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NRM@38: INSIDE MUSEVENI LEGACY

Long-held wish comes true. While opening the first session of the National Resistance Council, which acted as the national parliament, on April 11, 1989, Museveni was elated to see that one of his long-held wishes had come true... to see the emergence of a measure of political consensus in Uganda; a system where Ugandans were free to participate in the democratic process of choosing their leaders.

By RICHARD TODWONG

In his first address after being sworn in as President at the steps of parliament on January 29, 1986, the then 42-year-old Marxist revolutionary, wiping his forehead with a brimmed army kofia, asserted that theirs was “not a mere change of guard but a fundamental change in the politics of Uganda”. That statement would define the NRM’s journey towards the restoration of democracy, peace, security, economic revival as outlined in the original Ten-Point Programme.

In the same address, President Yoweri Museveni castigated African leaders who overstayed in power [without elections], and those

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NRM@38: Inside Museveni legacy



From PAGE 1

who flew expensive jets as their subjects were immersed in abject poverty. Museveni has since led his fellow countrymen and women by popular mandate through periodic free and fair elections since the very first democratic election in 1996 following the promulgation of the Constitution.

While opening the first session of the National Resistance Council (NRC), which acted as the national parliament, on April 11, 1989, Museveni was elated to see that one of his long-held wishes had come true... to see the emergence of a measure of political consensus in Uganda; a system where Ugandans were free to participate in the democratic process of choosing their leaders.

The Movement System

This was the beginning of real democracy, where aspirants for the various elective offices got their mandate from the masses under one-man-one vote system. Leaders were elected on individual merit. Uganda was under the Movement System from 1986 to 2005 when parties were allowed to operate.

President Museveni had had a long-held disgust for multipartyism on the mantra that parties fomented sectarianism and divisionism among the citizens of the country, and that they were the number one reason as to why

Uganda had been trapped into anarchy. He said that they had better put parties in abeyance until such a time as when Uganda was prepared for multipartyism.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) was a broad-based system bringing together members who subscribed to the various political parties and fighting forces. Until the opening up of the political space in July 2005, all Ugandans, by law, belonged to the Movement system.

Road to constitutionalism

The road to constitutionalism began in 1990, when President Museveni, who was meant to step down that year, as per the schedule of the transitional government [1986-1990], sought the mandate of the National Resistance Council (NRC), the then parliament, to add him more five years [1990-1995] to see through the process of birthing a new supreme law for Uganda.

Thus the transition of the NRC to the Constituent Assembly (CA) in 1994 to pave way for the new constitution, a process that saw various politicians seek the people's mandate through elections of one-man-one-vote to set foot in the CA. It was this delegation that debated and promulgated the constitution in 1995; the first constitution in which the citizens of Uganda were widely consulted on the various issues under the Justice Odoki Commission.

The 1995 constitution replaced

the 1967 Republican Constitution of Apollo Milton Obote that had been hastily drafted after the bitter fallout between Obote and the then Kabaka of Buganda, Sir Edward Mutesa, also President at the time.

Uganda's first free democratic elections

With the new constitution, Ugandans, for the first time, elected their leaders in the first-ever democratic elections in which President Museveni offered himself up for elections alongside his first interior minister Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere (DP-leaning) and Mohammed Kibirige Mayanja, who stood on the platform of JEEMA. Museveni was overwhelmingly voted by Ugandans garnering over 75% of the popular vote under universal suffrage to begin his new and "first" [as stipulated in the new constitution] five-year tenure of office.

The landmark of the NRM's democratic process was the inclusion of special interest groups such as women, youth, workers, the army, and persons with disability (PWDs), and more recently the elderly. The workers, army, youth, the elderly and PWDs are elected through electoral colleges.

Women in leadership

Indeed, women have been accorded more space in politics and other leadership roles in government. Currently women comprise 35% of the overall representation in parliament, and they

have held high-profile positions in NRM government including controlling 40% of cabinet slots. Museveni appointed the first-ever woman vice president in Uganda and Africa (Dr Specioza Wandira Kazzibwe); Uganda has also had the first female speaker of parliament (Rt Hon Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga); first female prime minister Rt Hon Robinah Nabanja; first female deputy chief justice (late Lady Justice Leticia Kikonyogo); first female military general (Lt Gen Proscovia Nalweyiso), etc.

Foundation for recovery

The initial 10 years of President Museveni's leadership (1986-1996) marked a firm foundation for Uganda's socio-economic and political recovery. This was the time the NRM embarked on policy interventions that would place the nation on the pedestal of real progress. The NRM government introduced Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997 which saw enrollment swell from 1.8million pupils to 12million pupils today. The economy underwent rapid transformation following Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) which included liberalisation, privatisation, deregulation, and opening up to Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs). Indeed in the last two decades, the economy has grown at an average of 6.5 per cent of GDP, and revenue collection increased from Shs5billion in 1986 to over Shs23trillion today (FY 2023/24 projections). The budget has also increased to more than Shs 50trillion as of 2023/24 financial year.

This was the period the NRM government was engaged in fierce battles against insurgents such as Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF I&II), West Nile Bank Front, Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), and the Karamojong cattle rustlers. All these reactionary forces have since been defeated by the now professionalised people's army, the UPDF. Uganda is now more peaceful and secure at all the borders for the first time in 500 years, and the UPDF is now working hard to stabilise the region through its pan-African mandate of peace missions.

The next ten years (1996-2006) saw refocused planning (sectoral reviews and strategic investment plans) in terms of realigning our budgetary priorities with the aim of delivering on the essential services such as health, education, transport and communication infrastructure, energy, agriculture ie NAADS, human resource development, etc, amidst emerging local and global challenges.

Restoration of cultural institutions

Until recently when the central

Bush war struggle.

President Yoweri

Museveni with his fighters during the bush war struggle.

According to sources, the NRA recruitments across the country were conducted from the current Buyengo town council in Jinja district at the late Mugumira's home, where the warriors based to invade forests of Luwero triangle.

government handed back a number of properties to the Buganda Kingdom, Buganda had remained a thorn in the flesh of the NRM government. It was the NRM that restored cultural institutions including the Kabakaship in 1993. Ostensibly, according to some analysts, Museveni wanted to appease the Baganda and secure their support as he sought to entrench his regime in power. As time would prove, the romance between Mengo, the seat of the Buganda Kingdom, and the NRM government was first losing steam at an appalling rate especially during the reigns of Dan Muliika and Eng JB Walusimbi as Katikiros (prime ministers) of Buganda. Government has more often than not had to cave in to Mengo's demands until it couldn't have it anymore. Issues of concern have been the granting of federalism to Buganda, the return of the Kingdom's 9000 sq. miles of land including other expropriated properties, and granting the Kabaka more powers to collect taxes in his jurisdiction. The appointment of Charles Peter Mayiga as Katikiro reset a new trajectory between the relationship of Buganda on the one hand and central government on the other. Katikiro Mayiga is a young firebrand Kingdom enthusiast whose leadership approach is to work closely and cordially with the central government as he charts a socio-economic development path for Buganda.

The ultimate in the Mengo-Government stand-off was witnessed in 2009 when the government, owing to security reasons, barred the Kabaka from visiting Kayunga, a melee that culminated into the death of a dozen civilians. Before the dust could settle, Buganda's most revered cultural heritage, the Kasubi Tombs, were torched to ashes and some officials at Mengo were quick to point fingers at Government. Investigations, which followed an earlier warning by Unesco, would later reveal that the tombs were set ablaze by an accidental fire.

It's this and other sets of acrimony between Buganda Kingdom and the NRM government that, according to some analysts, resulted into a rushed enactment of the Cultural Institutions and Leaders Act, seen by critics as a move by Government to curtail the powers and influence of the Kabaka, but this isn't the case as evidenced by the cordial mutual relation between Kabaka Ronald Mutebi and President Yoweri Museveni.

As of today, the central government enjoys a cordial relationship with Mengo, the seat of Buganda Kingdom, and this relationship has been cemented by the restitution of Buganda Kingdom properties including land titles of all properties previously occupied by government.

East African Federation
President Museveni has been at the



Infrastructure development.
A section of the Entebbe Express

THE LEGACY AT A GLANCE

- Restoration of peace, security within all Uganda's borders
- Professional people's army
- Uganda is politically stable
- Improved international relations ie NAM Conference, G-77+ China, Global Speakers' meeting, Chogm, etc
- Steady economic growth of 6.5% average
- Poverty reduction from 56% by early 2000s to 19%
- Free education ie UPE, USE, UPPET, Student's Loan Scheme
- More access to university education from 9 public and private universities to more than 40 today
- Roads tarmacked from 1,500km to 6,000km now.
- Thanks to Rural Electrification, only 1 district is without power-Buvuma.
- Life expectancy is now at 65 years from 42 in 1986
- Promotion of Sports ie Uganda Cranes qualifying for Africa Cup

forefront of pushing for the East African Federation. In 1999, together with other regional leaders; Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, the East African Community was revived to include additional members: Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, DR Congo, and more recently Somalia. The EAC now comprises a robust Customs Union, Common Market, and plans are underway to have the East African Monetary Union by 2026 which will result into the single currency and eventually a Federation.

There are signature projects in infrastructure which are jointly being pushed by the EAC member states, and these include; the East African Oil Pipeline which is being constructed from the oil-rich Bunyoro region connecting to Tanga and will go all the way to Dar-es-Salaam port. The

Oil refinery is in process. We are having the East African Standard Gauge Railway which is running all the way from Mombasa and will go through Uganda up to Rwanda and DR Congo, connecting all the member states.

The above huge investments in infrastructure are meant to fast-track the integration process socio-economically and will eventually make the political federation easier.

Wealth creation:

In this phase (2006-2024) when the NRM marks 38 years of steady progress, the economy is now robust with sound macro and microeconomic policies that have stabilised the economy, keeping inflation to manageable levels, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The NRM government, through prioritisation, is now consolidating on key sectors such as roads, energy, health, security and defence, ICT and scientific innovations.

The current 2023/24 budget points to the renewed efforts at creating jobs by increasing funding to the critical sectors. Money to wealth creation initiatives including the Parish Development Model (PDM) stands at a whopping Shs 1trillion. There are also resource baskets such as Emyooga, Women Fund, Fund for the Elderly, Youth Livelihood, etc, which are meant to stimulate wealth creation.

The revival of the national air carrier, the Uganda Airlines, has rejuvenated hope and optimism among Ugandans with the arrival of two new Boeing A330-800 new aircraft and four Bombardier planes. The Airlines has enhanced Uganda's connectivity to the international world with the potential to boost our tourism, travel and commerce.

Creating jobs

Museveni's challenge is now creating jobs for millions of young Ugandans. According to official statistics, about 400,000 youth graduate from universities, colleges and other institutions of which only 9,000 are absorbed in the formal sector. The President is now restructuring the different ministries, departments and agencies to align them on the singular mission of creating jobs and empowering the masses through effective service delivery.

Ugandans are now more hopeful for the future; they see reason enough to collectively develop their country. The government launched a national development vision which aims at transforming the country from a peasantry to modern, transformed, middle class and industrialised society within 30 years. This vision can only be realised if we embrace President Museveni's mission of wealth creation and poverty eradication at household level under this tenure of "Securing the Future".



AVIATION INDUSTRY.
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Economy to expand to \$500 billion, President Museveni assures

By OUR REPORTER

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has assured Ugandans that the country's economy is continuing to expand despite the effects of climate change on agriculture and infrastructure by the floods, the conflict in Eastern Europe, which led to a rise in the prices of some strategic commodities such as oil as well as the recent rise in interest rates globally.

"Uganda's economic outlook is very optimistic. This is mainly because of the consistent support to the private sector through supportive policies that create a business friendly environment, infrastructure investments in energy, transport and ICT, enhanced access to credit (through the Parish Development Model (PDM), Small Business Recovery Fund, Emyooga, Agriculture Credit Facility, UDB, UDC, etc.), as well as the swift and comprehensive response to the impact of the previous health crises and the regional geopolitical security issues," he said.

The President made the remarks while delivering his 38th National Resistance Movement (NRM) victory Anniversary speech at State Lodge, Nakasero.

According to President Museveni, Uganda's economy grew to US\$ 184.89 trillion (US\$ 49.5 billion) in the financial year 2022/2023, up from Shs 162.750 billion (US\$ 45.6 billion) registered in the financial year 2021/22.

"In real terms, the economy grew by 5.2 percent in the financial year 2022/2023, better than 4.6 percent registered in the financial year 2021/22. This expansion was a result of good performance of most sectors of the economy, with services growing at 6.2 percent (especially in trade, tourism, education, ICT, arts and entertainment); agriculture at 4.8 percent with food crops growing at 4.7 percent from 3.5 percent, livestock at 8.8 percent from 8.3 percent, and fish activities at 8.6 percent from 0.3 percent in FY2022/23 and FY2021/22, respectively. The growth in industry was 3.5 percent, slower than the 5.1 percent recorded in the same period the previous year," the President noted as he congratulated Ugandans



Kampala city, Uganda's capital and business centre. According to President Museveni, the economy grew to Shs184.89 trillion in financial year 2022/2023, up from Shs162.750 trillion in FY 2021/22.

upon reaching the 38th NRM Liberation Day Anniversary.

He said the size of the economy will further grow from US\$ 184.3 trillion in the financial year 2022/23 to US\$ 204.9 trillion (USD 55 billion) by end of financial year 2023/24 and then leap to US\$ 225.5 trillion in the financial year 2024/25 (equivalent to USD 60 billion).

The President explained that this will be driven by the higher output in the services, industry and agriculture sectors of the economy; the recovery in aggregate demand as inflation slows down; the continued implementation of the Parish Development Model; expediting investments in Oil & Gas Sector; continued recovery in tourism; growth in regional trade including in the EAC, COMESA and globally.

"The implementation of the interventions to accelerate economic growth through productivity improvements and value addition to our abundant raw materials in the anchor sectors of agro-industrialization, oil and gas, mineral development, tourism and knowledge economy development, will shift the economic growth path to a level of 8 percent per annum on av-

erage over the medium term. This will increase the pace of our socio-economic transformation and building an independent, integrated and self-sustaining economy as was enunciated in point no.5 of the 10 Point NRM Programme."

INFLATION:

President Museveni asserted that the general increase in the prices of goods and services (inflation) in Uganda, slowed down from a peak of 10.7 percent in October, 2022 to 2.6 percent in November, 2023.

"This is expected to remain within the policy target of 5% over the medium term, supported by increased agricultural production, the increase in the supply of locally manufactured goods, increased exports which increase the supply of foreign currency in the economy, increased efficiency in economic activities due to increasing integration of new technologies including ICT capabilities in our manufacturing and other businesses and good economic policies," he noted.

The President also disclosed that the merchandise exports increased significantly, growing by 54.9 percent from USD 4,194 million in the twelve months to Octo-

ber, 2022 to USD 6,497.9 million in the twelve months to October, 2023, largely driven by gold, coffee and maize exports.

"Imports grew by 26.2 percent, much slower than the growth in exports, resulting in the narrowing of the trade deficit by 11.2 percent in the same period. This is the main reason why the Ugandan Shilling has remained stable, together with the strong foreign direct investment inflows and remittances of Ugandans working outside the country. This shows that the Uganda economy remains attractive to investment, and it remains a profitable investment location," H.E Museveni said.

"Export receipts are expected to increase even further as Uganda accelerates the production of light manufactured goods and middle high-tech industrial products through value addition processes especially to the abundant mineral reserves that the country has."

To accelerate the process of value addition on Ugandan products, President Museveni stressed that the Government is reducing further the cost of electricity for manufacturers, improving transport infrastructure including roads and railways, eliminating bureau-

cracy in Government especially in procurement in order to attract new investments and technology transfer, making available affordable capital and intensifying the fight against corruption, through accelerating automation of Government processes, frequent audits of Government interventions and rationalization of Government institutions and departments."

On the other hand, the President said the East African Community, as a single trade bloc, remained the major destination of Uganda's exports in the 12 months to October 2023, accounting for 43.5 percent of total exports followed by the Middle East (18.1 percent) and Asia (17.6 percent).

"Within the EAC region, the top three destinations for Uganda's exports in the same period were Kenya (31.5%), Democratic Republic of the Congo (24.65%) and South Sudan (23.35%)."

On the issue of expanding regional trade and support development, H.E the President said Uganda is undertaking joint projects with DR Congo and implementing interventions to reduce transportation cost and improve the border infrastructure to facilitate trade and financial services across the region.

"We are undertaking joint projects in the roads sector and electricity to Eastern DR Congo. Securing this market is good for Ugandans in terms of exports and jobs. The Uganda Government and President Tshisekedi of DR Congo will continue to work together to improve the security situation in Eastern Congo," he emphasized.

"Uganda has gained competitiveness in recent years in a number of tradable goods including animal products such as beef and milk, agricultural products especially coffee, tea, fish, sugar, fresh and processed food and industrial products such as cement, iron and steel products, light manufactured goods, etc. However, we continue to face non-tariff barriers to our exports which are being resolved through our discussions with the leaders of the EAC and COMESA."

IMPLEMENTATION OF PDM:

President Museveni further informed Ugandans that the PDM, is the NRM Government initiative to spur growth from the bottom-up



and for transforming the population currently in subsistence to the money economy.

“The PDM is a pillar of point No.5 of the NRM’s 10-Points Programme to build an independent, integrated and self-sustaining economy. To-date, the Government has invested Shs. 2.32 trillion in the financial inclusion pillar of this Model, targeting all the 10,459 parishes across the country for job creation and increasing household incomes,” he said.

“At least Shs 1,018.8 billion has been successfully disbursed to 1,032,183 households in 10,455 out of 10,585 SACCOs, across the country. The balance will soon be disbursed when the remaining beneficiaries meet the conditions successfully. Government, is working to improve the PDM by improving monitoring, operationalization of the other 6 pillars of PDM beyond the financial inclusion pillar; and Streamlining all Government program interventions and service delivery at the parish, to ensure the realization of PDM.”

On the issue of oil and gas development, Gen. Museveni said the commercial production of oil



Government has scored highly in interventions to maintain peace and security of the people of Uganda, investors and visitors.

and gas will provide revenues to support productivity enhancement in the economy through economic activities such as oil refineries, petrochemical plants, petroleum products distributors, natural gas distribution companies and retail outlets.

“Government is enhancing investments in this area by fast-tracking the construction of the East Africa Crude Oil pipeline (EACOP) and the Oil Refinery. The pipeline will have the capac-

ity to pump up to 230,000 barrels of crude oil daily.”

SECURITY GUARANTEED:

President Museveni also assured citizens that security infrastructure and interventions to maintain peace and security of the people of Uganda, investors and visitors, is guaranteed.

“These included, strengthening the capacity of security agencies to address emerging security threats; addressing discipline issues of

security personnel in the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Police and Uganda Prisons Services; enhancing the security infrastructure to detect crime before it happens; and addressing the welfare of personnel in security uniforms,” he said.

“This includes the security interventions and achievements under the Anti-livestock Theft and Disarmament Operations in Karamoja and Operation Shujaa in DR Congo. The security infrastructure we have built will eliminate the very few remaining loopholes where ADF terrorists are exploiting to carry out cowardly attacks on civilians. As we commemorate the 38th Anniversary of NRM’s victory, I want to assure everybody, including our visitors and investors, that Uganda will remain a peaceful, secure and prosperous country.”

In a special way, President Museveni thanked Ugandans for the discipline they displayed as the country hosted the two international summits;- the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and G-77 plus China recently.

“There were 1918 delegates

from 129 Countries, Sixteen Presidents, nine Vice Presidents, sixteen Prime Ministers, seven Special category, coming into Uganda by Airlines and 32 private jets. I thank the Ugandans for the discipline in receiving these visitors. These Countries have 6.6 billion people-80% of the human race. More importantly, look at the facilities we built partly for this occasion but in order to improve the infrastructure of the Country – some of them built in one year. Look at the New Terminal built by the UPDF Engineering Brigade, and the Conference Centre built by Sudhir’s Company, using Government money,” he said.

“There is nothing we cannot do. It is just a question of prioritization. Some people always talk about the potholes of Kampala. They should also talk about the good up – Country roads – from Kisoro to Nimule, Busia-Busuunga in Bundibugyo. Without corruption, we have the capacity to do everything. I have instructed the Engineering Brigade to start preparing to build the Standard Gauge Railway, instead of only waiting for outsiders to do it.”



EDUCATION SERVICE COMMISSION

CELEBRATING THE 38TH NRM DAY ANNIVERSARY

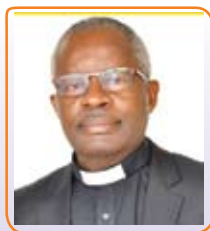
Congratulatory Message



H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda



Hon. Janet K Museveni
First Lady and Minister
of Education and sports



Rev. Prof. Dr. Samuel A. Luboga
Chairperson



Dr. Violet Kajubiri-Froelich
Deputy Chairperson



Mrs. Elizabeth K. M. Gabona
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Mrs. Rose Izizinga Kabogoza
Member ESC



Dr. Beatrice Byakutaga
(PhD)
Member ESC



Hon. Jacob Richards Opolot
Member ESC



Dr. Lukwago Asuman
Secretary ESC

On this occasion of marking the NRM Liberation Day, the management, and staff of the Education Service Commission with great pleasure extend warm congratulations to the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the people of Uganda and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) for the significant strides made in achieving freedom, unity, and progress.

It is also with immense pride that Management and Staff of the Education Service Commission

congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for assuming the role of Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the 3rd south summit of the G77 plus China 2024 to 2027. His assumption of this prestigious position is a testament to his diplomatic prowess and the international community's trust in his leadership.

The Education Service Commission also express sincere gratitude to the people of Uganda for

hosting the NAM and G77+ China Summit. The successful organization of such a significant event reflects Uganda's capabilities and commitment to fostering collaboration and dialogue on a global scale.

As we celebrate NRM Liberation Day, let us reflect on the journey that has brought Uganda to this momentous point and look forward to a future filled with continued progress, prosperity, and unity.



By LUKANGA SAMUEL

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EDITORIAL

A firm foundation fit for accelerated progress

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) marks 38 years in power. This is a time for us as a country to reflect on our fundamental journey of transformation and take candid stock of our milestones, weaknesses and future. Basing on the firm foundation that has been established by the NRM, the country is now on an accelerated platform of progress premised on the National Vision 2040, second National Development Plan (NDPII) and the NRM Manifesto 2021-2026.

While commissioning his new Cabinet at State House Entebbe, President Yoweri Museveni emphasized that this new term would be different with things being done differently so as to realise the national strategic objectives underpinned in the NRM Manifesto.

The President underlined strategic directives to his new ministers which he would want to be undertaken with utmost urgency and perfection. These include; quickening the process of aiding investors, health, economy, preserving and safeguarding the environment, creation of jobs for youth, work on critical sectors such as energy, roads, regional integration, etc; and among other directives.

The President is keenly following up on these directives with numerous back and forth meetings with his ministers, permanent secretaries and other government officials to demand for appraisal reports on the various sectoral performance.

The President, who is also the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces, recently made changes in the military where he brought on board dynamic young men and women to run the various structures of command and position of the UPDF.

Majority of these officers joined the army towards the end of the Bush War and soon after the war. The UPDF is among the most professional and technologically advanced armies in the world today, having emerged as a rag-tag army in the early 1980s.

As we celebrate 38 years of national liberation, let's get determined to work as citizens of this great nation to build on the milestones we have registered over the years. The future is bright.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVES

The President underlined strategic directives to his new ministers which he would want to be undertaken with utmost urgency and perfection. These include; quickening the process of aiding investors, health, economy, safeguarding the environment, creation of jobs, regional integration, etc

DEVELOPMENT

38 YEARS: MUSEVENI'S GAINS, MISSES

NRM's presidential flag bearer since its inception, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Tibuhabwe—the president of Uganda since 1986, is currently serving his sixth term at the helm of affairs of this East African country.

The Museveni administration has on several occasions been accused among other concerns—of muzzling dissenting voices in the country since 1986.

The 78-year old's time at the top has been accompanied by a long period of peace and big developmental changes for which many are grateful. But he has managed to maintain his grip on power through a mixture of encouraging a personality cult, employing patronage, compromising independent institutions and sidelining opponents.

Mzee Tibuhabwe, who came to power on the back of an armed uprising in 1986, has defied the political laws of gravity which have felled other long-serving leaders in the region.

On 29 January 1986 while addressing Ugandans for the first time as national leader, he said “No one should think that what is happening today is a mere change of guard; it is a fundamental change in the politics of our country”

Given that Uganda had been led by seven presidents and a presidential commission in the preceding seven years, few could have expected that Museveni would remain at the helm 38 years later.

The National Resistance Army and its political wing, the National Resistance Movement (NRM), took power after a bush war that began in 1980. The NRM's ten-point programme, debated and agreed during 1984, sought to “usher in a new and better future for the long-suffering people of Uganda on the back of a grassroots campaign to seize power”. It promised a peaceful, democratic future, free from corruption, and with basic services and economic opportunity for all citizens.

Thirty eight years on, it is becoming increasingly difficult to differentiate between the Ugandan state, its dominant political party-NRM and Museveni as its leader.

Museveni's NRM promised “popular democracy” in 1986 from which it began to dismantle Uganda's political structure. In 1992, political parties were banned, giving rise to a no-party or “movement” system. Museveni said this would provide a platform for more inclusive politics and encourage Ugandans to move beyond divisive tribal rivalries prevalent during the previous three decades.

The 1993 Local Government Statute was arguably the most promising reform initiated during the NRM's early years in power. Devolution of power was a key tenet of NRM policy. But as I write this, local governments have no power over their locally collected taxes.

A lack of proportionate resources has hampered devolution. NDP II has it that by 2013, district authorities were expected to deliver 80% of government services – including primary education, healthcare and urban planning – with just 17% of the national budget. The government acknowledges that more than 30% would be required for local government to operate as envisaged. Despite its early promise, local administration has become more of a political project than a service provider.

Since 1986, the number of districts has grown from 30, 112 to now 146. The increase in the number of political office holders has not meant more representative governance.

Uganda's constitution-making process, commenced in 1989, was, at the time, unsurpassed in Africa in terms of civic participation: 25,547 separate submissions were received from citizens, institutions and local councils. But by the time the constitution was adopted in 1995, the process had been and is still manipulated by the NRM to en-

trench it and its leaders hold on power.

While political and civil rights were provided for and legislative oversight extended, the presidency was invested with “significant powers of appointment”. Subsequent amendments impinged on the constitutional rights of citizens and parliament, notably the removal of presidential term limits. To appease critics, less than a month later the government reintroduced a multi-party system.

Uganda now has many political parties, holds presidential and parliamentary elections every five years, and has a vibrant and critical press. The ninth parliament comprises of 534 members, of whom more than one-third are women. The armed forces, youth and the disabled are represented. Vigorous debate is a noted feature of the assembly.

Despite media coverage of huge election rallies and competitive campaigning, electoral participation has dwindled. Turnout for presidential polls, which have returned the same winner four times in a row, are also declining.

Citizens are increasingly convinced that an NRM victory is the only outcome and vote accordingly. The long term legacy of movement-dominated politics, combined with control of state resources and restrictive legislation such as the Public Order Management Act 2013, which outlaws political gatherings of three or more people without prior permission from the police, has stymied genuine opposition to the NRM.

The NRM relies on a strong rural support base to deliver electoral victory.

A powerful executive controls the influence of parliament on the legislative agenda and oversight of government expenditure. Internal party divisions have become more noticeable. However, “young turks” have yet to pose a significant challenge to Museveni's grip on power.

The NRM presidential flag bearer in his 2014 independence day address, remarked that all Uganda was finally at peace for the first time in 114 years.

While the narrative of the NRM as guarantor of peace is grounded in fact, it underplays the persistence of domestic conflict.

Military action against the Lord's Resistance Army affected northern districts for almost two decades, displacing as many as 1.5 million people. Why it took the well-equipped Ugandan People's Defence Force so long to bring a couple of thousand rebels to heel confounded many.

By the time it did so, many northerners could not regard the troops as liberators. The lack of a government or International Criminal Court investigation into alleged abuses on both sides has created a legacy of “negative peace”

To some extent, Museveni and the NRM benefited from the protracted conflict. Instability in the north prevented opponents from establishing a power base in the region, were a pretext to curb freedom of expression, and attracted US funding and assistance with training for the security forces.

NRM's Museveni continues to progressively and shrewdly position Uganda as a guarantor of regional stability and key ally of the West in the war on terror.

The country borders the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and South Sudan, and has maintained sizeable peacekeeping forces in Somalia.

NRM's Museveni has consistently turned regional geo-politics to his advantage. In addition to attracting substantial funding, this has deflected censure from donors over issues such as governance and corruption. Uganda has consistently been one of the fastest-growing African economies. NRM's ten-point programme described economic development as “probably the most important part”.

The country's status as a “donor darling” has underwritten economic growth. After 38 years, the NRM's stated goal of achieving

“self-sustaining economy” remains elusive.

The HIV/AIDS crisis loomed large in the NRM's early years in power. In 2020 an estimated 18.5% of Ugandans were infected with the virus, one of the highest rates on the continent. By 2021, the figure had been reduced to just 6.4%, showing other afflicted countries what was possible with a concerted effort that combined medical awareness campaigns with consistent availability of drugs.

However, the drive to improve health care has faltered.

Despite a burgeoning population, total health spending averaged 9.9% falling short of the commitment to spend 15% on health care that Uganda made as a signatory to the 2001 Abuja Declaration. The health budget remains dependent on international donors for up to 40% of funding.

The NRM's initial ambition for education was impressive, but achievements have been mixed. Investment has been consistent as a percentage of GDP. Adult literacy improved with adult female literacy rising by 26.5% to exceed 70%.

The NRM introduced universal primary education in 1997 and universal secondary education in 2007. This greatly increased the number of children attending primary school. However, drop-out rates remain the highest in East Africa.

Schools are ill-equipped and overcrowded; teachers' unions are permanently restive about conditions and pay; and the pressure on the education sector is rising inexorably due to population growth.

In 1986 the ten-point programme aimed to restore and improve social service provision in war-ravaged areas. The Luwero Triangle, an area 75km north of the capital Kampala where the bush war was most fiercely fought, continues to receive a high level of support 30 years later.

The legacy of more recent war, insecurity and underdevelopment in the north has yet to be properly addressed. In Karamoja, for example, an estimated 82% of inhabitants are still living in poverty, literacy rates are just 31% and maternal mortality is double the national average.

A decade after the end of hostilities in the north, the region is home to almost half Uganda's poor.

Corruption is an “endemic at almost every level of society in Uganda” despite 38 years of promises to eliminate it.

Although trust in the NRM's Museveni has reportedly increased since 2021, people increasingly distrust parliament, the judiciary, state institutions and public officials.

Demography is the biggest threat to the progress made under Museveni and the NRM since 1986 – and to Uganda's stability. The population is one of the youngest in Africa: 75% of its 35 million citizens are under the age of 30. The formal economy annually creates 9,000 positions, but 400,000 school leavers begin searching for jobs each year. The real unemployment rate is estimated at 64%.

The difference between Uganda in 1986 and 2023 is profound. The NRM's 2016-2021 like the 2021-26 manifesto focuses on economic development, tackling corruption, and peace and security. No one can accuse the party of inconsistency in its policy pronouncements.

The document is coherent and considered, but the “vision” remains no more than that for most Ugandans.

NRM needs to rediscover its boldness if it is to stay remotely relevant to ordinary Ugandans; but time is not on its side and its leader may not allow the movement to reinvent itself in his lifetime.

For God and my country, Africa!

The writer is a Social Development Enthusiast, a Youth Leader and an Ambassador of Humanity.

PUBLICLENS

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Happy | 38th Liberation Day



H.E. Gen. Yoweri K. Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda



Hon. Dr. Ruth Nankabirwa
Minister for Energy & Mineral Development



Dr. Wasagali S. Kanaabi
Chairperson, Board of ERA



Eng. Ziria T. Waako
Chief Executive Officer, ERA

The Electricity Regulatory Authority joins the rest of the Country to Congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the gallant freedom fighters of the National Resistance Army/National Resistance Movement upon celebrating 38 years of liberating our motherland Uganda.

THE ELECTRICITY SUB-SECTOR, 1986 TO 2023



↑ **Total Installed Generation Capacity**
From 150 MW To 1842 MW



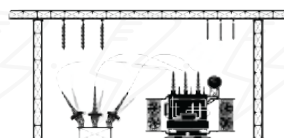
↑ **Power Generation Technologies**
From 1 To 4



↑ **Number of Generation Plants**
From 1 To 43



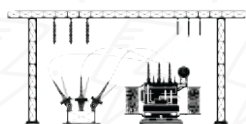
↑ **Total Transmission Grid Length (km)**
From 1,067.81 To 4,518.66



↑ **Number of Transmission Substations**
From 9 To 36



↑ **Total Distribution Length (km)**
From 2,696.8 To 63,986



↑ **Number of Distribution Substations**
From 8 To 76



↑ **Number of Grid-connected Customers**
From 140,000 To 2,083,444



↓ **Energy Losses (%)**
From 40% To 15.61%



Extra Large Industrial Tariff
Current - US Cents 5.7/kWh
Target - US Cents 5/kWh



Consumer Affairs Hotline: 0200 506 000
X @ERA_Uganda @ Electricity Regulatory Authority
info@era.go.ug www.era.go.ug





MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

WATER FOR PRODUCTION REGIONAL CENTRE NORTH CONGRATULATES H.E YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI ON THIS 38TH NRM LIBERATION DAY ANNIVERSARY



H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and other District leaders during the commissioning of Aring-Omone Small Scale Irrigation System in Pader District.

WATER FOR PRODUCTION REGIONAL CENTRE NORTH (WfPRC-N) INTERVENTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANIFESTO 2021 - 2026 IN LANGO, ACHOLI AND WEST-NILE SUB-REGIONS.

The National Resistance Movement's (NRM) 2021-2026 Manifesto with the theme of "securing your future" is premised on commitments aimed at increasing household incomes and improving the quality of life of all Ugandans with a specific focus on the total transformation of the subsistence households (both on-farm and off-farm, in rural and urban settings) into the money economy, as well as eradication of poverty and vulnerability in Uganda and is well aligned to the third National Development plan.

The National Development Plan III sets the target for Cumulative Water for Production storage and the area under formal Irrigation and therefore the Ministry under Water for Production Department has aligned its implementation plans to the Parish Development Model approach.

The Department of Water for Production in the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) is responsible for the creation of and utilisation of water resources for productive use in crop irrigation, animal watering, aquaculture, rural industries, tourism and mining.

The focus areas of interventions for water for production projects include:

- Construction of water surface reservoirs (dams and valley tanks)
- Construction of small, medium and large scale irrigation schemes

- Construction of solar powered irrigation schemes
- Monitoring and supervision of Water for production facilities
- Establishment of sustainable management structures for water for production investments (Management committees, Irrigation Water User Associations, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for implementation of projects etc.)

WfPRC-North also operates equipment construction units for use on Force on Account Mechanism and for hire for construction of valley tanks and fish ponds at dry hire rates for community level beneficiaries. These equipments are kept at the WfPRC-N Bobi yard in Bobi sub-county, Omoro district.

Water for Production Interventions i.e Solar Powered Irrigation Demonstration Sites, Communal Valley Tanks and fish ponds constructed and ongoing in Lango, Acholi, West-Nile Sub-regions from 2021 to date.

S/N	PROJECT	NUMBER		TOTAL CONSTRUCTED COVERAGE
		Constructed	Planned	
1	Small Scale Irrigation Systems	Constructed	Planned	335 Acres
		30	38	
2	Large Scale Irrigation Schemes	Constructed	Planned	2889 Ha
		4	06	
3	Valley Tanks	Constructed	Planned	338000cm
		23	26	
4	Fish Ponds	Constructed	Planned	-
		30	-	

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Increased water storage for multi-purpose use. The constructed water storage facilities have continued to increase water storage for multipurpose use like animal watering and small scale irrigation.
- Increased production and productivity. The irrigation schemes have increased production and productivity levels among the farmers in the different facilities. Increased income at household levels.
- The water for production facilities have increased income among the beneficiaries and introduced the money economy at many of the sites. The farming as a business concept at these schemes has enveloped more people into the money economy in hitherto peasant communities.
- Better income for the farmers has increased their purchasing capacity of the range of products consumed. Our farmers can now afford basic household needs like soap, salt, sugar, education, health services.



An aerial view of the Water Reservoir/Dam for Tochi Irrigation Scheme in Oyam District



Farmers tending to a rice garden at Tochi Irrigation Scheme in Oyam District



UNEB-REPOSITIONING ASSESSMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR PLACEMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY.



1st Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mama Janet. K. Museveni releasing the 2023 PLE results. UNEB appreciates the efforts by government to fund learners under the Universal Education Programs of Universal Primary Education (UPE), Universal Secondary Education (USE), and the Universal Post Level Education and Training (UPOLET). Over 56% of candidates assessed by UNEB are funded by the government under these Programs. The total candidature has also continued to increase from 1,073,516 in 2017, to 1,280,209 in 2022.



State Minister for Higher Education, Dr. J. C. Muyingo (striped tie), with outgoing Board Chair, Prof. Mary J. Okwakol (Pink Jacket), Incoming Board Chair, Prof. Celestino Obua (extreme right), and UNEB ED, Mr. Dan N. Odongo just after the inauguration of the new Board Chair, November 3rd, 2023



1st Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mama Janet. K. Museveni, Commissioning the UNEB Storage and office facility, in Kyambogo, 7th July, 2023.

The Board, Management and Staff of the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) join the President, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the 1st Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet K. Museveni, plus the entire NRM leadership, to celebrate the achievements of the NRM's liberation to date.

Long Live the President! Long Live NRM Government!

UNEB is committed to supporting the transformation agenda of the NRM Government in securing the future of Ugandans by conducting valid, reliable, equitable and quality assessment of Learners' achievement in a professional and innovative manners.

As a contribution towards 'Building A Uganda That We All Cherish', UNEB is strategically repositioning assessment and qualifications for placement and employability.

**How to access the 2023 PLE Results-
Type PLE, leave space, Full index Number, send to 6600 e.g. PLE 00123/356 send to 6600**

**Plot 35, Martyrs Way, Ntinda; & Plot 61, Kyambogo Link;
P.O. Box 7066, Kampala; Tel: +256 417 773 100; www.uneb.ac.ug ; @UNEB_UG
Toll Free line: 0800-111-427**



NATIONAL WATER AND SEWERAGE CORPORATION COMMITTED TO IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY



The President of Uganda H.E Yoweri Museveni commissioning completed NWSC Projects

As the Nation celebrates the 38th liberation day celebrations, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver value to its customers by providing clean safe reliable, and affordable water and sewerage services.

National Water and Sewerage Corporation is Uganda's largest urban water authority providing potable water and sewerage services in 273 towns, cities, and municipalities with a customer base of more than 950,000 connections serving over 19 million people. The principal business of the Corporation as defined in the NWSC Act Cap 317 is to operate and provide water and sewerage services in areas entrusted to it by the Government, on a commercial and financially viable basis.

Infrastructure Development

Through her mandate, the National Water and Sewerage Corporation continues to implement a wide range of Water and sanitation (WATSAN) infrastructure development projects within its 273 towns of operation across the country. This has been done mainly through the Service Coverage Acceleration Project (SCAP 100) which entails expansion of services to the unserved while ensuring water supply stabilization.

The major infrastructure projects funded by the Government of Uganda with financial support from development partners are implemented to ensure the provision of safe water for human consumption and water for economic development focused on eradicating poverty. This is also in line with the government efforts deliberately aimed at fostering progress towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

NWSC Supporting Industrialization and Economic Growth

The industrial sector is a key priority sector in the Ugandan Economy and occupies an integral part of the Governments Social and Economic Development Plan (NDP III), "Vision 2040".

Reliable and sufficient water supply is critical for the steady growth of the manufacturing sector. The Corporation is therefore implementing several interventions that directly benefit the industrial sector.

a) Provision of Water and Sewerage Services in Industrial Parks. NWSC has been working closely with the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), to extend water to the twelve (12) established Industrial and Business Parks in Kampala (Luzira,

Bweyogerere), Masaka (Bukakata Industrial Park), Kapeeka, Jinja (Masese Industrial Park), Mbale, Soroti, Karamoja, Kasese, Mbarara and Nshara among others. NWSC has established water supply systems for the nine (9) well-developed industrial parks and various businesses have been connected to the Water System. Nshaara, Karamoja, MMP Industrial Park - Buikwe and Mbale Industrial and Business Parks are still under development and NWSC will continue working closely with UIA to ensure these parks are supplied with water.

b) Creation of an industrial tariff; NWSC reduced the unit price of water for the industrial consumer category from a commercial rate to a much lower rate of UGX. 2,500/= per cubic meter. This is meant to subsidize industrialists consuming large volumes of water (of at least 1000 m³ per month). As at June 2023, over 214 customers were benefiting from the industrial tariff.

c) Supporting Local Businesses; The Corporation fully embraces the Government Policy of "Buy Uganda and Build Uganda". Most of the water pipes and fittings used for water and sewerage business are sourced from the Local Industries. Over 500 suppliers provide NWSC with various inputs sourced from within and outside Uganda.

d) Employment Opportunities; The Corporation provides direct employment through its staff. In addition, NWSC provides indirect employment through the engagement of the private sector for the delivery of works and services

The achievements above notwithstanding, the Corporation has encountered some challenges that affect service delivery. These include; Limited financing for capital projects, Climate change affecting the reliability of water sources, and Vandalism of NWSC infrastructure among others.

In the spirit of continued innovation and the need for increased productive and allocative efficiency, NWSC with the support of the Government of Uganda and development partners continues to invest part of the Surplus from its business operations into infrastructure development projects to ensure adequate water supply to the growing population.



CELEBRATING 38 YEARS OF PROGRESS: UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WISHES NRM GOVERNMENT A HAPPY LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY



Under the visionary leadership of the NRM government, Uganda has witnessed remarkable socio-economic transformations, with a focus on Stability, Socio-economic development, and Empowerment. The Uganda Development Corporation (UDC), as a key player in the country's economic landscape, applauds the government's unwavering commitment to fostering growth and sustainable development.

The NRM government's steadfast dedication to inclusive development has seen the implementation of various policies and programs aimed at uplifting the lives of Ugandans across all sectors. From infrastructure development to advancements in healthcare and education, the government's efforts have laid the foundation for us to cherish our country and work towards a brighter future.

As UDC reflects on its role in the nation's progress, it remains committed to collaborating with the NRM government in realizing its industrialization agenda. The Corporation recognizes the importance of strategic partnerships and investments that stimulate economic growth, create employment opportunities, and enhance the overall well-being of the Ugandan citizens.

The Corporation's investment portfolio which currently stands at 16 investee companies is spread-out across the country, with footprints in agro-manufacturing, mineral beneficiation and infrastructure & services. UDC has recently expanded to the biopharmaceuticals and has plans to invest other emerging areas.

Agro-manufacturing which currently accounts for over 60% of UDC's investee companies, is designed to stimulate demand for primary agricultural products and, in so doing, create direct and indirect employment, which will lead to socio-economic development in the

rural areas. The corporation has an investment portfolio of four tea factories in the Southern and Mid-Western part of the country with plans of setting up one in the West Nile Region - Zombo District.

Other agro-manufacturing interventions include; a fruit juice processing in Soroti and Yumbe, coffee processing in Sironko, cotton wool production in Luuka, sugar processing in Amuru and ethanol for cooking in Nwoya. Plans are also underway to set up a fruit juice processing facility in Luwero and cassava starch processing facility in Acholibur in partnership with the Archdiocese of Gulu.

In the infrastructure and services sector, the Corporation has invested in strategic sectors such as the hospitality and tourism sector, the construction sector, the transport sector and the energy sector. One of the Corporations notable achievements is the Speke Resort Convention Centre (SRCC), that was constructed to host the recently concluded Non-Aligned Movement Summit and G77 + China Conference.

UDC aims to improve the global competitiveness in the pharmaceutical sector through its investment in gloves manufacturing, while additional ventures include medical disposables and animal drug manufacturing.

Other interventions are in the extractives industry include plans to establish a cement, marble and lime processing plant in Moroto, and sheet glass processing in Masaka district. Iron ore is also one of the strategic minerals under consideration.

As Uganda commemorates the 38th National Resistance Movement (NRM) Liberation Anniversary, the UDC fraternity congratulates H.E. Y.K. Museveni, the NRM government and all citizens on the 38th Liberation anniversary. The Peace, Unity and Socio-economic development fostered by the NRM government, has created an environment we all value. UDC is proud to be part of this journey as it is steadfast in unlocking Uganda's thriving industrial and manufacturing sectors, while steering the country forward to its destiny as a middle-income economy.

UDC Contact



The Speke Resort Convention Centre that was constructed to host the recently concluded NAM Summit and G77+China Conference

**5th Floor Soliz House
Plot 23, Lumumba Avenue
P.O. Box 7042, Kampala (U)**



MINISTRY OF ICT & NATIONAL GUIDANCE

A Knowledge and Productive Society driven by ICT & National Ideology



H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda



Hon. Dr. Chris Baryomunsi,
Minister for ICT and National
Guidance



Hon. Kabbyanga Godfrey Baluku,
Minister of State for National
Guidance



Hon. Joyce Nabosa
Ssebugwawo, State Minister
for ICT



Dr. Aminah Zawedde
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of ICT & National
Guidance

Vision

A knowledgeable and productive society driven by Information, Communications Technology and National Ideology.

Mandate

To provide strategic leadership and supervision in information, Communications and Technology and National Guidance for sustainable Development.

Mission

To increase access and usage of ICT infrastructure and services throughout the country, ensure effective communication of government policies and programmes and promotion of a national ideology for social economic transformation.

Celebrating 38 years of NRM Achievements

The Minister for ICT and National Guidance, Ministers of State, the Permanent Secretary and all the staff of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and Agencies congratulate H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the NRM on the occasion of the 38th NRM/A Day Anniversary Celebrations!

Key Milestones in the ICT Sector

The NRM Government has over the years promoted the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as an enabler of social economic transformation and development. Specifically, the NRM Manifesto (2021-2026) prioritises three critical areas under the ICT sector, i.e. increasing ICT network coverage and penetration, promoting the utilisation of ICTs and enhancing digital skills and innovation.

Increasing ICT network coverage and penetration ICT Infrastructure

- Total length of the Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid is currently 4,298.87 covering 57 Districts across the country representing 42% of the 135 districts in the country. (to be verified)

E-services for improved service delivery

Government has been able to digitize services through the development of systems such as; Education Management Information System (EMIS); Electronic Government Procurement System (EGPS); Electronic Document Records Management System (EDRMS); Integrated Health Management Information System (iHMIS); Online Business Registration System (OBRIS), Parish Development Management Information System (PDMIS) and the e-Post Digital Platform. These systems have enhanced efficiency, transparency and accountability in the delivery of Government services.

Enhancing digital skills and innovation

Government is promoting ICT innovation to create jobs, for import substitution and to avoid

over dependence on foreign ICT products. In line with this, Government has established a National ICT Innovation Hub for 500 innovators in Nakawa, Kampala and regional ICT innovation and incubation centres in Kabale district (Kabale University), Soroti district (Soroti University) and Arua district (Muni University); fully equipped with laptops and internet to provide free work spaces for the youth to develop their innovations.

Government has also given innovation grants to 132 Innovators and 6 private sector Innovation Hubs.

National ICT Job Fair

- The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance with Partners has since 2022 held the annual National ICT job fair aimed at linking young ICT graduates and students to employment, training and internship opportunities.
- The first job fair held in August 2022, created 316 jobs for the youth, 234 internship and 550 apprenticeship placements.



President Museveni tours exhibition stalls at the 2nd National ICT Job Fair at Kololo Ceremonial Ground on 17 October 2023.

The Digital Transformation Roadmap

- Government launched the Digital Transformation Roadmap for Uganda (2023/2024-2027/2028) in August 2023, with the purpose to guide the digital transformation efforts of the Country, enabling it to capitalize on emerging technologies, enhance economic competitiveness, and improve the lives of our citizens.



Vice President Jessica Alupo launches the Digital Transformation Roadmap in August 2023.



President Museveni launches the 2nd National ICT Job Fair at Kololo Ceremonial Ground on 17 October 2023 (2)



President Museveni and his Tanzanian counterpart Samia Suluhu jointly commission the National ICT backbone infrastructure at Mutukula border in May 2023. (2)



President Museveni, Vice President Jessica Alupo, Hon. Ministers, ICT Ministry PS Dr. Aminah Zawedde and Partners during the launch of the 2nd National ICT Job Fair at Kololo Ceremonial Ground on 17 October 2023.



President Museveni and his Tanzanian counterpart Samia Suluhu jointly commission the National ICT backbone infrastructure at Mutukula border in May 2023. (3)

THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS ‘A CRIME FREE SOCIETY’

THE ROLE OF THE DPP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) is established under Article 120 of the Constitution with the mandate to guide Police investigations and prosecute criminal cases in all courts of competent jurisdiction apart from the Court Martial.

By virtue of its mandate therefore, the ODPP is responsible for guiding investigations and prosecuting corruption-related cases that are received from all Police stations in the country, including CID Headquarters, the State House Anti-Corruption Unit and the State House Health Monitoring Unit among others. The ODPP performs these functions through its Anti-Corruption Department; a specialized department that handles all corruption-related cases.

In handling corruption cases, the ODPP aims at ensuring that:

- perpetrators of corruption are brought to book through proper investigations and successful prosecution,
- recovery of the proceeds of corruption, and
- purging Government of corrupt officials, who are convicted of corruption offences.

In executing its mandate, the ODPP works closely with other stakeholders, including: Uganda Police Force, Judiciary, Governance and Security Programme (Access to Justice Sub-programme) (JLOS), State House Anti-Corruption Unit and the public among others.

On the 6th of December 2023, the ODPP joined other Anti-Corruption agencies to commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day, which was held at Hotel Africana under the Theme: **Strengthening Partnerships in the War against Corruption**.

With the increasing use of complicit and connivance approaches in perpetration of corruption, the year's theme was apt to the ODPP's efforts against corruption, as it resonated with our approach of strengthening partnerships and coordination, as a major tool for effective response to corruption-related crimes.

Working in collaboration with other stakeholders, the ODPP has registered a number of achievements in the execution of its roles against corruption, some of which are highlighted as follows:

Prosecution of Corruption Cases

During the Financial Year 2022/2023, the ODPP prosecuted a total of 266 corruption cases. 71 of these cases were concluded with a conviction rate of 82%. The rest of the cases were at different stages of hearing at the closure of the Financial Year but 15 of these cases have since been concluded.

Among the cases that are still under hearing include cases arising from mismanagement and diversion of iron sheets that were to be distributed to the vulnerable groups in

the Karamoja Sub region, where three Ministers are currently undergoing trial before the Anti-Corruption Court.

Some of the cases that were successfully prosecuted during the FY 2022/2023 include:

i. Achimo Ruth Etibot: She is the former University Secretary /Accounting Officer of Soroti University who was convicted of Abuse of Office, Diversion of Public Resources and Fraudulent False Accounting in respect of **Ug. Shs. 6,000,000,000** of the University funds. She was sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment and barred from holding a public office for 10 years.

ii. Agaba Edgar: He was the Chief Executive Officer of the National Lotteries and Gaming Board and was convicted of Abuse of Office and Causing Financial Loss of **Ug. Shs. 830,000,000** to government. The entire sum of **Ug. Shs. 830,000,000** was repaid to government and the convict was disqualified from holding public offices for 10 years.

iii. Kazinda Geoffrey, former Principal Accountant, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) was convicted of Embezzlement of **Ug. Shs. 306,800,000** which was supposed to be used for conducting regional consultative meetings in West Nile, Northern, Karamoja and Elgon Regions. He was ordered to repay the entire sum of Ug. Shs. 306,800,000 to government and disqualified from holding a public office for a period of 10 years.

iv. Fredrick Balemezi and Musinguzi Godfrey and another: Fredrick, former Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and the Principal Human Resource Officer, Kagadi District Local Government were convicted of Abuse of Office arising from irregular recruitment of 60 Education Assistants.

v. Sooka Joseph: He was the Relations Officer of the National Social Security Fund and was convicted of Embezzlement of **Ug. Shs. 152,720,670** and Money Laundering in respect of his actions of concealing the embezzled funds.

Apart from cases of grand corruption involving huge sums of money, the ODPP registered convictions in cases that seemingly involve small sums of money but have far reaching effects on the victims and on society as a whole. These include:

i. Kiwanuka John Patrick & Tibakuno Patrick: The Treasurer of Budiope East Constituency Tax Operators Association was convicted of Embezzlement of Emyoga funds in the sum of Ug. Shs. 30,450,000, which was to be distributed to the Association members. He used the money to buy a Tipper Lorry Registration Number UAY 242D, which his father fraudulently claimed to have bought in order to help him retain the said motor vehicle, which was a known proceed of crime. His father, Tibakuno Patrick was convicted of Money Laundering.

The Tipper Lorry was forfeited to the Government of Uganda and the Treasurer was ordered to refund the Ug. Shs. 30,450,000 to the Association.

ii. Akujjo Rosemary: The Head teacher of Centenary Secondary School embezzled UNEB registration fees for UCE and UACE candidates leading to confiscation of results and cancellation of the school's UNEB Centre Number. Her appeal against conviction and sentence was dismissed by the High Court.

iii. Kalyango Godfrey: An ambulance driver of Nakaseke Hospital was convicted of corruption for soliciting and accepting gratification of Ug. Shs. 150,000 to transfer a patient from Nakaseke Hospital to Mulago National Referral Hospital, using the Hospital Ambulance Reg. No. UG 4484M.

Recoveries from Corruption Cases

Working together with the Uganda Police Force, the State House Anti-Corruption Unit and the State House Health Monitoring Unit, the ODPP made recoveries in form of cash and physical items from the corruption cases that it handled as follows:

Cash Recoveries

A total of **Ug. Shs. 835,658,749** was recovered from corruption cases that were handled through Prosecution-Guided Investigations and cases that were concluded in Court.

Iron Sheets for Karamoja Sub Region

The DPP constituted investigation teams comprising of Prosecutors, Detectives from the CID Headquarters and the State House Anti-Corruption Unit to ensure expeditious and effective disposal of cases arising from diversion of iron sheets for the Karamoja Sub region.

During this exercise, a total of 6,100 iron sheets were returned to the OPM stores by the suspects in kind, 1,000 iron sheets were paid for in cash and 2,295 iron sheets were recovered from the suspects' homes.

Other Physical Items Recovered

The following items were recovered during FY 2022/2023

SN	Property Description	Value	Released to
1.	Coartem Drugs	5,000,000/=	Adjumani Hospital
2.	T.B. Machine	15,000,000/=	Arua Hospital
3.	Wheat Flour	72,800,000/=	Mandela Grain Millers
4.	Grinding Mill	Not established	

Public Officials Convicted of Corruption Cases and Corruption-Related Cases

A total of 29 public officials were convicted of corruption-related cases and barred from holding public offices for 10 years in accordance with Section 46 of the Anti-Corruption Act.

The details of some of the convicted public officials by names, positions and MDA are summarized as follows:

SN	Name of Convict	Position Held by Convict	MDA
1.	Eyul Sam	Internal Auditor	National Council of Sports
2.	Nassuna Re-becca	Registrar/Accounting Officer	Uganda Nurses and Midwives Council
3.	Balemezi Fredrick	Deputy CAO	Kagadi District Local Government
4.	Ojom Alex	District Internal Auditor	Alebtong District Local Government
5.	Aula James	Principal Assistant Secretary	Alebtong District Local Government
6.	Okello Dellion	Assistant Inventory Officer	Alebtong District Local Government
7.	Barekye Matayo	Driver Assistant	Rukungiri District Local Government
8.	Kazinda Geoffrey	Principal Accountant	Office of the Prime Minister
9.	Auya Ngolobe	Court Clerk, Nabweru Chief Magistrate Court	Judiciary
10.	Omara Geoffrey	Physical Planner	Lira District Local Government
11.	Erejo Kamir Rajab	Principal Treasurer	Arua District Local Government
12.	Nakibuka Beatrice	Administrator	Kampala Capital City Council Authority
13.	Wagaba Jocelyn	Administrator	Kampala Capital City Council Authority
14.	Agaba Edgar	Executive Director	National Lotteries and Gaming Regulatory Board
15.	Achimo Ruth Etibot	University Secretary	Soroti University
16.	Luswata Ibrahim	District Engineer	Hoima District Local Government
17.	Musinguzi Godfrey	Principal Human Resource Officer	Kagadi District Local Government
18.	Sooka Joseph	Relations Officer	National Social Security Fund
19.	Abila Hanington Okello	Radiologist	Arua Regional Referral Hospital
20.	Mujuni Lawrence Mpitsi	Secretary	Equal Opportunities Commission
21.	Kamaharo Enid	Senior Personal Secretary	Equal Opportunities Commission
22.	Sarah Nassanga	Office Attendant	Equal Opportunities Commission
23.	Biira Nyessi	Stores Attendant	Kasese District Local Government
24.	Bwambale Richard	Engineer	Kasese District Local Government
25.	Kalende George	Engineer	Kasese District Local Government
26.	Bwambale Jeorads	Accountant	Kasese District Local Government
27.	Mawadri Charles Onigo	Pharmacist	Adjumani District Local Government
28.	Nayebare Godlive	Land Officer	Mbarara City
29.	Barekye Matayo	Driver	Rukungiri District Local Government.

The ODPP values the support from the Government of Uganda and all its stakeholders in execution of its constitutional mandate and pledges its continued commitment to the fight against corruption.

Access Bank PLC for majority shares in Finance Trust Bank

By OUR REPORTER

Nigerian Access Holdings has announced that its flagship subsidiary, Access Bank PLC (Access Bank) has entered into a definitive agreement with Uganda's Finance Trust Bank [FTB] and its selling institutional shareholders for the acquisition of a majority equity stake in FTB.

This is contained in a notice to the Nigerian Exchange Limited, the investment public, and made available to the media.

The deal will also see Access Bank concurrently acquiring the shares currently held by FTB's Institutional Shareholders who have sought to exit to a strategic, long-term shareholder.

According to a statement from the

Group. The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals by the Central Bank of Nigeria and Bank of Uganda and is expected to close in the first half of 2024, following the fulfilment of customary conditions precedent. Following the anticipated closing of the transaction, Access Bank would own an estimated 80 percent shareholding in FTB.

It noted that coming at a time when commercial banks in Uganda are looking to increase their capital, this strategic acquisition presents an opportunity for Access Bank to partner with FTB and its stakeholders to create more significant opportunities for financial inclusion, product diversification, and, ultimately, greater customer-centricity.

Access Bank's presence in over 20

countries globally presents a robust platform that FTB's customers can leverage to boost trade opportunities with the rest of the world.

Commenting on the Transaction, Roosevelt Ogbonna, Managing Director of Access Bank Plc said: "The prospective acquisition of a majority equity stake in Finance Trust Bank marks an important milestone for Access Bank as we strengthen our regional presence in the East African Community trade region. This also moves us closer to realising our five-year strategic plan through continued expansion to achieve scaled benefits across key African markets.

He added: "Beyond our expansion goals, this deal will enable the Bank to deepen its community and women impact initiatives, as we will be build-



ACCESS TO SECURE DIGITAL PLATFORMS.

Access Holdings noted that the transaction will enable both banks to merge their technological resources, providing Finance Trust Bank customers with access to secure and diversified digital platforms for seamless transactions and banking services provided by Access Bank.

ing on FTB's mission to effectively deliver innovative financial solutions to customers and stakeholders, especially women. Our storied history and experience in gender initiatives and women empowerment will greatly benefit FTB's current deposit and loan portfolio – which currently comprises about 40 percent women – and the larger Ugandan community."

Annet Nakawunde Mulindwa, Managing Director of Finance Trust Bank said: "Finance Trust Bank is thrilled to announce this transformative partnership with Access Bank PLC, as it marks a pivotal moment in our growth journey and presents an extraordinary opportunity for our valued customers and stakeholders. This strategic alliance will fortify our position in the financial landscape and enable us to offer our customers a broader array of innovative products and services."

She added: "As we embark on this journey, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to our loyal customers, dedicated employees, and valued shareholders for their unwavering support.



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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations from the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of SunsilK Limited.

At this time when Uganda prepares to mark the 38th anniversary of the nrm liberation struggle, we at sunlink Uganda warmly congratulates the president of the republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the first lady and minister of education and sports Hon Janet Kataaha Museveni, the nrm government and the people of Uganda upon this landmark occasion.

Your visionary leadership and transformational ideology ushered in peace, tranquility and steady economic growth that we as continue to enjoy today as we serve Ugandans and humanity in general.

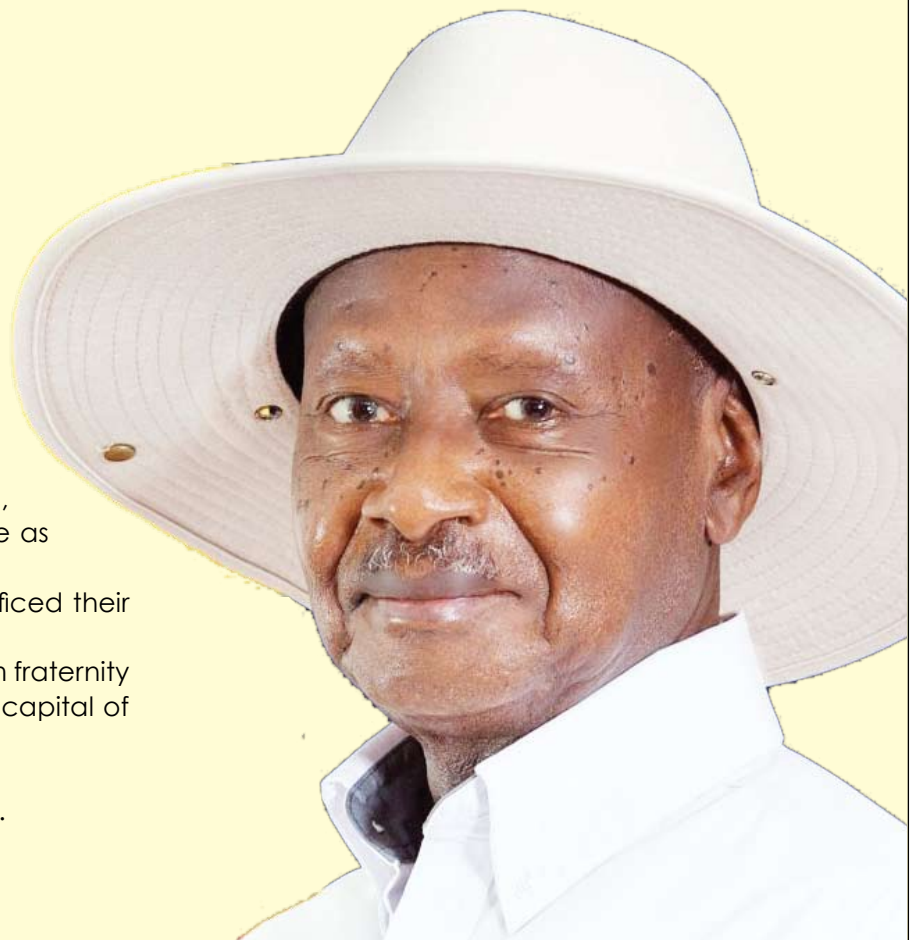
We applaud the heroes and heroines of the struggle, many of whom sacrificed their lives, property and comfort for the liberation of Uganda.

We join hands with the customers and people of Busoga to welcome the nrm fraternity to celebrate this auspicious event slated for 26 January, 2024 in Jinja City, the capital of Busoga.

For all your building materials, rely on us

Long live President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, long live nrm, long live Uganda.

For more information get in touch with us at the following contacts:



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Uganda bags Shs219b from December exports

By **TADDEWO WILLIAM SENYONYI**

Uganda's coffee exports in December 2023 amounted to 418,829 60-kilo bags worth US\$ 59.54 million (Shs219bn), Uganda Coffee Development Authority has revealed in its recently released monthly report for December 2022.

This comprised 331,476 bags of Robusta valued at US \$40.55 million and 87,353 bags of Arabica valued at US\$ 18.99 million. This was a decrease of 22.05% and 20.99% in quantity and value respectively compared to the same month last year.

By comparing quantity of coffee exported by type in the same month of last Coffee Year (December 2022), Robusta decreased by 26.81% and 26.66% in quantity and value respectively, while Arabica exports increased by 3.5% in quantity but decreased by 5.37% in value.

"The decrease in exports was mainly

attributed to lower yields this year that were characterized by drought in most regions. This led to a shorter main harvest season in Central and Eastern regions and also reduced harvests from Greater Masaka and South-Western regions," the report says.

However, it adds, despite being an off-year of the biennial cycle characteristic of Arabica coffee, coffee exports increased compared to the same month last year.

Coffee exports for 12 months (January – December 2023) totaled 5.63 million bags worth US\$ 859.94 million compared to 6.77 million bags worth US\$ 718.71 million the previous year (January-December 2022).

This represents a decrease of 16.79% in quantity but an increase of 19.65% in value.

Exports by Type and Grade

According to the report, the average export price was US\$ 2.37 per kilo, 2

54%

Manifesto progress.

Coffee exports for 12 months

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U.S cent lower than US\$ 2.39 per kilo realized in November 2023.

It was 3 US cents higher than in December 2021 (US \$ 2.34/kilo). Robusta exports accounted for 79% of total exports lower than 82% in November 2022. The average Robusta price was US\$ 2.04 per kilo, US cents 3 lower than the previous month. Washed Robusta fetched the highest price of US\$ 2.29 per kilo.

It was followed by Screen 14 Fair Trade at US\$ 2.27 per kilo. The share of Sustainable/washed coffee to total Robusta exports was only 2.55% higher than 0.93% in November 2023.

Arabica fetched an average price of US\$ 3.62 per kilo, 18 cents lower than US\$ 3.80 per kilo in October 2022. The highest price was Mt. Elgon A+ sold at US\$ 5.10 per kilo a premium of US \$ 1.19 over conventional Bugisu AA.

It was followed by Mt. Elgon AA sold at US\$ 4.78 per kilo, a premium of

US cents 88 over Conventional Bugisu AA. Drugar was sold at US\$ 3.40 per kilo, a discount of US cents 50 from Bugisu AA. Drugar exports were 39% of total Arabica exports compared to 38% the previous month.

The share of sustainable Arabica exports to total Arabica exports was 8% compared to 17% last month.

Individual Exporter Performance

The report shows that Ugacof (U) Ltd had the highest market share of 18.35% compared to 16.66% in November 2022. It was followed by Olam Uganda Ltd 8.36% (7.91%); Ideal Quality Commodities (U)Ltd 8.02% (10.42%) Kawacom (U) Ltd 7.72% (6.69%); Export Trading Company (U) Ltd 7.01% (4.76%), Kyagalanyi Coffee Ltd 5.56% (4.70%); Ibero(U) Ltd 4.77% (5.18%); Touton Uganda Ltd 4.43% (8.92%); JBER Coffee Ltd 3.26% (0.58%); and Louis Dreyfus Company (U) Ltd 2.46% (9.20%).

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)



The Board, Management, and Staff of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), warmly congratulate H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda, and Chairman of the National Resistance Movement, Members of Cabinet, Members of Parliament, the Judiciary, and all the People of Uganda on the occasion of the 38th Liberation Anniversary.

NEMA, Ensuring Sustainable Development

**HAPPY NRM
LIBERATION DAY**

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)

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HAPPY 38TH
LIBERATION DAY

The Chairman and Board of Directors, together with the employees of Roofings Group, congratulate

His Excellency, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,
 and the people of Uganda upon achieving a momentous 38 years of liberation and economic growth. Your notable achievements in the social and economic sectors are the reason Uganda stands strong & proud today.



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War against corruption is everybody's responsibility – Brig Gen Isoke

The NRM Government led by H.E The President Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has intensified the war against corruption under the policy of Zero-tolerance to Corruption. In a no-holds-barred interview with Stephen Bwire, the Head of the State House Anti-Corruption Unit, Brig Gen Henry Isoke, shares his perception, including the strategic milestones registered in the fight against corruption. **Excerpts below:-**

How would you describe your experience of fighting corruption under the direct supervision of H.E The President?

I feel privileged and honoured to have been appointed by the Commander-In-Chief to serve in this capacity, especially under his direct supervision.

The State House Anti-Corruption Unit is mandated to enable H.E The President to exercise his executive authority to realise the National Objectives and State Policy to expose, combat and eradicate corruption. The Unit exists to revitalise the fight against corruption by catalyzing the rapid resolution of corruption complaints through receiving, scrutinizing and coordinating a speedy conclusion of corruption cases by the constitutionally mandated Agencies.

I thank the NRM Secretariat for the good work of ensuring that the Party in leadership delivers on its mandate. We equally thank the Secretary General, who recently paid us a visit and we held detailed discussions on fighting corruption.

What have been your key landmark achievements from the time you assumed office?

Together with my team, a lot has been achieved. We have got different departments that are properly synchronized to achieve a singular objective of fiercely fighting corruption and eliminating it from our country. This robust team is segmented into the various departments namely; the Legal Department; the Investigations Department; the communication and Media team; the Call Centre, which comprises many young energetic people, who work tirelessly 24/7, receiving complaints from across the country. We also have a client relations team, who attend to walk-ins to receive people's complaints.

The team I head is solid and coherent. We are thin in terms of human resource but effective when it comes to delivery.

We have strengthened partner-

ships and collaborations with other mandated institutions i.e. the Inspectorate of Government, Internal Security Organisation (ISO), Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID), Office of the Auditor General, etc.

We have built strong internal systems that have enabled us execute our mandate. Therefore, a combination of all the above has enabled us conduct a number of investigations that have led to 544 people arraigned in court and 91 persons convicted, among whom 59 are public officials. So far, SH-ACU has registered 518,974 complaints from wananchi, investigated several cases and saved/recovered Ugx 55BN.

There is general perception that Uganda is losing the war on graft. How true or false is this?

It is certainly not true that we are losing the war on graft. The war on corruption is a people's war. Day by day, we see an increase in people's participation and keen interest in fighting corruption. Here at our office, we get about 200 calls daily, through our Call Centre, reporting incidents of corruption from across the country.

The Government has got various institutions and legislations enacted all to combat corruption.

There is also the strong political will as demonstrated by H.E The President, who has pronounced himself and declared war on the vice of corruption under the policy of Zero-tolerance to corruption.

How much collaboration is there between the State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SHACU) and other state and non-state actors in the fight against corruption, and promotion of accountability?

As earlier mentioned, we work very closely with other state and non-state actors engaged in the fight against corruption. We work with CMI, CID, ISO, DPP, IGG, Auditor General, FIA, the Media etc.

Through this collaboration, we have built synergy and avoided duplication and achieved complementarity. The fight against corruption

takes a multi-pronged approach, we can't do it alone.

There is a view that the creation of other Agencies by H.E The President to fight corruption is eroding the power and strength of the statutory bodies mandated to fight corruption by duplicating roles. What do you have to say about this?

I want to say that H.E The President is a visionary leader. Through his strategic intensions, he is able to identify the missing gaps and devise ways of plugging those loopholes. Yes, there are institutions mandated to fight corruption, but they need back-up. H.E The President has objectives to ensure that the state functions and that is how he created the State House Anti-Corruption Unit in December 2018, which I am now superintending, and I have told you about the achievements and these achievements testify that we work together as anti-corruption agencies.

Recently, H.E The President saw the need to fight corruption in the investment sector and thus, he has created the State House Investors Protection Unit headed by my predecessor, Col Edith Nakalema.

There is concern that SH-ACU would only go for the "small fish" while leaving the "big fish" to go scot-free. What is your take on this?

That is a very subjective matter. A snake is a snake and a fish is a fish, whatever the size. I am sure that if you are bitten by a small snake, however young it may be, you would die of its poison. Much of the corruption you hear about is being engineered and carried out by junior officers in the public and civil service. Go to the Lands sector, you will find that it's the junior officers who are fraudulently messing up people's titles and being accessories to land grabbing. Even if you went to the Local Government, same story.

But concerning the big fish, I am sure you have seen some big people, including Ministers being arrested and arraigned in court over corruption-related crimes. You have also seen high-ranking Accounting officers being charged over graft. (In most cases, the so called "big fish" do not have a trail).

What critical challenges do you find as SH-ACU in executing your mandate of fighting corruption?

We are fighting syndicated corruption, which is very complicated because you will find

a lot of internal collusion with outsiders. This is what we would call institutionalized corruption.

We also face the problem of impostors or people masquerading to belong to our office. Such people would taint the good image of the State House Anti-Corruption Unit. We have arrested some, while others are on the run.

We also have some errant individuals/officials mudslinging the image of SH-ACU, especially those whose toes we have stepped on; they go on making all sorts of statements against us.

The other challenge we face is the heavy workload. The other structures of Government may not be keen to execute their duties as mandated and this has ended up pushing the workload to us. As earlier mentioned, we receive over 200 calls a day.

How would you gauge the public confidence in the SH-ACU?

I want to report that the public confidence in our Unit is high and growing by day. When you see the sheer numbers of people walking in here to register complaints and report corrupt tendencies, including the overwhelming phone calls our Call Centre receives, then you will realize that the public has confidence in us. But what I want to re-emphasize is that fighting corruption is everybody's responsibility, as enshrined in the Constitution, Article 17(1) (i), which provides that, it is the duty of every citizen of Uganda to combat corruption and misuse or waste of public property.

Whistleblowers feel they aren't secure whenever they avail confidential information to you, while some would complain of not being rewarded for their effort. What is your take on this?

We have got very trained professionals to manage our information, including lawyers. They ensure that whistleblowers are protected. I have not yet heard of any issue of a whistleblower being mistreated or officer, who mismanages information from whistleblowers. About the rewards to the whistleblowers, the rewards are given upon recovery of stolen resources.

Why does the President appoint men and women in military uniform to fight corruption?

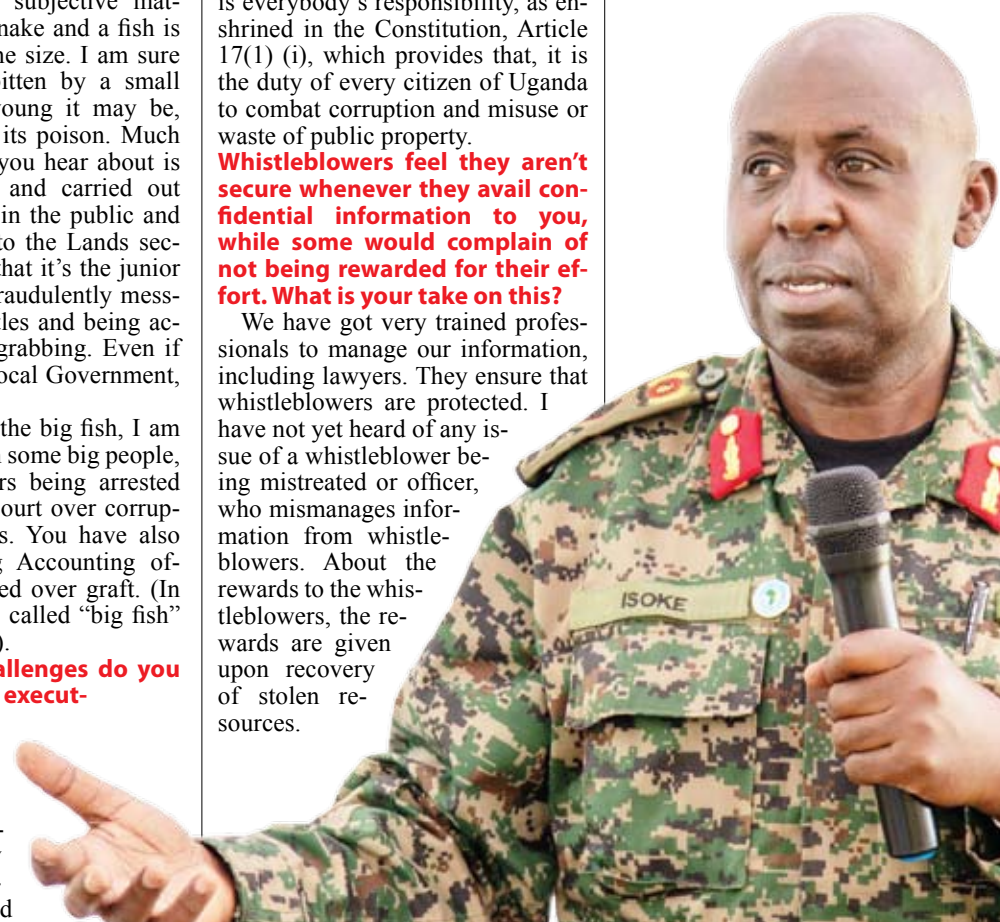
Right from recruitment, all through the training up to the last stage of service, you will notice that military officers exude a high level of discipline, integrity and patriotism. Military cadres are trained to serve their nation above any other interest, and most of them would be very uncompromising when it comes to issues which go against the ethical principles, including corruption.

Is it possible that we shall have a country "free of corruption"?

Having a country free of corruption is our vision. But at the same time, it's very difficult to achieve because of the obvious reason I told you that corruption is systematic and syndicated in our system. We may not totally eliminate corruption, but we could significantly reduce it. I have not seen or heard of any country which does not have any single corrupt person. We just have to build our system, including the digital system to lessen person to person contact.

We also have to identify the right cadres within the institutions tasked to fight corruption.

We have a saying at our Unit "See Something, Say Something"



DEVELOPMENT



By **WILLIS BASHAASHA**
The writer is the Director, Manifesto implementation Unit,
Office of the President.

LET'S ENTRENCH MINDSET CHANGE TO ACHIEVE LAST MILE OF NRM MANIFESTO 2021-26

With the festive season now behind us, I wish to congratulate every Ugandan citizen for successfully going through the festivities, and also take the honour to wish you a happy new year, 2024.

In terms of manifesto implementation, 2024 constitutes the midterm period of the political term. This means we are left with about one year within which the government has to fulfill the social contract it made with Ugandans to deliver the promises in the NRM Manifesto 2021-26 which is aligned with the National Development Plan III and Vision 2040 and also anchored on our ideological principles.

As the body charged with monitoring the performance of the manifesto commitments, we are optimistic that, based on available statistics on manifesto progress, the government is on course to fulfill the promises it made to Ugandans in May 2021.

This is despite the critical challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and the wars in Europe, which have interrupted production of goods and services in this term. Suffice to add is the budgetary cuts and deficits accruing to the borrowing freezes from the World Bank, which adversely affected the deadlines for the delivery of some key manifesto projects.

I am happy to report that our routine assessment based on reports of MDAs and hands-on field checks on the manifesto progress show that in the last three years, we achieved 30% completion, while 54% commitments are ongoing and only 16% remain in the 'red line'.

The State of Affairs So Far

As you are already aware, the NRM government in March 2021 approved the Parish Development Model (PDM) as the general purpose vehicle for causing socioeconomic development to Ugandans in this political term.

The strategy is designed to reduce poverty through wealth and jobs creation, with the major goal of helping 39% of Ugandans (or 16.1 million Ugandans in 3.5 million households) still in the subsistence economy (okukolera ekida kyonka) to cross into the money economy. Unlike previous poverty-alleviation programs, the PDM is a strategy anchored on a multi-sectoral, all-inclusive approach, in order to provide holistic improve-



Some of the 540 heifers
govt gave
to Karamoja
youths

ment in livelihoods and incomes of the households across the Country. It's therefore anchored on seven inter-related pillars ie. Agricultural Value-chain Development (Production, Processing and Marketing); Infrastructure and Economic Services; Financial Inclusion; Social Services; Community mobilization and Mindset change; Parish-Based Management Information System (PB-MIS); and Governance and Administration.

However, findings show that most of these pillars, apart from the financial inclusivity, are still being implemented. Reports show that the programme is yielding tangible results as enterprises now espousing value addition have increased, coupled with the government's increased social infrastructure footprint. The Saccos — which are the basis of the PDM and other related programmes such as Emyooga, Youth Livelihood Fund (YLP) and UWEP, among others — have transformed households. According to the Ministry of Finance, as of May 2023, the total number of Saccos in the country hit 33,000, with 10,594 registered under PDM, 6700 under Emyooga and 15,706 under other related programmes.

The 2023/24 budget provided Shs1059bn to PDM Saccos, Shs100bn to Emyooga and Shs46bn to others, with all these monies being allocated to beneficiaries through banks in line with the financial inclusion and PB-MIS pillars of PDM.

Why Mindset Change is Critical

The above findings and information show that there have been considerable gains in terms of putting in place the operational framework of the PDM and its related interventions. However, from our various manifesto monitoring and validation engagements and retreats held with the different implementation stakeholders in the past year, there has been convergence of mind that critical focus should now shift to pillar No. 5 (of Community mobilization and Mindset change) if we are to achieve the desired gains from the interventions by the end of the political term.

A mindset is a set of assumptions, methods, or notions held by a person and it's hence an internal voice that can keep someone down or lift him/her up— depending on how it is tuned. A fixed mindset can make one see failures or setbacks as evidence that they (or even the government) are not good enough or not doing enough; even when all tools of success and development are right before them.

Conversely, the right mindset means choosing positive thinking/optimism and growth over negativity in any given situation.

It is glaringly clear that since 1986, the NRM Government, through the different manifestos, has made significant milestones in improving service delivery to Ugandans. This is visible through tremendous development of infrastructure in the areas of roads and bridges, rail, electricity, oil and gas

and ICT as fundamental enablers for socio-economic transformation of the country. Emphasis has also been considerable in education and health, as well as wealth-creation/poverty-alleviation programmes right from Entandikwa, Bonna Bagaggawale, NAADS, Youth livelihood Programme, Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme, Operation Wealth Creation, Emyooga, Special Grants for Persons for Disabilities, among others.

But while the impact of these interventions is witnessed through, among others; reduced poverty levels, increased literacy rates, reduced mortalities, and increased agricultural production among others, there's still general apathy towards government and/or government programmes. This is evidenced through limited participation and involvement of communities in the implementation of Government programmes, corruption, and increased vandalization of public infrastructure such as electricity cables, roads, road signs and railway slippers.

A call to leaders

Unfortunately, the apathy is perpetuated by this mindset challenge which spreads hopelessness within the population; sometimes politicizing wealth funds by terming them as political tokens. The onus now falls on leaders at all levels to deliberately spread the right messages to align the public to the government targets and help them derive maximum benefit from the programmes lined up for the masses through the manifesto commitments.

It is only through such mindset shift that we shall attain individual socioeconomic development for every Ugandan, which ultimately will feed into the national development agenda.

But as I have always advised, leaders need to first liberate themselves through positive mindset change, after which they can adopt good working ethics with other leaders and stakeholders to be able to help our people. This should be our primary target this new year. We are lucky that the President designed the 23 strategic guidelines which can always be referred to as the guiding principles to drive manifesto targets. I wish you a fruitful new year, For God and my Country!

“

54%.
Manifesto
progress.

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'Male menopause' is real – Experts

By **ADRIANA DIAZ**
NEW YORK TIMES

It's not just women and it's not just that time of the month. Andropause — commonly called “male menopause” — is described as “aging-related hormone changes in men,” according to the Mayo Clinic.

The healthcare organization claims that “testosterone levels decline on average about 1% a year after age 40.”

As they continue to age, those levels may continue to lower with some men reporting up to a 50% reduction by age 70, compared to peak levels.

About 3 in 10 men in their 70s and 80s suffer from low testosterone levels, according to the American Urological Association.

While both men and women undergo changes in their testosterone

levels, the changes are much more subtle for women.

Testosterone levels are said to decline on average about 1% a year after age 40.

In men, this hormonal change can cause symptoms such as reduced libido, fatigue, mood changes, hot flashes, erectile dysfunction, infertility and reduced muscle bulk.

Testosterone levels can be checked by a blood test, but aren't commonly run.

While there is no cure for andropause, hormone replacement therapy and lifestyle changes can help replenish their hormones.

Prescriptions such as injections, topical gels, oral medications and patches can be used. Testosterone levels can be steadily increased with hormone therapy and may help to relieve many of their symptoms.

such as boosting sex drive and beating fatigue.

However, some experts have recorded and flagged a drastic increase in requests for the therapy.

“Virtually everybody asks about this now because the direct-to-consumer marketing is so aggressive,” Dr. Michael O’Leary, a urologist at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women’s Hospital, told Harvard Health.

“I’ve seen men rushing to medicate for erectile dysfunction.”

That “tons of men who have asked me about what to do so” after symptoms.

The experts also noted that certain lifestyle changes can help aging men increase their testosterone levels. A balanced lifestyle of exercise, a healthy diet and good sleep maintain healthy testosterone levels.

One study published by Obesity Reviews found that overweight men are more likely to suffer from low testosterone, and losing weight can increase those levels.

While andropause is a natural condition of aging, experts and patients alike are trying to raise awareness.

A balanced lifestyle of exercise, a healthy diet and good sleep maintain healthy testosterone levels. A balanced lifestyle of exercise, a healthy diet and good sleep maintain healthy testosterone levels.

British TV presenter and influencer Israel Cassol has spoken openly about the medical condi-

tion since being diagnosed with “male menopause” soon after turning 40.

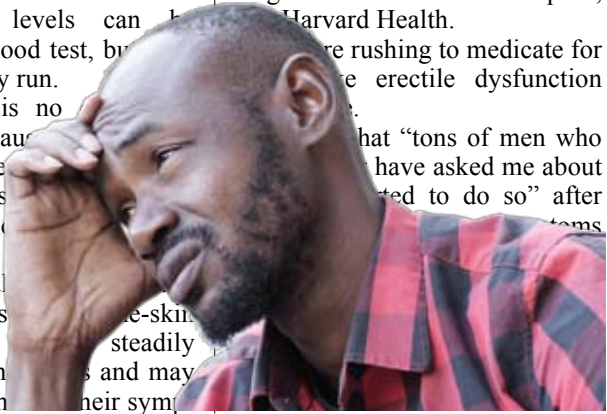
“I couldn’t believe what I was hearing, I thought that menopause was something only women went through, I never knew it could affect men just as much,” Cassol explained to the Daily Mail.

He’s now on a mission to “petition more acknowledgment of male menopause.”

But Cassol isn’t the first to begin this campaign or recognize the stereotypes that keep men from discussing the medical condition candidly.

“One of the greatest barriers that keeps men from talking about male menopause is the fear of being less than manly,” Jed Diamond, a psychotherapist and author of “The Male Menopause,” told The Post back in 2000.

“Many guys would rather die than admit that their erections [aren’t what they were] or that they’ve been suffering mood swings. They want to appear invulnerable.”



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Congratulatory message from the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Bavima Enterprise. At this time when Uganda prepares to mark the 38th anniversary of the NRM liberation struggle, we at Bavima Enterprise warmly congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, the NRM Government and the people of Uganda upon this landmark occasion.

Your visionary leadership and transformational ideology ushered in peace, tranquility and

steady economic growth that we continue to enjoy to date as we serve Ugandans and humanity in general.

We applaud the heroes and heroines of the struggle, many of whom sacrificed their lives, property and comfort for the liberation of Uganda.

We join hands with the customers and people of Busoga to welcome the NRM fraternity to celebrate this auspicious event slated for 26 January, 2024 in Jinja City, the capital of Busoga.

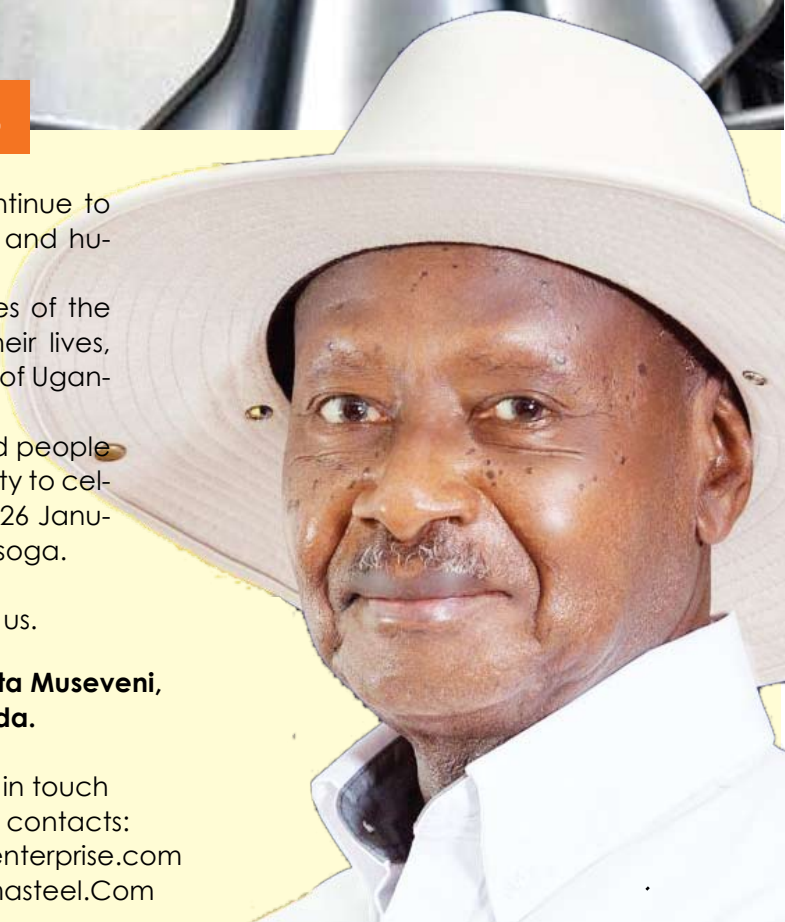
For all your building materials, rely on us.

**Long live President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,
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JINJA, UGANDA



People love me because I am a freedom fighter

By **STEPHEN BWIRE**

Her fans and supporters fondly call her Mego-Larem. Mego is a Luo word meaning mother. Larem is a name ascribed to her bus transport business—the Larem buses which ply the Kampala-Gulu route. Christine Lanyero aka Larem is a household name in Acholi community and the Greater North. She has built an enduring legacy stemming from the seeds of love, sacrifice and support she has grown up offering diverse people.

Indeed Christine is a mother to so many children and adults alike. Wherever she has gone, she has surrounded herself with people of different backgrounds some of whom total strangers to her. But she would go an extra mile with a heart of sacrifice reaching out to them with whatever kind of support. Her magnanimity and love flows effortlessly. Throughout the time she has spent on earth, the 61-year-old mother and businesswoman has devoted her time, energy and resources to benefit others.

As early as 12 years of age, Christine started taking care of her young siblings. She pointed this writer to a small two-bedroom house somewhere in Ntinda where she would take care of over 30 children including other relatives. This was during the time of the war in the North. By that time there was no development to talk of in Ntinda...no electricity, water or tarmac. They would fetch water from swamps.

“I would tell people in my house that the house was big enough for everybody. For as long as you found just a little space to lay your head, that was enough. We shared the little food and resources as a family and God took us through,” she narrates with a sigh of satisfaction. “My neighbours would ask me if I had parents because they would only see me as a young girl burdened with the huge responsibility of taking care of my brothers and sisters. To them [neighbours], they thought it was a burden, but to me this was what God had destined me for, and I did it with love to this very day,” she says with laughter.

Like the fate that would befall many young school girls in Africa, Christine got pregnant at Senior Two while studying at St. Monica School in Gulu. Following the pregnancy, her father, the late Savio Ojok, forced her into early marriage where she produced two children. The marriage couldn't work since it was forced, and she decided to go back home.

Business life

She started doing small business while at home including baking chapatti, mandazi, and later on upgraded to farm produce where she would buy stock from Mbale. Her father supported her by giving her a store in Anaka Trading Centre. She expanded her business to West Nile where she continued to prosper.

Christine's courage and steadfastness in venturing into business is unrivaled. She has broken through the ceiling to go into some enterprises which are considered “business for the men”. Owing to her business acumen, some people say that she does business like a man. “But when you look at it, there is no men's business neither women's business, business is business irrespective of gender. But what stands out is that I do business like a man,” she explains. “I don't fear venturing into things. I don't believe in other people doing things for me,” she says, revealing that God has favoured her throughout her business life where at times she has done business with big multi-national companies like British American Tobacco (BAT). Under BAT, she was supplying farm inputs to tobacco out growers in West Nile. In 1994, she bought a Tata lorry to ferry tobacco from farms to BAT stores in Arua. Later, BAT entrusted her with a contract of transporting tobacco to Nairobi. She continued in tobacco business until 2005 when she left Arua.

In 2006, following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in South Sudan, she won a sub-contract from TRANSAMI to supply food stuffs to all the 10 states of South Sudan. “I hired trucks from all the neighbouring countries to transport food. There was great need



Mego-Larem is mother to many children and adults alike

for food by that time. That is why they called me International Lady,” she says.

Around the same time, Christine further reveals that she got a contract with the UN to repatriate the UN Battalion from South Sudan including equipment from Malakal.

She was also contracted by the Chinese road constructors to transport material to Juba and other areas of South Sudan.

She decided to leave the cargo business in 2015 when the government introduced the weigh-bridges that limited the loads, also not mentioning highway robberies.

She joined Pepsi-cola as a distributor where she worked for three years, and quit to again venture into tobacco growing in Nwoya District. Unfortunately, the Alliance One company which contracted her and other tobacco farmers left the country without paying them.

Being a woman who doesn't give up easily, Christine approached Metu Bus Company in Namanve and procured one bus. With this bus, she began her passenger transport company under the flagship of Larem Transporters. She has so far bought a total of four busses from Metu plying the Kampala-Gulu road. She relieved her people of Nwoya by placing one of her buses to carry

passengers from Nwoya to Gulu and vice-versa. This is the first time in history Nwoya is having a bus service.

When President Museveni and his NRA took over power in 1986, Christine was 19 years. Her elder brother Gen Otema Charles Awany was among the NRA officers who captured power with Museveni, and he was instrumental in installing the NRA/M in the North, particularly Acholi. By that time, Museveni was facing stiff resistance to enter the northern region. Christine's family members including her parents and siblings were trapped in the village in Pungo, they were living in the bush, just like a number of families at the time. They would later on move slowly on foot to Gulu for safety.

Christine joined her brother in the struggle as a non-combatant to supply food stuffs and other essentials to the soldiers. She won the trust of army officers and soon she got other connections to supply the combatants of SPLA in Sudan, and in DR Congo where the Ugandan forces were fighting rebel elements. While in Congo, Christine says that she encountered high-profile rebel personalities including Jean-Pierre Bemba, Wamba dia Wamba, Mbusa Nyamwisi and among others. “As a businesswoman, I found myself being in favour with these rebel

commanders, Congo was a difficult and dangerous area to do any business, especially as a foreigner, but with time those people [rebels] considered me a friendly force and they started offering me support including security,” she narrates.

Christine considers herself as a freedom fighter. She wasn't doing the good things she did for the sake of money, but for the common good. “I have always been driven by the desire to make a positive contribution without expecting any reward. When I risked my life to go to the jungles of Congo to supply our forces with food, I considered it as part of my patriotic duty,” she says.

In her life of business, she has come face to face with death. She survived the numerous Kony ambushes and landmines in South Sudan. There was also a time when Bashir's army would bombard areas of South Sudan with the famous Antenov. One time the Antenov almost buried her in the ground but she survived by the miracle of God. While in Congo, she would see dead bodies littered all over the roadside, including pregnant women who would be split open. “I didn't fear all this, I developed the heart of a warrior,” she says.

Joining politics

Christine says she was approached by a number of people in Nwoya with a view of representing them in the next parliament in 2026. “I was going about my daily business and I started receiving numerous phone calls and messages including delegations begging me to offer my candidature for district woman representative for Nwoya District. I took time to think about it, but now I have agreed to the demand of my people,” she says.

“I used to encourage people who would join politics and support them. I didn't wish to join politics back in the day because of the responsibilities I had at the time including lots of children to take care of,” she says adding, “For me I look at politics from a different angle; that you are in politics to serve mankind. But these days, politics is a career as most people who join politics are looking for survival.”

She argues that for the time she has spent in business and working closely with people and various leaders at all levels, she has gained considerable experience. “Given my background, I feel I have attained enough experience. The experience I will use to offer solutions to the problems of my people,” she adds.

“My people know that I am not going to parliament to enrich myself. They would look at me as a saviour. I am not going to look for



Mego-Larem shares a light moment with her people

a man in parliament to marry me but to serve my people.” Christine’s love and admiration for President Yoweri Museveni is crystal bold. “This government

has made me what I am. I feel embarrassed when I hear young people of today talking ill of the NRM government, some of them don’t know the crude life we went

through back in the days,” she says. Once in parliament, Christine says her focus shall be on education of her people. “Schools and

education standards in Nwoya are collapsing. I want to see more children enrolled in school. The child mothers should also go back to school to be trained in vocational skills.”

Maternal health remains a serious problem in Nwoya District. She has registered an NGO to help mothers who may not afford to go to hospital, including empowering them with socio-economic support.

On the side of agriculture, the businesswoman and farmer hopes to help organize farmers to produce what they are good at and add value to their produce. Already she is linking them to markets.

Of recent, she has been training the young people on mindset change and financial literacy and management.

Towards the end of 2023, just in one week, Christine helped thousands of people in Nwoya District to access the PDM cash. Most people couldn’t get money because

they didn’t have national IDs. But when she went to the NIRA offices at the District, she found three suitcases full of unclaimed national IDs. “The NIRA officials told me that they didn’t have transport logistics to go distribute the national IDs to the owners, so I offered to give them my vehicles including fuel so that they distribute the cards. As soon as the people got their national IDs, I contacted the PDM office and money was disbursed immediately. Within one week, about Shs 1billion had been given out to the eligible beneficiaries,” she says.

Christine has been appreciated by the Government and various organisations for her contribution to the betterment of society. For instance, Vision Group awarded her as Woman Achiever in 2008 for taking care of children who aren’t hers without help from anybody.

She was also awarded a Hero’s Medal by Government in 2016 for outstanding contribution in peace and development.



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS STUDIES, JINJA

CONGRATULATIONS

THE Governing Council, Board of Directors, Management, Staff and Students of YMCA College of Business Studies, Jinja (YCBS, J) warmly Congratulate the President H.E Yoweri .K. Museveni , the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports Mama Janet Kataha Museveni, the NRM fraternity and the rest of patriotic citizens upon reaching the 38th NRM Anniversary/Liberation Day.

As an institution of vocational learning, we join hands to train and skill Ugandans as one way of wealth creation and fight poverty in our community for socio-economic transformation.

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Tadeo Bwire on mission to liberate Bukooli North from poverty

By OUR REPORTER

Bukooli North, just like any other part of Busoga, has been entrapped in poverty and lagging behind in development. Most, if not all, the social indices are below average including education, health, roads, safe water, electricity, jobs and among others. One of the famous

politicians once described Busoga as the head quarters of poverty in Uganda and East Africa in spite of the fact that the region is endowed with abundant mineral resources, good climate, Lake Nalubaale, hard working people and tourism potential.

However, the narrative is about to change for the better with the entry of Dr (PhD) Tadeo Bwire

Kwoba who has declared his intentions for the Bukooli North parliamentary seat come 2026.

Kwoba is a firebrand young politician who has grown up in a political family of NRM supporters. His own father was a strong NRM stalwart.

Kwoba has spent most of his working life and career in private enterprise where he has worked in a number of companies and organisations including the communications sector, and, currently he is into manufacturing. Being a budding entrepreneur and one who likes innovating with

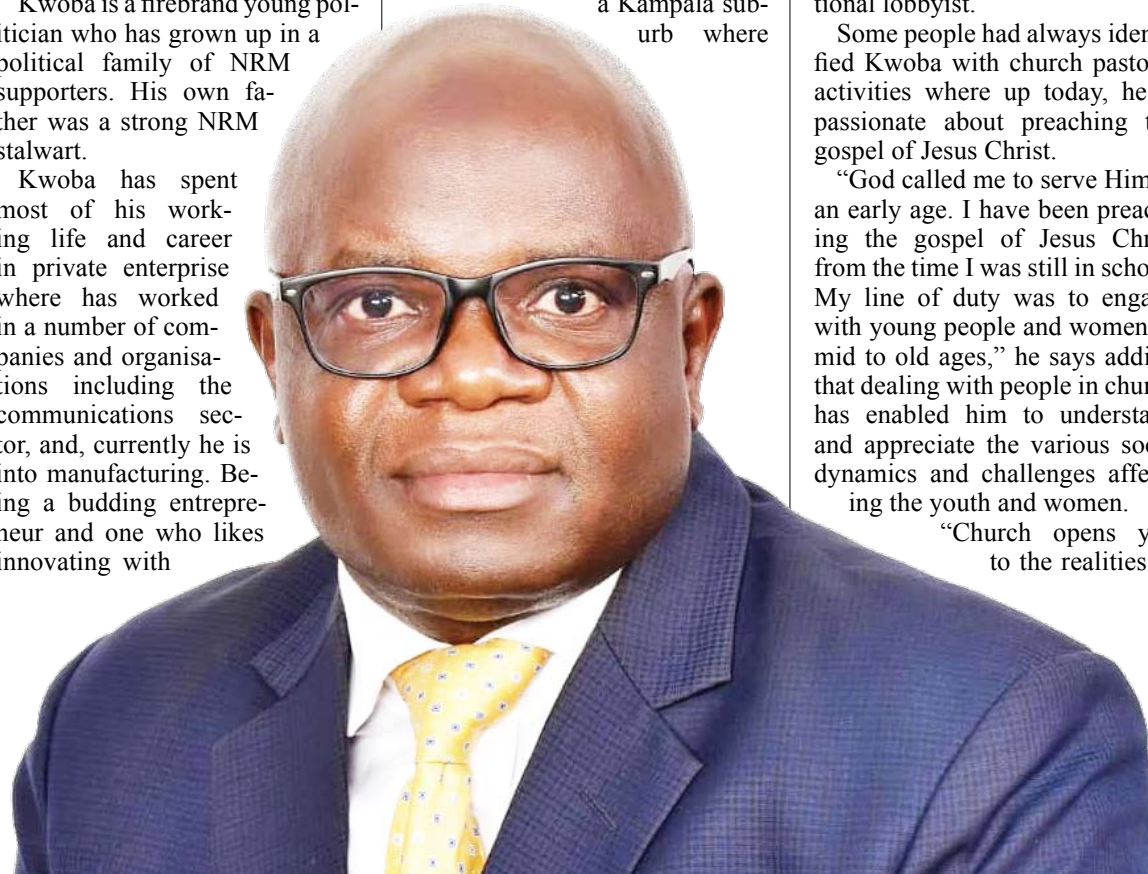
new ideas, he has established a mini-manufacturing factory at his home in Namugongo, a Kampala suburb where

he is making yoghurt, ghee and other dairy products. He is also a seasoned marketer and international lobbyist.

Some people had always identified Kwoba with church pastoral activities where up today, he is passionate about preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“God called me to serve Him at an early age. I have been preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ from the time I was still in school. My line of duty was to engage with young people and women of mid to old ages,” he says adding that dealing with people in church has enabled him to understand and appreciate the various socio dynamics and challenges affecting the youth and women.

“Church opens you to the realities of



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

UNLOCKING THE GAZETTE: CRUCIAL MATTERS, WHY THEY MATTER, WHO'S RESPONSIBLE, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF NON-GAZETTING



In the world of communication, the Gazette is like a guiding light, responsible for officially publishing a wide range of important items. In 2020, the Ministry for the Presidency through the line minister then introduced a detailed statutory instrument, covering almost 500 items and matters that must be officially published in the Uganda Gazette by Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation (UPPC). These include various government laws, official papers, and private documents.

This information not only reveals what should be published in the Gazette but also explores why it's crucial and the possible consequences if this process is neglected.

What Needs to be Published in the Gazette?

The statutory instrument shows the diverse materials meant for Gazette publication. Besides legal texts, the UPPC through the Uganda Gazette publishes crucial information related to government affairs. This includes electoral notices, which detail polling schedules, vacant positions, election officials' details, and electoral results. Essentially, the Gazette acts as a record-keeper, capturing the essence of democratic processes.

Gazetting is vital for maintaining transparency and accountability in government. By making laws, regulations, and important decisions accessible to the public, the Gazette helps create

an informed citizenry.

Gazetting goes beyond mere legal compliance; it serves as a powerful tool for democratic engagement, ensuring citizens are aware of crucial information that directly affects their lives.

Many laws mandate the Gazetting of notices about appointments or retirements of individuals in high-ranking positions. This responsibility falls on the ministry, agency, department, institution, or local government issuing the notice.

The regulations also cover the appointment of cabinet ministers, chairpersons, and members of various bodies, agencies, commissions, boards, and heads of entities like the police, Bank of Uganda, Director of Public Prosecutions, and local government political leaders. Traditional and cultural leaders' institutions are also included.

Apart from these requirements, different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies must publish various notices according to specific laws. The law specifies the conditions for Gazetting and designates the entity responsible for such publication. Entities like the First Parliamentary Council and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs are required to sanction bills and acts discussed and passed by the house to be Gazetted by the UPPC.

Certain legal provisions state that even after a Bill becomes an Act following presidential assent, it cannot be enforced until officially gazetted. Other important notices, like those from the Administrator General, are also subject to Gazetting.

Prof. Sudi Nangoli

The author is the UPPC Managing Director

The Gazette also features private legal notices, including bankruptcies, company registrations and closures, probate proceedings, company by-laws, and changes in names (deed polls). Professional bodies like the Law Council, Engineers Board, Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda, Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners' Council, etc., are obligated to gazette the names and addresses of their registered professionals. Professionals who haven't been officially gazetted are barred from practicing in their specific fields. If discovered, they may face legal proceedings and potential penalties as outlined in the relevant laws.

Neglecting the need to Gazette has serious implications. The failure to publish designated items not only breaks the law but also undermines the foundations of an open and accountable government. The absence of Gazetted information can lead to a lack of awareness among the public, hindering their ability to understand, critique, and participate in



Prof. Sudi Nangoli
UPPC Managing Director

governance.

Furthermore, specific legal provisions state that certain actions, like enforcing bills-turned-acts after presidential assent depend on official Gazetting. Neglecting this critical step could render legislative measures ineffective, creating a gap between legal enactment and practical implementation. For private legal notices, not complying with Gazetting requirements could disrupt legal processes, potentially harming the rights and interests of individuals and entities involved.

The author is the UPPC Managing Director



people's lives and experiences, as a church leader you begin to think beyond the parameters of church including how you can solve some of these issues," he intimated to this writer.

Besides the experience of being a pastoral leader, Kwoba is upbeat about leveraging the wealth of knowledge, experience and connections he has cultivated in the private sector over the years to bring about socio-economic transformation in Bugiri and Bukooli North in particular.

"As earlier mentioned, I had a productive time working in the private sector. I would want to transfer this knowledge and experience to help our people come out of poverty, create their own jobs and ultimately join the money economy through mass production," he says.

Kwoba contends the people of Busoga are among the most hard working people in Uganda, but there is nothing much to show for their hard work as most of them would wallow in poverty. "I have been touring most homesteads in Bukooli North, at least you would find them busy working, but the one million dollar question is why and how they can translate that energy and industriousness to real wealth. This is the missing link, and this is precisely why am offering myself to join politics to help my people bridge this gap," he elaborates.

"I want to take my people into value addition. For instance, our people are growing lots of maize, fruits like avocado, mangoes, jackfruit, ginger, cassava, etc. All this can become more profitable and fetch higher returns if they were processed into finished or intermediate products. This is the language President Museveni is singing these days, the good news is that he has got ready disciples to help him in this mission of value addition," he says.

Kwoba emphasises that he is not joining parliament to make a career for himself, but he is going into politics to gain a platform to solve people's problems.

"I am not a career politician, but a career businessman and academic. A politician will always think about the next election, but a businessman like me will think about how to mobilise people into collective profit-making for the betterment of everybody. Am not joining politics for the sake of politics, but am joining politics with a singular purpose of helping our people escape the trap of poverty."

"I have been privileged to travel to a number of countries, I have made friends and encountered people with money who are willing to come over and set up investments here at home. Some of them were asking about the investment potential in my constituency, I assured them Bugiri and Busoga as a whole boasts unlimited

opportunities," Kwoba reveals.

Commenting on Kwoba's candidature, one of the prominent elders in Bugiri had this to say: "Busoga's problem is not poverty per say, but Busoga's problem has been and remains lack of transformative leadership. We don't have leaders

who would galvanize the locals and show them the right path to socio-economic transformation. Some of our leaders are selfish, they would only work for their personal interests. However, if this young man (Kwoba) is reasoning in terms of working for the people's interests, then I think we are

heading somewhere."

Another local of Bukooli North who didn't want to be identified is excited that the young people are firmly taking charge.

"Our problems as young people can only be solved by the young people in leadership. Kwoba being a young man would reso-

nate well with us the young people, since he very well understands our plight."

Kwoba says that a leader is a social doctor who diagnoses the problems of society and later on goes on to prescribe the right treatment.

2026. Firebrand.

The narrative is about to change for the better with the entry of Dr (PhD) Tadeo Bwire Kwoba who has declared his intensions for the Bukooli North parliamenary seat come 2026. Kwoba is a firebrand young politician who has grown up in a political family of NRM supporters. His own father was a strong NRM stalwart. Kwoba has spent most of his working life and career in private enterprise where has worked in a number of companies and organisations including the communications sector, and, currently he is into manufacturing.

UGANDA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT, IT'S JUST A VIEW.

International Passenger Traffic through Entebbe International Airport

2019	2023
1,802,107 passengers	1,932,094 passengers

72.27% score in 2023 International Safety Audit conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

The Board of Directors, Management and staff of UCAA wish H.E the President, Cabinet and all Ugandans a joyous Liberation Day.

May we collectively strive to become the Uganda we aspire to see.



JANUARY 26 LIBERATION DAY



South Africa get first UFC champion

TORONTO: Dricus du Plessis has become South Africa's first UFC champion with a split decision victory over American Sean Strickland in their middleweight title fight in Toronto at UFC 297. Du Plessis beat Strickland, who had won the belt from Israel Adesanya in September, 48-47, 48-47, 47-48 for his seventh straight UFC victory. In the co-main event, American Raquel Pennington won her first UFC title. She beat Mayra Bueno Silva by unanimous decision in their bantamweight fight. On the undercard, British featherweight Arnold Allen was handed a second straight loss with a unanimous defeat by Russian Movsar Evloev.

SPORTS

PUBLICLENS
SIEVING FACTS FROM FICTION

January –
February,
2024

Cameroon vs Nigeria: The making of Africa's biggest football rivalry

When the final whistle blew after Cameroon sealed a dramatic stoppage-time win over The Gambia in their final Group C game at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, another chapter in one of the continent's greatest rivalries was confirmed.

That 3-2 victory for the Indomitable Lions set up a last-16 clash with neighbours Nigeria at an iconic venue in Abidjan which holds history for both sides.

The two countries are undoubtedly among Africa's biggest footballing nations, with eight continental titles and two Olympic gold medals between them.

"It's the biggest fixture in African football, in terms of rivalry and history between both sides," former Nigeria captain Mutiu Adepoju told BBC Sport Africa.

"Cameroon has denied Nigeria the Nations Cup title in three finals. No other country can boast that in Africa."

Saturday's game at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Stadium in Abidjan will be a repeat of the 1984 Afcon final held at the same venue.

On that occasion Cameroon, with stars like Roger Milla, Joseph-Antoine Bell and Theophile Abega, won 3-1 against a young Super Eagles team led by the late Stephen Keshi.

Another painful defeat followed for Nigeria at the 1988 Afcon held in Morocco, with the Indomitable Lions sealing a second Nations Cup title at the expense of the West Africans courtesy of a goal scored from the penalty spot by Emmanuel Kunde.



Nigeria's Victor Osimhen and Cameroon's Toko Ekambi

SPORTS ROUND-UP

AFCON 2023

Ivory Coast sack Gasset

ABIDJAN. Jean-Louis Gasset has been sacked as coach of 2023 Africa Cup of Nations hosts Ivory Coast two days after their 4-0 defeat against Equatorial Guinea.

It was the heaviest home defeat in Ivory Coast history and they are the first Afcon host to lose two group games since they did so in 1984.

The Elephants still carry faint hopes of progressing to the last 16 as one of the best third-placed teams. They will be led by Emerse Fae, one of Gasset's coaches, on an interim basis.



AFCON 2023

6 fans die amid celebrations

ABIDJAN. The Guinean football federation (Feguifoot) and former star Pascal Feindouno have called for calm after supporters died back home celebrating the country's first win at the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations. Guinea beat The Gambia 1-0 in their second group game in Ivory Coast on Friday night, sparking widespread celebrations across the West African nation. Six people died after the team ignited their Nations Cup campaign, Feguifoot told the BBC, after fans took to the roads of the Guinean capital Conakry to celebrate in cars and on motorcycles.



AFCON 2023

DR Congo reach knockout stage

KORHOGO. DR Congo reached the knockout stage of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations after a goalless draw with Tanzania in Korhogo. The result eliminated the East Africans, who had needed to win to progress themselves. A point was enough for DR Congo to finish second in Group F behind Morocco, who topped the table thanks to their 1-0 win over Zambia. The prize for the Leopards is a last-16 tie against Egypt, with Morocco taking on South Africa.

