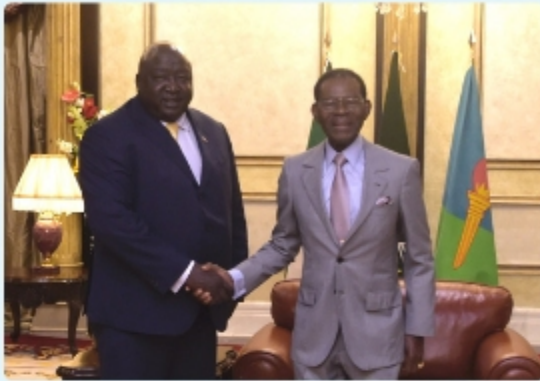


Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Regional Affairs), Hon. John Mulimba, met with South Sudan's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Amb. Monday Semaya Kenneth Kumba, to discuss strengthening regional cooperation and diplomatic ties.





## Bilateral Meetings



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs), Hon. Okello Oryem, met with the President of Equatorial Guinea as a special envoy from President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Both discussed strengthening diplomatic and political relations between Uganda and Equatorial Guinea. Hon. Oryem also outlined Uganda's new commercial diplomacy strategy, aiming to facilitate Ugandan investments and business opportunities in Equatorial Guinea through bilateral agreements.



Hon. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs/Regional Affairs of Uganda, held bilateral discussions with H.E. Lisa J. Chesney MBE, British High Commissioner to Uganda, at the Ministry Headquarters in Kampala. The two principals explored areas of mutual interest to strengthen relations between Uganda and the United Kingdom.



H.E. Elizabeth Paula Napeyok, High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to Malta, held discussions with H.E. Charles Sultana, Head of the Africa Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism in Santa Venera, Malta. Both explored opportunities to enhance cooperation between the two countries.



Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar held a meeting with H.E. Fredriek Quispel, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Uganda at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Uganda to discuss bilateral issues of mutual interest.



Hon. John Mulimba held a bilateral discussions with Selma Bakhta, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in charge of African Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.



PS Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bagiire Vincent Waiswa, met with H.E. Hamza Adan Hadow, PS Somalia's Foreign Affairs Ministry, to discuss bilateral cooperation.



Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, met with H.E. Zhang Lizhong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Uganda to discuss key bilateral matters of mutual interest.





## President Museveni Calls for Economic Transformation at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

*Compiled by Githa Ogume*

**Abu Dhabi:** H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni arrived in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to participate in the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) at the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The event served as a global platform addressing critical sustainability challenges. President Museveni was warmly received by dignitaries, including Minister Sheikh Shakhboot Nahyan Al Nahyan and Ambassador Abdalla Hassan Al Shamsi, highlighting the significance of his presence at this prestigious event.

Reflecting on Uganda's economic history and future potential, President Museveni emphasized the pivotal role of commercial agriculture, manufacturing, services, and ICT in driving prosperity. He stressed the importance of value addition in agricultural products, advocating for a transition from raw material exports to finished goods to spur economic growth and job creation across Africa.



*President Museveni greets His Highness Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member of the UAE and Ruler of Sharjah, at his palace during his visit.*

Addressing water resource management and non-tariff barriers within the Continental Free Trade Area, President Museveni championed the preservation of water sources and the removal of trade impediments hindering agricultural progress. He called for equitable trade practices and regional cooperation to strengthen Africa's agricultural sector and enhance food security across the continent. President Museveni's remarks underscored Africa's vast agricultural potential and the need for sustainable transformation through modern commercial farming practices. As Uganda advances toward economic prosperity, his advocacy for value addition, sustainable agriculture, and regional collaboration sets a strategic course for inclusive growth and development.

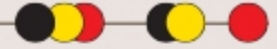
His participation in the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week signals Uganda's commitment to environmental sustainability and economic progress, reinforcing the nation's vision for a prosperous future driven by innovation, agriculture, and strategic partnerships.



*L-R: President Museveni arriving in the UAE for the Abu Dhabi Sustainability week; H.E Museveni witnessing witnessed the Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC) alongside president Ruto and other dignitaries.*



# National Days



Australia Day, celebrated on January 26 each year, marks the anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet at Port Jackson in New South Wales in 1788. On this day, Captain Arthur Phillip and his crew landed, establishing the first British colony in Australia. For many Australians, it is a day of celebration, with events such as parades, fireworks, and concerts.



India's National Day, known as Republic Day, is celebrated on January 26 every year. This day marks the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1950, which transformed India into a republic. It follows the country's independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. Republic Day is celebrated with grandeur, especially in the capital, New Delhi, where a grand parade takes place at Rajpath.



On January 1, Sudan celebrates its Independence Day, marking the official end of British-Egyptian rule and the birth of the independent Sudanese state on January 1, 1956. On this day, Sudan became the first African country to gain independence from colonial rule.



On January 4, Myanmar celebrates Independence Day, commemorating the country's independence from British colonial rule. Myanmar (formerly Burma) gained independence on January 4, 1948, following years of struggle and resistance against British colonial control. This day marks the end of British rule and the beginning of Myanmar's status as a sovereign nation.





## Flynas Launches Direct Flights From Riyadh to Entebbe

*Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi*

**Kampala** –Flynas, the Saudi low-cost carrier renowned for its exceptional service and affordable fares, has successfully expanded its reach into East Africa by launching direct flights from Riyadh to Entebbe International Airport in Kampala, Uganda. This strategic move is poised to open up new travel opportunities between the Middle East and East Africa, enhancing both tourism and trade between the two regions.

According to the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority, the inaugural flight, which was an Airbus 320 neo, made its historic arrival at Entebbe International Airport on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 0330 hours. The arrival of the flight marked a significant milestone in Flynas' ambitious growth strategy, showcasing the airline's commitment to enhancing its international network.



**L-R** : Group photo of the Officials from Flynas and Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA); Flynas Inaugural Flight welcomed with the traditional water cannon salute at Entebbe. **Photo credit: Business focus**

As the aircraft touched down, it was met with a spectacular water cannon salute—a traditional gesture of celebration that added an extra layer of excitement to the occasion. Flynas has committed to operating three weekly flights between Riyadh and Entebbe, scheduled for every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday. These flights are designed to offer passengers a convenient and cost-effective way to travel between the two cities, with flexible timings and competitive fares. The launch of this route is expected to significantly boost connectivity, making it easier for travelers to journey between the Middle East and East Africa, while fostering deeper economic ties between Saudi Arabia and Uganda. The airline's new service is anticipated to not only boost tourism but also facilitate increased trade, as it provides a direct and reliable link between these two bustling regions.

The introduction of Flynas' direct flights to Entebbe is a clear indication of the growing demand for air travel within Africa and the Middle East. With a modern and efficient fleet, Flynas is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this burgeoning market. Its commitment to providing affordable travel options and seamless connectivity makes it a strong player in the region's competitive aviation sector. Founded in 2007, Flynas has quickly grown to become one of the leading low-cost airlines in the Middle East, operating a fleet of 61 aircraft and offering more than 1500 weekly flights to over 70 domestic and international destinations. The airline has earned accolades over the years, including being ranked as the world's 4th best low-cost airline for two consecutive years, as well as being recognized as the best in the Middle East for seven consecutive years from 2017 to 2023. With more than 78 million passengers served since its inception, Flynas continues to demonstrate its leadership in providing affordable and reliable air travel.





## President Museveni Hosts Emirates Airlines Delegation to Showcase Uganda's Tourism Potential

*Compiled by Githa Ogume*



President Museveni in a group photo with PS Bagiire(1R), Mr Taher Emirates Country manager(1L) and Emirates delegation during State house visit.

**Entebbe** –President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on Tuesday welcomed a high-level delegation from Emirates Airlines to State House, Entebbe, as part of the airline's efforts to identify key tourist attractions in Uganda. The visit comes as Emirates prepares to celebrate 25 years of operations in the country, with plans to market Uganda's unique destinations to a global audience. The delegation, led by Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Taher, Emirates' Country Manager for Uganda, and Ms. Maureen Kabure, the Emirates Station Manager, included officials from various countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, India, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. The team's mission to explore Uganda's "must-visit" tourist sites, will be promoted worldwide as part of the airline's anniversary celebrations.

President Museveni warmly received the delegation and highlighted Uganda's exceptional climate, attributing it to the country's location on the Equator and its varied altitudes. President Museveni, in his warm reception of the delegation, shed light on Uganda's extraordinary climate, attributing its distinctiveness to the country's Equator location and varied altitudes. Noting Uganda's unique climate akin to only a few countries globally, the President highlighted the country's elevations, ranging from over 1,000 meters above sea level to snow-capped peaks exceeding 5,000 meters. Additionally, he lauded Uganda's equatorial climate for nurturing organic crops like coffee and pineapples, renowned for their exceptional quality. As per the terms of the MoU, the Mission facilitated a delegation of 10 tour from the key Emirates Airlines source markets of India, UK, Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain to visit Uganda for a tourism familiarization trip from 21st - 26th January 2025

Encouraging the Emirates team to explore into Uganda's diverse tourist attractions, including its acclaimed national parks, wildlife reserves, and cultural sites, President Museveni underlined the country's potential to emerge as a top international travel destination. The visit by the Emirates delegation signifies the deep partnership between Uganda and the airline, showcasing Uganda's commitment to enhancing its tourism sector through collaborative efforts. As Emirates Airlines marks its 25th anniversary in Uganda, the collaboration promises to open new doors for tourism and economic growth, further solidifying Uganda's position on the world stage. The Uganda Embassy Abu Dhabi's mandate to promote economic and commercial diplomacy led to fruitful engagements with Emirates Airline in Dubai, culminating in the signing of a landmark MoU between the Uganda Tourism Board and Emirates Airline for Joint Tourism Promotion.



As per the terms of the MoU, the Mission facilitated a delegation of 10 tour from the key Emirates Airlines source markets of India, UK, Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain to visit Uganda for a tourism familiarization trip from 21st - 26th January 2025. The meeting featured an esteemed lineup of key government officials, including Hon. Bahinduka Mugarra Martin, Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities; Ms. Doreen Katusiime, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities; Mr. Bagiire Vincent Waiswa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and H.E. Zaake W. Kibedi, Uganda's Ambassador to the UAE.

The event was further graced by the presence of Ambassador Elly Kamahungye from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials from the Uganda Embassy in the UAE, and notable representatives from the Uganda Tourism Board, including Pearl Houreau Kakooza, Lilly Ajarova, and Daniel Irunga, showcasing a unified effort to bolster Uganda's tourism sector and strengthen partnerships on the global stage.





## Minister Odongo Meets Venezuela's Foreign Minister, Strengthens Bilateral Relations



*Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar together with his Venezuelan counterpart, H.E. Yvan Gil.*

**Caracas** - Following the inauguration ceremony of President Nicholas Maduro, Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, was warmly received by his Venezuelan counterpart, H.E. Yvan Gil. The meeting served as a platform for the two leaders to exchange views on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, reinforcing the long-standing diplomatic relations between Uganda and Venezuela.

During the meeting, Hon. Gen. Odongo delivered a special message of congratulations from President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to President Maduro, reaffirming Uganda's commitment to strengthening its partnership with Venezuela.

Both ministers agreed to accelerate preparations for the Uganda-Venezuela Joint Permanent Commission, which will explore and deepen cooperation across key sectors, including energy and oil, education and training, health, investments, and political collaboration. The initiative is expected to foster economic growth and enhance diplomatic ties between the two nations.

This high-level engagement reflects Uganda and Venezuela's shared vision for stronger South-South cooperation, paving the way for mutually beneficial projects and greater global collaboration on pressing issues.

## Uganda Strengthens Ties at Mozambique Inauguration

**Maputo** - In a significant display of diplomatic solidarity, Uganda's High Commissioner to Tanzania, HE Amb. Col (Rtd) Fred Mwesigye, alongside Gen (Rtd) Ivan Koreta, represented President Yoweri Museveni at the inauguration of Mozambique's new president, HE Daniel Chapo. This high-level representation underscores Uganda's commitment to strengthening regional ties and promoting African integration. During his inaugural address, President Chapo outlined his vision for a reformed Mozambique, pledging to create a more efficient government and enhance international cooperation.

He also acknowledged the country's achievements over the past 50 years, vowing to build upon this foundation to drive progress and development. The inauguration ceremony was a notable gathering of African dignitaries, with Uganda's delegation present. As Mozambique embarks on this new chapter, Uganda's diplomatic presence serves as a testament to its dedication to fostering strong regional relationships and promoting collective growth.

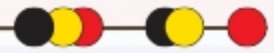
President Chapo's commitment to reform and international cooperation is a welcome development, and Uganda's support marks a positive step toward deeper regional collaboration. As Mozambique navigates its future, the solidarity and cooperation of neighboring countries like Uganda will be essential in driving progress and prosperity.



*Uganda's High Commissioner to Tanzania, HE Amb. Col (Rtd) Fred Mwesigye, and Gen (Rtd) Ivan Koreta*

*Compiled by Mildred Ann Nasirumbi*





## Uganda Embassy Paris Showcases Tourism in Spain

**Madrid** - The Uganda Embassy in Paris has set several key objectives for FITUR (Feria Internacional de Turismo) Madrid, including promoting Uganda as a premier tourist destination, showcasing its rich cultural heritage and natural attractions, and attracting potential investors in the tourism sector. Additionally, the embassy aims to strengthen bilateral tourism partnerships with Spain and other countries while engaging with tour operators and travel agents to increase tourist arrivals from Europe to Uganda.



Uganda's Ambassador to Paris H.E. Amb. Amule Doreen (2L) together with CEO Uganda Tourism Board Lilly Ajarova (1L) at the FITUR expo in Madrid.




Notably, the embassy seeks to engage with tour operators and travel agents to boost tourist arrivals from Europe to Uganda. We had a partnership with seven tour operators (DMCs) from Uganda together with UTB and UWA in attendance.

Compiled by Githa Ogume



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## The NRM 39 Liberation Commemoration Medals Galore



**Congratulations to the MOFA Team that received medals during the 39th NRM Liberation day Celebrations.**

**The Distinguished order of the Rwenzori Star**

**RO 0810 Hon. Gen RTD Odongo Jeje Abubakher**



**The Distinguished order of the Crested Crane (Commander)**

**Hon. Okello Henry Oryem**

**Hon. John Mulimba**



**The Distinguished order of the Nile (Grand Commander)**

**Mr. Vincent Bagiire Waiswa**

**The Distinguished order of the Nile (Grand Commander)**

**Ambassador Adonia Ayebare**



**Diamond Jubilee Medal**

**Ambassador Charles Ssentongo**

**Ambassador Aisa Ismail**

**Mr. Steven Nkayivu Ssenabulya**

**Mr. Benon Kayemba**

**Ms. Sarah Nakamya**

**Mr. David Wamono**

**Ms. Laura Kahuga**

**Mr. Abdulmalik Ssejje**

**Photo credit: Nile post**





## CELEBRATING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT; CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on achieving this remarkable milestone! This marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Your academic journey has prepared you for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As you celebrate this achievement, remember that this is just the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your life.

We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you continued success, happiness, and fulfilment in all your future endeavours.



Ms. Sarah Mbabazi, a Graduate of Queen Mary University of London with a Masters of Art in International Relations.



Ms. Mildred Anne Nasirumbi, a Graduate of Makerere University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences.



Ms. Mary Immaculate Nakaayi, a Graduate of Makerere University with a Bachelor of Science in Tourism and Hospitality Management



Ms. Patience Kabazarwe, a Graduate from Makerere University with a Bachelor of International Business.







*In loving memory of*



*Martha Okumu-Ringa*

*Beloved friend & Colleague*

*I met Martha in 2010, during a visit to the 6th floor. She had joined the ministry earlier, while I was away pursuing my master's degree in South Africa. From that moment on, Martha's enthusiasm and passion for her work as a personal assistant to the Minister of State for Regional Cooperation left a lasting impression on me.*

*Her infectious laughter, kindness, and generosity drew me to her. We kept in touch through Facebook, and she shared updates about her life in South Africa, where she was posted later. I admired her team spirit, work ethic, and dedication to helping others.*

*After I left the ministry in 2013, we lost touch for a while. But when we reconnected in 2017, it felt like no time had passed at all. Martha was still her vibrant self, working tirelessly in the public diplomacy department. Her commitment to showcasing the ministry's work and supporting her colleagues was inspiring.*

*Martha's compassion and empathy extended far beyond the office. She spent countless hours helping street children, pregnant women, and mothers in her hometown hospital. Her selflessness and generosity inspired many, and her legacy will continue to touch hearts.*

*Rest in peace, dear Martha.*

*Your love, kindness, and generosity have left an indelible mark on our lives. You will be deeply missed, but your spirit will continue to inspire us.*

*Anne Marie Nyakato*





## REST IN PEACE MARTHA

*Life! Life! Life! As I am struggling to take in the huge knock from the tragic one of Gen. Charles Oluka, Patrick Oyullu, a friend to both Martha and myself, sends me a message about Martha. I spoke to Martha two weeks ago when she called. She sounded very well and promised to look for me on her next trip to town. She loved saying you see Charles our strength is in working hard and professionally. Let's continue working hard. To imagine Martha Okumu-Ringa gone is like having a very very bad dream! Sadly this one is true.*

*Martha had an infectious enthusiasm and unwavering loyalty to friends and colleagues, so simple, but with constant joy. She was a passionate civil servant and loved her work to a fault. Friends, let's try to live life to the fullest! It is clear life doesn't think twice about disappointing us. Life is so nasty and unkind, unforgiving and unapologetic! Martha has finished hers. May she rest in peace!*

*~Charles Odongtho*

*In this time of grief, may we find comfort in knowing that God is near to us. Our hearts are heavy, but we hold on to the love, kindness, and memories we shared with Martha. Though she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on in our hearts, and we trust in God's promise of eternal life.*

*Martha you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, and you kept the faith. As believers we have faith that there is in store for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will award you on that day. 2Timothy 4:7-8.*

*May we find strength in our faith and in each other as we remember and honor Martha. Rest in peace Martha.*

*~Sarah Nakamya*

**John 5:24**

*24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.*

*You loved and served God in your service to mankind Martha. You drew many closer to God, for what we mortals call death is the beginning of a new Life in Christ. May the heavens receive you.*

*~Wandera Emmanuel*

*Oh Lord! She was so full of love. I last saw her around November or there about. The hug she gave me lingers on. Yiii Yesuuuu!!*

*~Berna*

*It's clear that she was a true friend and colleague who made a real difference in the lives of so many. It's a testament to Martha's legacy and a reminder of the impact she had on all of us who knew her.*

*As the scripture in Proverbs 11:25 reminds us, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Martha's spirit of generosity undoubtedly refreshed many, including those street children who probably should be wondering where their 'mother' Martha is, and her legacy will continue to live on.*

*~Dickson Ogwang*

*She always loved God; she always referred to Him in her conversations, goodness me. So sad.*

*~ Henry Mayega*

*Martha was something else. Consolidating friendliness, professionalism and a lively spirit. How she managed to keep so many people close is an art that is enviable.*

*She was very strong in her faith. I believe she is up there with the angels.*

*~Uncle Bob*

*Dear Martha, that thunderous sarcastic laughter whenever we cracked jokes. And yet, you never let me leave your office without praying (well knowing I was not a prayerful person)! Your death is a very sharp pain to bear 🥀😭 May the Lord grant your soul among his Angels 🙏*

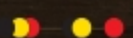
*~Julius Luwemba*

*Martha was not just a colleague but a friend to many of us . Her unwavering commitment, professionalism, and compassionate spirit made a lasting impact on all privileged to work with her. RIP*

*~Jeremiah Guma*

*Very remarkable workmate and a friend that brightened our days with your kindness and trade mark laughter. Rest in Peace dear Martha*

*~Geraldine*





## Uganda Hands Over Chairmanship of G77 +China At UN Headquarters

*By Enoch Tusubira, IT and Communications Officer to Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN*

**New York** – On January 13th, 2024, His Excellency Ambassador Adonia Ayebare completed his tenure as the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China, a coalition of developing nations dedicated to addressing global economic challenges and advocating for a fairer international system for the Global South.

The handover ceremony took place at the ECOSOC chamber in the United Nations Headquarters in New York, featuring distinguished guests including United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, President of the General Assembly Ambassador Philemon Yang, and Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Fuad Hussein.



**Amb. Adonia Ayebare handing over the gavel to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Rt. Hon. Dr. Fuad Hussein**

Ambassador Ayebare expressed gratitude to the member states for their support and confidence in Uganda's leadership, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of various UN entities in advancing the group's priorities. He highlighted the group's role in championing a more equitable international economic system and emphasized the importance of multilateralism in addressing global challenges collectively. During his chairmanship, Uganda's Permanent Representative to the UN outlined significant achievements made by the Group of 77 and China under his leadership. These accomplishments included securing agreements on financing for sustainable development, supporting Small Island Developing States, and advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

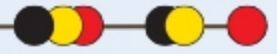


Ambassador Ayebare underscored the group's commitment to eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development, emphasizing the importance of fulfilling agreed commitments to address pressing global issues.

He urged continued unity and collaboration within the group to advance the interests of developing countries and called for enhanced responsiveness and efficiency within the United Nations system. In his closing remarks, Ambassador Ayebare highlighted the need for the UN to enhance transparency,

collaboration, and effectiveness to build trust among member states. He stressed the importance of supporting developing countries in their sustainable development efforts and reaffirmed Uganda's ongoing commitment to actively engage as a member of the Group of 77 and China.





## A Visual Flash Back at the 2024 Third South Summit in Kampala, Uganda





## The Importance of the Open-door Policy for Refugees as Uganda's Foreign Policy



Uganda's history of hosting refugees traces back to 1940s, in the wake of World War II when thousands of Polish refugees fled Europe for safety in Africa. By 1954, Uganda had become the safest destination for many Africans from the East African region including Kenyans fleeing the Mau Mau uprising. Entering mid-1950s, close to 80,000 Sudanese refugees had fled the first civil war and sought refuge in Uganda.

As time went by, the unwavering civil unrests and political instability within the Greatlakes region saw Uganda's policy makers establishing utmost commitment to consider the refugee crisis as a foreign policy concern. With the enactment of the 2006 Refugee Act and its 2010 Regulations, over 1.7 million refugees are currently hosted by over 13 settlements in Uganda, with the Nakivale refugee settlement in Southwestern Uganda being the oldest refugee camp in Africa after its formation in 1959. With such a history, it is almost inevitable for refugees from the region and the entire Africa not to choose Uganda as their preferred destination thus justifying the goodwill of the Ugandan government to open her doors

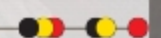
To maintain consistency with the Refugee Convention and Protocol, Uganda's legal framework avails refugees' access to key rights and social services on equal terms with nationals, including freedom of movement, access to national health and education services.

These present crucial differences with the policies of most neighboring countries where refugees are typically confined in camps, face very long registration process, are often refused the status of refugees and cannot work and provide for their livelihood, remaining dependent on humanitarian-based care and assistance. These components of the Refugee Act make it the most progressive refugee law in Africa and has enabled the Uganda settlement approach, a progressive protection model where refugees are welcomed, registered, allocated land and provided with legal documents.

The Uganda model is widely celebrated as a liberal policy that has played a crucial role in fostering peaceful coexistence in the African continent where Uganda ranks as the largest refugee host country, and fifth on the global stage. With such a policy, children and women are less prone to vulnerabilities because the policy is embedded on the Self-Reliance Strategy; meaning the refugees are empowered with both financial support and a plot of land to be self-supportive without entirely depending on humanitarian assistances. This places the responsibility in the hands of the head of the family to work and provide for his family. This is important to the African man whose confidence is built on his ability to protect and provide for his family thus reducing any possibilities of domestic violence that may arise out of frustration.



The policy stands out as a true reflection of the African belief that a problem shared is a problem half-solved. This concept entirely aligns with the Pan-African ideology that is embedded in the spirit of "Ubuntu", to represent the true oneness of the African people in addressing a common concern.





## ...Story continued

In the long run, this creates room for people-to-people interactions and may greatly improve Uganda's international image as an admirable global center of solidarity. Refugees in Uganda are able to move freely; access social services, can operate businesses and may as well find employment opportunities while bringing valuable skills and technical-knowhow to the informal sector. They also play a critical role as consumers of local Ugandan products since refugees in rural settlements buy goods from Ugandan producers. With this, refugees increase possibilities of a functional communication strategy between their host country and their country of origin which is a good ingredient for a progressive bilateralism.

However, refugee hosting also presents some downsides ranging from security threats, social conflicts over the scarce available resources and shortage of funds to facilitate an effective implementation of the Uganda model. Given that the country has been struggling with its fight against poverty and providing basic amenities to its citizens, donor funding matters very much because the benefits are for both refugees and the local communities. A case in point is the project run by UNHCR to build local infrastructure, that serves the entire community living in a given area. The World Bank too is making efforts to improve local-level development opportunities. These projects are meant to ease pressure on the country and the people hosting refugees.

Donors generally appreciate Uganda's welcoming attitude to refugees and are making commitments to fund, for instance the European Union made €200 million available while Japan has been crucial in providing aids just as Saudi Arabia, by providing relief support.

These among others give precedence for more donors to come on board and support the effective Uganda approach to combating refugee crisis.

The Uganda model is doing the international community a noble service for mankind. People who flee from strife-torn areas to foreign countries need a safe home where they can live in dignity and hope of a better life even while away from their places of origin. Inclusive policies are thus necessary, and they must pay attention to the special needs of the traumatized people who have experienced brutal violence. These suddenly make the open-door policy for refugees a prerequisite to Uganda's foreign relations.



“

*The Uganda model is doing the international community a noble service for mankind. People who flee from strife-torn areas to foreign countries need a safe home where they can live in dignity and hope of a better life even while away from their places of origin.*

”



*The writer of this article is Ogik Carlos P'ato  
Founder of Inside Diplomacy and  
Head of Youth Affairs at Uganda  
Council on Foreign Relations.*





## A Musical Odyssey: The Legendary Journey of Isaiah Katumwa



Isaiah Katumwa, a saxophone legend hailing from Uganda, embarked on a journey to redefine the role of Ugandan music on the global stage. From humble beginnings as a self-taught musician, Katumwa determined to expand his knowledge, he sold his belongings and moved to London to study music. This period of intense learning allowed him to elevate his craft to international standards.

During his pursuit of excellence, Katumwa's musical journey began with a desire to create something that resonated beyond local boundaries. "People were enjoying what I did, but I realized my understanding of music was limited," he recalls. What started as a quest for personal growth evolved into a mission to bridge Ugandan culture with global musical excellence. "I wanted to remain true to Uganda. When I meet international audiences, I'm not trying to be like them. I'm showing them how we do it in Uganda," he says. Isaiah's philosophy revolves around celebrating Ugandan culture while adapting to global trends. He likens it to speaking English with a local accent—an expression of identity within a universal medium.

"Every country speaks English with their own accent. Music should be the same. It must reflect our culture, lifestyle, and stories," he emphasizes. Through his work, Katumwa carved out a niche for family-friendly entertainment in Uganda.

He recognized a gap in the market for high-quality, inclusive events that cater to all demographics. "We needed a space where families could enjoy themselves without compromising on class or quality," he stated. Katumwa's impact extends beyond performance. As he mentored aspiring young musicians, he acknowledged the unintended consequences of growth in his musical style and saw a desire among the youth to emulate his success. "Some are playing local songs or simple melodies that appeal to different audiences, which is great for exposure but dilutes the class I was targeting," he explains. Despite this, he remains optimistic about the future, focusing on fostering professionalism and skill development.

Despite the evolution in Uganda's music industry, particularly in areas like intellectual property rights and royalty management. "We've created small systems that sustain us locally, but they're not connected to global infrastructure," he observed; noting that this disconnect limits Ugandan artists from fully participating in the global music economy. Isaiah's vision is not just about music; it's about showcasing Uganda's rich culture on a global platform. Through projects like Jazz with Isaiah and collaborations with international artists, to bring the world to Uganda and vice versa. With his music being featured in prestigious settings such as South African and Kenyan Airways and gaining airplay in international markets, for Katumwa, this is just the beginning. "I've always felt like I'm at the start of my journey. There's so much more to achieve," he affirms. Katumwa's story is a testament to the power of perseverance, vision, and cultural pride. He calls on Ugandan artists to think beyond local success and strive for global impact.



"Good music will always find a way," he says. "But we must ensure it's built on a foundation of quality and excellence." His vision for a globally recognized Ugandan sound—rooted in authenticity and elevated by professionalism—offers a blueprint for the next generation of artists. By blending tradition with modernity, Katumwa is not just creating music; he's shaping a legacy. An evening of a world-class jazz experience as Isaiah Katumwa returns home for the dfcu Jazz in the Pearl festival on May 10 at Kampala Serena Hotel. This will mark Katumwa's first performance in Uganda since relocating to the United States.

Katumwa will share the stage with Grammy-winning saxophonist Kirk Whalum and Shake Mayanja and the Black Roots Academy of Soul.

**Early bird tickets** are available for UGX 250,000

**Gate tickets** will be at UGX 300,000

*Compiled by Githa Ogume*



## How AI Can Transform Uganda's Future And Empower Its Youth

By Ronnie Ogwang (CEO) and Kato Steven Mubiru (CTO) of the Criteria AI Founding Team



Historically, Uganda's economy was centered around the cultivation of cash crops such as coffee, tea and cotton. In recent decades, however, the country has expanded into manufacturing and services, contributing to overall economic growth.

As Uganda continues to modernize, the country now stands at the threshold of new opportunities in the tech sector, with AI emerging as a key driver of this transformation. AI is rapidly changing industries worldwide, ushering in an era of automation and enhanced intelligence.

Central to this revolution are AI agents advanced software systems capable of learning, reasoning, and problem-solving. Powered by machine learning models, these agents perform tasks once requiring human intervention, such as coding, analyzing complex data, and powering virtual assistants.

### The Advent of OpenAI's o3 Model

A significant milestone in AI development is OpenAI's o3 model, which scored 75.7% on the ARC-AGI Semi-Private Evaluation set. This model demonstrates near-human-level capabilities in reasoning and problem-solving. AI systems powered by models like o3 can revolutionize multiple sectors, enhancing productivity, assisting in research, and performing complex tasks in fields such as healthcare, finance, and more. As AI technologies evolve, their impact on the future of work becomes even more significant.

### Impact on Uganda's Youth

With over 75% of Uganda's population under the age of 30, AI presents both opportunities and challenges for young people. On one hand, AI opens new career paths in programming, data science, machine learning, and AI ethics, allowing Ugandan youth to take the lead in technological innovation.

The country's growing tech hubs are well-positioned to leverage AI to address local challenges, such as improving agricultural productivity and healthcare. On the other hand, AI's automation capabilities threaten jobs in sectors like manufacturing and customer service. Additionally, the rapid pace of AI development is outpacing educational institutions' ability to update curricula, leaving many young people unprepared for the demands of an AI-driven economy.



### Educational Reforms and Policy Initiatives

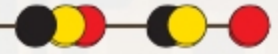
To capitalize on AI's potential, Uganda must prioritize educational reforms. Integrating AI-focused courses into curricula and emphasizing STEM education from an early age is essential. The government should also foster an AI-friendly ecosystem by supporting startups through grants and incentives. Strong regulatory frameworks are needed to ensure ethical AI deployment, addressing concerns like data privacy and algorithmic bias.

### Conclusion

AI has the potential to reshape Uganda's economic landscape, offering vast opportunities for its youth. By investing in education, fostering innovation, and implementing forward-thinking policies, Uganda can harness AI to create a more inclusive future for all.







## Uganda's Creative Economy Meets Global Trade in a Bold Discussion

By Christiana Ampeire

The Bold Woman Fund, East Africa Arts, and Bold in Africa, in partnership with the British Council under the Creative DNA Programme, hosted an E-Commerce Panel Discussion on "Navigating the Barriers to E-Commerce Trade in Uganda" on January 28, 2025, at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel. Rasheeda Nalumoso, Regional Programme Manager at the British Council, highlighted the importance of "supporting the growth of creative businesses." She emphasized e-commerce's role in public diplomacy and business, noting, "Thinking of e-commerce in the broadest sense, from public diplomacy to business, this discussion excites me."



Rasheeda Nalumoso British Council, Regional Programme Manager

The discussions, moderated by Bold in Africa's co-founder and managing director, Nunu Mugenyi, featured two panels. Panel One included Juliana Nasasira, founder of Kwesh; Steven Kateihwaho, Commercial Manager at DHL Uganda; and Rachel Bashabe, founder of Veryl Designs.

Ms. Nasasira shared how she successfully launched her store during the May 2021 COVID-19 lockdown after pausing an earlier website. She overcame payment challenges using WIX's direct payment system but faced raw material shortages and difficulty finding skilled tailors.

Mr. Kateihwaho cited logistics as Uganda's biggest e-commerce challenge. "To address high shipping costs, we have designed green boxes tailored to fashion logistics," he said, urging entrepreneurs to implement return policies and leverage creative hubs like MoTIV.



Juliana Nasasira, Founder Kwesh

Ms. Bashabe switched from Posta Uganda to DHL for faster shipping and advised businesses to conduct dummy runs while focusing on branding and storytelling.

Panel Two featured Margaret Kafeero, Head of Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Uganda; Agaba Collins, Sector Coordinator for Trade, Transport, and Logistics at the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU); and Rachel Bashabe.

Ms. Bashabe called for greater government support for small businesses. "We need to hold policymakers and the British Council accountable, beyond just providing funding," she asserted.

Mr. Collins pointed out PSFU's struggles with high fabric costs due to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) charges, emphasizing the need for financial literacy.



Rachel Bashabe, founder of Veryl Designs.

Ms. Kafeero noted that diplomats are among Uganda's top fashion consumers, as the Ministry promotes Ugandan interests through economic diplomacy. She highlighted initiatives like cultural exhibitions and people-to-people diplomacy.

During COVID-19, Uganda's Mission in Washington, D.C., secured spaces to sell Ugandan products. "We wanted to tell a story, so we focused on bark cloth and Ankole horn, partnering with the African Textile Museum to commission pieces and ship them via DHL," she said.

The exhibition attracted 25,000 visitors, a major milestone. Ms. Kafeero stressed quality control, while Ms. Mugenyi reiterated PSFU's role in economic diplomacy through B2B connections and culture weeks abroad.



Margaret Kafeero, Head of Public Diplomacy

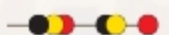
The event concluded with a networking cocktail for creatives and stakeholders.



Nunu Mugenyi, co-founder & managing director

“Diplomats are among Uganda's top fashion consumers”

PHOTO CREDIT : Susan Ninyesiga & Okurut Eric as the photographer





## Okere City: Cultural Tourism and Rural Futuristic Experimentation at Its Best



By Ojok Okello, founder and CEO of Okere City

Located in the northern Uganda district of Otuke, Okere City has emerged as a success story of rural futuristic experimentation and cultural experience. Since its inception in 2019, this community-driven initiative has transformed the lives of thousands by blending modern innovation with the preservation of cultural heritage. Recently, Okere City received the prestigious Cultural Experience Tourism Award during the 2024 World Tourism Day celebrations.

Okere City's ecosystem of over 20 community development projects, including community schools for children, elders and youth, as well as a health center, sports clubs, and business initiatives play key roles to support rural revitalization in a village that just fifteen years ago lay in the ruins of devastation brought about by the LRA war.

### Key Attractions and Activities at Okere City.



**The Okere Shea Festival:** As the largest cultural event in the district, the annual Okere Shea Festival attracts up to 10,000 participants.

Visitors can immerse themselves in the celebration of the shea tree—a vital resource for the community—through activities like shea tree planting, learning the art of shea butter production, and enjoying traditional Luo music, dances, and delicacies.

**Luo Cultural Immersion:** Visitors can enjoy Lango traditional dances, listen to folklore storytelling, and even participate in drumming sessions, all while supporting the creative talents of local youth.



### Community Development

**Participation:** Beyond cultural experiences, visitors have the unique opportunity to contribute to Okere City's development projects. Activities include teaching at the community school, engaging with children in creative workshops, or sharing skills in areas like technology or sustainable farming.

### Craft and Culinary Workshops:

Okere City offers visitors a chance to learn traditional skills through craft-making workshops, including sculpting and pottery. Culinary experiences are equally popular, with classes that teach visitors to prepare local dishes using ingredients from the community garden.

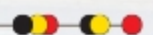
### Historical and Nature Tours:

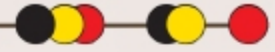
Guided tours around Okere City reveal its rich history and natural beauty.

Visitors learn about the community's resilience during challenging times and explore the semi-arid landscapes that have shaped its identity.

Okere City is more than a destination; it is a movement—one that brings together culture, community, and sustainable development. Whether you're planting trees, teaching eager students, or dancing to the rhythms of the Lango drums, your journey in Okere City will leave you inspired and connected to a community that thrives on innovation and tradition.

You can visit our website via: [www.okerecity.org](http://www.okerecity.org) to find out more about work.





## Brit-Ugandan Completes a 13,000 Km from Cape Town to London

By Mildred Ann Nasirumbi

**London** – A British-Ugandan man has accomplished an extraordinary feat by becoming the first person to run from Cape Town in South Africa to London, completing a challenging 13,000km (8,200 mile) journey. Deo Kato embarked on this remarkable journey to raise awareness about racism and successfully reached the finish line in Downing Street after running through 15 countries over a period of 518 days. Along the way, he faced various obstacles including illnesses, visa challenges, and even a stint in prison, highlighting the arduous nature of his epic adventure. Despite his run advocating for pro-migration sentiments, Deo Kato revealed that he encountered racial abuse in parts of Europe, shedding light on the negative perceptions surrounding migration.

He expressed concerns over the current portrayals of migrants and emphasized the historical benefits that migrants have brought to society. Motivated by his experiences of racism, Deo Kato initiated the 'Running for Justice' movement, emphasizing the emotional and physical challenges he encountered during his run. Despite moments of doubt and physical exhaustion, he found strength in the support of those who rallied behind him, encouraging him to persevere.

Setting off from Cape Town in July 2023, Deo Kato navigated through war zones in his journey north, facing conflicts in regions such as the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and northern Ethiopia. His passage through southern Europe presented additional difficulties, with instances of being filmed and reported to the police. Reflecting on his challenging experiences, Deo Kato shared updates on his running journey through dramatic images on his Instagram page, showcasing his resilience in scaling mountains and camping in remote terrain. Upon reaching London, he was greeted by a warm reception from friends, family, well-wishers, and his partner, Alice Light, at the finish line.

Deo Kato expressed his belief that his efforts, alongside others dedicated to combating racial discrimination, are laying the groundwork for future generations to continue striving towards a world free from racial prejudice.



## Ruto and Museveni Inaugurate the 20,000-Seat Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Stadium in Kenya.

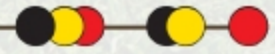


**Nairobi** – Presidents William Ruto and Yoweri Museveni officially inaugurated the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Stadium in Siaya County, western Kenya. The event also featured a friendly match between Kenya's most successful soccer club, Gor Mahia, and Uganda's Kitara FC. The Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Stadium, a FIFA-standard facility with a seating capacity of 20,000, is set to transform the sports scene in western Kenya. Designed to host top-tier competitions, the stadium features an eight-lane athletics track, VIP lounges, floodlights, and a secure perimeter.

President Ruto stated that they are extending their efforts beyond national borders to promote multinational sports competitions, aiming to foster cross-border harmony, encourage talent exchange, and enhance regional integration. In his address following the football match at the stadium, President Museveni urged the youth to enjoy playing football while also remembering that the key to escaping poverty lies in engaging with the four sectors of wealth creation: commercial agriculture, industry, services, and ICT. He later congratulated Gor Mahia FC for their victory and Kitara FC for their spirited performance, which pushed the game to a penalty shootout that ended 9-8 in favor of Gor Mahia.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community Affairs, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, and former Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga also attended the event.





## Uganda Cubs Triumph in 2025 AFCON U-17 Qualifiers, CECAFA Zone

By Herbert Ssekatawa



Uganda U17 team players celebrate on the podium at Hamz Stadium, Kampala.

Uganda's U-17 national team demonstrated resilience and determination to secure a 2-1 victory over Tanzania in the final of the CAF U-17 Africa Cup of Nations CECAFA Qualifiers at Hamza Stadium. Tanzania took the lead first, with Abel Josiah Samson scoring in the 11th minute, giving them a 1-0 advantage at halftime. However, Uganda came out stronger in the second half, applying relentless pressure that resulted in an equalizer in the 64th minute, with Arafat Nkoola finding the net, assisted by Elvis Toorach.

In the dying moments, as the game seemed destined for penalties, James Bogere sealed the victory for The Cubs by capitalizing on Isima Magala's precise assist.

The Cubs' triumph highlights their growing dominance in regional football and solidifies their position among the elite teams in their age category. Striker James Bogere, who scored seven goals during the tournament, was the top scorer, while midfielder Abubakali Walusimbi was named the best player of the tournament. Tanzania was awarded the Fair Play Award for their sportsmanship, while Tanzanian goalkeeper Abraham Nassoro was named the Best Goalkeeper of the tournament.

Both Uganda and Tanzania showcased remarkable skill and determination throughout the competition, earning their spots in the 2025 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations finals in Morocco. Both Uganda and Tanzania will represent the CECAFA region at the 2025 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco, which is scheduled to take place from March 30 to April 19, 2025. The tournament highlighted exceptional young talent, providing a glimpse of the future stars of African football.



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

By Herbert Ssekatawa

**Ocenia** - Uganda's U-17 Women's National Team advanced to the second round of the 2025 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup Qualifiers with a dominant 8-1 victory over Namibia on Sunday at Hamz Stadium, Nakivubo. This sealed an overwhelming 18-1 aggregate win after their 10-0 triumph in the first leg.

Uganda took the lead in the 15th minute through an own goal by Namibia's Renalda Angel Tamara. Joan Kizza Namulindwa doubled the lead in the 35th minute, followed by Isabella Blick's close-range tap-in a minute later.

In the second half, Namulindwa struck again just a minute after the restart and completed her hat-trick in the 50th minute. Rinah Ariho added a sixth in the 53rd minute, while Nabirye and Nakalema sealed Uganda's dominance in the final 20 minutes. Namibia's Shiwovanhu Haukongo scored a consolation goal in the 68th minute.

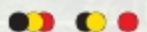
Uganda's clinical finishing and depth were on full display as they cruised into the second round. They now face Kenya in March, aiming to extend their strong form and keep their World Cup dream alive.



Rinah Ariho scores for Uganda a 6th goal in the u17 FIFA Women's World Cup qualifiers of the first leg.



The Uganda u17 ready for their 1st leg clash at Hamz stadium Nakivubo.



# Spotlight Photo



Deputy Chief of Protocol Sarah Nakamya, Head of IPC Steven Ssenabulya, and Chief of Protocol Amb. Charles Ssentongo pose for a group photo after receiving medals at the 39th NRM Liberation Day celebrations.



**Follow the conversation:**



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kampala**