

Diplomatic

NOTES



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Margaret Awino Kafeero

Editor-in-Chief

Head, Public Diplomacy Department

April just ended and May is here with the rain, and with it, we mark the drawdown to the end of the Fiscal Year and a sudden peak in end of year activities, particularly for our Missions abroad.

This issue eulogizes His Holiness Pope Francis, an extraordinary spiritual leader who led the Catholic Church with compassion and conviction.

April marked a beehive of Diplomatic activity with the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Antalya Diplomatic Forum in Turkey and the BRICS Ministerial meeting in Rio De Janeiro.

The sub-region was busy with the Uganda-Ethiopia Joint Permanent Commission, which saw the signing of a record 8 bilateral MoUs.

Uganda's foreign policy prioritizes Regional Peace and Security, ably illustrated with the visit to Juba by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni early in the month as well as the convening of the AUSSOM Troop Contributors for a Summit in Entebbe and the participation in the Friends of Gabon meeting in Kinshasa.

We congratulate our Ambassadors Paul Amoru and Fareed Kaliisa on the presentation of their credentials in Gaborone and Kinshasa respectively.

We share with you Commercial Diplomacy

Hey! Dear Esteemed Readers

highlights from Kuala Lumpur, where our Mission held the Pearl of Africa Trade Expo. Over in China, the first batch of Ugandan Coffee beans arrived in Zhengzhou, marking a new chapter in trade cooperation. In Washington, DC, the Mission participated in the US Tour and Travel Show in partnership with the Association of Tour Operators (AUTO).

In an exciting development, our National carrier, Uganda Airlines held a business forum in anticipation of the opening of the long-awaited direct flight from Entebbe to London. This is a major win for trade and tourism between Uganda and the United Kingdom.

Do not miss our Sports Diplomacy section as we cheer our track and field flagbearers as the Marathon Season begins. Uganda Missions, in Arusha, Nairobi, Pretoria and Washington, DC and London support the strategic Sports and Commercial Diplomacy partnership with the Tuskerlite Rwenzori Marathon organizers to promote the Rwenzori Marathon scheduled for August 2025. Our Mission in Canberra showed up in style for the Uganda Victoria Association (UPAVA) interstate easter games in Melbourne Australia.

With this issue, the Diplomatic Notes starts a print edition to mark our first successful year of continuous publication. We celebrate this while inviting you to read on and enjoy a look-back to the past whirlwind month.

Margaret Awino Kafeero





Hon. Odongo Champions African Integration at Antalya Diplomacy Forum

By Winnie Adile



Hon. Odongo speaks during a panel discussion at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum

April 11-13, 2025 – Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Uganda’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated in the 4th edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Antalya, Türkiye. The forum which was organised by the Turkish government under the theme ‘Connecting Africa: A Prospect for Continental Integration’, brought together global leaders, policymakers, and researchers to discuss critical international issues; to address the systemic problems within the multilateral order; and to promote dialogue on restoring effective diplomacy in a rapidly changing international landscape.

During his panel presentation, Hon. Gen. Odongo emphasised the importance of enhancing connectivity across Africa, particularly through infrastructure, trade,

and digital advancements. He also discussed the challenges and opportunities for African integration, stressing the need to lift Africans into the formal economy, add value to production, attract foreign direct investment (FDI), and build a unified continental market.

The Minister held several bilateral meetings during the forum, including one with H.E. Yvangel Pinto, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, in which they discussed strengthening relations between the two countries. The two leaders exchanged views on global issues of mutual interest including Uganda’s leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM); explored potential areas for cooperation and the negotiation and conclusion of memoranda of understanding





(MOUs) in various sectors; and agreed on a Uganda-Venezuela Joint Permanent Commission in September 2025.

Hon. Odongo also held bilateral meetings that focused on strengthening Uganda's

relations with Slovakia, Kenya, and Rwanda, and explored opportunities for capacity building and innovation projects with the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.



African Leaders Renew Commitment to Stabilise Somalia During AUSSOM Summit

By Amiri Wabusimba.



President Museveni and Summit delegates at State House Entebbe

April 22-25, 2025 – An Extra-Ordinary Summit of Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), together with the Federal Government of Somalia, concluded with a meeting at State House, Entebbe on 25th April, crowning four days of intense deliberations at various Senior Officials', Ministerial, and Heads of State meetings.

Hosted by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Summit brought together leaders from Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Egypt, and Ethiopia, alongside senior officials from the AU, UN, IGAD, EU, United States, and United Kingdom. The Summit reviewed security developments in Somalia, the performance of AUSSOM, and the Somali Security Forces' progress in readiness and integration. Leaders acknowledged Somalia's notable





achievements, including joining the East African Community and assuming a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

To counter evolving threats, the Summit directed the enhancement of military operations against AlShabaab, strengthening Forward Operating Bases (FOBs), increasing bilateral support, air assets, and surveillance capabilities. The importance of civil-military cooperation, humanitarian relief, and

stabilisation efforts in recovered areas was emphasised. Leaders called for sustainable funding aligned with UNSC Resolution 2719 (2023) and welcomed Egypt's impending deployment under AUSSOM. They extended deep appreciation to President Museveni and Uganda for their leadership and hospitality. The Summit outcomes will be submitted to the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council.



Summit delegates pose for a group photo with representatives from Uganda's Embassy in Mogadishu



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President Museveni In Juba, Boosts Bilateral Relations

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with his host for the official working visit in Juba, H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan

April 3, 2025 – President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni arrived in Juba for a working visit to the Republic of South Sudan, where he was warmly received at Juba International Airport by his host President Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the South Sudanese Ministers of Presidential Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Defense. Uganda’s welcome delegation included the Defense Minister Hon. Jacob Oboth Oboth,

Senior Presidential Advisor Gen. Proscovia Nalweyiso, and Ambassador H.E. Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya, Uganda’s High Commissioner in South Sudan.

Following an inspection of a guard of honor, President Museveni met with President Kiir and other key stakeholders for high-level bilateral discussions to strengthen ties between Uganda and South Sudan.





President Museveni, UN Special Envoy Discuss Regional Stability and Cooperation

By Owen Benjamin Lekuni



President Museveni, Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, H.E. Huang Xia (C) and other UN delegates at State House, Entebbe

March 28, 2025 – President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni received the United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, H.E. Huang Xia, at State House Entebbe. In their meeting, they discussed key regional matters particularly the ongoing situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They exchanged views on promoting regional peace and stability, including the upcoming Regional Oversight Mechanism (ROM) Summit, a critical platform for reviewing progress on peace and security efforts under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region. The most recent ROM Summit was hosted by President Évariste

Ndayishimiye of the Republic of Burundi, the current Chair of ROM.

The leaders emphasised the importance of continued collaboration among regional stakeholders and international partners in addressing security challenges and fostering development. Their engagement reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to regional peace initiatives and the UN's ongoing role in supporting dialogue and cooperation across the Great Lakes Region.

President Museveni confirmed Uganda's readiness to host the ROM summit in May 2025, noting that the exact date would be announced in due course.



Uganda–Tanzania Trade Mission 2025 Kicks Off in Kampala

By Christiana Ampeire



Amb. Mwesigye(C), Hon. Gen. Mbadi(1R), Sarah Kagingo (2R), Mr. Masunga (1L) with the business delegates

April 7-11, 2025 – The Uganda–Tanzania Trade Mission 2025 was hosted in Kampala from under the theme ‘Building Stronger Trade Partnerships for Long-Term Prosperity’. Uganda’s High Commission in Dar es Salaam organised the week-long event to deepen economic and commercial diplomacy between the two nations, bringing together senior government officials, business leaders, and delegates from both countries. In her remarks, PSFU Vice Chairperson Sarah Kagingo welcomed the Tanzanian delegation and applauded the initiative for fostering cross-border investment, particularly in agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, construction, steel, and fast-moving consumer goods.

Uganda’s High Commissioner to Tanzania, H.E. Col. (Rtd.) Fred Mwesigye, recognised the significant economic growth between Uganda and Tanzania in recent years. “In 2024, bilateral trade reached approximately USD 2.23 billion, a sharp increase from USD 1.36 billion in 2023, reflecting a positive trade trajectory. Uganda’s exports to Tanzania stand at USD 185 million, while imports from Tanzania reached USD 2 billion, highlighting not only the growing interdependence between our economies but also the trade imbalance that needs to be addressed,” said Amb. Mwesigye. He emphasised the unwavering support in trade facilitation by the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Foreign



Affairs, Ministry of Trade, Industry & Cooperatives, and the Uganda Revenue Authority. State Minister for Trade, Hon. Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi, praised Uganda's industrial growth and regional integration efforts, citing transformative projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), expected to generate over USD 20 billion and create 10,000 jobs.

Representing the Tanzanian High Commissioner, Mr. Masunga Biteko, emphasised the mission's role in unlocking trade potential and encouraged the continued use of transport options like Air Tanzania and MV Umoja.

The Trade Mission featured Business to Business (B2B) sessions and industrial park visits, including Liaoshen Industrial Park in Kapeeka, where delegates toured Sawa Ceramics, Goodwill Ceramics, dried fruit facilities, and solar battery producers. Other key visits included Grain Pulse Uganda, Quality Chemical Industries Ltd, Pearl Dairy, East African Medical Vitals, Piston Medical, and Uganda Clays and Roofings Limited, highlighting Uganda's agro-processing, construction, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy capacity.



Amb. Mwesigye at the opening ceremony of the Uganda-Tanzania Trade Mission



Tanzanian business delegation at Liao Shen Industrial Park, where Good Will tiles are assembled and tested before packing



Tanzanian Delegation visits Piston Medical



Tanzanian Delegation visits Uganda Clays



Uganda and Ethiopia: A Strategic Diplomatic Embrace In Addis Ababa

By Amiri Wabusimba



JMC participants in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

April 3-4, 2025 – Uganda and Ethiopia have reaffirmed their strong bilateral ties following the 4th Session of the Uganda–Ethiopia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Uganda’s delegation, led by Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, engaged in comprehensive discussions to strengthen development diplomacy with Ethiopia’s team headed by H.E. Dr. Gedion Timothewos.

The session, convened after a pause since 2021, signals renewed political commitment to adapt bilateral cooperation to the region’s evolving dynamics. Talks focused on key areas, including energy, infrastructure, trade, aviation, and transboundary water governance. Eight (8) Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were successfully signed in the areas of aviation training,

industrial collaboration, water resource management, and trade facilitation, reflecting a readiness to convert political goodwill into tangible economic and social benefits.

Cultural diplomacy featured prominently, with Uganda’s delegation visiting the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, highlighting shared Pan-Africanist values and mutual respect for Africa’s liberation history. Regional security and multilateral cooperation under IGAD, the African Union, the Nile Basin Initiative, and the East African Power Pool were emphasised, with both countries advocating peaceful conflict resolution and collective resource management. Uganda also welcomed the progress of operationalizing the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) on the Nile Basin.



In a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, Uganda and Ethiopia's renewed engagement highlights their shared vision: rooted in historical solidarity, economic pragmatism, and a commitment to shaping East Africa's future. The signed joint communiqué marks a new chapter, but the crucial task of translating dialogue into real achievements lies ahead.

In a testament to their balanced partnership, Uganda will host the Fifth Session of the JMC in 2027, to reinforce ongoing collaboration.



Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar (L) and H.E. Dr. Gedion Timothewos



MoFA Attends International Kiswahili Conference

By Christiana Ampeire

April 14-16, 2025 – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the International Kiswahili Conference, which took place at the Kololo National Ceremonial Grounds from.

Ambassador Herbert Kiguli, Head of the Consular Services Department, and Minister Counsellor Ms. Susan Okodi expressed their enthusiasm and support for Uganda's participation in the important cultural event. The conference served as a platform to

reflect on the enduring legacy of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who championed Kiswahili as a symbol of African solidarity and unity in Tanzania and beyond.

Uganda joined the broader East African community in celebrating a shared African identity, reaffirming its cultural heritage, and strengthening regional integration through the adoption of Kiswahili.



Uganda and EU Discuss Regional Security and Peace Initiatives in the Horn of Africa

By Amiri Wabusimba



Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Dr. Annette Weber and senior EU and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials at the engagement

Uganda's Foreign Minister, Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, met with the EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, Dr. Annette Weber, for a strategic dialogue on peace and security dynamics in the region. The meeting reaffirmed both parties' commitment to promoting stability, ahead of the April 25th Summit on Counterterrorism under the African Union Stabilization Support Operations in Somalia (AUSSOM) framework.

Minister Odongo stressed the need for a coordinated approach in Somalia that aligns military, diplomatic, and humanitarian efforts while addressing donor fatigue. He noted that while EU financial support through the Peace Facility has been vital, lasting peace requires commitment beyond funding. The discussion also covered shifting global support trends, with Minister Odongo reaffirming Uganda's readiness to stay engaged despite the challenges. He emphasised that security in Somalia must involve constant vigilance, regional cooperation, and inclusion of gender and community perspectives.

Regarding South Sudan, Minister Odongo highlighted Uganda's advocacy for a comprehensive ceasefire to enable humanitarian access and meaningful dialogue. He urged international actors to work with local stakeholders, warning against unilateral actions that could undermine peace efforts. Dr. Weber agreed, stressing that leadership must come from the South Sudanese, supported by trusted regional partners. Speaking about President Museveni's recent visit to Juba, Minister Odongo emphasised the importance of inclusive dialogue, especially the involvement of youth and marginalised groups, cautioning against identity-based divisions. Dr. Weber reiterated the EU's role as a supportive partner focused on peace, not imposing external agendas.



Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar and Dr. Annette Weber during their bilateral interface

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to using digital tools for monitoring peace agreement implementation, particularly Chapter Three of the Revitalised Peace Agreement, and strengthening regional cooperation. Both parties praised the robust Uganda-EU partnership and pledged continued regional peace and development collaboration.



Honoring Memory, Embracing Unity, and Renewing Commitment.

By Herbert Ssekatawa



Rwandan High Commissioner Joseph Rutabana, speaks to the congregation at the 31st commemoration in Mpigi District

Commissioner to Uganda, reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to combating genocide ideology, stressing that "Never Again" must translate into tangible action. He expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Uganda for their solidarity and humanity in recovering and burying victims with dignity.

This April, the world joins Rwandans in commemorating 31 years since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, and the global community reflects on one of the darkest chapters of the 20th century, reaffirming their responsibility to ensure that such atrocities never happen again. Under the theme 'Remember – Unite – Renew', the Kwibuka commemoration brings together survivors, descendants, government officials, and friends of Rwanda. From Kigali to the UN Headquarters in New York, and in many other cities worldwide, the flame of memory was lit to honor over one million lives lost between April and July 1994.

In Uganda, commemorations were held in Ggolo, Mpigi District, where 4,771 genocide victims are buried. Additional memorial sites at Lambu, Masaka District and Kasensero, Rakai District, hold 3,337 and 2,875 victims respectively, totaling 10,983 genocide victims buried in Uganda. Survivors and families gather at these sites annually to pay tribute, organised under the theme HUMURA VICTORIA WARAKOZE, meaning "Thank you, Victoria, we are consoled."

H.E. Joseph Rutabana, Rwanda's High

Despite the painful past, Rwanda has embraced unity, transcending ethnic divisions to build a prosperous, inclusive nation. Rutabana acknowledged the role of local communities, notably Mr. Mohamood Thobani, international humanitarian organizations, and regional leaders who helped give victims honorable burials. He extended heartfelt thanks to the Government of Uganda, the Rwandan community, and friends of Rwanda for their role in the vibrant commemorations. The event was attended by diplomats, academia, media, and supporters, all united in remembrance and in the collective resolve to prevent future genocides.



Lighting the flame of hope at the commemoration ceremony



Outgoing FAO REP Antonio Querido Bids Farewell in Uganda

By Christiana Ampeire



Dr Querido receives an award of recognition to appreciate his efforts during his tenure in Uganda.

Dr. Antonio Querido has bid farewell after serving as Uganda's Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) representative. Dr. Querido will serve next as the FAO representative in Cameroon. In a news statement he expressed profound gratitude to the FAO Uganda team and partners for their steadfast support and collaboration. "It is a bittersweet moment for me," he noted. "This country has been special to me, professionally and personally. I felt at home." Dr Querido shared personal reflections on his journey into agriculture, his warm engagement with communities nationwide, and the deep connections he forged.

Several senior Ugandan officials including Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Hon. Lt. Col. (Rtd.) Bright Rwamirama, and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Dr. Alfred Okidi Okot, commended his contributions, especially in livestock health and environmental efforts.

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The UN Country Team in Uganda and Dr. Querido

BILATERAL MEETINGS



April 22, 2025 - H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni meets with H.E Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Republic of Togo, to discuss matters of mutual interest and regional security.



April 12, 2025 - Hon. Semaya Kumba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, held discussions with H.E. Brig. Gen. Ronnie Balya, Uganda's High Commissioner to South Sudan.

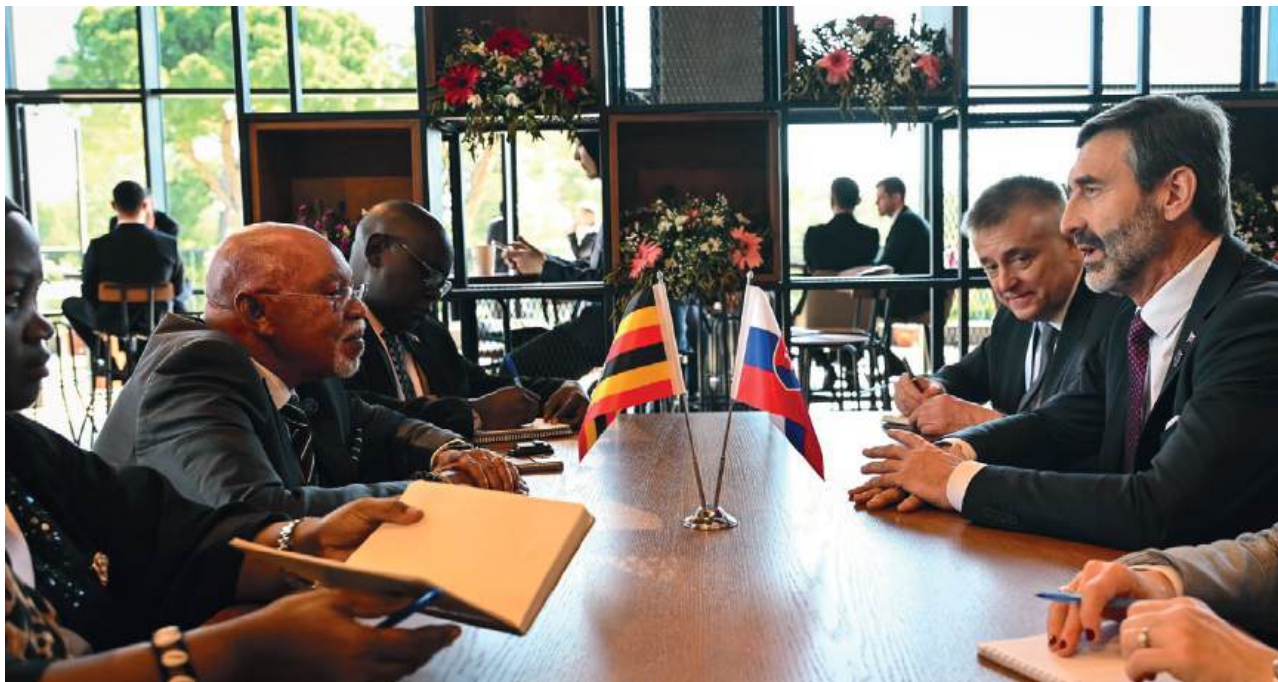


April 13, 2025 - Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar met with Mr. Deodat Maharaj, the Managing Director of the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, and discussed cooperation, especially in capacity building



April 13, 2025 Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar met with Hon. Olivier J. P. Nduhungirehe, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, at the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum to discuss sustainable peace and security.





April 12, 2025 - Hon. Juraj Blunar, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic, held a discussion with Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar about exploring significant opportunities for collaboration.



April 13, 2025 - Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar meets with Hon. Musalia W. Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, where they resolved to rally EAC partners towards stronger coordinated action through African-led frameworks and sustainable solutions.



April 16, 2025 - Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar engaged in discussions with Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy at the London Sudan Conference.



April 13, 2025 - Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar in talks with Hon. Yvan Gil Pinto, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, at the 4th Antalya Diplomacy Forum, where they discussed the strengthening of bilateral relations and holding of the Uganda-Venezuela Joint Permanent Commission in September 2025



Credentials

H.E. Farid Kaliisa Presents Credentials To President Tshisekedi

By Winnie Adile

April 10, 2025 - H.E. Farid Kaliisa presented his credentials to H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as Uganda's Ambassador, reaffirming strong bilateral ties between the two countries. They discussed the restoration of Uganda's

embassy in Kinshasa, boosting cooperation, appointing a DRC envoy to Kampala, and strengthening regional security, trade, and infrastructure. Both leaders pledged continued partnership rooted in Pan-African unity and mutual development.



H.E. Farid Kaliisa presents his credentials as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo



H.E. Farid Kaliisa with H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi and senior officials after presenting his credentials



Amb. Paul Amoru Presents Credentials as Uganda's Permanent Representative to SADC

April 10, 2025 - H.E. Paul Amoru, Uganda's High Commissioner to Botswana, presented his credentials as Uganda's first Permanent Representative to the Southern African Development Community (SADC). At the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Amb. Amoru pledged to strengthen regional ties. SADC's Executive Secretary, H.E. Elias Magosi, welcomed the move and reaffirmed support for Uganda's engagement.



Amb. Paul Amoru presents his letter of credence to SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Mr. Elias M. Magosi at the SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana





NATIONAL DAYS



April 4th
REPUBLIC OF
SENEGAL



April 26th
UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA



April 27th
KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS



April 27th
REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA



COMMERCIAL DIPLOMACY





Tourism and Investment Take Centre Stage at Pearl of Africa Trade Expo in Malaysia



April 23, 2025 – Uganda showcased its growing economic potential with a focus on investment and tourism opportunities, at the Pearl of Africa Trade and Tourism Expo held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Keynote speaker, Uganda's Finance Minister Hon. Matia Kasaija, outlined the Uganda's ambitious economic vision to increase its GDP from USD 50 billion in FY 2022/23 to USD 500 billion by 2040. He highlighted Uganda's stable currency, liberal economy, affordable energy tariffs, and robust private sector as key factors that attract investment. Uganda's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached USD 3 billion in 2023.

The Expo that was the first-ever East African Community Expo held in South East Asia was

organised by the Uganda High Commission in Malaysia, and aimed to strengthen ties with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) market. Hon. Kasaija encouraged investment in key sectors, including agro-industrialization, tourism, and technology, saying that Uganda is emerging as one of the fastest-growing economies globally, with a projected GDP growth of 7.5% in 2025.

The discussions on tourism focused on the use of digital platforms and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to attract tourists, and ASEAN investors expressed interest in increasing two-way tourist exchanges, targeting over 5,000 visitors by 2026.







Ugandan Coffee Arrives in Zhengzhou, Marking a New Chapter in Agricultural Cooperation

By Christiana Ampeire



H.E. Oliver Wonekha, delivers her remarks at the unboxing ceremony of the first batch of Ugandan coffee beans to arrive in Zhengzhou, China

April 11, 2025 – The first batch of Ugandan coffee beans have arrived in Zhengzhou, China, marking a significant milestone in the growing partnership between Uganda and the Henan Province. Uganda’s Ambassador to China, H.E. Oliver Wonekha expressed optimism about the future of agricultural collaboration

and stressed that Uganda, a traditionally subsistence farming nation, is shifting towards commercial agriculture, saying “This cooperation is just the beginning. Beyond the supply of coffee beans, we envision establishing value-addition factories in Uganda and deepening agro-industrial investments.”

Ambassador Wonekha also called for broader cooperation beyond agriculture. “I hope that our Chinese partners will also explore other sectors like tourism,” she added. “Uganda needs modern infrastructure, beautiful hotels, and roads that attract and accommodate many tourists.” The arrival of Ugandan coffee in Zhengzhou is symbolic of the deeper trade ties and shared growth opportunities between the two countries.



Leaders Hail Economic, Trade Boost as Uganda Airlines Gears Up for Historic London, Gatwick Launch

By Michael Wakabi

April 18, 2025 – Uganda Airlines is charting a new course for connectivity, commerce, and collaboration with the much-anticipated launch of direct flights between Entebbe and London Gatwick, on May 18th, 2025. This exciting development took center stage at the Uganda-UK Business Dialogue held in Kampala, where top government officials, industry leaders, and international partners celebrated the new route, which promises to transform air travel, trade, and tourism.

“This route is more than a flight; it’s a symbol of our shared history and mutual aspirations,” said Hon. Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, Uganda’s Minister for Works and Transport. “Direct air services reduce costs, boost trade and tourism, and allow Uganda to be better integrated into global value chains. This is a significant milestone for Uganda Airlines and our entire nation.”



Senior Government and Uganda Airlines officials after the London-Gatwick route media launch

Minister Katumba highlighted Uganda's recent strides in aviation, noting Entebbe International Airport's expansion, growing passenger numbers (2.2 million in 2024), and a modern cargo terminal capable of handling 100,000 tons annually. "We've invested in both infrastructure and partnerships to ensure our national carrier thrives on the world stage."

Ramathan Ggoobi, Secretary to the Treasury and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, tied the new route to Uganda's larger economic ambitions under the National Development Plan IV (NDP-IV), which kicks off in July. "Our bold vision is to grow our economy tenfold—from \$50 billion to \$500 billion by 2040," he said. "Air connectivity plays a pivotal role in this strategy by opening doors for tourism, exports, investment, and integration into global trade." Ggoobi noted that Uganda Airlines is key to this vision, citing its commercial model and growing network.

"The route to London directly supports our goals. Soon, we hope to add more aircraft, including a dedicated cargo freighter. This is how we build an economy that thrives and competes globally."

The airline's CEO, Jennifer Bamuturaki, emphasised the customer-centric focus of the London service, which will run four times a week aboard the state-of-the-art Airbus A330-800neo. "We offer unmatched comfort and convenience on this nine-hour journey—1,032 seats and 72 tons of cargo in each direction," she noted. "It's a service built around your needs, and we're here to listen, learn, and grow with you."

The UK's High Commissioner to Uganda, Her Excellency Lisa Chesney, strongly supported the initiative, praising the airline's determination and diplomatic collaboration. "Working with Uganda Airlines and government counterparts to make this happen has been a pleasure. The UK is committed to deepening economic ties, and this flight makes our partnership more tangible, more accessible, and more impactful."

The dialogue also spotlighted broader opportunities for private sector involvement. "Uganda is open for business," Hon. Katumba affirmed, urging investors to explore aviation and auxiliary services. "From cargo handling to hospitality, the skies are wide open."



URSB Hosts Business and Innovation Forum: A Strategic Diplomatic Initiative for Economic Growth.

By Amiri Wabusimba.



Forum participants outside URSB's One Stop Centre in Kololo, Kampala

Uganda reaffirmed its dedication to fostering a competitive business environment and promoting innovation with the hosting of a strategic forum at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) offices in Kololo. Organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the forum brought together ambassadors, high commissioners, and diplomats to discuss ways to enhance Uganda's business climate, promote innovation, and leverage diplomatic ties for economic growth.

Under the theme 'Strengthening Uganda's Economic Future through Strategic Diplomacy and Collaboration', the event aimed to position Uganda as an ideal investment destination while strengthening relationships with international stakeholders.

The keynote speech delivered by Hon. Norbert Mao, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, highlighted Uganda's strategic position in global markets. He emphasised the government's commitment to simplifying business processes, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and fostering trade and investment. "We live in an era of cross-border markets, trade, and a rapidly growing youthful population. The government is focused on facilitating business formalisation and spurring economic growth," he remarked. Hon. Mao underscored Uganda's progress in intellectual property (IP) protection, which is crucial for encouraging innovation. In 2024, URSB registered over 2,700 trademarks and 100 copyrights, demonstrating growing awareness of IP rights among local entrepreneurs. Registering



Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Cooperation speaks at the event

Uganda's first Geographical Indication (GI) for "Rwenzori Mountains of the Moon Coffee" was also notable, protecting local agricultural products and enhancing their market value.

The URSB Board Chairperson highlighted the Bureau's efforts to create a business-friendly environment. "URSB leads in streamlining business registration and protecting intellectual property. Our digital initiatives, including the Online Business Registration System (OBRS), have reduced registration times, enabling businesses to grow," he said, also referencing the Security Interest in Movable Property (SIMPO) electronic register, which eases businesses to access credit.

Uganda's innovation ecosystem was a key topic of discussion with the Chairperson of Uganda's Innovation Agency (UAI) stressing the agency's role in supporting start-ups and tech entrepreneurs. "Our innovation hubs have become centers of excellence. In 2024, we saw a 50% increase in trademark renewals and a surge in patent applications from universities and innovation hubs," she stated.

Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of International Cooperation, stressed the importance of diplomatic partnerships in driving Uganda's trade and innovation agenda. He praised efforts to ensure Uganda's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), providing access to broader markets. "Diplomacy and regional integration are essential for unlocking Uganda's potential," he noted, emphasizing opportunities in agriculture, technology, and manufacturing.

The forum concluded with a call for continued collaboration. Minister Mao reiterated Uganda's commitment to economic transformation and innovation, urging stakeholders to use technology for sustainable growth. This initiative marks a crucial step in Uganda's journey toward becoming a competitive business hub, strengthening its role in regional and global markets.



Diplomacy and regional integration are essential for unlocking Uganda's potential





ACROSS THE BORDERS

UGANDA MISSIONS ABROAD

WASHINGTON D.C, USA

Uganda Showcases Its Natural Beauty at US Travel Show

By Phillip Luzzi, Uganda Embassy - D.C



Representatives from the Uganda embassy in Washington D.C with AUTO tour operators at the Travel and Adventure Show, Walter. E Convention Center, Washington D.C.

March 28-30, 2025 – The Embassy of Uganda in Washington D.C. recently partnered with local tour operators through the the Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO), to showcase the country's unique tourist attractions at the Travel and Adventure Show held in Washington D.C, USA.

The aim of the event which attracted over 2.7 million travel enthusiasts, was to increase awareness of Uganda's tourism potential in the US market by providing a platform for Ugandan tour operators to promote the country's vast national parks, wildlife, and natural landscapes. While participating in the





Travel and Adventure Show, Ugandan tour operators were able to network with US tour operators, explore potential partnerships and promote Uganda as a top travel destination.

Uganda's tourism industry has significant potential for growth, with its rich natural heritage and diverse cultural attractions. The partnership between the Uganda Embassy and AUTO demonstrates the government's commitment to promoting Uganda's tourism industry and increasing its visibility in key markets like the US.



Uganda Embassy showcase at the Travel and Adventure Show, Walter. E Convention Center, Washington D.C



MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Easter Games and Dinner Gala: A Celebration of Culture and Unity

By Mildred Anne Nasirumbi

April 19, 2025 - The Uganda the Pearl of Africa Victoria Association (UPAVA) hosted an Inter-State Easter Games & Dinner Gala in Melbourne, Australia, where H.E. Dorothy S. Hyuha, High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to Australia officiated as Chief Guest.



H.E. Dorothy S. Hyuha addressing the Uganda Diaspora Community and Guests at the Inter-State Easter Games and Dinner Gala in Melbourne, Australia

The event convened Ugandans from different Australian states to celebrate Easter, showcase Uganda's diverse culture, and promote unity; starting with sports games held at the Keilor Park Sports fields, where teams competed in chess, netball, volleyball, and football. The excitement and camaraderie on display evidenced the strong bonds within the Ugandan diaspora community. The awards and gala dinner hosted at the Brimbank Anglican Parish Church Hall was a testament to the community's vibrant culture as guests enjoyed a sumptuous traditional Ugandan dinner and cultural performances, which put on display the richness of Uganda's heritage.

In her speech, High Commissioner Hyuha expressed gratitude to UPAVA President Dr. Michael Muleme and his team for their excellent arrangements, and for proudly representing Uganda in Victoria. She encouraged Ugandans to take advantage of the services offered by the Uganda High Commission in Canberra and





H.E. Dorothy S. Hyuha with a Ugandan Diaspora Community team, at the Inter-State Easter Games at the Keilor Park Sports Field, Melbourne

committed to collaborating with the diaspora on projects that benefit both Uganda and Australia. She thanked Bakaal General Trading of Melbourne, led by Chairman Mr. Abdi Ali Mohammed, for their generous sponsorship, also acknowledging that the company's presentation on their businesses and investments in Uganda, strongly highlighted the growing economic ties between Uganda and Australia.

The Inter-State Easter Games & Dinner Gala 2025 was a resounding success, that celebrated Uganda's culture, promoting unity, and fostering economic cooperation between Uganda and Australia.

Her Excellency also thanked Bakaal General Trading of Melbourne, led by Chairman Mr. Abdi Ali Mohammed, for their generous sponsorship whose company's presentation about their businesses and investments in Uganda highlighted the growing economic ties between Uganda and Australia.

The Inter-State Easter Games & Dinner Gala 2025 was a resounding success, celebrating Uganda's culture, promoting unity, and fostering economic cooperation between Uganda and Australia.





KINSHASA, DRC

Uganda Participates in “Friends of Gabon” Meeting, Following Peaceful Elections

By Kamudoli Nasanairi, Uganda Embassy - Kinshasa

April 14, 2025 - Mr. Kamudoli Nasanairi, Counsellor at the Embassy of Uganda in Kinshasa (also accredited to Gabon), represented H.E Al-Hajji Farid Kaliisa at the “Friends of Gabon” meeting held at the Swiss Ambassador’s residence in Kinshasa.

The meeting, convened by the Ambassador of Gabon in DRC, H.E Josephine Ntyam Ehya, provided a briefing on Gabon’s recent elections held on 12th April 2025 in which participation was reported at 69%, with 630,000 voters casting ballots from 900,000 registered voters across 3,057 polling stations. Observers from the AU, ECAS, and OIF monitored the polls, and the Constitutional Court’s final approval

is awaited. Participants commended Gabon for the smooth elections, which are key to establishing a new government before the symbolic transition deadline of 30th August 2025. It was noted that during the transition, Gabon received credentials from 20 Envoys, with the UK and India opening embassies in Libreville.

H.E Ntyam Ehya encouraged envoys to engage more broadly across Gabon’s regions under the new decentralised framework and liaise with the Foreign Ministry for credential presentation after the investiture of the new President, scheduled for 27th April 2025.



‘Friends of Gabon’ meeting participants





KINSHASA, DRC

Religious Tourism Promoted as AREA Visits Uganda Embassy in Kinshasa

By Kamudoli Nasanairi, Uganda Embassy - Kinshasa



AREA members at the meeting in Kinshasa, DRC



Mr. Nasanairi receives a Certificate of Appreciation presented to Amb. Kaliisa by AREA

April 16, 2025 - The Embassy of Uganda in Kinshasa, DRC, hosted members of the Association of Religious from East Africa (AREA), led by Chairperson Akampurira Ronald, at the new Embassy premises at 60, Avenue Uvira, Gombe Commune. AREA is a religious humanitarian organisation of priests, nuns, and other religious leaders from the East African Community (EAC) countries, that has been instrumental in promoting religious tourism, especially in encouraging pilgrimage to Uganda's Namugongo and Rubaga

Cathedrals, and celebrating Uganda Martyrs Day jointly in Kinshasa.

During their visit, AREA members expressed solidarity with the Embassy following the January 28th attack, which resulted in theft, vandalism, and the destruction of valuable items. They prayed for strengthened diplomatic ties and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ambassador Kaliisa, received by Counsellor Mr. Kamudoli Nasanairi on his behalf.



GABORONE, BOTSWANA

Uganda-Botswana Relations on a Positive on a Positive Trajectory

By Richard Bob Opio

April 8-10, 2025 - Uganda and Botswana are steadily advancing through regular engagements between Uganda's High Commission in Pretoria and the Government of Botswana. Following the recent elections in Botswana, the High Commission has proactively engaged with the new administration to promote Uganda's national interests, more

recently through talks held with Botswana's Minister of International Relations, Hon. Dr. Phenyio Butale, and Ag. Minister of Lands and Agriculture, Hon. Dr. Edwin Dikolati. The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral trade, investments, tourism, and agriculture relations.





The High Commissioner congratulated the new leadership and shared progress with the previous administration, particularly in political, technical, and scientific domains. Uganda is finalizing consultations on proposed MOUs for political consultations and agricultural cooperation between the two countries. The Ministers appreciated Uganda's engagement and committed to expediting feedback on agreed actions and stressed commitment to strengthening cooperation and advancing intra-African collaboration.

Cooperation between Uganda and Botswana has been robust in addressing foot-and-mouth disease. In December 2024, the Botswana Vaccine Institute signed a contract with Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture to supply vaccines. Botswana is also keen to enhance trade with Uganda in sectors like beef, milk, grains, and fruits, with a focus on value addition and collaboration on animal feed production. Proposed MOUs will lay the foundation for further agricultural cooperation and trade expansion, with plans for joint trade missions and increased private sector involvement.



Amb. Paul Amoru meets Botswana's Minister of International Relations, Hon. Dr. Phenyio Butale in Gaborone, Botswana





NEW YORK, USA

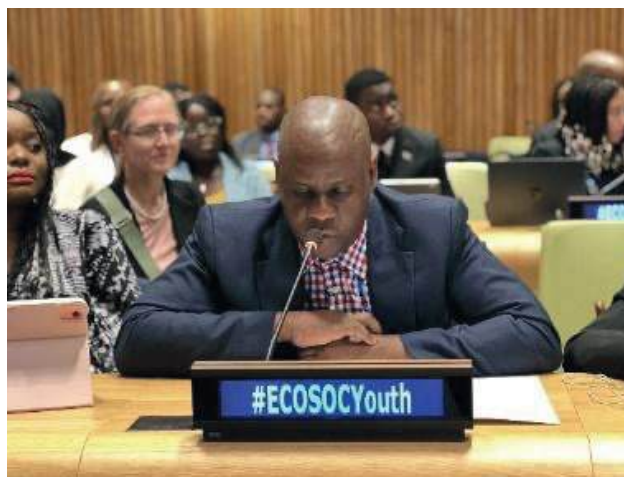
Uganda Champions Youth Empowerment at the 2025 ECOSOC Youth Forum in New York

By Enoch Tusubira, Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN

April 15-17, 2025 - The 2025 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum was held at the UN Headquarters in New York under the theme 'Youth at the Forefront: Leveraging Science for Job Creation and Social Inclusion for Sustainable Development'. It gathered young leaders for dialogue and collaboration toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Uganda's delegation, led by Hon. Balaam Barugahara Ateenyi, Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs, emphasised Uganda's recognition of youth as both beneficiaries and drivers of change. With over 73% of Uganda's population under 30, he highlighted the country's investment in science, technology, and innovation to create jobs and foster inclusive growth. Hon. Barugahara reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to youth empowerment through national skilling programs, innovation hubs, and Presidential Industrial Hubs. He shared Uganda's efforts to integrate green growth into national development plans through strengthened TVET systems, including climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable waste management.

He praised youth-led initiatives in eco-friendly agribusiness and solar energy and called for co-financed training hubs, structured mentorship, and youth-inclusive policy design. He urged Africa to place youth at the center of its transformation agenda, as echoed during the 11th ARFSD hosted in Kampala.



Hon. Barugahara delivers remarks during the plenary session



A youth representative speaks during the plenary in the Trusteeship Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York





ORAN, ALGERIA

Uganda Shines at SIAHA Exhibition in Oran, Algeria

April 23, 2025 - The Uganda Embassy in Algeria showcased the Pearl of Africa's rich tourism offerings at the 15th edition of the International Tourism, Travel and Transport Exhibition (SIAHA) Exhibition in Oran. Led by Amb. Julius Kivuna, the Deputy Head of Mission, the Ugandan delegation captivated visitors with a vibrant presentation of Uganda's as a premier summer destination, offering something for nature lovers, thrill-seekers, and cultural enthusiasts. The team engaged with attendees through interactive discussions, stunning visuals, and

personal insights into Uganda's diverse travel experiences.

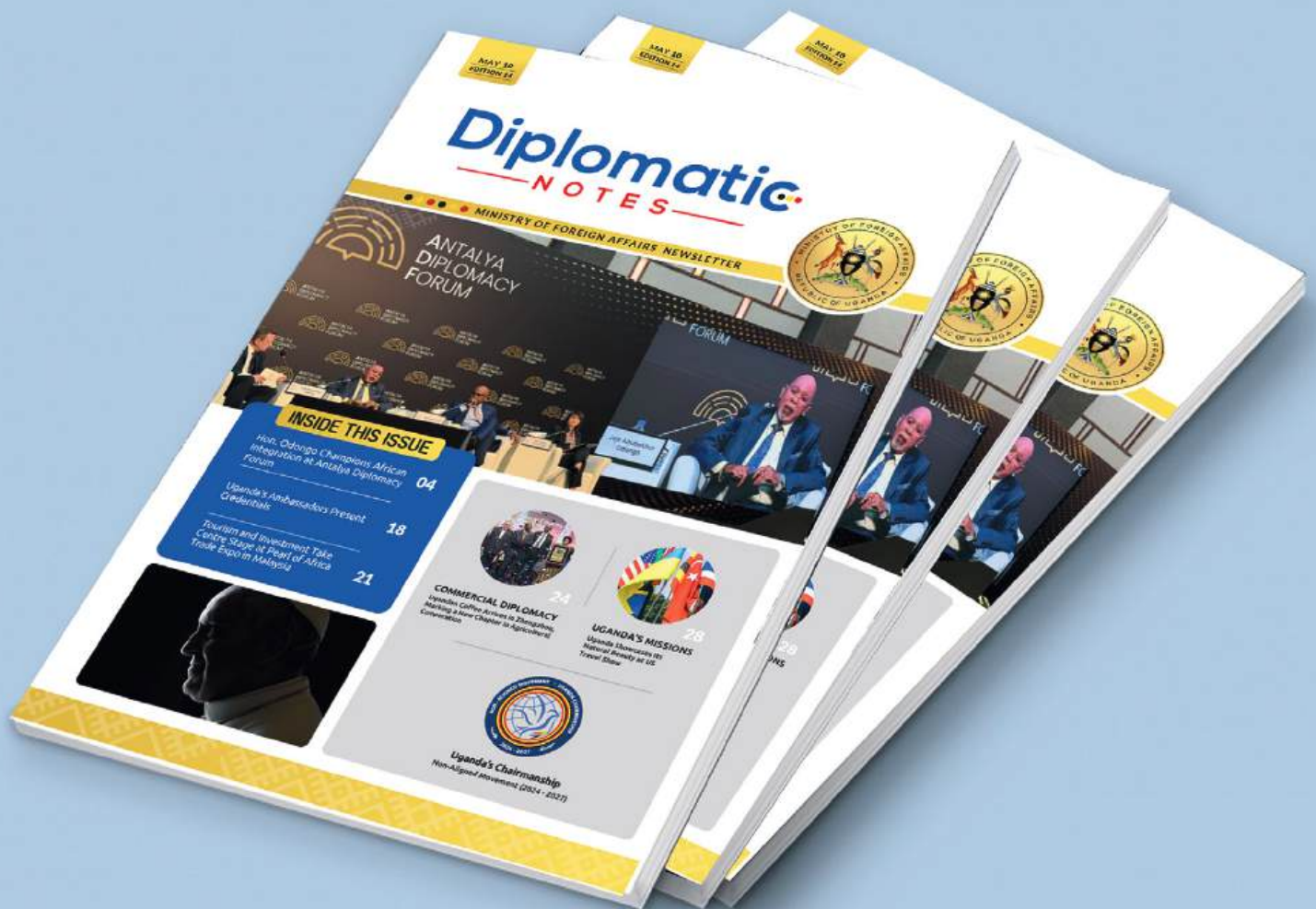
"This exhibition has provided a fantastic platform to share Uganda's story," said the Deputy Head of Mission. "Our goal is to forge strong connections with Algerian tour operators and inspire Algerians to experience the beauty and warmth of Uganda." The exhibition marks a significant step in enhancing Uganda's tourism profile in Algeria and the Mediterranean region.



Visitors listen to a presentation about Uganda's diverse tourism portfolio



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la Vie

S O C I A L E



Uganda Embassy in Berlin Promotes Sports Diplomacy at Netball Berlin Tournament

April 26, 2025 - The Uganda Embassy in Berlin, represented by Ms. Jessica Namuddu and Mr. Ronald Mutebi, joined Ugandans from Sweden and Berlin at the one-day Netball Berlin Tournament held at Sporthalle OSZ in Berlin, Germany.

Twelve (12) European teams from Paris, Brussels, Stockholm, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Leeds, and Berlin participated in the competition, where Uganda was represented by KISTA Netball Club, a Stockholm-based

team that is coached by Mr. Frank Ssendi. Registered as an official netball club, KISTA brings Ugandans in the diaspora together through sport, fostering unity and community pride.

The Embassy's participation underscored the importance of sports diplomacy in promoting Uganda's image abroad, strengthening people-to-people connections, and showcasing the vibrant Ugandan spirit in the international arena.



Left to Right: Ms. Angella (WD), Mr. Kavuma (GD), Ms. Jane (GK), Ms. Jessica (WD), Mr. Sam (GA), Ms. Annet (WA), Mr. Mutebi (Team Manager), Ms. Florence (C), Ms. Linda (WA), Ms. Bridget (GS), Ms. Brenda and Mr. Frank Ssendi (Team Coach)



Pope Francis (1936 - 2025)

Your Eminence Pietro Paroli,

It is with profound sadness that I have received the news of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Uganda, and on my own behalf, I extend our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to you and, through you, to the entire Catholic Church worldwide. His Holiness Pope Francis will be remembered as an extraordinary spiritual leader and a deeply respected theologian whose unwavering commitment to the faith revitalised the Church's mission in an increasingly secular world.

We stand in solidarity with Catholics in Uganda and around the globe during this time of mourning. May his soul rest in eternal peace. Please accept, Your Eminence, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yoweri K. Museveni,
President of the Republic of Uganda

His voice for peace, social justice, compassion, and humility touched the hearts of millions and inspired hope among the faithful. His readiness and enthusiasm to deal with other faiths such as the Moslems, the Orthodox Christians, etc, meant that he was a religious leader who was truly in the Kisinde (track) of Jesus as Jesus taught us in the parable of the Good Samaritan in the book of Luke 10:29-37. His legacy of love, unity, and service to humanity will endure for generations to come.



Shaka Ssali (1953-2025)

Dr. Shaka Ssali was a mentor, storyteller, and friend who has left an indelible mark on many lives. Through his work with VOA and with his unforgettable voice, he inspired intellectual liberation and fairness. Shaka's wisdom, humor, and dedication to truth will forever resonate. Farewell, your legacy will live on.



creative ECONOMY



Hon. Racheal Magoola Champions Structural Support for Uganda's Creative Sector

By Winnie Adile



Hon. Racheal Magoola speaks at the forum

At the recent Creative Economy Validation Dialogue, Hon. Racheal Magoola, Woman MP Bugweri District and Chairperson Parliamentary Forum for Creative Arts, called for recognition of Uganda's Creative and Cultural Industries (CCI) as a standalone economic sector, considering its growing contribution to innovation, employment, and Uganda's economy.

Hon. Magoola highlighted the absence of a supportive governance model and proposed the establishment of a dedicated ministry or autonomous agency with a dedicated budget to ensure coordination and funding. She stressed the need for clear educational policies, legal frameworks, investment, and data collection to strengthen the sector's foundations. Additionally, she pointed out that many government economic assessments fail to reflect the true scope and value of the

creative industry. Together with partners like the African Creative Alliance, she underscored the need for a governance model that ensures institutional visibility and resource access for creatives.

Her call was firm: Uganda's creatives must be included in national development plans and not left behind.



Participants listen to forum presentations



Ethiopia Festival; A Sign that Culture is a Powerful Integration Tool

By Alex Masereka Joel



H.E. Rebecca Amuge Otengo, Uganda's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, and Uganda's Permanent Representative to the African Union

Addis Ababa - Uganda's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Djibouti, H.E. Rebecca Otengo Amuge, has underscored the vital role of culture in fostering regional integration. Speaking on Sunday, March 23, 2025, in Addis Ababa, where she hosted a Ugandan delegation participating in the East Africa Arts and Cultural Festival, the ambassador emphasised that cultural exchange remains a strong pillar for unity among East African nations.

The vibrant four-day festival concluded on the same day, with Uganda's contingent delivered thrilling performances showcasing the country's rich cultural diversity.

In this exclusive interview Ambassador Otengo, who also serves as Uganda's Permanent Representative to the African Union, shared her thoughts on the significance of the festival and how President Yoweri Museveni's role as a champion of integration positions Uganda to lead in using culture as a tool for unification.

AM: Your Excellency, Uganda's participation in Ethiopia's Cultural and Art Festival was significant. In your view, what key lessons has Uganda drawn from this experience?

Amb. Otengo: Uganda's involvement in this festival has strengthened the idea that culture is a powerful tool for regional integration. One key lesson is the importance of promoting and valuing locally made products. In Ethiopia, we saw a strong emphasis on locally produced clothing, musical instruments, and crafts. This speaks to Uganda's "Buy Uganda, Build Uganda" policy, which we must further embrace. Another major take away is that borders should not divide us. As Africans, we share common traditions, languages, and ways of life. This festival highlighted how interconnected our cultures are. Across music, dance and cuisine, we saw striking similarities among participating countries, proving that we are one people despite artificial borders.

AM: You mentioned Uganda's strong cultural representation at the festival. How do you assess the country's performance?

Amb. Otengo: Uganda made us incredibly proud. The Ugandan delegation led by Hon. Grace Hellen Asamo showcased outstanding talent, and this year's performance was even better than last year's. Beyond the performances, we also had more Ugandan exhibitors displaying their products, demonstrating the impact of programs like Skilling Uganda in enhancing productivity and craftsmanship.



Hon. Asamo also represented Uganda well during the ministerial discussions, advocating for the role of culture in fostering peace, economic growth, and social cohesion. Uganda's active participation is a testament to our commitment to cultural diplomacy to strengthen regional ties.

AM: You have spoken about the role of culture in regional integration. How can Uganda and Ethiopia build on this cooperation?

Amb. Otengo: Our two countries already enjoy strong diplomatic relations, and culture can be another bridge that brings our people even closer. Ethiopia's commitment to showcasing its heritage, especially under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's leadership, is something we can learn from. Addis Ababa is not just the capital of Ethiopia but the capital of Africa, and it has undergone a remarkable transformation to reflect this status. Uganda too, can elevate its cultural scene by investing more in creative industries and infrastructure.

Uganda's President, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, has always been a champion of African integration and regional stability. Culture, arts, and music can complement these efforts by promoting unity at a grassroots level. Preventive diplomacy through cultural exchange can help promote peace and security, particularly in the Great Lakes region.

AM: Uganda's Ambassador to Ethiopia is key in strengthening these cultural and diplomatic ties. What is your experience hosting the Ugandan delegation?

Amb. Otengo: It has been a privilege. I appreciate Hon. Asamo's leadership and the team's high-level performance. They represented Uganda with excellence, and their presence showcased our rich heritage on the international stage. I want to thank the Ethiopian government for its hospitality and support. Our relationship with Ethiopia

continues to grow, and this festival has further strengthened our collaboration. I must also acknowledge the Ethiopian Ambassador to Uganda, who has spearheaded this partnership.

AM: Finally, what message would you like to share with Ugandans regarding cultural development and regional cooperation?

Amb. Otengo: I encourage Ugandans to take pride in our culture and see it as a tool for economic growth, unity, and global recognition. Investing in arts and creative industries can create employment and strengthen our identity on the international stage. More importantly, we must view our neighbors not as separate entities but as part of a larger African family. Culture can connect us, and if we harness it well, we can build a stronger, more integrated continent.



Hon. Grace Hellen Asamo, State Minister for Disability Affairs, Ministry of Gender (R) at the East Africa Arts and Cultural Festival in Addis Ababa.



Ugandan dancers entertain at the Festival in Addis Ababa



SPORTS *DIPLOMACY*





Ugandan Pride Shines in Boston ahead of Victor Kiplangat Marathon Run



Victor Kiplangat joins Ugandan traditional dancers on the streets of Boston

Over 200 guests gathered at Heartbreak Hill Running Company's South End store for a lively street party celebrating Ugandan Olympic medalist Victor Kiplangat, ahead of his Boston Marathon run. Organised under the theme 'A Cultural Bridge Between Boston and Uganda', the event was a vibrant showcase of sports diplomacy, uniting local runners, Ugandan Embassy officials, and Boston residents.

The celebration featured traditional East African cuisine from Sentie's Kitchen, dynamic performances by the Pearl Dancers, and an intimate fireside chat with Kiplangat and elite U.S.-based coach Patrick Cheptoeck from Kapchorwa, Uganda. Kiplangat reflected on his 2023 World Championship win in Budapest, saying, "In that moment, I made Uganda proud." Cheptoeck emphasised devotion and love for the sport over just winning.

Organised by Running Launch Ventures with support from the Ugandan Embassy, Uganda Boston Community Association, and others,

the event highlighted Uganda's growing global profile. A major highlight was a raffle awarding two winners an all-expenses-paid trip to Uganda for the 2025 Rwenzori Marathon and a gorilla trek in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Nike also sponsored a storytelling feature celebrating athlete perseverance. "This was about honoring legacy and sharing stories across continents," said event organizer Ryan Lee.



Kiplangat autographs a fans shoe before the Boston Marathon

Uganda Cubs Qualify For First-Ever U17 FIFA World Cup.

By Herbert Ssekatawa.



The Uganda Cubs celebrate after their 2-1 win against Gambia

The Uganda U17 national team, the Cubs, made history with a 2-1 comeback win over The Gambia, securing their spot at the 2025 FIFA U17 World Cup in Qatar. Gambia took an early lead through Ahmed Njundu Kanyi, but Uganda responded brilliantly when forward James Bogere scored a brace in the 13th and 33rd minutes, putting the Cubs ahead. Despite pressure from The Gambia in the second half, Uganda held firm, showcasing impressive defensive resilience. Coach Brian Ssenyondo's team maintained their lead to the final whistle, making Uganda the first football team in the country's history to qualify for a FIFA World Cup at any age level.

This achievement follows years of development in youth football, particularly through the FUFA Juniors League, which mandated Uganda Premier League clubs to establish junior sides. The qualification marks a significant milestone for Uganda, which previously had a U20 team qualify for the 2019 FIFA U20 World Cup, but could not participate due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Cubs' qualification not only celebrates the growth of youth football in Uganda but also inspires future generations, elevating Uganda's profile on the global football stage.



James Bogere, Uganda's U17 striker celebrates a goal with teammates



Uganda Lady Cranes Qualify for 2025 Rugby Africa Women's Cup with Unbeaten Run

By Herbert Ssekatawa.

The Uganda Lady Cranes have secured qualification for the 2025 Rugby Africa Women's Cup following an outstanding performance at the Rugby Africa Women's Division One tournament in Côte d'Ivoire. Uganda emphatically capped off their campaign, thrashing Zimbabwe 63–7 in their final match, underscoring their rapid rise as one of the most promising African women's rugby teams.

Played in a round-robin format, the tournament saw Uganda dominate the field with comprehensive victories over Zimbabwe, Tunisia, and host nation Côte d'Ivoire. Their ability to sustain high-level performances across all fixtures highlighted the team's growing depth, cohesion, and competitive maturity.

In their final outing, Uganda's forwards laid a dominant platform, overpowering Zimbabwe

in the pack and providing a Launchpad for the fast and powerful backline to execute precisely. The Lady Cranes' superior strategy and teamwork left little room for opposition, illustrating their control and discipline throughout the tournament.

Its unmatched consistency, resilience, and relentless drive set Uganda apart. They finished the tournament unbeaten, topping the standings and reaffirming their status as a rising force in the sport.

With this triumph, Uganda joins South Africa, Kenya, and Madagascar in the premier division of the 2025 Rugby Africa Women's Cup. The Lady Cranes have reasserted their reputation as a formidable presence in African women's rugby in the 15s and 7s formats, marking yet another significant milestone in their development.



Uganda Lady Cranes crowned victors, with a 63-7 win over Zimbabwe



Uganda Shines at the East African Junior Athletics Championships in Zanzibar

By Herbert Ssekatawa

Uganda's young athletes dominated the 2025 East African Junior Athletics Championships in Zanzibar, delivering medal-winning performances and showcasing the country's rising athletic talent.



Chebet Isella (Gold) and Chebet Kezia (Silver) after the 3000m U18 Girls' Race

Medal Highlights:

- 3000m U18 Girls: Gold – Chebet Isella
- 3000m U18 Girls: Silver – Chebet Kezia
- 5000m U18 Boys: Gold – Chemutai Hosea
- 5000m U18 Boys: Silver – Cherotich Victor
- 800m U18 Boys: Gold – Krube F. Jaffar (Air Force SS)
- 400m U20 Girls: Gold – Awat Mary (Gombe SS)
- 400m U20 Girls: Bronze – Mbabazi Peace Teopista (Old Kampala SS)
- Long Jump U20: Gold – Otim David Beckham (7.17m, Gulu)
- 1500m U20 Girls: Silver – Chekwemoi Felister
- 1500m U20 Girls: Bronze – Chekwemoi Brenda
- 4x100m Relay U18 Girls: Bronze
- 4x400m Relay U18 Boys: Bronze
- 5000m U20 Girls: Gold – Cherop Risper
- 5000m U20 Girls: Silver – Cherop Charity
- 1500m U18 Boys: Silver – Salimo Akram
- 3000m U20 Boys: Gold – Chemutai Hosea
- 3000m U20 Boys: Silver – Cherotich Victor
- 3000m U20 Boys: Bronze – Sande Jacob
- 200m U20 Women: Silver – Awat Mary
- 200m U20 Women: Bronze – Mbabazi Peace Teopista
- 4x400m U20 Women: Silver – Team Uganda

Final Standings:

1st Place, U20 – Uganda

3rd Place, U18 – Uganda



Uganda's Dominance in the International Long-Distance Running Echoes Globally

By Herbert Ssekatawa

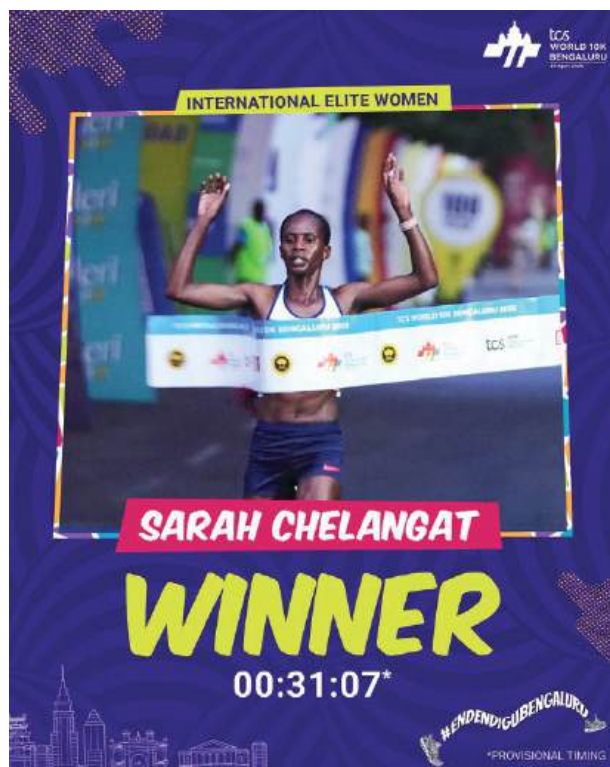
Uganda's long-distance runners continue to command the global spotlight with remarkable performances. At the London Marathon, Jacob Kiplimo stunned the world in his debut, clocking a blistering 2:03:37 to break the national record and secure second place.

Meanwhile, at the TCS World 10,000m in Bengaluru, Joshua Cheptegei and Sarah Chelangat etched their names in history as the first Ugandans to win titles at this prestigious international event.

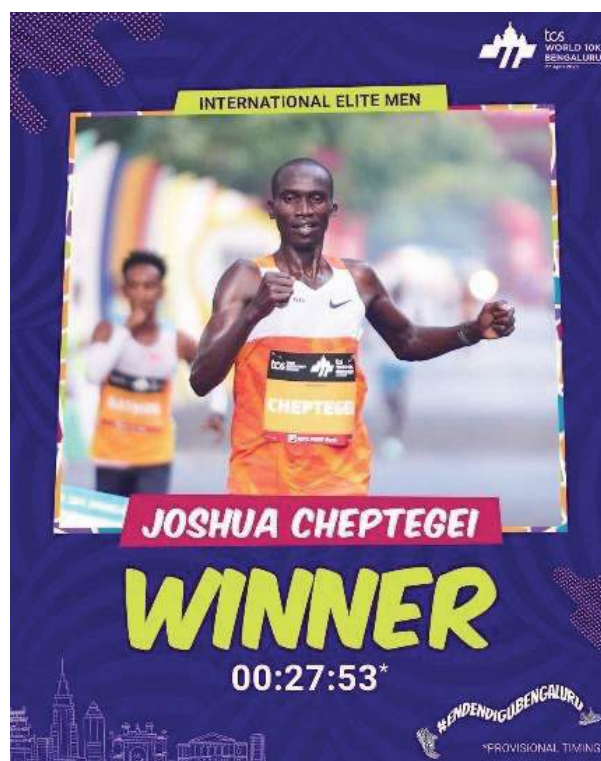
Uganda's future in athletics is brighter than ever, from East Africa to the global stage.



Jacob Kiplimo crosses the finish line at the London Marathon



Sarah Chelangat, winner of the Elite Women's Race, TCS World 10,000m Bengaluru, India



Joshua Cheptegei, winner of the Elite Men's Race, TCS World 10,000m Bengaluru, India





Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasaija, joins Ndere Troupe in a cultural dance at the Pearl of Africa Business Forum and Expo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION:

