

# Diplomatic Notes

● ● ● ● ● ● Ministry of Foreign Affairs E-Newsletter



REPUBLIC OF KOREA & REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

## THE CITRUS MODEL VILLAGE



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President Museveni Champions Wetland Conservation **05**
- Inaugural Uganda-France Investment, Conference Kicks Off In Paris. **14**
- Jacob Kiplimo Breaks Half Marathon World Record with Stunning Performance. **33**



**30**

### Arts & Culture

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



**18**

### Uganda's Missions

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



**04**



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



This issue was produced with Generous Support from **Uganda High Commission Pretoria**



## HEY, DEAR ESTEEMED READERS



DEAR ESTEEMED READERS

Welcome to yet another issue of Diplomatic Notes.

We extend our heartfelt wishes to all Muslim and Christian faithful for a blessed Ramadan and Lent season. The February issue is one roller-coaster of events, as the beginning of year shifts gears in the Foreign Service. Our tete-à-tete section covers the joint EAC and SADC Summit that took place in Dar-Es-Salaam, a buzz of activity, from working visits to EU investor visits, to the UN and the AU.

Dig into our Green Corner to discover the Humble Beeing Honey company as they develop amazing single origin flavor-infused honey in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. We encourage you to be adventurous and taste their Orange, Lemon, Vanilla, Garlic, Rosemary or Scotch-bonnet Chilli Pepper-infused honey.

It has been a whirlwind month for our Missions handling Economic and Commercial Diplomacy and diaspora issues, with our UAE, Paris, Washington, D.C, New Delhi, Copenhagen and Geneva Missions engaging in tourism, trade and investment front. While in the bilateral space we hear from our Mission in Abuja, as they receive visitors from Uganda's Parliament.

Need your document certified at the MoFA? The La-Vie-Sociale section breaks down for you the essential tips for fast document certification and for Ugandan Passport holders bitten by the travel bug, we give you a quick guide to visa-free countries.

In creative economy we shine a spotlight on the talented designer Godfrey Katende, putting Uganda on the global stage as he blends cultural heritage, sustainability and social impact.

AI is all the rage and we shall not be left behind. Explore the relationship between Film and Tourism by taking a Virtual Reality (VR) journey and encounter, capturing the legacy of the Batwa in "Keepers of the Forest"

Our Sports Diplomacy pages will have you on the edge of your seat as our fellow flag-bearers scale new heights to showcase Uganda's excellent sportsmanship. As February comes to an end and roasts us with its notoriously high temperatures, I encourage you to pour a cold glass of your favorite beverage and read on!

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

DIPLOMATIC  
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL  
FEATURE  
STORY



UGANDA  
MISSIONS  
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE







## Managing Editor

Jeremiah Guma  
Connie Nuwagaba

## Content Direction

Susan Okodi  
Machel Kategaya  
Moses Syahuka Bwambale  
Moses Balinda

## Art Direction

Christiana Ampeire

## Photographers

Fahad Mugga  
Denis Mulima

## Contributing Writers

Githa Ogume  
Herbert Ssekatawa  
Owen Benjamin Lekuni  
Winnie Adile  
Amiri Wabusimba  
Mildred Anne Nasirumbi  
Sylvia Namale

To contribute articles  
to the E-newsletter, email  
[editor@mofa.go.ug](mailto:editor@mofa.go.ug)

— “ —

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

— ” —



*Humble Beeing is a Ugandan-owned social enterprise dedicated to producing premium-quality specialty raw honey, infused honey, and handcrafted beeswax candles. Committed to sustainability and excellence, we bring you the finest natural products straight from the hive.*

**For more information, connect with us:**

✉ Email: [obayadevops@gmail.com](mailto:obayadevops@gmail.com) |  
[obaya@humble-beeing.com](mailto:obaya@humble-beeing.com)  
🌟 Instagram: [@Humble\\_Beeing\\_ug](https://www.instagram.com/Humble_Beeing_ug)

[Learn more](#)





## President Museveni Attends EAC AND SADC Summit to Tackle DRC Conflict.

**Dar es Salaam** – The Joint Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) convened in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on February 8 2025, to find possible solutions for the peace and stability of the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), which is currently engaged in armed conflict. In attendance were His Excellency, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo; His Excellency, Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa; His Excellency, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia; His Excellency, Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda; His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia.

The Summit was attended by various Heads of State and Government, representatives, and officials from EAC, SADC, and the African Union Commission. During her opening remarks, President Samia emphasized that dialogue is the best way to achieve lasting peace and security in the DRC. She stated that all parties should be engaged in peace dialogue and mediation to find possible solutions to the situation in the DRC.

Speaking at the meeting, the EAC Chairman and President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. William Ruto, reiterated calls to the parties in the conflict. “We stand together to call on all parties to actualize the ceasefire; and specifically, on the M23 to halt further advancements, and the armed forces of the DRC, to cease all retaliatory measures. An immediate ceasefire is the only way by which we can create the necessary conditions for constructive dialogue and the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement,” he said. The Summit acknowledged the deteriorating security situation in Eastern DRC, resulting in loss of lives and suffering, particularly among women and children.

For his part, the SADC Chairperson and the President of Zimbabwe, H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, urged the meeting to develop a comprehensive strategy to resolve the long-standing conflict in the DRC, noting that its impact has not only affected the well-being of the DRC but also the entire EAC and SADC. Concern was raised over attacks on diplomatic missions and embassies in Kinshasa, urging the DRC government to ensure protection.

The Summit acknowledged the deteriorating security situation in Eastern DRC, resulting in loss of lives, humanitarian crises, and suffering, particularly among women and children. Concern was raised over attacks on diplomatic missions and embassies in Kinshasa, urging the DRC government to ensure protection.



Emphasis was placed on cessation of hostilities, restoration of essential utilities, and peaceful resolution through the Luanda/Nairobi process. Political and diplomatic engagement was identified as the most sustainable solution to the conflict. The EAC-SADC CDFs were directed to meet within five days to provide technical guidance on an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, security planning for Goma, reopening of supply routes and Goma Airport, and other key interventions. Additional facilitators from other African regions would be appointed to support the merged process.



The Summit called for direct negotiations under the Luanda/Nairobi framework, implementing CONOPS to neutralize FDLR, and disengaging Rwandan forces from the DRC. An EAC-SADC Ministerial Meeting was to review the ceasefire report, establish coordination, and develop a peace roadmap. It reaffirmed DRC’s sovereignty and mandated annual or as-needed consultations on regional security.

*Compiled by Githa Ogume*





## Tête-à-Tête

### President Museveni Courts European Investors, Champions Wetland Conservation

Compiled by Githa Ogume

**Ntungamo** - Speaking at State Lodge Irenga in Ntungamo District, President Museveni expressed concern over Europe's dwindling investment footprint in Africa, contrasting it with the rising influence of Chinese investors. "What happened to our relatives, the Europeans? Why don't they come and invest?" he remarked, highlighting Africa's projected population growth of 2.5 billion in the next 30 years as a lucrative market opportunity. President Museveni also praised European ventures already established in Uganda, including liquid coffee production, avocado exports, and medical waste solutions, pledging government support to bolster these investments.



President Museveni(C) together with H.E. Jan Sadek, Ambassador of the EU to Uganda (L) together with the EU envoy during their visit at the State Lodge in Irenga Ntungamo.

He also unveiled a strategic plan to restore degraded wetlands by relocating farmers to the peripheries for sustainable fish farming, before criticizing swamp rice cultivation for harming the Nile River's tributaries. President Museveni further reiterated his commitment to fostering foreign investments that contribute to Uganda's economic development while ensuring environmental sustainability. On the other hand, the investors welcomed President Museveni's call for stronger economic ties.

Mr. Nico Van Vliet, representing the Uganda Flowers Exporters Association, noted, "We see great potential for growth, not only in the European Union but also in regional markets like Kenya and Ethiopia. We are committed to contributing more to Uganda's economy." Mr. Eric de Waan, from Yalelo Uganda highlighted the vast potential in aquaculture. "Uganda has the best conditions for fish farming, especially in Lake Victoria. We aim to invest \$5 million annually to expand operations," he said.

### Uganda and Somalia boost Bilateral Relations through Strategic Security Dialogue

Compiled by Winnie Akidi Adile



President of the Federal Republic of Somalia H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on February 7, 2025 embarked on a one-day official visit to Uganda, invited by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. This visit marked a significant milestone in the ongoing diplomatic engagement between the two nations, following a previous discussion in October 2024 at State Lodge, Nakasero. During this meeting, the two leaders examined key bilateral, regional, and international issues, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening cooperation across various domains. The high-level discussions were attended by key Ugandan officials, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon. Gen. Jeje Odongo and Minister of State for Veteran Affairs, Huda Oleru, highlighting Uganda's strategic interest in deepening diplomatic and security ties with Somalia. The visit reflects Uganda's role as a critical partner in the broader efforts to stabilize the Horn of Africa.

President Museveni praised President Mohamud and Somalia for their resilience and progress in governance and security despite challenges. He praised Somalia's efforts to stabilize the nation and praised Uganda's support, particularly its contributions to AMISOM since 2007. The leaders discussed regional security and the need for continued collaboration to maintain peace and stability in the Horn of Africa. They honored the sacrifices of Troop and Police Contributing Countries in combating terrorism and reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to strengthening its partnership with Somalia.





## UN Resident Coordinator Applauds Uganda’s Commitment to Peace and Development



**Kampala** – UN Resident Coordinator H.E. Mr. Leonard Zulu paid a courtesy call on Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry headquarters in Kampala. During the meeting, Mr. Zulu expressed his gratitude to the Government of Uganda for its crucial role in facilitating the safe transit of UN personnel and their families from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly from Goma, Bukavu, North Kivu, and South Kivu. He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for expediting all necessary clearances and authorizations, ensuring the seamless processing of over 4,000 transits without any complications.

During the meeting, Mr. Zulu expressed his gratitude to the Government of Uganda for its crucial role in facilitating the safe transit of UN personnel and their families from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly from Goma, Bukavu, North Kivu, and South Kivu. He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for expediting all necessary clearances and authorizations, ensuring the seamless processing of over 4,000 transits without any complications. "Seeing our colleagues arrive in one piece, processed and safe, was a moment of immense relief," remarked H.E. Zulu. He acknowledged security measures in place, including escort services and border coordination, ensuring the safety of UN staff and their dependents. In response, Hon. Odongo reaffirmed Uganda’s humanitarian commitment, emphasizing the nation’s Ubuntu philosophy, which underpins its open-door policy for refugees. He stated that as part of a shared humanity, it is essential to ensure the safety and well-being of others. He also expressed hope for strengthened international collaboration to prevent further humanitarian crises, particularly in Eastern DRC.

The discussion also underscored Uganda’s pivotal role at both the regional and global levels, particularly as the host of the world’s largest refugee population—a number that could soon reach 2.2 million due to the ongoing crisis in the DRC, with over 1,000 new arrivals daily. H.E. Zulu highlighted the challenges posed by a worsening food crisis, exacerbated by the World Food Program’s reduction in support, which has led to severe food insecurity among many refugees. The UN Resident Coordinator commended Uganda’s diplomatic efforts in preparation for the upcoming Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, highlighting an innovative proposal for a presidential dialogue on the final stretch of Agenda 2030.

UN Resident H.E. Zulu reaffirmed the UN system’s commitment to supporting Uganda’s National Development Plan (NDP IV), which aims to mobilize \$158 billion for the country’s development through contributions from the government, private sector, and development partners. In conclusion, H.E. Zulu, on behalf of the 29 UN agencies operating in Uganda, expressed gratitude for the Ministry’s continued support in facilitating their work.

He also acknowledged Uganda’s swift and effective response to the Ebola outbreak, commending the Ministry of Health for its instrumental role in leading the national response, with the UN standing in solidarity with Uganda during this critical time.



*UN Resident Coordinator H.E. Mr. Leonard Zulu discussing with Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

**Compiled by Christiana Ampeire**





### Uganda, IGAD discuss Emergency Response Strategies for Mpox and Ebola

*Compiled by Githa Ogume*

A delegation from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Regional Pandemic Preparedness and Response (PREPARE) Project met with Uganda’s Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Vincent Bagiiire, and other senior officials to discuss collaborative efforts in combating Mpox and Ebola.

The IGAD PREPARE team was led by Mr. Mubarak Mabuya, Chief of Staff and Interim Director for Health and Social Development, who represented IGAD Executive Secretary H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu.



He was accompanied by Dr. Fatuma Adan, the Head of Mission to Kenya and Head of the IGAD PREPARE Project. During the meeting, Mr. Mabuya outlined the PREPARE Project’s objectives, emphasizing its role in enhancing Uganda’s emergency response capacity for Mpox while also supporting broader pandemic preparedness measures. Dr. Fatuma Adan further highlighted that the project focuses on strengthening regional laboratory and surveillance systems, workforce development, and cross-border collaboration under the One Health framework.

Mr. Bagiiire welcomed IGAD’s intervention, recognizing its alignment with Uganda’s national health priorities and emphasizing the importance of regional cooperation in pandemic response. He also called on IGAD and other development partners to mobilize additional resources to ensure equal attention to all IGAD member states, given the complexities of cross-border movements, international travel, and trade in the region. The meeting also served as an opportunity to update the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the progress and impact of the PREPARE Project, which is supported by the Pandemic Fund and the World Bank Africa.

Uganda remains a key player in regional health security, and partnerships such as this reinforce efforts to strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms against emerging health threats.

### PM Nabbanja Updates Press on 11th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development.

*Compiled by Herbert Ssekatawa*

Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda announced that Uganda was selected to host the 11th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), scheduled to take place from April 9-11, 2025, at Speke Resort Munyonyo. Uganda is the Chair of the 6th RMFM after taking over from the Federal Republic of Ethiopia late last year. The event will be held under the theme: “Driving Job Creation and Economic Growth through Sustainable, Inclusive, Science- and Evidence-Based Solutions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.”

She stated that the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) is an annual intergovernmental platform jointly convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the host government, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and various United Nations system organizations. Hon. Nabbanja stated that the forum will bring together over 1,500 participants, including Heads of State, former Heads of State, Ministers, policymakers, and experts from across Africa and beyond.

story continues to next page



# Tête-à-Tête

## story continues from previous page

The forum will be preceded by pre-events from April 6 to 8, 2025. Side events and exhibitions will also take place alongside the main segment, scheduled for April 9 to 11, 2025. The main segment will feature an official opening by the President of Uganda.

The Prime Minister shared the expected outcomes of the forum, which include achieving consensus on Africa’s priorities, following up on the Summit of the Future, and contributing Africa’s input to the Second World Summit on Social Development. Additionally, the forum aims to strengthen the capacity of countries conducting voluntary national reviews in 2025, enabling them to carry out their reviews and present their findings at the 2025 High-Level Political Forum.



*Hon. Prime Minister, Robinah Nabanja and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Cooperation, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello signing and exchanging the MoU at Office of the Prime Minister.*

She also emphasized that the forum will equip members of the ECA, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, and development partners with the knowledge, skills, tools, and resources necessary to advance both agendas. It will enhance commitments and momentum to boost economic growth and job creation, while fostering new and strengthening existing multi-level partnerships to mobilize and deliver coordinated, robust support.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister expressed her gratitude to the Government of Uganda, all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, the Economic Commission for Africa, led by Executive Secretary Claver Gatete, as well as partners such as the United Nations, the Local Development Partners Group, Civil Society Organizations, and the Private Sector for the progress made so far in preparing for the forum. She also called on more stakeholders to join and support the preparations for the 11th session of the ARFSD.

## Hon. Okello Oryem Holds Diplomatic Talks With Amb. Johan Borgstam, EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region

*Compiled by Jeremiah Guma*



*Hon. Okello Oryem, Minister of State for International Affairs(R), together with Ambassador Johan Borgstam, the European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region(C) and H.E. Jan Sadek, Ambassador of the EU to Uganda.(L)*

Hon. Okello Oryem, Minister of State for International Affairs, held a constructive meeting with Ambassador Johan Borgstam, the European Union Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, at the Ministry’s Boardroom on February 18, 2025.

The high-level dialogue provided a valuable forum for the exchange of views on pivotal regional issues. Both officials underscored the importance of enhanced cooperation and dialogue in addressing shared challenges and advancing the prospects of peace, stability, and sustainable development within the Great Lakes Region.

During the meeting, Minister Oryem reaffirmed Uganda’s commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties and pursuing mutually beneficial initiatives with international partners. Ambassador Borgstam echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the European Union’s readiness to collaborate closely with Uganda and its neighbors in promoting regional integration and collective security.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains dedicated to fostering an environment of open and constructive engagement, which is essential to addressing regional dynamics and promoting shared interests on both the continental and global stages.





## Mesob Digital Community Radio Launches to Unite the Horn of Africa.

Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



**UIA Director General Robert Mukiza(1L), MFA/ IA Hon Oryem Henry Okello(2L) and H.E. Etsegenet Yimenu, the Ethiopian Ambassador to Uganda.**

Boosting regional connectivity, Mesob, an East African digital community radio station, was officially launched in Uganda on February 7, 2025. The ceremony was graced by Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Affairs, who acknowledged the vital contributions of East Africans residing in Uganda to the country's development. The launch of Mesob online community radio station marks a notable investment by the Ethiopian Diaspora in Uganda. H.E. Etsegenet Yimenu, the Ethiopian Ambassador to Uganda, emphasized the importance of Mesob live radio in uniting and celebrating the diverse connections of the Horn of Africa's people. Mesob's launch comes at a time when regional integration and cooperation are gaining momentum.

The East African Community (EAC), comprising eight member states, has been working towards fostering economic integration and cooperation. The EAC's efforts have led to the creation of a common market, allowing for the free movement of goods, services, and people. The launch of Mesob digital community radio station is a testament to the growing ties between East African nations. As the region continues to strive for greater integration and cooperation, initiatives like Mesob will play a vital role in promoting cultural exchange, understanding, and unity. By providing a platform for East Africans to share their stories, experiences, and perspectives, Mesob is poised to become a powerful tool for promoting regional cohesion and identity.

## Uganda unites to Celebrate Japanese Emperor's Birthday.

Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi

The Ambassador of Japan to Uganda, H.E. Sasayama Takuya hosted the Japanese Emperor's Birthday at his residence on February 20, 2025 with Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Cooperation as the guest of honour. In his remarks, H.E. Sasayama underscored the strong bilateral ties between Uganda and Japan, highlighting economic cooperation, including the newly constructed Nile Bridge in Jinja. Funded by Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the bridge has improved mobility and eased traffic congestion in eastern and central Uganda.



Hon. Oryem expressed gratitude for Japan's support, emphasizing the bridge's role in boosting regional development, trade, and connectivity across the Nile. He lauded Japan's contributions to Uganda's infrastructure, energy, and healthcare sectors, including investments in urban mobility projects, Kivu House, Garene City Junction, and advancements at Mulago and Lira Regional Rehabilitation Hospitals. Trade and economic ties have also strengthened through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), where Uganda's Vice President and Speaker of Parliament engaged in discussions on investment and mutual interests.

Recognizing Japan as a key investor, the ambassador highlighted growing Japanese business presence in Uganda, with companies such as Saraya East Africa, Adaraki Chocolates, Korea Made, Soltico Uganda, and 3WM Uganda Limited contributing to the country's development. Uganda remains open to Japanese businesses exploring opportunities in tourism, energy, technology, and agro-industry. The evening concluded with a toast to the enduring diplomatic partnership, the good health of Emperor Naruhito, and the continued prosperity of both nations.





# UAE's BEEAH Group Explores Sustainability Partnerships in Uganda.

----- *Compiled by Muna Abdunasir, Third Secretary, IEC*



*Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja(C) together with Hon. Dr. Musenero Monica, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation(2R) and the BEEAH Group Delegates in a group photo.*

**Sharjah-** In a significant move to bolster Uganda's sustainability efforts, a high-level delegation from BEEAH Group, a leading UAE-based sustainability and digital transformation company, visited the country on February 24, 2025.

Led by Dr. Puneet Sarna, Executive Director of Operational Excellence and Expansion, the delegation met with government officials and agencies to explore strategic partnerships in waste management, renewable energy, and smart city solutions.

BEEAH Group's expertise in AI-driven sustainability solutions, smart waste management systems, and clean energy initiatives is expected to enhance Uganda's environmental landscape. The collaboration aims to promote clean energy adoption, create green jobs, and support the country's environmental goals.

The visit marked a significant step toward a more sustainable and technologically advanced future for Uganda. As the country seeks to mitigate the impacts of climate change, BEEAH Group's innovative solutions are poised to play a crucial role.

By partnering with BEEAH Group, Uganda is poised to make significant strides in its sustainability journey, leveraging the company's expertise to create a greener, more environmentally conscious future. This collaboration has the potential to serve as a model for other African countries seeking to advance their sustainability agendas.



*Ugandan Delegation during their interaction with the BEEAH Group.*

BEEAH Group, established in 2007, is a public-private organization committed to pioneering sustainable quality of life across the Middle East. Headquartered in the UAE, with operations extending to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, BEEAH focuses on five critical sectors: Environment, Energy, Technology, Healthcare, and Real Estate.

The group's diverse services include waste management and recycling, renewable energy, environmental consulting, digital transformation, and green mobility solutions. Through these initiatives, BEEAH aims to drive sustainability and digitalization, shaping future-ready cities and economies.

**For more information about BEEAH Group, Click [here](#) to follow**





# Humble Beeing Honey: Nurturing Lives through Beekeeping

Compiled by *Christiana Ampeire*

Humble Beeing is a social-enterprise that produces Speciality Raw Honey, Infused Honey and Beeswax candles. Their mission is to help improve lives through beekeeping by giving fair prices and market access. They have been in operation for 3 years now, run 2 apiaries of their own and also purchase from women's groups and small-holder farmers in West Nile. Following an in-depth interview with Diplomatic Notes', Obaya Dralega, the founder of this remarkable brand, shares his inspiring journey of growth, impact, and success.



*L-R Beekeeping 1: Beehive inspection in Lwamata Apiary, Kiboga District. | Beekeeping 2: Obaya, the founder, holds up white-capped honeycomb - Lwamata Apiary, Kiboga | Beekeeping 3: Obaya Distributes beekeeping equipment in Yumbe*

## 1. What inspired you to start Humble Beeing Honey, and what sets your honey apart from others in the market?

Before I started Humble Beeing, I worked as a Software Developer for an investment bank in London. I had been there for 5 years and was just promoted. During Covid lockdowns I had a lot of time to think about what I wanted to do in life, and realised that I was unfulfilled, burnt-out and depressed. I missed Uganda, my family and wanted to have a purpose beyond making more money for faceless shareholders. I was sure there was another way to live and do business.

I wanted to build a brand that could stand proudly beside international competitors on global shelves, and show that Uganda has some of the best produce in the world, but also build a business model that was positive and sustainable at its core and didn't rely on charity to help the community or have an impact. Our honey is different primarily due to the care we take in sourcing, harvesting and processing the honey. We source from areas that have great natural forage and are free from pesticide use. We used trained beekeepers for harvesting the honeycomb, which sort/grade the honey properly. Then we process the honeycomb from each region manually, never mixing honey regions and hand-selecting and processing the best comb.

We process without using any heat (Raw honey) and minimal filtration to ensure all the health benefits, and unique regional characteristics of the honey are maintained. This care gives a noticeable difference in quality and makes each batch unique.

To add value and further differentiate ourselves, we also then infuse our Grade A honey with natural ingredients such as Vanilla Beans, Orange, Lemon, Rosemary, Garlic and Scotch Bonnet Chilli Pepper, to make healthy, gourmet treats, packaged well in premium materials.

## 2. How does your brand contribute to sustainability and environmental conservation?

**Sustainability:** We use recyclable packaging materials (glass jars and recycled paper boxes and bags) and our hives are made of local wood and aluminum which can be repurposed.

**Environmental Conservation:** Through promotion of beekeeping activities and community education we aim to reduce the number of trees being cut for firewood/charcoal, primarily the Shea tree. When alternative and accessible methods of income generation are presented, we believe that fewer trees will be cut down needlessly. Also by having an apiary nearby, all flowering plants in the vicinity are pollinated which contributes to food security, biodiversity and ecosystem balance.

## 3. What challenges have you faced in honey production, and how have you navigated them?

At one of our apiaries, Pesticide use at a neighbouring farm was killing our bees and reducing the amount of honey produced. After noticing this over several months, we decided to relocate the hives to our pine forest apiary in Kiboga where they are doing well.

## 4. How do you ensure the quality and authenticity of your honey products?

We only buy from farmers who we have formed a relationship with, also we do not buy processed liquid honey, only comb honey that has been sealed with wax by the bees, this ensures it is authentic honey. We also have a set of SOPs when processing that the staff are trained against, this ensures that quality is maintained.

*Photo Credit: Obaya Dralega.*







**5. Have you formed any partnerships or collaborations that have helped grow Humble Beeing Honey?** Arua Market Women – We partnered with this group to encourage more women to benefit from beekeeping in West Nile, they supplied around 30% of our honey harvest this season. TUNADO ( The Uganda National Apiculture Development Organisation) has been a great help in connecting with other like minded beekeeping entrepreneurs and providing platforms such as National Honey Week. Latitude 0 Hotel – A Great and reliable partner interested in providing premium Ugandan produce for their guests.

**6. What role do you see Humble Beeing Honey playing in the future of Uganda’s honey industry?** In the future I want Uganda to be known for the quality of our honey on the world stage and Humble Beeing as a well known trusted producer, buyer and seller of top-quality honey. I see us hopefully having a wider impact than just the honey industry. Hopefully other Ugandans and those in the diaspora will see us and follow suit in creating strong brands to give our agricultural produce a global name and sell finished, value-added products rather than raw goods.

**7. Can you walk us through your export process? What challenges do you encounter, and how can the Government of Uganda support businesses like yours in expanding to international markets?** We do not yet export, but hope to by the end of 2025. The export process is as follows:

- Obtain a UNBS Q-Mark
- Register with TUNADO
- Submit Honey samples to Department of Entomology
- Obtain a Veterinary Health Certificate
- Contract a Clearing Agent
- Clear Consignment

More details can be found at [ugandatrades.go.ug](http://ugandatrades.go.ug)

The Credit market in Uganda is still underdeveloped, leading to very high fees for loans. To get to quantities of product that are worthwhile to export, large amounts of cash are needed during harvest season. The government could help with Credit facilities and grants for export. Marketing of Uganda as a place with great agriculture as well as great nature for tourism. International Agricultural Trade Fairs to showcase local products to international buyers. Help with local production of high quality packaging materials (Glass Jars).Set up affordable, certified export production centers that have all required facilities available to rent and meaning that any product produced in-house would be eligible for export.

**8. What advice would you give to young entrepreneurs interested in agribusiness?** Work backwards from your market. By this I mean that you should ideally be selling a product before producing it yourself. In the example of honey, before investing in hives and equipment, first look for buyers of honey at a price that will sustain your business long term. Buy the honey inventory from a trusted supplier (margins will be very low here). Build the product and the brand and see how it fits the market (The Product-Market fit is key!).

Once you have then got the business set up, customer demand and revenue/cash flow, then you can go about reducing your honey cost by producing it from your own hives and investing in setting up an apiary. If approached the other way around, and you start with the production, you may be left sitting on a large supply of honey with no one to sell it to for profit. As well as cash flow issues from lack of revenue during the set up time. Be prepared for it to take longer than you expect, but hold on to your integrity and focus on how to give value to your customers.

**9. Where can people find your products, and are there any plans for expansion?** We are located at : Le Gourmet Delicatessen (Nsyambya), Yujo Izakaya (Nakasero), Ark Organics (Kololo), 32 Degrees Arts Trust (Kabalagala), Latitude 0 Hotel (Makindye), Karuna Yoga Studio (Naguru), Uganda Duty Free Services (Entebbe Airport). We plan to expand to other hotels, lodges, gift shops and delis across the country in 2025. As well as exporting to the EU.



**Product1:** A range of our Raw honey (Pine, Wild Forest, Shea) candle and giftset | **Product2:** Our Raw Single Origin Honey | **Product3:** Raw infused Orange Honey| **Product4:** Scotch Bonnet Chilli Honey with Pizza| **Product5:** Raw Infused Vanilla Bean Honey with real vanilla pod inside| **Product6:** Luxury Scented Beeswax candle (Lemongrass and Ginger Scent) | **Product7:** A bucket of unprocessed Grade A honeycomb (whitecapped)







*Compiled by Mildred Anne Nasirumbi.*



H. E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda received Letters of Credence from the Ambassador-designate of the Federal Republic of Somalia to Uganda, H.E. Ms. Fardowsa Mohamed Kanyare, and the Ambassador-designate of the Republic of South Sudan, H.E. Paul Akaro Molong on February 18, 2025.



Federal Republic of Somalia's new Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Ms. Fardowsa Mohamed Kanyare presenting her credentials to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda at State House, Entebbe.

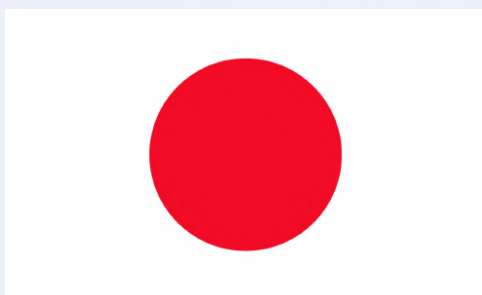


On February 4, 2025, the newly appointed Uganda Country Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) to Uganda, Dr. Kasonde Mwinga presented her Letters of Credence from the UN Secretary-General to Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of International Affairs at the Ministry Headquarters in Kampala, Uganda.

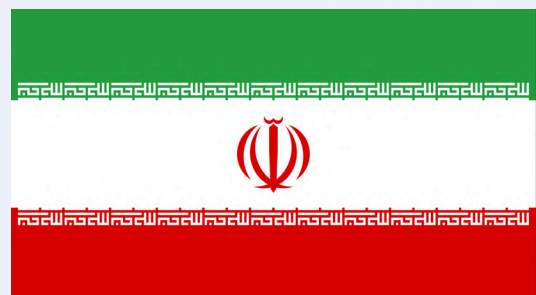


H.E. Paul Akaro Molong, Ambassador Designate of the Republic of South Sudan, formally presented his copies of letters of Credence to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakher, at the Ministry headquarters in Kampala, Uganda on February 14, 2025.

## National Days



National Foundation Day is a public holiday in Japan celebrated on February 11 every year. This commemorated the start of the Japanese empire. The holiday is also known as Kenkoku Kinen no Hi in Japanese.



Iran's National Day is on February 11th, which is the 22nd day of Bahman, the 11th month of the Iranian calendar. This day marks the anniversary of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, which led to the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran.







## Inaugural Uganda-France Investment, Tourism and Trade Conference Kicks Off In Paris.

**Paris** -In another win for Economic and Commercial Diplomacy, the Inaugural Uganda-France Investment, Tourism, and Trade Conference kicked off at the Cercle D'Aumale in Paris from February 17 to 20 2025. The event, a strategic business initiative by the Uganda Embassy in Paris, is intended to enhance economic, trade, and tourism partnerships between Uganda and France. Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Secretary Mr. Bagiire Vincent Waiswa said at the formal opening, that Uganda is strategically positioned, and this gives an opportunity for investment in the key focus areas of agro-industrialisation, tourism infrastructure development, mineral development and Science, Technology, and Innovation development (ATMs), where great concessions are granted by the Government.

He invited attendees to tap into Uganda's favorable business environment including, the year-round conducive climate and fertile soils; abundance of mineral resources, the 300 million population of the East African Community (EAC) and the 600 million population of the Common Market for Eastern Africa (COMESA). Mr. Bagiire emphasized that the Conference provided an opportunity to engage with potential investors from France, Spain and Portugal to which the Uganda Embassy in Paris is accredited, adding that France has already demonstrated goodwill in the intensive level of investment it is putting into the Ugandan economy particularly in the oil and gas sector.



There is a track record of French investment in Uganda, with French companies as the leading private investors. Over 40 French companies are operating in Uganda," he said. Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), Ramathan Ggoobi said that the event was timely since the Government has set out to implement a Ten-fold Growth Strategy whose aim is to expand the economy from \$50 billion in FY 2022/23 to \$500 billion by 2040.

There is a track record of French investment in Uganda, with French companies as the leading private investors. Over 40 French companies are operating in Uganda," he said. Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), Ramathan Ggoobi said that the event was timely since the Government has set out to implement a Ten-fold Growth Strategy whose aim is to expand the economy from \$50 billion in FY 2022/23 to \$500 billion by 2040. . Investment Conferences like the one in Paris would provide an opportunity to highlight Uganda's business reforms. "We are sharing Uganda's recent regulatory improvements, incentives, and infrastructure developments that make us a favorable destination for foreign investors, by lowering the cost of doing business," he said.

UIA Executive Director Robert Mukiiza, flanked by URA Commissioner for Customs, Abel Kagumire expounded on the Government investment and tax incentives available to new investors. CEO of the Uganda Tourism Board, Lilly Ajarova, said that the tourism sector, backed by Uganda's unique wildlife, scenic landscapes, and diverse cultural heritage, offers vast potential for growth. She invited French, Spanish and Portuguese Film industry players to take advantage of the picturesque backdrops and comparatively low cost of labor, to shoot films on location in Uganda.

On the sidelines of the event, the two Permanent Secretaries also met with Executives of TOTAL Energies and discussed the progress of the Tilenga segment of the EACOP project, which is operated by TotalEnergies (56.6%), in partnership with CNOOC and UNOC. Uganda-Tanzania Country Delegate, Mr. Xavier Ecomard said that of the \$10bn USD anticipated investment by TOTAL, at least 18% will directly benefit Ugandan businesses. TOTAL has created 18000 direct jobs and 30,000 indirect jobs on the EACOP project.

-----  
*Compiled by Margaret Kafeero*







## Uganda High Commission New Delhi Promotes Destination Uganda at SATTE 2025

By Moses Syahuka Bwambale

**India** - Building on the success of OTM last month, where Uganda won an award as the Most Promising New Destination, the Uganda High Commission in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Uganda Tourism Board, Uganda Wildlife Authority, and Uganda Airlines, showcased Destination Uganda at SATTE 2025—South East Asia's largest and most influential travel and tourism exhibition—held from February 19th to 21st, 2025, at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre in New Delhi.



**Pictured L-R: Uganda High Commissioner staff together with different SATTE participants | Uganda High Commissioner to New Delhi H.E. Prof Joyce K. Kikafunda delivers gift to one of the SATTE delegates.**

This year's event hosted 2,000 exhibitors and attracted over 40,000 visitors from around the world. A major highlight of Uganda's participation was an invitation to join a panel discussion alongside leading tourism destinations, including the United Kingdom, Qatar, and Taiwan, on the topic: "India on the Move: Cracking the Code of Outbound Growth."

Mr. Stephen Sanyi Masaba, Director of Tourism and Business Development at UWA, positioned Uganda as a unique and exclusive alternative to traditional destinations favored by Indian travelers. He highlighted Gorilla and Chimpanzee tracking, the historic magnificence of the River Nile, and world-class MICE facilities as key attractions. Notably, India has recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals to Uganda for the last two financial years.

## Uganda Coffee Sector Gets Boost with Sucafina Partnership

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni



**Pictured : Group photo of Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi (1R), CEO of Sucafina SA, Mr. Nicolas Tomari (C), Ambassador Arthur Kafeero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Uganda Mission at Geneva(1L) during the consultative meeting in Geneva.**

**Geneva:** In a significant development for Uganda's coffee industry, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. Ramathan Ggoobi met with the CEO of Sucafina SA, Mr. Nicolas Tomari on Wednesday, February 19, 2025.

Sucafina SA, a global leader in coffee exports, sources high quality coffee beans from Uganda, among other countries. During the meeting, Mr. Ggoobi was accompanied by Ambassador Arthur Kafeero, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Uganda Mission at Geneva. However, the discussions centered around enhancing productivity, exports and value addition in Uganda's coffee sector. As the parent company of Uganda Coffee (UGACOF), Sucafina SA's expertise and resources are expected to play a crucial role in driving growth and development in the sector.

This meeting marks a positive step forward for Uganda's coffee industry, which is a key player to the country's economy. With Sucafina SA's involvement, Ugandan coffee farmers and exporters can look forward to improved access to global markets, better prices and enhanced quality standards.







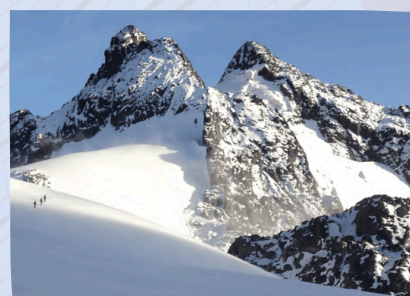
## Uganda's Tourism Potential in Switzerland: A Market Waiting to Be Tapped.

By Amiri Wabusimba

Switzerland, renowned for its precision watches, fine chocolates, and banking prowess, is also home to the most well-traveled population in Europe. With a staggering GDP of \$900 billion and a per capita income of \$99,000—ranking among the highest globally—Switzerland represents a prime market for tourism promotion. Yet, Uganda's presence at the country's biggest travel fair, FESPO Zurich, was barely noticeable, signaling a missed opportunity.

FESPO is an annual exhibition that attracts thousands of travel enthusiasts and exhibitors from around the world, serving as a gateway for destinations seeking to capture Switzerland's lucrative outbound tourism market. This year, among the many African nations aggressively marketing their attractions South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia and Uganda was represented by only one travel agency: Kikooko Africa Safaris.

Kikooko's Managing Director, Warren Rutanga, stood out at the fair, passionately promoting Uganda as a must-visit destination. His booth, buzzing with curious visitors eager to explore the Pearl of Africa, showcased Uganda's breathtaking landscapes—from the misty jungles of Bwindi, home to over 60% of the world's mountain gorillas, to the pristine savannahs of Murchison Falls. However, one enthusiastic exhibitor alone cannot shift Uganda into Switzerland's top travel choices.



To tap into Switzerland's high-spending tourists, Uganda requires a coordinated, government-led strategy. Unlike its competitors, Uganda's tourism promotion remains fragmented, with minimal government and private-sector support at major international fairs. The absence of a robust national representation at FESPO is a stark contrast to countries that have made tourism a key economic driver. If Uganda is serious about becoming a global tourism contender, it must move beyond rhetoric and take decisive action. A joint effort involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Uganda Tourism Board, and private-sector players is essential to push Uganda's tourism narrative. This requires investing in targeted marketing campaigns, organizing roadshows, and ensuring Uganda is prominently featured in international travel media.

Kikooko Africa Safaris has set a commendable precedent, but one agency cannot unlock Uganda's full potential in the Swiss market. It's time for Uganda to elevate its tourism strategy, harnessing the collective power of both the public and private sectors to position itself as a premier destination on the global stage.







 Stanbic Bank

WE  
BELIEVE  
IN **HERE**

**COMMITTED TO UGANDA  
HER PEOPLE AND HER PROSPERITY**

Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited. A Financial Institution regulated by the Bank of Uganda and Customer Deposits are protected by the Deposit Protection Fund of Uganda up to UGX 10 million. Terms & Conditions Apply. License Number A1. 030.







## Uganda Strengthens UAE Ties with Digital Schools MoU at World Governments Summit

*Compiled by Muna Abdunasir, Third Secretary, IEC*



**Prime Minister of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja (2L), and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs), Hon. Henry Oryem Okello (1L), alongside a delegation from Dubai at the World Governments Summit.**

**Dubai** - At the World Governments Summit in Dubai, themed "Shaping Future Governments," Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja conveyed President Yoweri Museveni's message. Hon. Nabbanja discussed Uganda's strategies for sustainability and green economic initiatives amid global environmental challenges. She emphasized President Museveni's call for major greenhouse gas emitters to adopt clean energy practices. The Prime Minister highlighted that Uganda has implemented policies aimed at enhancing the country's socio-economic transformation.

Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Digital Schools with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the World Governments Summit.

This agreement marked a significant step in the collaborative efforts between Uganda and the UAE in education and technology. The initiative aims to expand digital schools across sub-Saharan Africa, improving access to quality education and fostering digital literacy.

The UAE's expertise in digital education will complement Uganda's commitment to improving its education system, creating a more inclusive learning environment for students. This initiative is part of the UAE's broader education support efforts, notably through the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives.

The signing of this MoU reinforces the growing cooperation between Uganda and the UAE, following previous agreements, including an MoU on experience exchange signed in February 2024. Later, Rt. Hon. Nabbanja inspected the Ugandan coffee exhibition at the World Trade Center in Dubai, emphasizing that while Uganda's coffee is of the highest quality, it requires aggressive promotion to capture the global market.

Additionally, during the summit, Uganda's Citrus Model Village received the Global Future Fit Seal Award, recognizing government projects that promote future readiness. The Citrus Model Village, a collaboration between Uganda and South Korea, was chosen from over 200 projects for its use of cutting-edge agricultural technology to enhance crop yield. Hon. Okello Oryem received the award on behalf of Uganda.

Rt. Hon. Nabbanja was accompanied by various officials, including Minister for Public Service Muruli Mukasa, Minister for General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister Kasule Lumumba, State Minister for Environment Beatrice Anywar, State Minister for Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Aber Lillian, and Uganda's Ambassador to the UAE Zaake Kibedi.

The World Governments Summit explores the agenda of the next generation of governments, focusing on harnessing innovation and technology to solve humanity's universal challenges. This organisation was established in 2013 under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. Since then, the organization and its leadership has continued to champion the mission of shaping future governments and creating a better future for humanity. Working together with its community of partners and members, the Summit has successfully established a new model for international collaboration to inspire and enable the next generation of governments.

To learn more about the World Governments Summit; <https://www.worldgovernmentssummit.org/about>







## Chargé d'Affaires Delivers Goodwill Message at Ugandan Parliament Capacity Building Workshop Opening Ceremony in Abuja

By Ambassador Philip Ochen Odida

**Abuja** - A group of Parliamentarians from the Budget Committee were in Abuja, Nigeria on February 11, 2025 to attend a Capacity Building Programme for Members of the Ugandan Parliament, held at the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS).

The NILDS, established in 2011, serves as a knowledge hub for the Nigerian National Assembly. Over the years, it has played a key role in building capacity of democratic institutions both in Nigeria and in the region. The five-day tailor-made workshop represents the fourth cohort in which Ugandan parliamentarians are participating.



To the ten Ugandan Parliamentarians attending the program, he observed that they represented Uganda's brightest and committed leaders from their respective districts and encouraged them to take full advantage of the expertise and insights that would be shared at the workshop, urging that it be an opportunity for constructive dialogue, experience sharing, and strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation between Uganda and Nigeria.



**Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman Director General of NILDS and former Minister for National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria(L) alongside Amb. Odida (R) as he is delivering his remarks during the opening ceremony of the capacity building workshop in Abuja.**

At the opening ceremony of the workshop, Ambassador Philip Odida, Charge d'Affaires of the Uganda High Commission in Abuja delivered a goodwill message to the hosts and participants. In his remarks, he extended Uganda's deepest appreciation to the President of the Senate and Chairman of the NILDS Governing Council, Sen. Godswill Obot Akpabio, and the Speaker of the Nigerian House of Representatives and Alternate Chairman of the NILDS Governing Council, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, for their leadership and unwavering commitment to strengthening legislative institutions across the African continent.

The keynote address at the opening ceremony was made by Prof. Abubakar O. Sulaiman, Director General of NILDS and former Minister for National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Also addressing the opening ceremony, a lead speaker was Senator Enyinnaya Abribe, former Deputy Governor of Abia State.

The delegation of the Budget Committee of Parliament was led by its Chair Hon. Opolot Patrick Isiagi (Kachumbala). Other members include Hon Achia Remigio (Pian) Deputy Chair, Hon. Omara Paul (Otuke), Hon. Ochai Maximus (W. Budama), Hon. Tumwesigye Josephat (S. Bugangaizi), Hon. Kangwagye Stephen (Bukanga), Hon. Nyakikongoro Rosemary (Sheema), Hon. Dr. Atim Agnes Apea (Amolatar), Hon. Karim (Mbale) and Hon. Bagiire Aggrey (W. Bunya). The delegation includes staff of the Parliament of Uganda led by Principal Clerk Assistant, Alice Nyamwenge Mukyasi.







## Uganda Embassy Shines at Danish Travel Show in Herning, Stand Ranked Among Top Five for Special Visit

By Micheal Karugaba - Uganda Embassy  
Copenhagen

The Embassy of Uganda in Denmark, led by Ambassador Margret Otteskov, proudly showcased Uganda's vibrant tourism sector at the Danish Travel Show in Herning, Scandinavia's largest tourism fair. The event which took place from February 21-23, 2025, provided a platform for Uganda to promote its world-class wildlife, adventure tourism, and rich cultural heritage to Danish and Nordic travelers.



Speaking at the event, Ambassador Otteskov highlighted Uganda's unique attractions, including gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, safaris in Queen Elizabeth National Park, and adventure activities along the River Nile. "Uganda is the Pearl of Africa, offering unforgettable travel experiences. We are here to strengthen partnerships with Danish tour operators and encourage more visitors to explore our beautiful country," she stated.

Uganda's presence at the event has been further recognized with its stand being selected among the top five exhibits for a special visit. Among the distinguished visitors was Georg Sørensen, CEO of MCH – the National Exhibition Centre of Denmark, who commended Uganda's efforts to position itself in the Scandinavian tourism market. Later, Peder Hornshøj, CEO of BRAVO Tours, one of Denmark's leading travel agencies, visited the Ugandan stand, signaling potential opportunities to attract more Danish travelers to the country.

The Danish Travel Show, which runs from February 21-23, 2025, attracts thousands of visitors annually, including industry experts and travel enthusiasts looking for new destinations. Uganda's presence at the event is expected to enhance its tourism profile and create new business opportunities for the sector.

## Roosevelt Trail Sets Catalyst for Africa's Tourism and Economic Growth

By Githa Ogume



The 27th annual Harvard Business School (HBS) Africa Business Conference, held on February 14-15, 2025, spotlighted the Roosevelt Trail as a transformative initiative for Africa's tourism sector. Ambassador Robinah Kakonge, Uganda's Ambassador to the United States, participated in a panel discussing the continent's tourism potential and the importance of leveraging Africa's cultural and natural assets for economic development.

Key insights were provided by George Tebagana, First Secretary at the Uganda Embassy in Washington, who emphasized the trail's role in enhancing global awareness of Uganda's natural heritage. The Roosevelt Trail encompasses agritourism, heritage tourism, and ecotourism, featuring sites like Murchison Falls National Park and Lake Victoria. Notably, ongoing rhino rewilding programs in Ajai Reserve utilize scientific data from the Roosevelt-Smithsonian Africa Expedition to restore key habitats.

Additionally, the initiative promotes local agricultural products such as Uganda's coffee and barkcloth, increasing local incomes and fostering sustainability. Ambassador Kakonge highlighted the importance of commercial diplomacy in attracting global investment and emphasized collaborative partnerships between African governments, the private sector, and international organizations to maximize the economic impact of ecotourism.

Drawing parallels with successful eco-tourism models like Texas Hill Country Trail, where tourism spending significantly boosts the economy, the Roosevelt Trail aims to offer a unique blend of wildlife, cultural education, and sustainable practices, positioning it as a high-value product that could elevate Africa's tourism industry.







## Uganda High Commission in Pretoria: A Month of Diplomatic Engagements and Commemorations

*By Ambassador Paul Amoru*

The Uganda High Commission in Pretoria has been at the forefront of noteworthy diplomatic activities and engagements that underscore Uganda's dedication to enhancing ties with Southern African nations, while also promoting economic and cultural exchanges.

**Annual New Year Greetings Ceremony in Namibia:** At the end of January Amb. Paul Amoru participated in the Annual New Year Greetings Ceremony, which was graciously hosted by His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, the President of Namibia, on January 31, 2025. This event served as a platform for diplomats and leaders to exchange invaluable insights aimed at bolstering diplomatic engagements. During the ceremony, President Mbumba acknowledged the challenges faced in 2024, particularly the passing of former President Dr. Hage G. Geingob and the impact of a severe drought on the nation.

With Namibia poised to inaugurate its first female President, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the mission looks forward to continued bilateral engagements and cooperation between Uganda and Namibia. The focus of this collaboration includes enhancing trade, investment opportunities, diplomatic consultations and security initiatives.



***Pictured : His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, the President of Namibia welcomes Amb. Amoru at State House in Windhoek  
Namibia's Vice President & President-Elect, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah after a brief meeting with Amb. Amoru.***

**Ubuntu Awards in South Africa:** In mid-February, Amb. Amoru had the distinct honour of representing Uganda at the prestigious Ubuntu Awards organised by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in Cape Town. During this significant event, Amb. Amoru met with His Excellency Paul Mashatile, the Deputy President of South Africa. The Ubuntu Awards celebrated the spirit of Ubuntu—fostering a deep sense of community care and mutual support—which profoundly aligns with Uganda's diplomatic mission. The event further highlighted the collaborative bonds between Uganda and South Africa, reflecting shared values and aspirations.



**State Funeral of Dr. Sam Nujoma :** In a poignant tribute, Amb. Amoru attended the state funeral of Dr. Sam Nujoma, the founding president of Namibia, in Windhoek. Representing H.E. President Yoweri K. Museveni, Amb. Amoru conveyed Uganda's heartfelt condolences where President Museveni in a written special message emphasized Dr. Nujoma's profound legacy as a Pan-Africanist and liberator. The somber ceremony was attended by numerous high-ranking officials and dignitaries from across the continent, reinforcing Dr. Nujoma's enduring impact on African unity and solidarity. Dr. Nujoma passed away on February 8, 2025, at the age of 95.

***Chief of Protocol, Amb. Iipumbu receives Amb. Amoru at the Independence Stadium in Windhoek***







## Story continues from previous page ...

Amb. Amoru was received by Namibia's Chief of Protocol, Amb. Leonard Iipumbu, at the Independence Stadium in Windhoek, where the State Funeral was held. Dr. Nujoma was later laid to rest on March 1, 2025, at Heroes Acre in the Namibian capital. Uganda & Namibia enjoy warm & cordial bilateral relations

**Strategic Discussions with the Ugandan Parliamentary Committee:** The Uganda High Commission in Pretoria hosted a crucial meeting that brought together the Ugandan Parliamentary Committee on Trade and Tourism and the Convention of Ugandans in Southern Africa (COUSA). This strategic engagement aimed to explore the untapped potential of Ugandans residing abroad.

Amb. Amoru facilitated discussions with COUSA, which was led by President Moses Kibombo and Chairman Dr. Daniel Echun. During this meeting, the parliamentary delegation, led by Hon. Boniface Henry Okot, called upon the diaspora to invest in vital sectors, including trade, agriculture, and tourism. This initiative emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in driving economic growth, demonstrating a clear commitment to leveraging the diaspora's contributions towards Uganda's national development agenda.

In recognition of COUSA's proactive involvement, Amb. Amoru underscored the significance of such engagements in fostering meaningful partnerships between Uganda's diaspora and key stakeholders, further reinforcing the High Commission's objectives of nurturing cooperation for sustainable development



## Future Prospects

As Uganda looks ahead to a promising 2025, these multifaceted engagements exemplify the country's broader strategic agenda aimed at promoting regional cooperation, cultural exchange, and economic development. The High Commission's focus on partnership and collaboration aspires to unlock new pathways for prosperity and peace across Southern Africa.



## About the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria

The Uganda High Commission in Pretoria encompasses a crucial diplomatic jurisdiction, covering South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Eswatini. This reflects Uganda's unwavering commitment to strengthening its presence and influence in the Southern African region.

*Members of Parliamentary Committee on Trade and COUSA Team at the Uganda High Commission in Pretoria*







## ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR CERTIFYING YOUR DOCUMENTS AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**TRANSCRIPT OR CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER LEARNING**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP TWO**  
Submit the Original Certificate or Transcript

**STEP THREE**  
Submit currently certified copies for university or institution academic documents with original signature and stamp.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**PLE, UCE & UACE**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
UNEB verification Letter in respect of the results on the certificate, delivered by UNEB courier to the Ministry.

**STEP TWO**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP THREE**  
UNEB Payment Invoice: Addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit the Original Certificate/Pass slip

**STEP FIVE**  
Submit a Photocopy of Certificate/Pass slip

**STEP SIX**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**REPORT CARDS FOR STUDENTS OR MINORS**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP TWO**  
Submit the Original Report Card

**STEP THREE**  
Submit currently certified report card copies with original signature and stamp.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**STEP FIVE**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page) or National ID of the Parent - for minors.

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING FROM OUTSIDE UGANDA FOR USE IN UGANDA**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP TWO**  
Submit the Translated copy of document in English (By Makerere University)

**STEP THREE**  
Submit currently certified copies of documents with respective diplomatic mission's original signature and stamp.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**BIRTH CERTIFICATE, DEATH CERTIFICATE, NATIONAL ID, PASSPORT, DRIVING PERMIT, TRANSLATIONS ETC.**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP TWO**  
Submit the Original Document

**STEP THREE**  
Submit currently certified copies of documents with Issuing Authority original signature and stamp.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**LEGAL DOCUMENTS: MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES, COMPANY DOCUMENTS, ADOPTION LETTERS ETC.**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP TWO**  
Submit the Original Document

**STEP THREE**  
Submit currently certified copies of documents with URSB or the Issuing Authority original signature and stamp.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

**CERTIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS**  
**CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATES**

**REQUIREMENTS**  
By the Ministry

**STEP ONE**  
A bank Payment receipt of Uganda Shillings 20,000/= per copy. This is a URA Payment.

**STEP TWO**  
Submit the Original Certificate or Transcript

**STEP THREE**  
Submit currently certified copies of documents with British Council original signature and stamp.

**STEP FOUR**  
Submit a Photocopy of Passport (Bio-data page)

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS KAMPALA**  
www.mofa.go.ug

## Why Document Certification Matters

Certification of documents at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Uganda is a crucial step in ensuring their authenticity and legal recognition. Whether for travel, business, education, or employment abroad, certified documents confirm their validity and acceptance by foreign institutions and governments. This process helps prevent fraud, enhances credibility, and ensures smooth international transactions. Properly certified documents protect your interests and facilitate seamless cross-border engagements.







## Visa free travel to Uganda

### Nationals from the Following Countries Do Not Require a Visa to Travel to Uganda

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Botswana
- Burundi
- Comoros
- Cyprus
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Eritrea
- Fiji
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Hong Kong
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Island
- South Sudan
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Swaziland
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Vanuatu
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**Holders of diplomatic and official passports from the countries listed below do not need a visa to travel to Uganda, as their countries have visa abolition agreements with Uganda.**

- Algeria
- Cuba
- Ethiopia
- India
- Iran
- Russia
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Turkey (Only Diplomatic)
- Venezuela
- Vietnam

### Laissez-Passer Holders from Recognized International Organizations Do Not Require a Visa When on Official Business for these respective organisations:

- United Nations (UN)
- African Union (AU)
- African Development Bank (ADB)
- COMESA
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank
- Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- African Airlines Travel Association (IATA)
- Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Preferential Trade Area/Common Market for East & Southern Africa (PTA/COMESA)
- European Union (EU)
- International Potato Centre (CIP)
- African Reinsurance Corporation (ARC)
- African Housing Fund (AHF)
- Serving Members of the British Military







## 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.



Herbert Ssekatawa, Public Diplomacy Intern , graduate of Bachelor of Arts in International Relations & Diplomatic Studies from Metropolitan International University.



Moses Mandela, IT intern, graduate of Bachelor's in Information Technology from Ndejje University.



Timothy Odoi , a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Diplomatic Studies from Metropolitan International University.



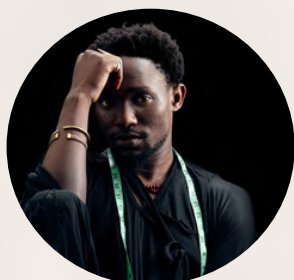




## FASHION

# Unveiling the Creative Vision of Godfrey Katende and IGC Fashion

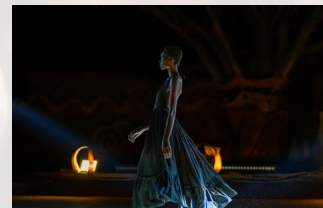
Compiled by Christiana Ampeire



IGC Fashion is redefining Uganda’s fashion industry by blending cultural heritage, sustainability, and social impact. Founded by Katende Godfrey, IGC envisions a future where fashion serves as a powerful tool for positive change. Over the next decade, the brand aims to establish a network of Fashion Cyphers across Sub-Saharan Africa, nurturing talent and promoting sustainable fashion. IGC envisions Uganda as a hub for eco-conscious fashion, where repurposed textile waste is more popular than new products, and young people embrace fashion as a respected career path.

The brand also raises awareness about the industry’s environmental impact, engaging designers, policymakers, and institutions in climate solutions.

**Upcycled and Neglected Materials:** IGC Fashion focuses on sustainability by repurposing materials from Owino Market, reducing waste that would otherwise end up in landfills or waterways. By upcycling second-hand garments, the brand mitigates environmental harm while promoting conscious consumption. Additionally, IGC revives neglected African materials such as raffia, barkcloth, and nsimbi. Colonial influences once stigmatized these indigenous textiles, devaluing Uganda’s cultural heritage. By reintroducing these materials, IGC not only preserves tradition but also promotes them as sustainable alternatives, reclaiming Africa’s narrative in global fashion.



**Social Impact: The Fashion Cypher Initiative:** Since 2016, IGC has empowered marginalized communities through the Fashion Cypher Programme. This grassroots initiative offers training in craftsmanship, sewing, and fashion design across Uganda, targeting regions affected by war, economic hardships, and environmental challenges. The program fosters self-confidence, collaboration, and economic independence. IGC is also launching a Fashion Residency in Kampala to provide structured courses and mentorship, ensuring knowledge exchange between students, teachers, and industry experts.

**Kwetu Kwanza and Industry Influence:** IGC’s annual event, Kwetu Kwanza, bridges designers, consumers, and policymakers in discussions on sustainable fashion.

Through workshops, exhibitions, and panel talks, the event fosters environmental awareness and industry collaboration.

Media exposure, including interviews with Twyg Magazine, has expanded IGC’s reach, attracting global interest in Uganda’s traditional materials.

**Future Plans:** Currently, IGC sells through social media and pop-up shops, with plans to launch an e-commerce platform. By participating in international exhibitions and forming strategic partnerships, the brand aims to expand globally. IGC Fashion is not just about style—it’s a movement towards a sustainable, culturally rich future.

To access Katende’s recent interview with Twyg Q&A, click [here](#) to follow .

IGC Fashion can be accessed through different social media platforms.



@ [igc\\_fashion](#) | [@katende](#)





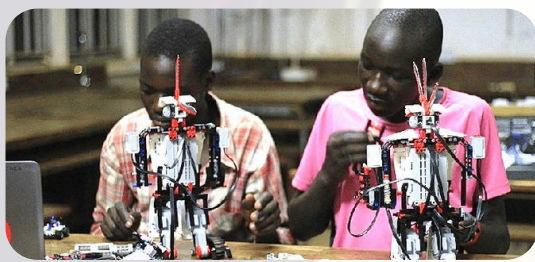


## SCIENCE & EDUC

# Fundi Bots: Empowering Africa's Future through Practical Science Education

Compiled by Winne Akidi Adile

Fundi Bots is a non-profit education initiative committed to improving and transforming practical science education in African schools and communities with a strong emphasis on rural and underprivileged regions and equitable inclusion for girls. Since its inception in 2014, Fundi Bots has reached over 50,000 students (6-25 years) and trained more than 700 teachers across 250 schools in Uganda through hands-on skills development and project-based learning, Fundi Bots aims at bridging the educational gap, fostering innovation and nurturing the next generation of scientists, engineers and problem solvers across the continent.



Its mission is driven by an ambitious and audacious vision to accelerate science learning in Africa. Their organisation poses a bold question: what if they could help put the first African on the moon?

This summarizes their vision for the future of African education, which nurtures a thriving, innovative and economically successful continent capable of addressing its most pressing challenges.

**How: Fundi Bots' Learning Tools.** Fundi Bots uses two main learning experiences/tools which provide practical, hands-on training for students; 1. Robotics : Fundi Bots uses robots as a tool to enable, empower and accelerate learning. The program provides hands-on training in robotics, and STEM for students inside and outside schools to improve their understanding of the school curriculum and to extend learning beyond the classroom for future career development.



Building a robot is a fun and exciting experience for almost everyone because everyone who sees one almost immediately wants to learn how to make one. This willingness and interest means that the students have permitted the team to teach them and are fully invested in their learning. Robotics is also an interesting entry point to a wide range of science fields, which creates a deeper, wider and more holistic approach to knowledge acquisition and application. Enhanced Science Curriculum (ESC)

The ESC program is Fundi Bots' big bet that they can accelerate science learning for millions of Africa's students by embedding hands-on, practical learning and teaching tools directly into the official curriculum. The program supports and amplifies the national school curriculum in Uganda as developed by the National Curriculum Development Centre for primary and secondary schools.

They provide practical learning tools, modules, teacher guides and student guides. For example, for a topic like "Electricity & Magnetism", they provide a teachers' manual, a student's guide and actual magnets, electric bells, electromagnets, etc. which are used in lessons by both teachers and students.

The ESC also has a teacher training component that helps teachers improve pedagogy, technical skills and student engagement. Since 2022, they have developed 13,272 practical learning tools, 1204 teacher guides and 56,408 instructional cards.







P R E S E N T S

LLOYD LUTARA'S

# ROPE

*They're all lying about something...*

A THEATRE PRODUCTION

DIRECTED BY: KAYA KAGIMU MUKASA



**PREMIERING:**

**21ST MARCH**  
2025 - 7PM

UGANDA NATIONAL  
THEATRE

VIP 50K

ORD. 30K

STUDENTS: 20K

**OTHER SHOW DATES  
AND TIMES:**

SAT. MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>

SUN. MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>

FRI. MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

SAT. MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

SUN. MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup>

3PM & 7PM Celebrating Women,  
Celebrating Theatre.

18+

FOR BOOKING & ENQUIRIES: +256 771 777521 • +256 704 814 506

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH:



SMART DOLPHINS SCHOOL







PRESENTS

LLOYD LUTARA'S

# ROPE

They're all lying about something...

DIRECTED BY: KAYA KAGIMU MUKASA

## The Synopsis of Lloyd Lutara's ROPE

When Linda, the daughter of one of Kampala's premiere real estate kings, doesn't return home after Wednesday evening fellowship a high profile investigation is opened to find her.

As the clock ticks the closest people to her are brought in for questioning - her father, her husband, her sister and so on - each person's testimony leading to the questioning of the next. Each testimony reveals a little more about Linda, what her life was like and what the circumstances of her disappearance could have been with these stories often contradicting each other. Because of this the police, along with the audience, are left to sift through the details of the various testimonies to determine who's lying, who's telling the truth, about what and why.

PREMIERING:

**21ST** MARCH  
2025 - 7PM

UGANDA NATIONAL THEATRE

VIP: 50K ORD: 30K STUDENTS: 20K

Celebrating Women, Celebrating Theatre.

IN CO-PRODUCTION WITH:







## “Keepers of the Forest: The Batwa Legacy” - A Virtual Reality Film

Compiled by Winnie Akidi Adile

**Immersive (re)Creation of Vernacular Knowledge and Lessons on Intangible Heritage, Climate Change, Conservation Futures**



Humanity has spread to almost every corner of the earth, building civilisations, creating marvels, and forging connections with the world over. As people ventured far and wide, some wandered like nomads, while others rooted themselves in a specific region. Deposits of human ingenuity have been documented over millennia, tracing tangible objects left through these migratory exploits.

The COVID-19 pandemic shocked the world and forced global leaders to rethink how to protect humanity. Numerous platforms have been created to strategise and design best practices to anticipate and mitigate any potential catastrophe that could threaten our collective existence. One such priority topic on the radar is the ravaging impact of climate change, birthing forums like the upcoming COP30 in Belém. Africa, despite facing the harshest consequences of climate change yet contributing minimally to global emissions, holds 23% of the world's carbon in forest biomass. While world leaders are eyeing carbon markets as a source of scarce capital, rapid deforestation continues across the region to meet the human settlement demands of urbanisation.

Amidst this, the vulnerable communities that have relied on the symbiotic relationship with Mother Nature for centuries are on the verge of extinction.

These groups, including indigenous communities, return to their ancient knowledge systems to protect and balance nature. For centuries, the Batwa have been custodians of one of the world's biggest carbon sinks: the Bwindi and Virunga mountain ranges across Uganda, the DRC, and Rwanda. They safeguard biodiversity with unmatched wisdom, but their way of life is at risk.

Keepers of the Forest: The Batwa Legacy tells the fascinating story of the Batwa and their deep connection with nature and gorillas. Using their philosophies and vernacular algorithms, this immersive film brings their story to life through virtual reality, blending tradition and technology to inspire global action. It takes viewers on a fantastical journey, celebrating the Batwa as conservationists of these ecological systems that sustain the global climate. Cinematic VR transforms storytelling, placing audiences inside the narrative for engagement and interactivity beyond traditional film.

As the climate crisis worsens, particularly in vulnerable African regions, the film highlights the crucial role of indigenous communities—especially the Batwa, an endangered group of 6,700 in Uganda—in offering alternative conservation solutions and fostering sustainable coexistence with nature. This urgent story explores how indigenous knowledge, used for centuries in Africa, particularly Uganda, can influence global strategies to reverse the climate crisis. The film amplifies the impact of alternative conservation, sustainable practices, and cultural preservation, encouraging a paradigm shift in how society values conservation, indigenous cultures, and intangible heritage.

Premiering in May 2025, the film is created by Keepers XR Studio and directed by Lorna Okeng and Emmanuel Rukundo, with support from the French Embassy in Uganda under the SPICE Project, which promotes Ugandan entrepreneurship and innovation globally. The film honors the Batwa and their legacy while calling for the protection of both their community and the philosophies that have long safeguarded ecosystems yet remain overlooked.

Keepers XR Studio won the XR Accolade in Market Entry and Growth Trajectory at the 8th International AIXR XR Awards. The film has been selected for the 8th edition of NewImages Festival, dedicated to immersive creation and virtual worlds, taking place from April 9–13, 2025, in Paris.

✉ Contact Keepers XR at [keepersxr@gmail.com](mailto:keepersxr@gmail.com).







## Uganda Consulate Mombasa Launches First-Ever Cultural Exhibition at Mamba Village

**Mombasa** - In a bid to promote Uganda as a leading tourism destination, the Consulate General of Uganda in Mombasa hosted the Uganda Cultural Exhibition on 22nd February 2025 at Mamba Village in Mombasa. The event which was held under the theme, "leveraging Uganda culture and cuisine to promote tourism", was aimed at showcasing Uganda's rich diverse culture, cuisine, music, dance and other tourism products to Kenyan stakeholders to attract them to visit Uganda.

The event was attended by over 1000 guests mainly from Kenya Coastal County Governments, the private sector especially from Chambers of Commerce and Industry, banks, tour companies and travel agencies, hotels, hospitals, logistics companies, education institutions as well as local and international tourists visiting Mombasa.

The event began with a cultural exhibition by Ugandan exhibitors from Buganda Tourism Board representing Buganda Kingdom, Kara Tunga representing Karamoja, Koogere Foundation representing Bunyoro- Kitara/ Tooro, Igongo Ankole Cultural Museum representing Ankole, Ministry of Tourism of Busoga Kingdom representing Busoga, Vilakazi Safaris representing Northern Uganda, Namugongo Catholic Martyrs Shrine, Ewaffe Cultural Village and Eyalama Adventures Ltd. After the exhibition, invited guests were hosted to a sumptuous Uganda dinner with dishes such as Luwombo, matooke, malakwang, gnut paste, katogo and cocktails of Uganda waragi. Throughout the event, guests were shown video clips about Uganda's niche tourism products and also treated to breathtaking cultural performances by Crane Performers.



In his remarks, Hon. Mohamed Osman, the County Executive Committee Member for Tourism, Culture and Trade for Mombasa County, who was the chief guest at the event commended Uganda Consulate Mombasa for its commitment to fostering cultural and economic ties between Uganda and the Kenya Coast. He said, "events such as the Uganda cultural exhibition serve not only to celebrate heritage but also to create opportunities for economic growth, partnership and investment between Uganda and Kenya".

On his part, Amb. Paul Mukumbya, the Consul General of Uganda to Mombasa expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders for their unwavering support and participation in the Uganda Cultural Exhibition. He emphasized the need to promote both destinations in the spirit of partnership rather than competition. He indicated that this will boost regional tourism as guests can visit both destinations seamlessly on the same itinerary.



Other dignitaries who attended the event were: Hon. Getrude Shuwe, the County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Tourism, Cooperative Development and Industrialization for Taita Taveta County, Hon. Michael Mutua, County Executive Committee Member for Tourism, Trade and Enterprise Development, Hon. Clara Chonga, County Executive Committee Member for Public Service Management, Devolution and Communication Kilifi County.

Since 2022, the Consulate General has been working with key tourism stakeholders in Uganda and the Kenya Coast to promote tourism growth between Uganda and the Kenya Coast, based on the concept of complementarity between the tourism products of the two destinations. A number of activities have been carried out in this endeavor, including annual tourism conferences, festivals, golf tournaments and fam trips. Kenya remains Uganda's leading source market for tourists with over 490,000 Kenyans visiting Uganda in 2023 while Uganda is Kenya's second biggest source market for tourists with 225,559 Ugandans visiting Kenya in 2024.







## Gazelles Triumph Over Egypt to Qualify for Women's Afro Basket.

The Uganda Women's National Basketball Team earned a spot in the FIBA Zone Women's Afro Basket tournament with a commanding 74-63 victory over Egypt at the Hassan Moustafa Sports Hall. This win was especially gratifying, as the Gazelles had previously fallen to Egypt 62-65 in the group stage.



**L-R : Gazelles captain Jane Asinde making an attack for her team during the game at Hassan Moustafa Sports Hall. | The Gazelles, led by Jane Asinde celebrate their victory against Egypt at Hassan Moustafa Sports Hall.**

The game was closely contested in the first quarter, with Uganda edging ahead by a single point (19-18). Jane Asinde led the way for Uganda, delivering an impressive double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds. She was named the Most Valuable Player of the game. The Gazelles took control of the match from the outset, tightening their defense and limiting Egypt to just 11 points, leading 40-29 at halftime. After the break, Uganda continued to dominate, extending their lead to 16 points (61-45) by the end of the third quarter.

Despite Egypt's efforts to stage a comeback in the final period, the Gazelles remained resilient, maintaining their composure to secure a well-deserved victory over the hosts. With this victory, Uganda will now advance to the FIBA Women's AfroBasket 2025 tournament in Ivory Coast, where they will compete against the continent's top teams, marking a significant milestone in Ugandan basketball history.

## Uganda She Cranes Outsmart Malawi to settle with bronze at 2025 Vitality Netball Series.



The 2025 Vitality Netball Nations Cup reached its thrilling climax on Sunday, February 9, at London's Copper Box Arena, where the host nation, England, claimed the championship after defeating South Africa in a highly contested final.

The Uganda National Netball Team bounced back from earlier setbacks to defeat Malawi in the third-place play-off, securing the bronze medal. The She Cranes triumphed 55-40, avenging their earlier 45-59 loss to the She Flames of Malawi in the group stage in Nottingham. In the third-place match, Mary Nuba, Uganda's sharpshooter, was named the Player of the Match.

England defeated South Africa 61-55 in the grand finale, clinching the gold medal, while their opponents took home the silver. During the group stage, Uganda suffered losses to Malawi and South Africa, falling 59-45 and 45-70, respectively, at the Motorpoint Arena in Nottingham, United Kingdom. In their third match, they were also defeated by England 59-48 on February 8 in the final round-robin game.

Uganda's delegation and team returned home with smiles and celebrations, proudly carrying their bronze medal. The She Cranes had reorganized their approach, narrowing their margins of defeat and turning those into comfortable victories.



**PICTURED: Cholahok Nuba Mary happily showing off her accolade after the match. | Uganda National Netball team celebrating their victory against Malawi 50-45 in United Kingdom.**

Compiled By Herbert Ssekatawa







## Jacob Kiplimo Breaks Half Marathon World Record with Stunning Performance.

*Compiled By Herbert Ssekatawa*

Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo delivered a breathtaking performance at the eDreams Mitja Marató Barcelona by Brooks, a World Athletics Gold Label road race, on February 16, 2025. The 24-year-old shattered the half marathon world record, clocking an astonishing 56:42, surpassing the previous record of 57:30 set by Ethiopia's Yomif Kejelcha. His record-breaking run marked a historic improvement of 48 seconds, the largest single drop in the event's history.



***Jacob Kiplimo sets a world record in Spain, Barcelona at the eDreams Mitja Marato. | Jacob Kiplimo celebrates as a victor at eDreams Mitja Marato Barcelona in the half Marathon World Record.***

Racing under ideal conditions in Barcelona, Spain, Kiplimo became the first athlete ever to break the 57-minute barrier for the half marathon. He also set a world-best time of 40:07 for the 15-kilometer mark, showcasing his incredible endurance and speed. From the very start, Kiplimo established a record-breaking pace, reaching the 5km checkpoint well ahead of his competitors, with Kenyans Geoffrey Kamworor and Samwel Mailu trailing 20 seconds behind.

At the 15km mark, he clocked 39:47, further solidifying his dominance. By the 20km split, he had recorded 53:42, making it clear he was on track to claim the new world record.

Following the race, Kiplimo expressed his excitement and disbelief at his performance. "The race was perfect, with no wind, great weather, and an amazing course. I felt strong and decided to push from the third kilometer. I never imagined I would break 57 minutes, but everything worked out even better than I expected," he said.

The record is now pending official ratification by World Athletics, a process expected to confirm Kiplimo's place in history. Looking ahead, the Ugandan sensation confirmed that he won't compete again until making his highly anticipated marathon debut at the London Marathon on April 27, 2025.







## Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon Gains Momentum at Kili Marathon Shake-Up Run

*Compiled By Amiri Wabusimba*

In a groundbreaking display of regional sports diplomacy, the Uganda Consulate in Arusha, in partnership with the Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, staged an electrifying shake-up run in Moshi, Tanzania on February 22, 2025.

The high-energy event united top-tier runners from Uganda and Kenya, setting the stage for the official launch of the Mt. Rwenzori Marathon during the 23rd edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Marathon.



Addressing participants, Mr. Wekesa championed early registration for the Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, emphasizing the strategic advantages of securing accommodation and travel arrangements in advance. He revealed a landmark partnership with Uganda Airlines, offering an exclusive travel package designed to enhance accessibility and participation in the marathon.



**Consul General Amb. Anne Katusiime (1R) together with organizers of the marathon.**

Tracing the marathon's extraordinary journey from 800 runners at inception to nearly 4,000 participants today, Mr. Wekesa applauded the Uganda Consulate in Arusha for its relentless efforts in marketing Uganda as a premier sports and adventure tourism destination.

He reaffirmed his commitment to furthering such initiatives, recognizing their role in strengthening cross-border tourism and economic collaboration.

The Consul General, Uganda Consulate Arusha, Ambassador Anne Katusiime commended the Kenyan delegation for their unwavering support, visibly demonstrated by donning the official Rwenzori Marathon kit during the shake-up run.

She emphasized Uganda's ambitious tourism vision, positioning the sector as a critical pillar in the nation's economic transformation, with projections to expand tenfold within the next decade.



Amb. Katusiime further acknowledged Mr. Wekesa's pioneering efforts in establishing the Mt. Rwenzori Marathon, hailing it as a game-changer in Africa's sports tourism landscape. She urged continued collaboration between the Kilimanjaro and Rwenzori marathons, reinforcing the power of sports to bridge nations, drive investment, and redefine East Africa's global tourism appeal. With its growing reputation, the Mt. Rwenzori Marathon is poised to attract elite athletes, adventure seekers, and international media, cementing its status as a must-attend event on the global marathon circuit.

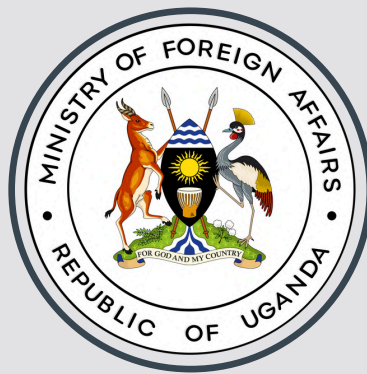




# Spotlight Photo



Gazelles star resting with joy while holding the trophy after the remarkable victory against Egypt.



**Follow the conversation:**



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kampala**