

MEETING WITH THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL, UGANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY

On 5 February 2022, a team from Uganda Revenue Authority, led by the Commissioner General, Mr. John Musinguzi Rujoki paid a courtesy call on the Consul General at the Consulate offices.

In his welcome remarks, the Consul General expressed his pleasure to receive the team and warmly welcomed to the Consulate General of the Republic of Uganda in Mombasa.

The Consul General then made the following communication:

1. Informed that the Consulate was established in 2015 with the aim of serving government interests in the coastal region. He stated that the Consulate does not work in isolation but rather closely with the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi. He informed that the Consulate is the only of its nature in the region. However, plans are underway to open other Consulates in Goma and Dubai.
2. He applauded the Commissioner General for sending a big team of the URA staff to work in Mombasa and informed him that the Consulate works closely and coordinates a number of activities with them. He sighted the home-based staff retreat which was held in March 2021 in which URA was among the facilitators. He thanked Mr. Julius Rubagumya for organizing the CG's visit to the Consulate.
3. He recalled the letter which the Commissioner General, URA wrote to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala, requesting for their intervention so that the Kenyan Government allows Ugandans to auction their overstayed goods at the Mombasa Port. He informed that he wrote to the Permanent Secretary, requesting him to send a formal communication to Amb. Macharia Kamau, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for consideration by the Government of Kenya.
4. He informed them about the proposed Joint Ministerial Commission between Kenya and Uganda, which was planned for March 2022, but still pending confirmation by the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
5. He pointed out that among issues discussed during the Kenya - Uganda agri-business symposium and exhibition held in September 2021 was how the tariffs and non-tariff barriers to free trade between the two countries could be addressed. He also added that as a follow up on agri-business symposium and exhibition, the Trade and investment mission to Uganda is being

organized in conjunction with the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mombasa.

6. He requested for a closer cooperation between URA and Missions from where Uganda sources its goods so that important information can be shared.
7. The Consulate is in talks with the management of the Uganda properties in Mombasa to acquire a plot where the consulate can establish its base and also house other Ugandan Government agencies operating in Mombasa.
8. Joint inspection teams to tour different customs stations where immigration services are offered such as Kisumu, Malaba, Busia among others to see the challenges facing custom. Appreciated them for the good work of collecting taxes.

In his remarks, Mr. Julius Rubagumya appreciated the Consul General for his continuous support and cooperation with URA. He welcomed and emphasized the need for URA to coordinate with the Missions where Uganda sources its goods from so as to establish and share vital information.

He also agreed with the issue of conducting visits and inspections on various customs points of immigration.

The Commissioner General, Mr. John Musinguzi Rujoki made the following communication:

He appreciated the Consul General for the warm welcome accorded to them and thanked him for accepting to host them at the Consulate. He then conveyed warm greetings from URA Kampala.

He commended the Consul General for exhibiting a personality of a good Government representative.

He thanked Mr. Julius Rubagumya, Assistant Commissioner, External Operations, URA for working closely with the Consul General and thanked the Consulate for the partnership with the URA. He also stressed the need for the new leaders in URA to familiarize with the leadership of the Uganda Consulate in Mombasa.

He noted with appreciation the emphasis which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is putting towards the issues concerning the economy and trade.

He indicated that they are doing a lot to rethink of the ways of collecting taxes better, for instance by use of deliberate stakeholders strategy which brings together everyone. The tour of the Port of Mombasa was very important as they desired to see how they can facilitate better trade between the two countries.

Appreciated the Consul General for his invitation to attend the agribusiness symposium and informed that due to other commitments he would not be able to attend. However, he delegated Mr. Rubagumya to represent him. He commended the initiative stressing that such meetings bring together various stakeholders from different sectors thus promoting interactions and value addition to the participants.

He promised to follow up on the issue of the pending cargo at the port of Mombasa belonging to Ugandans. Discussions are ongoing.

Discussions

The Mission has been supportive right from the time of the former Consul general, Amb. Katureebe

A team was sent to Guangzhou for a week to collect data

Thanked ambassador for the support

He thanked the team once again and pledged to continue