

The Evolution Begins...

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“Change is in the air! We’re shaking things up and giving your favorite newsletter a sleek new look. But don’t worry, we’re not changing the essence of what makes us great – just making it even better!

Over the next few issues, you’ll notice tweaks and improvements, all designed to enhance your reading experience.

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Hey! Dear Esteemed Readers



Margaret Awino Kafeero

Editor-in-Chief
Ag. Head, Public
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We took the opportunity to share with you the thoughts of female foreign service officers and have shared with you their joys and their concerns.

W

elcome to this milestone issue of Diplomatic Notes. We just turned a year old with this issue which we have marked by going into print! To say we are excited is an understatement.

A year ago we began reporting on activities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs more for our internal information. A year later, our little monthly publication has grown wings and is now on demand in places we never thought possible, like in the diaspora.

The March issue of Diplomatic Notes is dedicated to Women, and celebrates the Women in the Foreign Service of Uganda. We took the opportunity to share with you the thoughts of female foreign service officers and have shared with you their joys and their concerns.

For many on the outside, looking in, the Foreign Service presents a picture of glamour and sophistication. In many ways it is that, but worldwide, few countries have solved the ever-present dilemma of work-life balance. Our Ministry is no stranger to these challenges, especially for women. Mental Health is top of the agenda at the MoFA and we share what the Ministry has done this month to help women achieve a healthy work-life balance as they navigate the challenging realities of being diplomats.

We share many exciting activities by our female ambassadors around the world, and achievements especially in Economic and Commercial Diplomacy, from India to Paris and Malaysia.

For interesting reads, don't miss our spotlight on acclaimed female poet, Beverly Namboozo's ***Feeling***, a Babishai Poetry Anthology that celebrates iconic Ugandan women.

Thank you for believing in us

Margaret Awino Kafeero





Uganda's Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa Secures Presidency of OACPS Parliamentary Assembly

By Githa Ogume



In a significant diplomatic achievement on 25th February 2025, Thomas Tayebwa, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament in Uganda, was elected as the President of the Organization of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States Parliamentary Assembly. This notable milestone, supported by the Parliament of Uganda, signifies the nation's diplomatic influence on the global stage. Tayebwa's new role automatically positions him as the Co-chair of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, alternating between ACP and EU countries under democratic principles.

The announcement was made by Anita Among, the Speaker of Parliament, during a plenary session on 27th February 2025. She expressed gratitude to the organization for endorsing Uganda's nomination and commended Tayebwa on his remarkable

achievement. Among also acknowledged President Yoweri Museveni for his instrumental role in ensuring Uganda's active participation in international affairs.

Tayebwa's election places Uganda at the forefront of a prestigious multilateral body uniting 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Additionally, he assumes the role of the First Vice Chairperson of the Commonwealth Speakers and Presiding Officers Conference, further elevating Uganda's global presence.

Hon. Joel Ssenyonyi, the Leader of the Opposition, extended his congratulations to Tayebwa, recognizing the growing international influence of Uganda's Parliament. Hon. Lawrence Biyika emphasized the importance of Tayebwa's new position noting that the ACP Organization of Africa,





Caribbean and Pacific States consists of 48 African nations, 16 Caribbean states, and 15 Pacific countries, many of which were former colonies of European powers urging European nations to support ACP countries through infrastructure funding, fair trade terms, and mobility agreements to enhance mutual cooperation.

Hon. Charles Onen, the MP for Laroo-Pece Division, also praised Tayebwa's appointment, calling on him to uphold Uganda's values and traditions in international engagements. Tayebwa's presidency is anticipated to reinforce Uganda's diplomatic stature and contribute to the ACP Organization's mission of promoting cooperation and development among its member states.



AU Adopts Historic Convention to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni



In a landmark decision, the African Union (AU) has adopted the first-ever comprehensive continental instrument dedicated to ending violence against women and girls.

The African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAG) was officially endorsed today during the 38th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The Convention was initiated following a

significant decision made by the AU Heads of State and Government during the African Union Summit in February 2023. During this summit, leaders agreed to negotiate the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (AU-CEVAG).

In February 2024, they reaffirmed their commitment to supporting and finalizing the negotiations with the goal of submitting a draft Convention for adoption in February 2025.





Violence against women and girls is a pervasive issue that affects all regions, cultures and socioeconomic groups. It takes various forms including physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse by intimate partners. Other forms include early and forced marriages among under-age girls, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, abduction and forced prostitution among others.

However, this historic move signals a renewed commitment to gender justice and the protection of women and girls across Africa. The convention provides a

framework for member states to implement stronger policies, enhance legal protections, and ensure access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence.

Advocates hailed the adoption as a transformative step towards a safer and more equitable future. "This is a victory for all African women and girls," said a representative from a regional women's rights organization. "It paves the way for real change."

Therefore, the focus now shifts to implementation ensuring the convention translates into concrete action.





Uganda Joins Afreximbank's FEDA, Boosting Africa's Economic Future.

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



Group photo of delegates at the Official signing ceremony of the FEDA Accession Instruments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kampala, Uganda - In a significant move to strengthen Africa's economic ties, Uganda has officially joined the Fund for Export-Development in Africa (FEDA) as its 21st member state. This milestone was marked with the signing of FEDA's Establishment Agreement in Kampala on March 6, 2025.

FEDA, the development impact investment arm of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), aims to provide long-term capital to African economies, focusing on industrialization, intra-African trade, and value-added exports. Uganda's accession reinforces FEDA's role in shaping Africa's economic future.

Ambassador Philip Rukikaire, who represented the Permanent Secretary of Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the significance of Uganda's membership in FEDA. "Today marks a significant milestone in Uganda's economic development journey. By joining FEDA, we reaffirm our dedication to a prosperous Africa, driven by industrialization and intra-African trade".

Mrs. Marlene Ngoyi, CEO of FEDA, highlighted Uganda's confidence in FEDA's mission and its commitment to accelerating Africa's economic transformation. "We look forward to deepening our engagements with the Government of Uganda and the private sector to mobilize capital and invest in the manufacturing and export-related sectors".

Uganda's membership comes amid a wave of recent accessions to FEDA, bolstering the Fund's capacity to provide long-term capital to African economies. Over the past four years, Afreximbank has approved over \$813 million in financing for Uganda's public and private sectors, with a pipeline exceeding \$1 billion in pending approvals.

As FEDA continues to expand its presence across Africa, its impact on the continent's economic development is expected to grow. With Uganda on board, FEDA is poised to play an increasingly important role in shaping Africa's economic future.





Uganda Gears Up for the Pearl of Africa Business Forum & Expo in Malaysia

By Amiri Wabusimba

Uganda is preparing for a landmark opportunity to showcase its vast investment potential at the upcoming Pearl of Africa Business Forum & Expo 2025, slated for April 23-24 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This prestigious event is organized by the Uganda High Commission in Malaysia and will serve as a significant component of Uganda's Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) agenda. The primary goal is to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), enhance bilateral trade, and deepen Uganda's business partnerships with key countries in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

During a media briefing held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Kampala, Ambassador Sentongo, representing the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, opened the session by emphasizing the long-standing relationship between Uganda and Asian countries,

particularly Malaysia. He underscored that these strategic partnerships are pivotal to Uganda's goal of modernizing its economy and expanding its market access.

"The partnerships we have fostered with countries like Malaysia under frameworks such as the Commonwealth and South-South Cooperation hold tremendous promise," Ambassador Sentongo remarked. He stressed that Uganda's peaceful business environment, combined with its attractive investment policies, creates a compelling case for foreign businesses to consider Uganda as a prime destination for investment. He urged stakeholders to capitalize on these opportunities to further bolster trade and investment flows.

In addition to the diplomatic push, Honorary Consul of Malaysia to Uganda, Al Haji Habib Kagimu, made a pointed remark about the crucial role foreign trade plays





in a nation's economic survival. Drawing comparisons with Singapore and Malaysia, Kagimu highlighted how these countries, with smaller populations, boast impressive GDPs—\$501 billion for Singapore and nearly \$400 billion for Malaysia. He suggested that Uganda, with its goal of a \$500 billion economy within 15 years, must prioritize trade and investment over political discourse to achieve this target.

Ambassador Oyella Betty Bigombe, Uganda's High Commissioner to Malaysia, underscored the significance of the Pearl of Africa Business Forum & Expo 2025 as a pivotal platform not only for business-to-business (B2B) engagements but also for government-to-government (G2G) discussions that can lead to concrete investment deals.

She also spoke about Uganda's strategic plans for expanding its presence in the ASEAN market. She pointed out that Malaysia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025 presents a prime opportunity for Uganda to gain deeper access to the region's robust markets. This opportunity aligns well with Uganda's 10-year growth strategy, which aims to increase its GDP from \$49.5 billion to \$500 billion by 2040, focusing on sectors such as agro-industrialization, tourism development, mineral exploration (including oil and gas), and science and technology innovation.

Ambassador Elly Kamahungye, Head of International Economic Cooperation at MOFA, echoed these sentiments, outlining Uganda's aspirations in agriculture, oil and gas, ICT, and tourism as key areas for collaboration. Kamahungye emphasized

the need for sustained engagement with Asian investors to capitalize on Uganda's agricultural potential, particularly in coffee, tea, and palm oil production, as well as opportunities in oil exploration and ICT innovation.

The Honorary Consul of Thailand to Uganda, Ms. Barbara Mulwana, a prominent figure in Uganda's private sector, also made an insightful contribution to the discussion. When asked about the value of attending the upcoming expo, she emphasized that the event offers more than just an exhibition—it serves as an educational platform for business leaders to understand market dynamics and risks. "We attend such events not just for the exhibitions but to learn, make strategic decisions, and mitigate risks," Mulwana stated, further highlighting the event's significance in fostering strong, actionable business partnerships.

Looking ahead to the Pearl of Africa Business Forum & Expo 2025, Uganda is positioning itself as a leading investment destination in Africa, calling upon both government ministries and private sector stakeholders to support the event, which is expected to attract high-profile investors, policymakers, and business leaders from across Asia.



This opportunity aligns well with Uganda's 10-year growth strategy, which aims to increase its GDP from \$49.5 billion to \$500 billion by 2040, focusing on sectors such as agro-industrialization, tourism development, mineral exploration (including oil and gas), and science and technology innovation.





Strengthening Uganda-India Trade Relations



The Third Session of the India-Uganda Joint Trade Committee (JTC) convened in New Delhi from 25th to 26th March 2025, reaffirming the commitment of both nations to expanding bilateral trade and investment.

Discussions focused on unlocking unexploited trade potential, enhancing cooperation in key sectors such as minerals, coffee, pharmaceuticals, digital infrastructure, and MSME development.

Both sides also explored new avenues for collaboration, including the establishment of an India-Uganda Joint Business Forum to facilitate Government-to-Government (G2G) and Business-to-Business (B2B) engagements.

Uganda's delegation, led by Amb. Elly Kamahungye Kafeero, highlighted the importance of leveraging the strong diplomatic ties between the two nations to drive economic growth. Key agreements were discussed in areas such as public works, ICT, agriculture, standards, and trade facilitation.

As Uganda and India work towards deepening economic cooperation, this session set the stage for stronger partnerships and a more dynamic trade environment.





IGAD Launches Expansion of SEWAA Project to Enhance Climate Resilience in Uganda and Rwanda

By Githa Ogume



The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), in collaboration with partners, has officially launched the expansion of the Strengthening Early Warning Systems for Anticipatory Action (SEWAA) project to Uganda and Rwanda. Supported by the government of Denmark and in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), this initiative builds on successes in Kenya and Ethiopia, where Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) improve climate forecasting and early warning systems.

As Eastern Africa faces increasingly severe climate-related disasters, the SEWAA expansion is crucial for enhancing climate forecasting and anticipatory action. By integrating advanced technologies into



SEWAA's expansion will foster collaboration among IGAD member states, ensuring early warning systems are inclusive and responsive to each country's unique climate challenges.

national forecasting systems, the project aims to improve the accuracy of early warning systems, allowing governments and humanitarian agencies to act before disasters occur.

This proactive approach seeks to reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods from extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, common in the region. Additionally, SEWAA's expansion will foster collaboration among IGAD member states, ensuring early warning systems are inclusive and responsive





to each country's unique climate challenges. Dr. Abdi Fidar, Officer-in-Charge at ICPAC, emphasized the importance of the SEWAA initiative, stating, "This marks a significant milestone in strengthening our ability to anticipate and respond to climate shocks before they escalate into disasters. Leveraging AI-driven solutions will empower governments and institutions with information needed for proactive decisions."

Dr. Bob Ogwang, Acting Commissioner of Uganda's Department of Meteorological Services, noted that climate change impacts

are already being felt in Uganda, with rising temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events. He highlighted the need to enhance early warning systems to support effective planning and decision-making.

Mr. Fetene Teshome, Director General of the Ethiopian Meteorological Institute, added, "Access to early warning systems and disaster-risk information is critical in reducing disaster impacts on lives and economies. Prioritizing real-time weather forecasts using new techniques is essential."



Uganda High Commission Launches Europe, UK Association for Development.

By Herbert Ssekatawa.



H.E Nimisha J. Madhvani in a picture after launching the Uganda Europe United Kingdom Association.

The Uganda High Commission in the United Kingdom recently inaugurated the Uganda Europe United Kingdom Association (UEUKA) as an umbrella organization for Ugandan associations across the UK and Europe.

Some of the umbrella's goals include coordinating efforts, advocating for government support, and providing services to the community. This initiative aims to unite Ugandans, transcending party politics, tribal affiliations, and religious differences.

Her Excellency Ambassador Nimisha Madhvani, the High Commissioner, addressed the gathering, warmly welcoming guests and emphasizing the importance of inclusiveness. She stated that Ugandans in the UK should reflect their identity, social cohesion, economic development, and the rich diversity of their traditions, languages, artistic expressions, and cultures in their activities.

In her remarks, the High Commissioner encouraged members of the association to coordinate efforts, mobilize, and inspire fellow Ugandans to embrace their patriotic spirit, contributing meaningfully to Uganda's growth. She also highlighted the government's full commitment to supporting diaspora associations, strengthening relationships, and promoting sustainable development in communities to enhance Uganda's global image.



Moses Mulimira, the lead of the Uganda UK Health Alliance, was honored for his significant role in advancing global health partnerships between the UK and Uganda. He expressed his gratitude to the High Commissioner, UEUKA, the health community, and his colleagues for recognizing his efforts in promoting health initiatives and partnerships.



Philanthropist Dr. Manju Shahul-Hameed, immigration lawyer and social worker Joy Kyakwita, and human resource professional and published author Anne Kazungu viewed UEUKA as a powerful

platform that will strengthen connections, empower Ugandan communities, and create opportunities for collaboration, business, and cultural exchange. These efforts are part of the ongoing mission to build resilient communities and contribute to the development of a more prosperous Uganda.



IGAD Summit Addresses Security Challenges in South Sudan

By Githa Ogume



The 43rd Extraordinary Summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Heads of State and Government took place convened virtually on 12th March 2025, focusing on the critical security situation in the Republic of South Sudan. Chaired by H.E. Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of Djibouti and Chairperson of the IGAD Assembly, the Summit brought together key leaders to

address the escalating tensions in the region.

The Summit began with discussions led by the IGAD Executive Secretary on the situation in South Sudan, culminating in a series of important outcomes and recommendations. Notably, the Assembly extended greetings for the Holy Month of Ramadan and the Lenten period, acknowledging the spiritual significance of the timing of the Summit.

Commendations were made for the efforts of regional leaders, including President Salva Kiir Mayardit of South Sudan and others, in de-escalating tensions following the Nasir incident. The Summit expressed condolences





for the lives lost and appreciated the swift actions taken by various leaders to calm the situation and prevent further conflict.

Addressing the deteriorating security conditions in South Sudan, the Summit reaffirmed the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) as crucial for peace. The Assembly strongly condemned the recent violence and urged all parties to adhere to ceasefire agreements and prioritize the implementation of Transitional Security Arrangements.

On the governance and reconciliation front, concerns were raised regarding the lack of trust among the Parties to the R-ARCSS. The Summit called for immediate de-escalation of tensions, dialogue, and unity among the leadership to prevent a return to conflict. Efforts to engage holdout

groups and promote inclusive dialogue were emphasized, with a focus on empowering under-represented groups such as women and youth.

To monitor progress and engagement on the R-ARCSS, the Summit decided to establish an IGAD Ministerial-level sub-committee on South Sudan. This sub-committee will play a key role in assessing the situation on the ground, facilitating inclusive dialogues, and advancing the implementation timeline of the peace agreement.

In conclusion, the IGAD Summit underscored the importance of continued partnership with the African Union, United Nations, and international allies to support the full implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan. The Assembly remains committed to actively addressing the ongoing challenges in the region.



Uganda Diaspora Team Draws Inspiration from the Ethiopia Benchmarking Exercise for Diaspora Policy.

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni

A multi-sectoral benchmarking team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diaspora Department, State House Diaspora Desk, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) recently embarked on a transformative journey to Ethiopia.

Led by Ambassador Johnny M. Muhindo, Head of the Diaspora Department at MOFA, the team aimed to glean insights and lessons from Ethiopia's commendable achievements in diaspora engagement. The delegation

included esteemed members such as Henry Wabiona, Deputy Head of the Diaspora Unit at State House, Sophie Birungi from the Diaspora department at MOFA, Timothy Nkonge, Senior Principal Legal Officer at State House, and Frank Nuwagaba from IOM.

The team received invaluable support from Ambassador Rebecca Otengo, Uganda's Ambassador to Ethiopia, and Safina Oduka, 2nd Secretary at the Ugandan Mission in Addis Ababa. Dr. Capt. James R. Kanagwa, President of Ugandans in Ethiopia and MD





of Eco Bank, Horn of Africa, also lent his expertise to the delegation.

During the benchmarking trip, Ambassador Muhindo articulated the purpose of the visit, emphasizing the significance of learning from Ethiopia's diaspora engagement strategies to inform Uganda's ongoing policy formulation process. He highlighted Uganda's unique diaspora landscape shaped by historical events that led to significant emigration.

Noteworthy insights from the trip included Ethiopia's establishment of the Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) as an independent agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offering tailored incentives and initiatives to engage the diaspora effectively and yellow card system, which grants special identification to Ethiopian diaspora members, facilitating their integration into the country's economic landscape.

Ambassador Fitsum Arega, Director General of EDS, welcomed the Ugandan delegation and shared Ethiopia's progressive journey in diaspora engagement. He highlighted Ethiopia's legislative strides in formulating a diaspora policy and underscored the importance of tailored incentives to encourage diaspora investment and participation in national projects.

The delegation lauded Ethiopia's concerted efforts in mobilizing the successful engagement with Ethiopian counterparts and exposure to diaspora-led initiatives have paved the way for enhanced collaboration between Uganda and Ethiopia in diaspora engagement. The delegation expressed gratitude to the Ethiopian authorities and the Ugandan Mission in Addis Ababa for their support in making the benchmarking trip a resounding success.



A group photo of the Director of Diaspora Affairs Amb. Johnny Muhindo (C), next on the right, Head of Mission at the Ugandan Embassy in Ethiopia Amb. Rebecca Amuge Otengo & Deputy Head of the State House Diaspora Unit Henry Wabyona Araali (last on the right) among other participants at the Benchmarking Exercise in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





French & Spanish Media Influencers Explore Uganda's Tourism Treasures

By Amiri Wabusimba



recognition as a must-visit destination," she said.

The media influencers, including Ertan Anadol (Team Lead), Henry Mallaury, India Romeuf, Lucas Cyril Samuel, Jolivet Kilian Nicolas, Labesse Lola Marie Suzanne, Radet Jonathan George's Adrien, Nanche Augustin Claudius

In an effort to position Uganda as a prime travel destination for French and Spanish-speaking travelers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) and Uganda's Embassy in France, hosted strategic familiarization trip for top French and Spanish media influencers. This initiative was conducted from 9-15 March 2025, to providing firsthand experiences of Uganda's extraordinary attractions to the influencers.

H.E Doreen Ruth Amule, Uganda's Ambassador to France, highlighted the significance of the initiative in her opening remarks at the press briefing held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in Kampala. "Uganda, The Pearl of Africa, is brimming with natural beauty, diverse wildlife, and rich culture. This collaboration with French and Spanish influencers will allow us to share these experiences with the world, helping to expand Uganda's

Daniel, Caballero Navarrete Sara, and Guillen Brinceno Juan Carlos, arrived in Uganda and attended the media briefing at MOFA, where they were introduced to Uganda's rich tourist offerings. These influencers, who are part of TANKE, a Paris-based creative influencer marketing agency, will play a crucial role in amplifying Uganda's tourism profile through their social media platforms, blogs, and videos. The influencers' journey took them to iconic sites such as Bwindi Impenetrable Forest for gorilla trekking, Queen Elizabeth National Park for safaris, and the Nile River for exhilarating adventure activities and authentic Ugandan cuisine.

While addressing the press, Mr. Bagiiire Vincent Waiswa, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the wealth of opportunities Uganda offers to travelers. "From our favorable climate to our diverse cultures and the warmth of our people, Uganda is ready to welcome the world. This familiarization trip is a critical



"From our favorable climate to our diverse cultures and the warmth of our people, Uganda is ready to welcome the world."





step in showcasing Uganda’s incredible tourism potential, particularly in the French and Spanish-speaking markets,” he added.

This familiarization trip was an essential part of Uganda’s strategy to grow its tourism industry and attract new visitors

from Europe. The country’s remarkable landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and the warmth of its people will be shared with French and Spanish-speaking travelers, establishing Uganda as a top-tier destination for years to come.



Uganda And Rwanda Strengthen Cross-Border Security Ties.

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



Group photo of delegates at the 3rd Uganda-Rwanda Cross-Border Security Meeting in Mbarara.

In a significant move to bolster regional security, Uganda and Rwanda held their 3rd Cross-Border Security Meeting in Mbarara on February 27, 2025.

The meeting culminated in the signing of a Joint Communiqué and agreed Minutes, marking a major milestone in the two nations’ efforts to enhance cooperation and combat cross-border crime. It was a follow-up to the 14th Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) between Uganda and Rwanda, held in Kigali in April 2023. The JPC meeting had outlined key areas of cooperation, including security, trade, and infrastructure development.

The 3rd Uganda-Rwanda Cross-Border Security Meeting marked a significant shift in the two nations’ relationship, and demonstrated a renewed commitment to

cooperation and collaboration on regional security issues. The Uganda delegation was led by Amb. Maj Gen (Rtd) Robert Rusoke, Uganda’s High Commissioner to Rwanda and the Rwanda delegation was led by Amb. Vincent Karega, the Ambassador at large and Rwanda’s envoy to the Great Lakes Region, who hailed the good spirit of neighbourliness between the two countries.

The discussions focused on strategies to enhance cross-border security, combat terrorism, and address other regional security challenges faced in immigration, trade, customs, health and security along the common border. The two countries pledged towards continuous efforts to provide a platform for fruitful dialogue and cooperation.



The green corner

Uganda Takes the Lead in Sustainable Mobility with Electric Bus Production.

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi.



Hon. Dr. Monica Musenero being toured around the Kiira Vehicle Plant by Mr. Richard Madanda, the Director of product development, during the Official Flag-off of mass production of electric buses.

In a significant milestone, Uganda officially commissioned the mass production of electric buses at the Kiira Vehicle Plant. The ceremony, held on March 3, 2025, was presided over by Hon. Minister Dr. Monica Musenero, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation under the Office of the President, marking a major breakthrough in the country's pursuit of sustainable mobility and industrial innovation.

The Kiira Vehicle Plant is a state-of-the-art facility that has been at the forefront of Uganda's efforts to develop a homegrown automotive industry. The plant's flagship product, the Kayoola electric bus, is designed to provide a clean, efficient, and affordable transportation solution for the country's growing urban population.





The commissioning of the electric bus production line is a testament to Uganda's ambition to lead Africa's transition to sustainable mobility. The country has been actively promoting the adoption of electric vehicles, with a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change.

The Kiira Vehicle Plant is a shining example of Uganda's commitment to innovation and industrial development. The facility has created jobs, stimulated local economic growth, and demonstrated the country's capacity to develop and manufacture complex technologies.

The Kayoola electric bus is a game-changer in the transportation sector. With its zero-emission design, the bus offers a cleaner,

healthier alternative to traditional fossil fuel-powered vehicles. The bus' advanced technology also ensures a smoother, quieter ride, making it an attractive option for urban commuters. The mass production of the Kayoola electric bus is expected to have a significant impact on Uganda's transportation sector. The bus will be deployed in major cities across the country, providing a reliable, efficient, and environmentally friendly transportation solution.

As Uganda continues to push the boundaries of sustainable mobility and industrial innovation, the Kiira Vehicle Plant stands as a beacon of hope for a cleaner, greener future. The country's leadership in this field is a testament to its vision, determination, and commitment to excellence.

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“From our favorable climate to our diverse cultures and the warmth of our people, Uganda is ready to welcome the world.”



Credentials



H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda presented her Letter of Credence to the Right Honourable Mr. Ramchandra Paudel, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, on March 6, 2025, in Kathmandu



BILATERAL MEETING



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello met with the Special Representative for Great Lakes, Amb. Birgitte Markussen and the Ambassador of Denmark to Uganda, Amb. Signe Winding Albjerg on peace and security in the Great Lakes Region.





National Day

Celebrations





Ethiopian Embassy in Uganda Celebrates the 129th Anniversary of the Victory of Adwa

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni



Ethiopia's Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Amb. Etsegenet Bezabih Yimenu (C), Amb. Elly Kamahungye (1R), Commissioner Juliana Naumo (1L) and other counterparts cutting a cake at the Adwa celebration anniversary.

The Ethiopian Embassy in Uganda colorfully celebrated the 129th anniversary of the Victory of the Battle of Adwa, a historic triumph in which Ethiopians united to defend their sovereignty against an invading colonial power Italy on March 2nd, 1896.

Speaking at the event, H.E. Etsegenet Bezabih Yimenu, the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Uganda, highlighted the significance of the victory, noting that

it had fundamentally changed the global perception that colonial powers were invincible in diplomacy, politics, and military strength. She emphasized that Adwa remained a symbol of Ethiopian resilience and a beacon of African independence.

Amb. Elly Kamahungye, underscored the broader impact of Adwa on Africa. He noted that the victory had ignited resistance movements across the continent and solidified Ethiopia's position as a champion of peace, unity, and cooperation.

Representing Uganda's Minister of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, Hon. Betty Amongi, Commissioner for Culture and Family Affairs Mrs. Julian Naumo remarked that Adwa had been a catalyst for Pan-Africanism. She credited the victory for inspiring the first Pan-African Congress in 1901 and fostering a strong sense of African identity and pride.

The celebration served as a reminder of Africa's rich history of resilience and self-determination, reinforcing the enduring legacy of Adwa as an inspiration for future generations.

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hon. John Mulimba's representative, H.E.

Ethiopia's Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Amb. Etsegenet Bezabih Yimenu (C), Amb. Elly Kamahungye (1R), Commissioner Juliana Naumo (1L) and other counterparts cutting a cake at the Adwa celebration anniversary.



Adwa remained a symbol of Ethiopian resilience and a beacon of African independence.



French Embassy Hosts International Francophonie Day in Uganda

By Christiana Ampeire



Ambassador Xavier presents award of completion of a French course to Ugandan security operative.

H.E. Ambassador Xavier Sticker, the Ambassador of France to Uganda, hosted a gathering at his residence to celebrate International Francophonie Day on Thursday 20 March, 2025. The event brought together various stakeholders, including heads of Ugandan schools, security operatives, representatives from government agencies, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the celebration, Ambassador Sticker announced awards for outstanding Ugandan Francophones and Francophiles in recognition of their commitment to promoting the French language and culture. Additionally, several UPDF officers, having successfully completed a French language course, received their

certificates. Guests enjoyed a rich program of poems and artistic performances that highlighted the beauty of French culture.

The choice of 20 March is also significant as it marks the anniversary of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), founded on this day in 1970 in Niamey, Niger. The ACCT was a foundational step toward the eventual establishment of the International Organization of La Francophonie (UNESCO n.d.).

This vibrant celebration underscores the importance of French culture in Uganda and reaffirms the strong bonds of cultural cooperation and dialogue that continue to grow between the Francophone world and Uganda.



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

By Githa Ogume



St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the Residence for the Ambassador of Ireland to Uganda were in full swing as Hon. Oryem Okello Henry, Minister of State for International Affairs, joined in to toast to the future of Uganda and Ireland's relations as the two countries have enjoyed over 100 years of strong partnership.

The event highlighted the deep connections between Uganda and Ireland, with a focus

on promoting trade, tourism, and inward investment. As noted by the Embassy, the two countries have a firm commitment to working together.

In his remarks, Hon. Oryem Okello Henry emphasized the importance of increasing economic engagements to boost trade volumes and investment between Uganda and Ireland, now that the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

OTHER NATIONAL DAYS



26th
Bangladesh



6th
Ghana



23rd
Pakistan




25th
Greece



3rd
Bulgaria



COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY



Uganda Showcases the Pearl of Africa at ITB Berlin 2025

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni

Berlin, Germany – Uganda successfully participated in ITB Berlin 2025, one of the world's largest travel trade shows, which took place from March 4 to March 6 at Messe Berlin.

The Uganda Embassy in Berlin, in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, led the country's delegation, bringing together key players in the tourism industry. These included the Uganda Tourism Board, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Airlines, Uganda Hotel Owners Association, and the Association of Uganda Tour Operators. More than 25 Ugandan tour operators also attended, promoting the country's rich tourism offerings.

As part of its promotional efforts, the Uganda Embassy hosted a coffee cupping event at the expo, allowing visitors to experience Uganda's world-renowned coffee. The event attracted significant interest and provided an opportunity to market Uganda's tourism and hospitality sector.

Uganda's presence at ITB Berlin 2025 reinforced its commitment to growing its global tourism market. By showcasing its breathtaking landscapes, diverse wildlife, and vibrant cultural heritage, Uganda positioned itself as a top travel destination. The exhibition also served as a platform for networking, business partnerships, and expanding Uganda's footprint in the international tourism industry.



Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, Hon. Tom R. Butime (C) and Head of Mission, Uganda Embassy in Berlin H.E. Ambassador Stephen Mubiru (1L) at the ITB Berlin 2025 Expo.





Uganda Embassy in Tehran Makes Strategic Moves at 1st Iran-Africa Economic Summit.

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



Delegates at the Iran-Africa Economic Summit on Kish Island posing for a group photo.

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Tehran recently participated in the 1st Iran-Africa Economic Conference, held on Kish Island from February 25-27, 2025.

This summit aimed to promote trade and investment between Iran and African countries, with a focus on identifying business opportunities, forming partnerships, and exchanging experiences.

Uganda's Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Edule J Oscar, proudly represented his country at the conference, engaging with companies interested in investing in Uganda's oil and gas, agro-industrialization, mining, construction, and tourism sectors. Mr. Oscar highlighted the various incentives available to investors, including access to the wider East African Community market.

The summit sought to identify business and investment opportunities in Africa, identify regional and national partners for

accessing target markets, forming export and investment consortiums and sought to attract holding companies and large corporations, technical and engineering service contractors and specialised commissions.

The Uganda Embassy's participation in the summit demonstrates its commitment to strengthening economic ties between Uganda and Iran. As reported by the Embassy, similar efforts have been made in the past, including participating in the Iran International Trade Exhibition and the World Women Conference, where memoranda of understanding on trade and investment were signed.

The 1st Iran-Africa Economic Summit is just the beginning, with the 3rd Iran-Africa International Economic Conference scheduled to take place in April or May 2025. As Uganda continues to foster its relationship with Iran, we can expect to see increased economic cooperation and investment opportunities between the two nations.



Stanbic Bank and Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Forge Strategic Partnership.

By Juliana Nyamola



Dignitaries from MOFA and Stanbic bank posing for a group photo after the Strategic engagement.

In a bid to bolster Uganda's economic growth and attract foreign direct investment, Stanbic Bank's senior executives met with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Baguire Vincent Waiswa on March 17, 2025.

The meeting marked a significant milestone in the partnership between the two entities, which was formalized in 2017 through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The MOU outlined areas of cooperation, including the production of financial and promotional literature, training of commercial attachés in financial literacy, brand promotion, and public outreach.

Mr. Paul Muganwa, Executive Director and Head of Corporate Investment Banking at Stanbic Bank, expressed interest in exploring further collaborative initiatives to promote Uganda as a premier destination for foreign direct investment.

Mr. Muganwa was accompanied by a team of senior executives, including Ms. Catherine Poran, Chief Executive of the Stanbic Business

Incubator, and Mr. Kenneth Agutamba, Country Manager of Corporate Communication and Reputation. The team discussed potential areas of cooperation, including supporting local initiatives that align with government objectives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recognized Stanbic Bank's role in supporting foreign investors and enhancing accessibility to funding in the region. Mr. Baguire expressed interest in exploring new avenues for joint ventures and investment projects, particularly with Ugandans in the diaspora seeking to invest in Uganda. The meeting also touched on the areas of focus for commercial diplomacy, including the ATMS (Africa Trade and Investment Mission).

Mr. Baguire extended an invitation to the bank's leadership to participate in the annual Ambassador's Conference in August 2025, where they would engage directly with missions. Stanbic Business Incubator, which provides business mentorship, training, and funding to local entrepreneurs and start-ups, was also highlighted during the meeting. Ms. Poran shared her vision for the incubator,



which includes supporting Ugandans in the diaspora seeking to invest back home.

In addition, Mr. Atugamba discussed Stanbic's new initiatives, including community support programs focused on socio-economic impact for women, youth, and farmers. These programs aim to provide access to credit in the agriculture sector for medium-sized enterprises.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to collaboration and a shared vision for promoting Uganda's economic growth and development. As Uganda continues to navigate the complexities of global trade and investment, partnerships like this one will play a crucial role in driving growth and prosperity.



President Museveni Commissions Kampala Flyover, Urges Discipline and Cleanliness

By Githa Ogume



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni commissioned the Kampala Flyover Project, a landmark \$81 million infrastructure development funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project aims to ease traffic congestion and modernize transport in Uganda's capital.

At the ceremony, Museveni emphasized the importance of discipline and environmental cleanliness. "Ugandans must observe discipline. Stop littering because it is very bad—it blocks drainage channels and causes flooding," he said. "Now that we have cameras, KCCA should work with the police to catch those throwing polythene bags and rubbish on the roadsides." Museveni praised Uganda's long-standing partnership with Japan, noting that trade and cooperation date back to the 1940s.

"We started connecting with Japan when East African soldiers went to Burma. By the 1950s, we were buying textiles, and after independence, Japanese cars like Toyotas became common," he recalled.

The project features were;

- A 584-meter Clock Tower Flyover with a 366-meter bridge to decongest one of Kampala's busiest intersections.
- Two major pedestrian bridges: the 92-meter Shoprite Pedestrian Bridge and the 238.7-meter Clock Tower Pedestrian Bridge.
- A 375.8-meter Nsambya Underpass with a 130-meter open-cut box culvert to ease traffic.
- 3,190 meters of road widened and upgraded to accommodate increasing vehicle numbers.

Japan's Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Takuya Sasayama, highlighted the project's creation of over 700,000 jobs and training of nearly 110 engineers. The project is expected to improve traffic flow in the Central Business District and surrounding areas.





ACROSS THE BORDERS

UGANDA MISSIONS ABROAD

Ugandan High Commission in Australia Celebrates International Women’s Day with Empowering High Tea Event

By Sylvia Namale



In a celebration of resilience and empowerment, the High Commission of Uganda in Australia, led by H.E. Dorothy Samali Hyuha, hosted a special high tea function for Ugandan women living and working in Australia. The event, which also

included spouses of Ugandan diplomats and the female staff of the Ugandan mission in Canberra, was organized to mark International Women’s Day and provide a platform for networking, inspiration, and reflection on women’s rights.





Ambassador Hyuha opened the gathering by tracing the origins of International Women’s Day, which began in 1911 as a socialist political event and has since evolved into a global celebration of women’s achievements and struggles. She emphasized that the day was first celebrated in Uganda in 1984 and became a public holiday in 1991, symbolizing the country’s commitment to advancing gender equality.

The High Commissioner highlighted the critical importance of International Women’s Day, which serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggles for equal rights, the fight against gender-based violence and discrimination, and the celebration of women’s remarkable achievements across various sectors. She also pointed to Uganda’s significant progress in women’s political representation, noting the leadership of figures such as H.E. Maj. (Rtd) Jessica Alupo, Vice President of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Robinnah Nabbanja, Prime Minister, and Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among, Speaker

of Parliament. Ambassador Hyuha also recognized the contributions of 14 female cabinet ministers, 24 women ministers, and many other women occupying influential positions in government.

The event provided an opportunity for attendees to share their personal experiences, furthering the spirit of empowerment. The guests expressed their gratitude to the High Commissioner for the invitation, noting how the gathering fostered a sense of unity and encouragement. The lively discussions led the two-hour event to stretch over three hours, showcasing the positive atmosphere and meaningful exchanges that took place.

The High Commission’s celebration of International Women’s Day highlighted the powerful role women play in driving change and shaping the future, leaving participants inspired and energized to continue advocating for equality and women’s rights across the globe.



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Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki Elected President of ISA Council, Aims to Strengthen Seabed Governance

By Christiana Ampeire



On March 17, 2025, H.E. Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki of Uganda was elected President of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Council during its thirtieth session. This election represents a pivotal moment for seabed governance, as the Council seeks to address the challenges of sustainable resource management in international waters.

In his acceptance remarks, Ambassador Laki emphasized his commitment to fairness and transparency in leading the Council. "I assume this role with a deep sense of duty and responsibility. Our deliberations must be guided by transparency, inclusivity, and a

shared commitment to the sustainable use of marine resources," he stated, highlighting the importance of collaborative efforts among member states.

Ambassador Laki called on all delegates to focus on finalizing an effective regulatory framework for seabed resource exploitation. "As we discuss the draft exploitation regulations, we must ensure they safeguard the environment, uphold the interests of all states, and equitably share the benefits of seabed resources," he urged, underlining the need for a balanced approach in managing these precious assets.



The Role of the International Seabed Authority (ISA)

The ISA, established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), plays a crucial role in regulating mineral-related activities in the international seabed area, known as "the Area." With 169 member states and the European Union, the ISA is comprised of several key bodies:

- **Council:** The executive organ responsible for establishing specific policies in line with UNCLOS.
- **Assembly:** Composed of all ISA members, it sets general policies for the Authority.
- **Secretariat:** Managed by the Secretary-General, it handles the daily operations of the ISA.



- **Legal and Technical Commission:** Provides advice to the Council on technical and legal matters related to seabed exploration and exploitation. The ISA also grants observer status to non-party states, UN bodies, intergovernmental organizations, and NGOs, allowing them to participate in meetings and discussions. This inclusion fosters a broader dialogue on seabed governance and resource management.



The Path Forward

The current Secretary-General, Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho, who assumed office on January 1, 2025, will work closely with Ambassador Laki and the Council to implement the agenda for the thirtieth session, which will last for two weeks initially and continue throughout the year.

As the ISA Council embarks on this important journey, Ambassador Laki’s leadership

promises to enhance the collective ability of member states to manage seabed resources sustainably, ensuring that environmental protection and equitable resource sharing remain at the forefront of their efforts. The election of Ambassador Laki signals a renewed commitment to addressing the pressing challenges of seabed governance, setting the stage for a collaborative and effective approach to managing the world’s oceans.



Uganda Honored for Outstanding Refugee Hosting Policies at Washington, D.C.

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni



On March 6, 2025, Uganda was recognized with the “Refugee Host Country Leadership Award” at the Wilson Centre, in Washington, DC. The honor, presented by the event hosts, Refugee and Forced Displacement Initiative (RAFDI), highlighted Uganda’s exceptional leadership in refugee management.

The RAFDI was established in 2022 in response to an ever-increasing number of people forcibly displaced from their homes by protracted conflicts and persecution.

Uganda was commended for its progressive refugee policies, which include an open-border policy, refugee integration in settlements instead of camps, access to land, and government services such as healthcare and education. These measures allow refugees to rebuild their lives and achieve self-reliance.

Presenting the award, Dr. Robert S. Litwak, Senior Vice President and director of international security studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, emphasized Uganda’s dedication to refugee protection despite facing resource constraints. Mr. John Thon Majok, Director of RAFDI, applauded





Uganda and Moldova for their selfless efforts in hosting refugees amid competing national demands.

The award was received on behalf of Uganda by H.E. Robinah K. Kakonge, Uganda's Ambassador to the United States. In her speech, she praised Uganda's refugee-friendly policies and acknowledged the generosity of Ugandans, shaped by their own history of displacement.

She reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to its five pledges made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), focusing on resilience, climate

action, localized response, durable solutions, and resource management. She also hailed the RAFDI and the Wilson Centre for the initiative to come up with the award which has the potential to unlock opportunities for many vulnerable citizens of the world.

The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring Amb. Kakonge and Amb. Viorel Ursu of Moldova, addressing refugee challenges, contributions, and global solutions. The Ugandan delegation included Mr. Benon Kayemba, Counselor, and Mr. George Tebagana, First Secretary.



Uganda and Samoa establish Diplomatic Ties.

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



H.E. Amb. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations with H.E. Amb. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nation after signing a Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations.

The Republic of Uganda and the Independent State of Samoa signed a Joint Communiqué, establishing diplomatic relations between the two nations on March 8, 2025. This significant development is set to promote and strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between Uganda and Samoa.

The signing ceremony took place with H.E. Amb. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, representing the Government of Uganda while the Government of Samoa was represented by H.E. Amb. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations.



Amb. Ayebare congratulated both countries on this historic event, pledging to continue fostering cooperation and collaboration between Uganda and Samoa.

As Uganda expands its global presence, this relationship is expected to open up new avenues for trade, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding.

This new partnership marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic history of both



Uganda Embassy in Tehran Seeks to Strengthen Economic Ties with Iran.

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



Group photo of the CDA, Mr Oscar J Edule from the Uganda Embassy in Tehran with investors from the Mashad-Khorasan Province in Iran.

In a bid to bolster economic cooperation between Uganda and Iran, the Uganda Embassy in Tehran has been actively engaging with Iranian businesses and industries. Recently, the Embassy conducted an Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) visit to Mashad, Khorasan Province, from March 12-15, 2025.

The ECD mission, led by Charge d’Affaires Mr. Oscar J. Edule, aimed to explore potential collaboration opportunities between Ugandan and Iranian companies. During the visit, the delegation held discussions with executives from various institutions and companies, including knowledge-based companies at Ferdowsi University, specializing in medical equipment, AI-powered project management, and agricultural inputs.

One of the notable companies visited was Khazaei Agro-Industrial Company, a family-owned business that has been in operation for four generations. The company is a leading producer of dairy products, with an impressive average milk production of 53 liters per cow per day. They also manufacture agricultural machinery, corn, flowers, wheat, and rice, employing over 2,000 residents in the process.

In another significant engagement, Mr. Edule made a field visit to Peyman Sepahan Company, the largest garment manufacturing company in Iran, located in Isfahan City. The company has over three decades of experience in producing high-quality clothing materials, exporting to Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

The Uganda Embassy in Tehran is committed to facilitating business links between Ugandan and Iranian companies. The Embassy has encouraged Peyman Sepahan Company to submit a prospectus to explore potential collaboration opportunities with Ugandan businesses.

These efforts demonstrate the Embassy’s dedication to strengthening economic ties between Uganda and Iran, paving the way for increased trade and investment between the two nations.





Uganda and China Chart a New Chapter in Strategic Cooperation at Landmark Investment Conference

Driving Investment into Uganda's Mining and Petroleum Sectors

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in China, in partnership with the Uganda Consulate in Guangzhou and with the strong support of the Liaoning Provincial Department of Commerce, successfully hosted the 1st Uganda–China (Liaoning) Mining and Petroleum Investment Promotion Conference in Shenyang on March 28, 2025.

The high-level forum brought together senior officials, industry leaders, and investors from both nations to strengthen cooperation and unlock investment in Uganda's mineral and energy resources.

Speaking at the event, Eng. Irene Pauline Bateebe, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, outlined Uganda's readiness for investment.

"Uganda is rich in minerals and petroleum resources, and we are building the right legal frameworks, infrastructure, and incentives to ensure value addition, sustainability, and returns on investment," she said.

The event follows the elevation of Uganda-China relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2024—an important milestone reaffirmed in remarks by Ambassador Oliver Wonekha and Consul General Judyth Nsababera, who emphasized Uganda's vision for industrial partnerships grounded in mutual benefit and trust.

The conference also celebrated growing sub-national cooperation, particularly the sister-city agreement between Jinja and Shenyang, a partnership that symbolizes deeper collaboration in trade, education, and infrastructure.

In a video address, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni called on Chinese investors to seize Uganda's opportunities, assuring them of strong government support.

"Uganda is stable, open, and eager to work with long-term partners. We welcome you to be part of our transformation journey," he said.





“Uganda is stable, open, and eager to work with long-term partners.”

Presentations from the Uganda Investment Authority, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, and Chamber of Mines and Petroleum highlighted incentives, project pipelines, and key reforms aimed at reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

Major Chinese players like CNOOC showcased their work in Uganda’s oil and gas sector, where they’ve created thousands of jobs and introduced green development practices. Liaoshen Industrial Park, already operational in Kapeeka, shared its success story and welcomed more partnerships.

Mr. Cui Changzheng, Deputy Secretary General of the People’s Government of Liaoning Province, commended the increasing bilateral trade, which grew by over 78% between

2023 and 2024, and shared Liaoning’s vision to expand cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, and manufacturing with Uganda. As the event closed, the Uganda Embassy called for the establishment of a business delegation to Uganda, inviting more Chinese investors to explore firsthand the vast opportunities in Uganda’s extractive sector and beyond.

“Uganda is not just open for business. We are building an economy that works for the future. Join us,” said Amb. Nsababera.

The Embassy extends its sincere gratitude to all partners and participants. As Uganda builds a more diversified, industrialized economy, we remain steadfast in our mission to forge partnerships that bring prosperity, innovation, and lasting friendship.



LA VIE SOCIALE





President Museveni Hails Eriya Kategaya's Patriotic Legacy.

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni



H.E. President Museveni signs the two books that were launched in Kategaya's honor. On the left, the Vice President H.E. Jessica Alupo.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni honored the late Rt. Hon. Eriya Kategaya as a pioneer of patriotic politics in Uganda during a memorial service held on 6th March 2025 at Kololo. He described Kategaya, Uganda's former First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs (1996-2001) and Minister of East African Community Affairs as a strong advocate for nationalism and unity.

"Kategaya was the pioneer of the politics of patriotism, the politics of loving Uganda," President Museveni said, alongside First Lady Maama Janet Museveni. He credited Kategaya for recognizing the dangers of identity-based politics in the 1960s and for promoting a mission-driven approach to governance.

The event also featured the launch of two books in Kategaya's honor, including Reflections of Resilience by Joan Kategaya.

Consultant Editor Albert Gomes Mugumya urged Ugandans to document their stories for future generations.

Vice President H.E. Jessica Alupo praised Kategaya as a dedicated nationalist and Pan Africanist who had helped shape strategic government policies.

Kategaya's widow, Joan Kategaya expressed gratitude for the support her family had received, acknowledging God's protection. Their daughter, Dr. Juliet Kategaya, thanked President Museveni and the government for their continued assistance.

The memorial served as a tribute to Kategaya's contributions towards Uganda's political landscape, emphasizing the need for leaders to uphold his values of patriotism, unity, and selfless service.





Special FEATURE





Celebrating women in Diplomacy

By Juliana Nyamola



This is yet another way to remind everyone of how much stronger our decision-making and policy processes are when we nurture diverse, open, fair and inclusive environments; How it gives courage and affirmation to those currently at the helm of diplomacy, brings hope, and decisive inspiration, that facilitates more women to venture into diplomacy especially women from indigenous communities where deeply ingrained patriarchal systems remain in place.

The journey of women in diplomacy is indeed a remarkable testament to their resilience determination and commitment to create a positive impact locally as women continue to break down barriers and shatter glass ceilings. They are revolutionising the future of international relations.





What Ugandas foreign service women say!



Bernadette
Mwesige Ssempe

Achievement : Renovation of Uganda House New York, a home of many Diplomatic Missions.

Regret :Family separation due to inability to live with my Family abroad because of high cost of living



Agnes Birungi

Achievement : Managing a Ugandan exhibition during CHOGM2021 in Kigali

Regret: Being on the same rank for 12 years



Laura Kahuga

Achievement : Serving on the core team for the NAM and G77 plus China Summits was a profound honor, and receiving a medal for this effort has been a humbling affirmation of the mission to forge a brighter future.

Regret: In my time at the ministry, I sometimes sacrificed irreplaceable family moments and learned painful lessons about misplaced trust.



Annet Akello

Achievement : Interacting with, and learning from different calibre of Officers and Staff

Regret: The unrealised and untapped potential of the Administrative cadre



Kemerwa
Aline Mary

Achievement : Representing Uganda on the international scene

Regret : The fear of not delivering on our mandate as required. Capacity building of young officers.



Dorothy
Samali Hyuha

Achievement : Presentation of credentials to Heads of Government and Kingdom in countries of accreditation.





Carrying the Weight: The Hidden Cost of Career Success for Women in Diplomacy

By Githa Ogume



At the intersection of ambition and sacrifice lies a sobering truth: success in high-stakes careers often demands more than just hard work—it exacts a personal toll. For women and men alike, the system they serve appears blind to their struggles, as they shoulder the heavy burden of expectations and family responsibilities far from home.

In a candid reflection, a conversation unfolds about the immense pressure faced by women navigating professional spaces traditionally dominated by men. “The job doesn’t stop if you’re cramping, the job doesn’t stop if you have a baby, the job doesn’t stop for you!” one voice reflects. These are the unspoken realities women live with daily in their pursuit of career advancement. For many, balancing

work and personal life isn’t just difficult—it’s an impossible trade-off, where societal expectations don’t demand the same level of constant presence at home or in caregiving roles for male officers.

Some argue that women who’ve broken the glass ceiling hesitate to uplift others, not out of selfishness, but because they know the cost of getting there. “We got here,” they say, “and the women said, oh, we’re struggling, so we’re looking back.” Yet, despite this awareness, there is a lack of initiative to transform the system itself. Reaching the summit became the goal—proving it could be done—but the steep price remains unquestioned and unchanged. “You will make it too,” they say, but at what cost?

STAFFING PER GRADE FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS (FSOs), MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

S _n	GRADE	GRADE TITLE	NO. OF STAFF	FEMALE STAFF	MALE STAFF	% OF FEMALE STAFF
1.	FSO I	AMBASSADOR	70	25	45	36
2.	FSO II	MINISTER COUNSELOR	17	6	11	35
3.	FSO III	COUNSELOR	30	14	16	47
4.	FSO IV	FIRST SECRETARY	33	14	19	42
5.	FSO V	SECOND SECRETARY	27	12	15	44
6.	FSO VI	THIRD SECRETARY	35	19	16	54

Source: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE 2025





Statistics reveal a curious pattern. Among female career officers, especially those who either families or delayed to start them, attrition rates are high. Many simply drop off the radar, and few ask why. When they do, the answer often boils down to this: “It was too big a sacrifice.”

Health challenges tend to show up after a while. The reflection continues, listing hypertension, depression, and stress-related illnesses. Over the last five years, among eight career officers studied, three had never had children. Two of them had tried and failed. One battled depression and died of cancer.

But it isn’t just a women’s issue. Men, too, are suffering from it. “The system is unkind to women, which it probably is, but it’s just as unkind to men.” And therein lies the truth: whether male or female, the weight of this career is challenging regardless. When you post an officer, unlike home service, where you

go home to your family every day, this career can inarguably take a toll on personal life with little to no reprieve.

The time has come to rewire the system, to create space for compassion, accommodation, and balance with Permanent Secretary Vincent Bagiire rising to the occasion being responsive to these concerns and arranging mental health interventions for his staff to ensure a healthy work-life balance.

With genuine concern for the welfare of his staff he is making available counselling sessions for Mental Health and Work-life balance at the Ministry.

To mark International Women’s Day, a group therapy session for Women in MOFA by Dr. Blessing Namara took place in March with an overwhelming number of female officers attending both in-person and online.



Dr. Blessing counselled on prioritizing self-care to minimize burnout and mental implosion.



“This was the first of what we hope will be a journey of mental health care both for male and female officers,” says PS Bagiire.





US Organization Supports STEM Education in Uganda

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



Kampala, Uganda - In a bid to promote STEM education, a US organization, Backroads Philanthropy Organization, has partnered with Young Engineers Uganda to support the country's young engineers. Catherine Wills, head of the organization, visited Young Engineers Uganda offices to collaborate on STEM education initiatives on March 3, 2025.

The partnership aims to empower girls from remote villages through STEM education scholarships. During her visit, Wills conducted a training session with the Soroti Municipal SS Team, who are preparing for the 2025 Vex Championship. She also provided gifts, including T-shirts, to show appreciation for their hard work.

Young Engineers Uganda, a flagship program of the African School of Innovations Science and

Technology (ASIST) Ltd, has been instrumental in promoting STEM education skills in over 30 Ugandan schools. The program has driven innovations and technological education to over 6,000 children, shaping and preparing them for the future workforce.

The partnership between Backroads Philanthropy Organization and Young Engineers Uganda is a testament to the power of collaboration in promoting STEM education. By working together, both organizations aim to create a more equitable society where girls from remote villages have access to quality STEM education.

Catherine Wills, Maureen Karamagi CEO and Caroline Tusiimire COO Young Engineers Uganda. Catherine Wills in a group photo with the Young Engineers Uganda.



*Catherine Wills, Maureen Karamagi CEO and Caroline Tusiimire COO Young Engineers Uganda.
Catherine Wills in a group photo with the Young Engineers Uganda.*





Reimagining Tradition Through a Feminist Lens:

The Annual Njabala Exhibition and the Obulo Bwaffe Festival

By Maroushka F. Kanywani



The Njabala Foundation, since its establishment in 2021, has made celebrating and empowering women artists from all over Africa its driving force. This year, the Foundation has remained true to its commitment with the Annual Njabala Exhibition (ANE) 2025—and the Foundation’s debut Obulo Bwaffe Festival.

The Obulo Bwaffe Festival offered a unique reinterpretation of a popular folktale through a modern feminist lens. According to the legend, twin sisters, Babirye and Nakato, were entrusted by their mother, Nalongo, with the task of safeguarding their family’s millet field during a famine. Hungry birds descend on the millet while crying out, “Nakato leave us to eat... Babirye leave us to eat... our millet for life.”





This seemingly unremarkable occurrence is actually a metaphor for the systemic pressures women world over face as their labor and resources are often the casualty of societal expectations. In the folktale, the sisters' guardianship of the millet represents women's strength as well as their right to not only own, but also control the fruits of their labor.



Neatly coinciding with International Women's Day on March 8th, the festival opened its doors at the Alliance Française offices in Kampala. The festival opened with a stimulating panel discussion themed, "Curating as Multiplying Access to Culture."

Sarah Waiswa (Uganda), Ba Taonga Julia Kaunda-Kaseka (Zambia), Georgina Maxim (Zimbabwe), Dr. Portia Malatjie (South Africa), Fadzai Veronica Muchemwa (Zimbabwe), Rose Jepkorir Kiptum (Kenya), and Martha Kazungu (Uganda), female curators from across the African continent, shared interesting personal insights around their experience with curatorial practice.

The panel discussion highlighted how the curatorial practice transcends the physical boundaries of galleries and museums. Curators instead, are seen to play the role of powerful gatekeepers who possess the ability to not only shape narratives, but also expand access to culture.

The panel's collective voices reinforced the notion that art is a powerful medium for challenging established hierarchies and ideas, and also offers a platform for dialogue around power and gender.

Art as Soft Diplomacy

During his speech which was read by Janyce Obrecht, (First Counsellor at the French Embassy), H.E. Xavier Sticker, France's Ambassador to Uganda, emphasized the strategic importance that art and culture play as instruments of soft diplomacy. He noted that festivals such as Obulo Bwaffe are well aligned with France's diplomatic objectives of promoting gender equality, civic participation, and economic empowerment. Ambassador Sticker's remarks highlighted how cultural initiatives play an integral role in subtly changing mindsets and play a complementary role to more overt diplomatic efforts—emphasizing art's unique capacity to build bridges and promote mutual understanding and cooperation.

Martha Kazungu, the visionary founder of the Njabala Festival, articulated the festival's underlying rationale: a reflective space where women's issues and voices are at the forefront. Kazungu's initiative provides a critical platform for women to share their narratives, reframe and/or challenge traditional power structures, and assert their right to cultural and economic self-determination.

By reimagining age-old folktales through a contemporary feminist lens, the Njabala Foundation not only pays homage to the creative spirit of women artists, but also blazes a trail of a cultural movement that creatively challenges historical inequities and narratives.





Uganda Embassy in Washington D.C. Partners with Award-Winning Filmmaker for ‘Memories of Love Returned’ Screening

By Philip Luzzi

On March 23rd, 2025, the Uganda Embassy in Washington D.C. collaborated with acclaimed Ugandan filmmaker Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine to host a special screening of his documentary, *Memories of Love Returned*. This award-winning film, recognized as one of the ten best African documentaries of 2024 by OkayAfrica and awarded best documentary at the Silicon Valley Film Festival, was showcased at the AFI Silver Theater during the African Film Festival, drawing an enthusiastic audience of over 250 attendees, including filmmaking professionals, members of the Ugandan diaspora, and students from local higher education institutions.

H.E. Ambassador Kakonge emphasized the significance of sharing Ugandan stories, culture, and traditions with Western audiences to help dispel stereotypes and prejudices about Uganda and Africa. She praised Ntare for his dedication and humility, noting how he utilized his personal resources and expertise gained in the U.S. film industry to promote

Uganda through this powerful documentary. “Ntare serves as an inspiring example for the Ugandan diaspora, encouraging them to invest their knowledge and resources to contribute to Uganda’s development,” she stated.

In an interview with the African Film Festival organizers, the Ambassador highlighted the crucial role of Ugandan diaspora professionals in supporting Uganda, not just through financial contributions, but also by sharing their expertise and skills. She reaffirmed the Uganda Embassy’s commitment to supporting such initiatives.

The evening concluded with a delightful post-screening reception sponsored by the Embassy, where attendees savored a variety of Ugandan cuisines and learned more about Uganda’s rich culture and diverse tourism attractions. This event not only celebrated the film but also fostered a deeper connection between the attendees and Uganda, showcasing the vibrant heritage that the country has to offer.



Feeling; A Poetry Anthology Celebrating Iconic Ugandan Women

By Beverley Nambozo Nsengiyunva, Founder and Director of the Babishai Niwe Poetry Foundation

I will never forget speaking to Canon Janet Wesonga. After the second ring, she picked up, and I held the phone as if I was afraid it would break.

Canon Janet Wesonga is Uganda's first female Mayor, elected in 1961 to serve Mbale Town, which was heralded as one of Africa's cleanest towns during her leadership. In addition to being Uganda's first female Mayor, she is Africa's first female Mayor/ What an icon! She spoke with so much steadfastness, with fond memories of her past. Remembering vividly her travels across the world and the journey

to overcome patriarchy, I listened and my respect for this exemplary leader just kept growing.

At 97 years old, Canon

Wesonga still holds her own. Many women like Janet Wesonga have shaped Uganda in numerous ways through their leadership, business acumen, entrepreneurial capacity, capacity to overcome, and exemplary lives.

'Feeling,' is a Babishai Poetry Anthology that celebrates iconic Ugandan women. The team at Babishai travelled to various parts of Uganda, conducted research, paid visits to numerous locations, made phone calls and laid out a strategy to celebrate these exceptional women.

'Feeling,' is a tribute. It is a letter of gratitude. It is an acknowledgement to the women who have been intentional in making Uganda a better place. This poetry anthology is the heart of a song and a dream.

I am a poet and there are many to whom I owe this accolade. Starting with Mrs. Gladys Wambusi who taught me poetry in Primary school, Professor Timothy Wangusa who led our class to appreciate sonnets, Uganda Women Writers Association (Femrite) and the leadership during my years of volunteering from 2000 to 2002, Prof. Graham Mort, my Professor at Lancaster University where I received a Master's Distinction and numerous others.

As a creative person, poetry, speaking and writing have continued to shape my ability to discern, empower and lead.

This poetry anthology, 'Feeling,' with contributions from leading Ugandan poets is a testimony that poetry is able to recreate the world in ways we have not even been able to conceive.





Uganda Shines at Surajkund International Crafts Mela

By Machel Kategaya



Uganda made a remarkable impression at the 38th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, the world’s largest crafts fair, held from February 7 to 23, 2025, in Faridabad, India. The East African nation stood out among 46 participating countries, with its rich cultural heritage prominently featured on the official event website.

Ambassador Margaret L. Kyogire, Deputy Ambassador of Uganda to India, represented Uganda at both the opening and closing ceremonies, highlighting the country’s commitment to promoting cultural diplomacy. Uganda’s participation was organized under the framework of the Uganda-India Cultural Cooperation Agreement.

Vibrant performances by Ugandan dancers captivated audiences, showcasing traditional music, dance, and art. Their energetic presentations reflected the country’s cultural diversity and left a lasting impression on visitors and fellow participants alike. On February 18, 2025, Uganda’s High Commissioner to India, H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakurooka, hosted a reception

at her official residence in New Delhi to honor the Ugandan performers and exhibitors. The event was an opportunity to celebrate their contributions and foster camaraderie within the delegation. A tea reception followed at The Grand New Hotel in New Delhi, further strengthening Uganda’s diplomatic ties with India.

Both Ugandan and Indian officials praised Uganda’s delegation for their outstanding contribution to the success of this year’s fair. The hosts and the Government of the Republic of India expressed appreciation for Uganda’s vibrant display of its traditions and cultural artistry.

Uganda’s presence at the crafts mela not only enhanced its cultural visibility but also reaffirmed its dedication to strengthening cultural relations with India. The country’s active participation was a testament to the long-standing partnership between the two nations, fostering mutual respect and collaboration through cultural exchange.



Ambassador Allan Kajik Applauds Ugandan Heritage at Museum of Surrey Exhibit

By Githa Ogume

Amb. Allan Kajik, Acting Head of Mission at the Uganda High Commission in Ottawa, recently toured the Celebrating Our Ugandan Heritage exhibit at the Museum of Surrey in British Columbia of Ugandan heritage thousands of miles from home. The showcase offered an immersive experience of Uganda’s rich cultural traditions, natural beauty, and diverse history—right in the heart of Canada.

“This exhibit is not just about artifacts,” Amb. Kajik remarked. “It’s about connecting people. It’s about representation, education, and pride in our roots. Uganda is such a beautiful country, and this initiative brings that beauty to life.” He expressed his admiration for Rachel B. Matembe and her family, who curated the exhibit from their private collection. Their

passion and patriotism were evident, as was their commitment to preserving and sharing their heritage with the wider community in Surrey.

The exhibit is more than a display of objects; it’s a journey into the heart of Uganda. From demonstrations on how to make a famous Ugandan “Rolex” snack, to the rhythms of traditional music, visitors are given a dynamic and interactive glimpse of a country known as the “Pearl of Africa.” Uganda, situated along the Equator in East Africa, boasts stunning landscapes and a population as diverse as its terrain—a fact this exhibit brings to life with thoughtfulness and authenticity.

The Matembe family, who immigrated to Canada over two decades ago, now call “Surrey”





home. Yet their connection to Uganda remains strong. Their carefully preserved cultural artifacts serve as a bridge between their homeland and the Canadian community they are now part of. “Our heritage is an important part of who we are,” Rachel B. Matembe shared. “Sharing our culture with the next generation and our community is a privilege we do not take lightly.”

Amb. Kajik commended Rachel for her creativity, hard work, and for championing the Community Treasures initiative. “It’s a pleasure being part of the history Rachel and her family have made. We have a deep attachment to our heritage—our languages, culture, clothing, food—all connect us as Ugandans,” he said. He also extended gratitude to the Museum of Surrey for their warm reception and support of the exhibit, adding that he looks forward to future collaborations that celebrate diversity in British Columbia.

As Uganda’s mission in Canada continues its focus on cultural diplomacy, this exhibit is a shining example of how art, history, and tradition can foster greater understanding and connection across borders. Uganda High Commission–Ottawa is committed to expanding such initiatives, ensuring Ugandan culture has a vibrant, celebrated presence in Canada.



PS Bagiire Meets with the Organizers of the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon.

By Herbert Ssekatawa.



The PS, some MFA staff members, Mr. Amos Wekesa in the picture with the organizing committee of the Rwenzori Marathon at the Ministry Headquarters

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chaired a meeting with the organizers of the Rwenzori Marathon, where he inquired about the best ways the Ministry can partner with them to promote and support this world-certified marathon in Uganda. The aim was to strengthen collaboration and elevate the marathon on the global stage.

Amos Wekesa, the team leader, informed the PS during the meeting that this year they are targeting 6,000 runners from at least 55 countries. He further emphasized that many participants are drawn to the marathon because it is professionally organized, offers accurate timing, and provides a great atmosphere. He assured that Uganda is set to

generate significant annual income from the event.

Wekesa continued by saying that, beyond the marathon, participants will have the opportunity to explore the Pearl of Africa. They will climb the Rwenzori ranges, visit gorillas and chimpanzees, experience the source of the Nile, and enjoy Kampala's vibrant nightlife. He also noted that running is one of the fastest-growing physical activities worldwide, and people are eager to participate in a well-organized marathon.

Amos concluded by stating that, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they will continue showcasing Uganda, supporting local athletes, and promoting tourism and sports diplomacy.





Beyond the Finish Line: How Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon is Transforming Kasese.

By Amiri Wabusimba

The Tusker Lite Mt. Rwenzori Marathon 2024 was more than just a race it was a landmark event that cemented Kasese's status as a premier sports tourism destination while delivering a significant economic windfall for the region. With an astounding 87% increase in participation from the previous year, the marathon attracted elite athletes, adventure enthusiasts, and international visitors, all converging to celebrate resilience, endurance, and the breathtaking beauty of the Rwenzori Mountains.

Kasese's business community reaped immense benefits, with 90% of local enterprises reporting increased sales and heightened brand visibility. The hospitality sector experienced an unprecedented boom, recording a 100% occupancy rate as hotels, lodges, and guesthouses reached full capacity. The influx of visitors also drove up demand for local transport, restaurants, and retail businesses. However, logistical challenges arose for some businesses within the marathon zone due to restricted access, signaling an opportunity for organizers to refine planning for future editions.

Beyond its economic footprint, the marathon provided invaluable employment and skills development opportunities. An impressive 78% of the event's support staff gained hands-on experience in high-profile event management, positioning them for future opportunities in Uganda's growing sports and tourism sectors. The race also served as a catalyst for Uganda's international sports tourism profile, attracting runners from 33 countries and spotlighting Kasese as a prime adventure and cultural destination.

Tourism in the region saw remarkable gains, with 70% of participants extending their stay to explore iconic attractions such as Queen Elizabeth National Park. This extended visitation translated into additional revenue for local tour operators and conservation efforts. Meanwhile, the marathon's health impact was undeniable, with 98% of participants achieving their personal fitness goals, reinforcing the event's role in promoting wellness and active lifestyles.



Group photo during the stake holder's engagement at 4 points hotel by Sheraton in Kololo





Amos Masaba Wekasa extreme on the left during the awarding ceremony of accolades to stake holders at 4 point Hotel By Sheraton in Kololo.

While the marathon's economic and social impact was widely celebrated, sustainability remains a crucial focus. Although 60% of attendees embraced responsible waste management, only 48% were aware of broader environmental conservation initiatives linked to the event. With climate action at the forefront of the 2025 edition, the marathon will amplify awareness campaigns and expand its reforestation efforts, particularly around River Nyamwamba, in collaboration with StanChart.

With global recognition growing, the road to August 23, 2025, promises to be even more ambitious. The marathon was launched at the Kili International Marathon on 23rd Feb and will be expanding its footprint in April at the Two Oceans Marathon in South Africa, further solidifying its presence on the global sports calendar. Participants can register here. The stage is set for an even bigger, bolder, and more transformative experience.



SPOTLIGHT PHOTO



High tea event honoring the female staff at the Women's Day celebrations Ugandans mission in Canberra



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