

# Diplomatic Notes

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**THIRD SOUTH SUMMIT**

KAMPALA, UGANDA 2024

"LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND"

### Uganda's Chairmanship:

Non-Aligned Movement (2024 - 2027)  
The Group of 77 and China (2024 - 2025)



## HEY, DEAR ESTEEMED READERS,



Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

September is one of the busiest months on the MoFA calendar. The Multilateral hallways have been humming with the sound of positions, outcome documents, negotiations, agreements, *tete-a-tetes*, courtesy calls and side events and we have a few snapshots for you of the myriad meetings that the Uganda Delegations were engaged in from TICAD to FOCAC to the 79th UNGA high-level week.

Marking Tourism month, from Beijing to Guangzhou to Paris and Tokyo our Missions have been busy, working with the Uganda Tourism Board, the Uganda Coffee Development Authority and Uganda Breweries to promote Uganda's beautiful scenery, delightful people, culture and heritage.

September saw the Uganda-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission successfully concluded with a number of MoUs signed. We joined Uganda Airlines to mark their 5th birthday as they celebrated their inauguration of flights 13, 14 and 15, Arusha, Lusaka and Harare and brilliantly marrying each launch with a Business Forum to discuss the opportunities available. Any traveler who has ever had to travel 10 hours to get from Entebbe to Lusaka via Addis Ababa will appreciate the two to three hour alternatives offered by Uganda Airlines.

Now for the fun part, September saw us engaged in the Uganda Film and Culture Market, engaging in discussions on authenticity in storytelling and discussing the business of film as an industry. Details are in this issue.

Do not miss our sports diplomacy page as we celebrate the JICA football game against the Jinja Queens.

With this issue, Diplomatic Notes editorial team bids farewell to our Art Director, Mr. Ivan Koreta who has been the heart and mind behind the brilliant design and who has been with us since issue 1. While we are sad to see him go, we are proud to see him rise to greater heights. Godspeed Ivan.

DIPLOMATIC  
HIGHLIGHTS



SPECIAL  
FEATURE  
STORIES



UGANDA  
MISSIONS  
ABROAD



TÊTE-À-TÊTE  
MEETINGS



Editor-in-Chief  
Head, Public Diplomacy Department







*Strategically located in Midtown Manhattan, the Uganda House, which also houses Uganda's Mission to the UN, not only serves as a central point for Ugandan nationals but also stands as a vital hub for diplomatic, economic, and cultural engagement with the United States and the United Nations (UN).*



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— “ —

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

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## Prime Minister Nabbanja Leads Uganda's Delegation to the 79th UN General Assembly 2024, in New York.

**New York** – The 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced formally in New York on 10th September 2024 with the installation of its new President, H.E. Philémon Yang of Cameroon.

The High-Level Week of the General Assembly was conducted through the General Debate themed: "Leaving No One Behind: Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development and Human Dignity For Present & Future Generations."

Uganda's delegation was led by Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, the Prime Minister of Uganda, and included Hon. Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubakhar, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Oryem Henry Okello, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (International Affairs), Amb. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations and Senior Officials responsible for Foreign Affairs, Health, Finance, and Environmental matters.

The Prime Minister stated Uganda's current Chairmanship of G77+China is an opportunity for countries of the South to articulate their collective economic interests and enhance joint negotiating capacity on issues within the UN system.

She also remarked about Uganda House in New York, which hosted the "High-Level Africa Youth Forum" on the margins of the Summit.



**PM Nabbanja meets with the UN Secretary-General in New York**

The high-level week of UNGA whose main objective was to rally and make a plea for stronger, sustained international cooperation in the face of global shocks occasioned by multiple-human, natural, ecological, sociological, and financial crises.

The final outcome document of the Summit of the Future was the global commitment or pledge expressed as the "Pact of the Future" with its 60 action points.

This Pact was the outcome of painstaking negotiations by the various interest groups within the United Nations, including the NAM and G77 plus China, of which Uganda had played a pivotal role in steering, guiding, and generating consensus among these influential groups as their concurrent Chair.



**L-R: UN Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Amina Mohammed, UN Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres, Hon. Odongo Jeje Abubakher, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uganda and Chair of the Group of 77, President of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Philémon Yang, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN Amb. Adonia Ayebare, and Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 Mr. Mourad Ahmia, at the opening session of the forty-eighth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77.**

**By Herbert Ssekatawa | Photos by UN Press, Uganda Mission UN.**







## Uganda's Delegation to the 79th UN General Assembly 2024.

IN PICTURES



Photos by UN Press and Uganda Mission UN.







## Hon. Oryem Ignites Innovation at the 2nd Indonesia-Africa Forum.

**Jakarta** - Representing President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at the Second Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF) II in Nusa Dua, Badung, Bali, Minister of State for International Cooperation Hon. Henry Oryem Okello highlighted the importance of the Non-Aligned Movement's cornerstone principles in fostering global peace & prosperity.

Minister Okello emphasized the need for global economic growth and sustainable development, especially in sectors like Agriculture and digitalization to empower youth and drive progress. He lauded the strong relations between Indonesia, Uganda, and Africa at large.



Addressing challenges such as climate change, Hon. Oryem stressed the balance between mitigation efforts and economic advancement for developing nations.

He also highlighted the potential for SMEs to transition to industrialization and the tourism sector's growth opportunities, drawing from Indonesia's success.

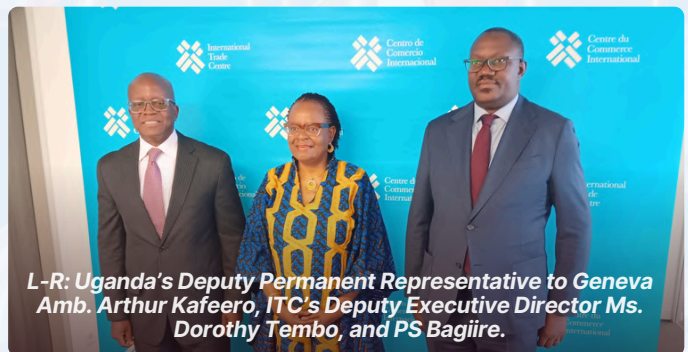
In addition to delivering the President's statement, the Minister shared insights during a panel discussion themed "Outlook from the Region Update and Prospect for Cooperation" at the forum, focusing on collaboration between Indonesia and Africa for mutual growth and prosperity.

*By Githa Oguma | Courtesy Photo*

## PS Bagiiire Visits Geneva: Eyes Digital Economy, Cotton Value Chain, Diaspora Engagement.

**Geneva** - The Permanent Secretary of Uganda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Bagiiire Vincent Waiswa, paid a working visit to Geneva from 18-24 July during which he held a number of bilateral meetings with officials from the World Trade Organisation (WTO), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the South Centre, and the members of the Uganda Diaspora.

He expressed gratitude to the WTO for its continued support and stressed the need to strengthen collaboration to harness intra-African trade potential for a landlocked least-developed country (LDC) like Uganda. PS Bagiiire emphasized key challenges such as market access, particularly sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, which impede Ugandan products from reaching international markets.



He also called on the WTO to assist Uganda in digitalizing its economy and helping micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) access digital platforms. The PS/FA also expressed Uganda's interest in joining the WTO-World Bank Africa Digital Infrastructure Project & the Trade in Services for Development Project.

WTO Deputy Director-General Johanna Hill responded positively, explaining that the Africa Digital Infrastructure Project, currently in its pilot phase across five countries, would expand at the end of 2024 to include new participants. She confirmed that Uganda could express interest in the second phase of both projects.

*...story continues on next page.*







## ...story continued from previous page.

Additionally, Amb. Stephen Fevrier of the WTO-FIFA Cotton Partnership discussed Uganda's interest in joining the cotton value chain project, initially designed for four African countries. Amb. Fevrier noted Africa's \$1 trillion cotton market potential & invited Uganda to participate in the World Cotton Day celebrations in Benin, October 2024.

During a meeting with Dr. Edwini Kessie, Director of Agriculture at WTO, PS/FA acknowledged the critical role of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) in enhancing Uganda's SPS capacity. He emphasized the importance of strengthening domestic policies and institutions.

Economic Affairs Officer Aichetou Ba highlighted ongoing STDF projects in Uganda, including work on citrus fruits and fisheries. PS Bagiire also met Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre, who outlined the Centre's support for developing countries through research, negotiations assistance & capacity building. Dr Correa assured PS/FA of the Centre's continued advocacy for Uganda's development interests.

Further meetings were held with Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Director-General of the International Trade Corporation (ITC), and Ms. Luz Maria de la Mora, Director of International Trade and Commodities at UNCTAD.

Ms Tembo praised Uganda's collaboration with ITC, noting 14 ongoing projects, and discussed support for MSMEs and women's empowerment in e-commerce. De la Mora offered to strengthen Uganda's partnership with UNCTAD, especially in implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA).

Finally, the PS/FA met with Mission staff, including Permanent Representative Amb. Marcel Tibaleka, to discuss bilateral and multilateral work where the Mission is increasing engagement with Switzerland to boost economic and commercial ties. The Mission is working in 40 international organizations, including Uganda's chair of the Non-Aligned Movement and G77 and China, to enhance their visibility and relevance in Geneva.

By **Christiana Ampeire** | Photo by **Embassy**

## Bangladesh National Defense College Visits Uganda.



Left to Right: Officers from Bangladesh National Defense College, pose for a photo with Dr. Sam Omara (Lead Facilitator) and Director Regional and International Economic Affairs Amb. Elly Kamahungye (in blue tie); Dr. Omara delivers a lecture to the delegation.

**Kampala** - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda on September 13, 2024 had the honour of hosting a high-level delegation from the National Defense College, Mirpur, Bangladesh, currently undertaking a study tour in Uganda. The 14-member delegation, led by Group Captain B M Hassan Mahmud, afwc, psc, GD(p), arrived in Uganda on the September 8 2024 as part of their Armed Forces War Course 2024.

The study tour aimed to deepen the delegates' understanding of Uganda's foreign policy, defense cooperation, and governance structures. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they received a warm welcome and an insightful lecture from Dr. Sam Omara, Minister Counsellor, on Uganda's diplomatic engagements and peace initiatives.

The delegation also engaged with officials from the Ministry of Defense, visited the National Enterprise Corporation, and explored Uganda's strategic sectors. They later toured Jinja to gain further insights into Uganda's industrial and military capacities. This visit highlighted the strong relationship between Uganda and Bangladesh and their commitment to fostering deeper cooperation.

By **Margaret Kafeero** | Photo by **MoFA Press**







## Uganda & Mozambique Forge Stronger Bonds at Joint Permanent Commission Meeting.

**Kampala** - In a display of camaraderie and historical connection, senior officials from Uganda and Mozambique gathered in Uganda for the 2nd Session of the Uganda-Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission. The meeting, led by H.E Pascoal Pedro João Ronda and Hon. John Mulimba, graced by dignitaries including Ambassadors of both countries, aimed to bolster bilateral cooperation and explore areas of mutual interest.

Discussions at the meeting covered a range of topics, focusing on regional and international issues, peace, security, and sustainable development. Both delegations emphasized the importance of historical ties and vowed to expand cooperation, especially in combating terrorism and transboundary crimes.

The signing of Memoranda of Understanding in areas like Veterans and Combatant Management, wildlife protection, and visa exemptions was a cause for celebration. Technical officials were tasked with ensuring the swift implementation of these agreements and finalizing additional MOUs in defense, trade, agriculture, energy, and ICT by the end of 2024.



As the Second Session of the Uganda-Mozambique JPC concluded, Minister Mulimba expressed gratitude to Minister Ronda and the Mozambican delegation for their fruitful participation. Minister Ronda, in turn, thanked Uganda for its warm hospitality and eagerly anticipated hosting the next JPC in Maputo in 2026, underscoring the ongoing commitment to strengthening ties between the two nations.



By Githa Ogume | Photos by MoFA Press







  
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## VP Jessica Alupo Reaffirms Investment Opportunities for China in Uganda, during meetings at the FOCAC 2024 in Beijing.

**Beijing** - Uganda's Vice President H.E. Maj (Rtd) Jessica Alupo reaffirmed the country's openness to foreign direct investments, welcoming partnerships from Chinese investors and collaborations between investors and the Ugandan government.

She made these remarks on September 3, 2024, during a meeting with a delegation from China Henan International Cooperation Group (CHICO), a major foreign trade enterprise, on the sidelines of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). VP Alupo highlighted CHICO's contributions, such as their 2012 contract for the Gulu-Atiak road and other development projects.

The Vice President expressed optimism about CHICO's potential to contribute to Uganda's priority sectors under National Development Plans (NDP 3 and 4), which include agro-industrialization, tourism, mining, oil, gas, and innovation. CHICO CEO Xie Hui noted the company's extensive global footprint, having completed over 800 projects in Asia and Africa.

In a similar meeting, VP Alupo welcomed AVIC-INT and China CAMC Engineering, acknowledging their efforts in establishing cottage industries and electrifying industrial parks. Dr. Elaine Kiew, head of the delegation, introduced AVIC-INT's energy storage solutions, while Foreign Minister Odongo Jeje Abubakhar encouraged the companies to explore cassava-based power generation.

### Uganda Strikes Game-Changing Deal with China to Elevate Coffee to World Stage.

Relatedly, Uganda's coffee industry is set to achieve global recognition following a key agreement with China Communications Construction Company (CCCC). Three Ugandan companies—Platinum Commodities, Enkumbi Terimba, and New Cafe—signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CCCC in Beijing, witnessed by high-ranking Ugandan officials including Vice President Jessica Alupo and several ministers.

In her remarks, Vice President Alupo emphasized Uganda's rich coffee heritage, producing both Arabica and Robusta coffee, and projected that Uganda will export 20 million coffee bags annually by 2025. She highlighted the partnership's potential to create jobs and contribute to the country's economic growth.

CCCC President Tang Shun underscored the longstanding diplomatic ties between China and Uganda, established in 1962, and CCCC's involvement in Uganda's infrastructure projects like the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway and Entebbe Airport. The company is keen to support further development in line with China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

The agreement aims to boost Uganda's coffee exports and strengthen Uganda-China relations, positioning Uganda as a reliable, high quality coffee supplier on the global market.



L-R: VP Alupo pictured with CHICO CEO Xie Hui, was accompanied by Hon. Gen. Katumba Wamala Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Gen. Jeje Odongo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Senior Officials from Uganda Embassy Beijing.

By **Christiana Ampeire** | Photos by Embassy

Read about Uganda's Delegation to FOCAC 2024







## Uganda Appointed Vice President of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation.

**Bangkok** - Uganda's Attorney General (AG), Kiryowa Kiwanuka, has been appointed Vice-President of the Asia-Africa Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO) during its 62nd annual session in Bangkok, Thailand.

Themed "Advancing the Development of International Law through Asian and African Leadership," the session highlighted the regions' roles in reshaping global legal discourse.

AG Kiwanuka's appointment underscores Uganda's growing influence in international law and dedication to fostering cooperation across Asia and Africa.

Established in 1956, AALCO provides a platform for legal collaboration among 47 member states.

Speaking at the session, Kiwanuka acknowledged the historical Eurocentric dominance of international law and commended the organization for empowering Asia and Africa as equal contributors to the global legal order and emphasized Uganda's commitment to AALCO's mission of promoting legal cooperation.

This milestone strengthens Uganda's legal diplomacy and paves the way for future collaborations with key international bodies such as the United Nations and African Union, reinforcing Uganda's leadership in advancing equitable solutions in international law.



**AG Kiryowa Kiwanuka (black striped tie) flanked by Mr. Kasujja Moses, Minister Counsellor at Uganda High Commission Kuala Lumpur, during the session.**

**By Angel Kabera | Courtesy Photo.**

## Uganda-DRC Border Reaffirmation: A Pathway to Stability & Economic Growth.

**Goma** - From 2nd to 6th September 2024, Senior Officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Republic of Uganda held a significant Joint Technical Committee (JTC) meeting in Goma, aimed at reaffirming their common border.

The meeting, organized in close cooperation between the two governments, took place in a cordial environment, free from security threats, allowing for constructive discussions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda played a central role in coordinating Uganda's participation, ensuring the successful execution of this crucial diplomatic engagement.

A major achievement of the meeting was the development of a comprehensive roadmap and budget for the reaffirmation of approximately 817 kilometers of the shared Uganda-DRC border.

This effort is vital for maintaining peaceful relations and clear demarcation between the two countries. To date, only 44.8 kilometers of the border have been reaffirmed, specifically the 28-kilometer stretch from Offo/Vura and the 16.8-kilometer section from Sarambwe/Bwindi. These milestones reflect progress, though there is still much to be done to fully reaffirm the entire border.

One of the critical discussions involved the clarification that 22 Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) pillars along the Kisoro/Bunagana area are not boundary markers. This discovery resolves potential disputes and highlights the importance of technical expertise in such exercises. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated the dialogue that enabled this issue to be addressed in a diplomatic and transparent manner.

The reaffirmation exercise, once completed, is expected to strengthen cross-border cooperation, create a detailed topographic map of the border, and install permanent boundary pillars. The joint field activities for this exercise are projected to cost USD 3,142,260, with Uganda and the DRC agreeing to share the expenses.

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*Technical Officials from Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda at the Joint Technical Committee meeting in Goma, Eastern DRC.*

Previous budgetary allocations for boundary reaffirmation in Lake Albert and Lake George, discussed during a 2018 meeting in Entebbe, also provide a framework for financial planning. These efforts are part of a larger commitment to regional stability and cooperation, areas in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to be instrumental in advancing Uganda's interests.

Looking ahead, the JTC has agreed to begin the reaffirmation exercise in May 2025, with a follow-up meeting to be held in Kampala. This timeline reflects the long-term nature of border management and the ongoing need for careful coordination, a role that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to oversee.

In addition to border reaffirmation, the meeting shed light on economic opportunities in Goma, which, despite ongoing security challenges, has emerged as a key economic hub. Several Ugandan companies, such as Movit and Lato, have already established a strong presence in the region, benefiting from the market potential of the densely populated Kivu area.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its economic and commercial diplomacy initiatives, has been pivotal in supporting Ugandan businesses to explore and capitalize on these opportunities. A well-organized business forum in Goma, facilitated by the Ministry, would further expose Ugandan traders to the potential for market expansion.

However, security concerns remain a challenge for trade, with many traders having to use longer, less secure routes, impacting their business operations. Despite this, the region's demand for Ugandan agricultural products remains high, making it a lucrative market for continued engagement.

The JTC concluded with several important recommendations. The governments of both Uganda and the DRC were urged to allocate the necessary funds for the border reaffirmation exercise. Additionally, a joint military effort was proposed to clear and secure the border areas before and during the reaffirmation process. These recommendations underscore the collaborative approach needed to ensure a successful outcome, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the forefront of steering these efforts toward mutual benefit.

By Githa Ogume | Photos by MoFA Press







## Sudanese Refugees Plan Festival to Honor Uganda's Exceptional Refugee Policy.

**Kampala** - A delegation from the Community of Sudanese Refugees in Uganda, accompanied by Amb. Dr Rashid Yahya Ssemu, the Head of Mission from the Uganda Embassy in Khartoum/Port Sudan, visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on 11th September, 2024.

They sought government involvement in a festival to honor Uganda for its exceptional refugee policy, which they praised as unmatched across Africa.

The delegation, representing the High Council for the Sudanese Community in Uganda, shared their appreciation for Uganda's welcoming stance towards refugees, noting the ease of settlement and investment opportunities compared to other countries.

They revealed that the Sudanese community has registered 2000 small businesses and 200 large enterprises in Uganda, with plans to invest in schools, hospitals, and real estate.

The proposed festival, named "Thank You Uganda," aims to express gratitude to the government and its people. Ambassador Ssemu, alongside MoFA officials, welcomed the initiative and highlighted President Museveni's message that Sudanese refugees are considered brothers and sisters. He encouraged the group to submit a formal request through the Permanent Secretary's office for further engagement.



By **Jadrine Komukyeya** | Photos by **MoFA Press**.







## EU's Envoy Hosts Diplomatic Lunch to Strengthen EU-Uganda Relations.

**Kampala** - The Head of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Uganda, Ambassador Jan Sadek hosted a lunch on September 2, 2024 for the group of European Ambassadors in Uganda and Ugandan Ambassadors posted in the EU capitals.

This aimed at fostering strong partnerships and strengthening diplomatic ties between the EU and Uganda through enhanced coordination between diplomats bolstering bilateral relations, trade, development and cooperation.

The meeting facilitated open dialogue and a greater understanding between the EU and Uganda thereby promoting mutual interests through sharing experiences and best practices in diplomacy regarding regional and global challenges as well as opportunities for collaboration.



By Mildred Nasirumbi | Photos by EU in Uganda Press

## Ethiopian Community in Uganda Celebrates the New Year.



**Kampala** - A sense of anticipation and delight transitioned from the damp winter season to the radiant summer, as H.E Etsegenet Yimenn conveyed her heartfelt greetings for a Prosperous New Year amidst the gathering of the Ethiopian community in Uganda and well-wishers of Ethiopia to commemorate the occasion together.

The event was enriched with traditional music, culinary delights, captivating performances, and the presence of "Azmaris" at the Ambassador's residence.

Among the distinguished guests in attendance were members of the Ethiopian business community, Ugandan dignitaries, and esteemed individuals from The Latitude, Serena Hotel Kampala, Sheraton Hotel Kampala, and Ethiopian Airlines.

Amb. Etsegenet underscored the significance of the day by encouraging the community to leverage this auspicious occasion to foster peace and harmony, and to strive towards the collective aspirations for development. Furthermore, she reiterated the mission's unwavering dedication to assisting the Ethiopian community in Uganda.



By Herbert Ssekatawa | Photos by Ethiopian Embassy







## National Days



**Kingdom of Eswatini National Day**, also called **Somhlolo Day**; commemorated every September 6th.



**Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea National Day**, also known as **Grand National Day** or **Republic Day**, commemorated every September 9th.



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## Uganda's Economic Potential Shines at UK-Africa Business Summit.

*Compiled by Angel Kabera | Courtesy Photos.*

**London, UK** - Uganda's economic prospects were front and center at the 14th UK-Africa Business Summit on September 6, 2024.

The event, organized by Ugandan diaspora leader Mr. Willy Mutenza, in collaboration with the Uganda High Commission in London, attracted high-profile participants discussing trade, investment, and tourism opportunities.

In his opening remarks, Uganda's Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, underscored Uganda's strategic appeal for global investors.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Ramathan Ggoobi, presented Uganda's ambitious economic expansion plan, forecasting growth to \$500 billion within 15 years.

Sectors such as agro-industry, tourism, and minerals, alongside science and innovation, were highlighted as key drivers for this growth, projected to generate billions in annual revenue.

The summit's key speakers, including First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of EAC Affairs Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, emphasized the strength of Uganda's investment climate, citing stability, security, and strategic opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, ICT, oil, and gas.

The UK government reaffirmed its commitment to supporting projects in East Africa, with financial institutions like Euro-Exim Bank promising funding for Ugandan trade ventures.

With trade between Uganda and the UK surpassing \$100 million in the 2023/24 financial year, the summit serves as a crucial platform for expanding bilateral partnerships, fostering innovation, and empowering entrepreneurs, including women-led businesses.

Government officials, business leaders, and CEOs from both Uganda and the UK joined forces to build on this momentum, reinforcing Uganda's role as a rising economic hub in Africa.







## Uganda Embraces International Standards with the Launch of Metro Bus Service for Airport Connectivity.

*Compiled by Wabusimba Amiri | Courtesy Photo, Nile Post.*

Entebbe Municipal Council has unveiled plans to launch a metro bus service connecting Kampala with Entebbe International Airport, aimed at modernizing public transport and improving connectivity.

The Entebbe Mayor Fabrice Rulinda highlighted the initiative's goal of enhancing travel for residents and visitors, particularly for airport commuters who currently face difficulties, such as walking long distances with luggage. The metro buses will provide a direct, comfortable route to the airport, alleviating these challenges.

The project, aligned with Uganda's urban mobility objectives, seeks to offer world-class infrastructure that benefits both tourists and locals. Though local taxi drivers have raised concerns about competition, the council assures that the metro service will complement existing transport, not replace it.

The buses will run on a schedule, coordinated with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and drivers under training to meet international standards. With an initial fleet of 20 buses already in place, the service is set to launch on October 9 2024.

This initiative positions Uganda alongside global cities like New York and Tokyo, which offer efficient airport transit. It also reflects Uganda's commitment to sustainable, green transport and its ambition to remain competitive as a growing destination for tourism and international business.

Using the same platform, the State Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs, Kyofatogabye Kabuye, said the majority of the taxis in Uganda are costly, inefficient and unreliable in terms of time-saving. "Through the launch of the Metro buses that will commute from Entebbe Airport to Kampala at a specific time, these will reduce the congestion of taxis in the city centre and will also save time," Kyofatogabye said.

He noted that as a ministry, they need to see how quickly they can avail affordable services to the people in terms of transport. "We have decided to start with Entebbe because the majority of the people face a challenge in accessing the airport and the East side of the city," Kyofatogabye said adding that they opted to start with Entebbe because it is one of the municipalities that has visionary leaders.

Robert Nyasimi, the chief executive officer of RentCo, said if the bus usage is well embraced, many Ugandans are likely to get employed as drivers for the buses. The buses are blue in colour, have CCTV cameras, and will have security personnel guarding the commuters and their belongings during their travels.







## Ugandan Innovation Shines on Times Square for Sustainable Beauty.

Compiled by Wabusimba Amiri | Courtesy Photo, PML Daily.



**New York** - Uganda's innovative spirit has earned global recognition through the entrepreneurial success of Andrew Izaara, an aquaculture scientist with the National Agriculture Research Organization (NARO).

His startup, Nautical Elixir, is transforming fish waste into premium collagen for the cosmetics sector, addressing both environmental concerns and the rising demand for sustainable beauty products. This groundbreaking initiative, featured on a Times Square billboard, highlights Uganda's emerging role in eco-friendly and sustainable technologies.

Nautical Elixir's innovative approach has earned it a semi-finalist position in an international competition, with a chance to secure \$50,000 at the Moonshot Final Event in New York.

Izaara's fusion of traditional aquaculture with cutting-edge science places Uganda at the forefront of green entrepreneurship.

The startup's method of converting fish waste into highly absorbable collagen peptides has significant potential for expansion into pharmaceuticals and nutrition.

This success underscores the government's commitment to fostering sustainability & innovation, emphasizing the importance of supporting local entrepreneurs in their global endeavors.

The team behind this success comprises of Andrew Izaara, EMBA, from Uganda; Simone Jaekel, EMBA, from Luxembourg; Sinem Gökçen Akdeniz, EMBA, from Turkey; and Dr. Mareike G., EMBA, from Germany.

## CURAD Boosts Kata Fresh Foods' Export to the Global Market.

Compiled by Anne Adong | Courtesy Photos.

The Consortium for Enhancing University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD) continues to support Kata Fresh Foods in exporting over 100 tons of fresh frozen cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, peas, beans, yams, Matooke, and vegetables such as dodo to Canada, USA, and South Africa. Moreover, their export portfolio extends to dry products like millet flour, beans, peanuts, cassava flour.

Dixhorn Wesigwa, the Quality Controller at Kata Fresh Foods, expressed gratitude to CURAD for consistently furnishing them with a conducive workspace and state-of-the-art facilities that streamline their operations effectively.



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CURAD is a prominent agri-business incubator in Uganda, with its headquarters situated in Namanve Industrial Park. This establishment is a product of a public-private partnership initiative spearheaded by Makerere University.



## Uganda Airlines Launches Direct Flights to Abuja, Boosting Bilateral Ties & Economic Cooperation.

**Abuja** - On September 12, 2024, Uganda Airlines celebrated a significant milestone by launching direct flights between Entebbe International Airport and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja, Nigeria. The inaugural flight was received by officials from both nations, including Dr. Hassan Ejibunu of Nigeria's Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development and Uganda's State Minister for Transport, Hon. Fred Byamukama.

This new Entebbe-Abuja route, Uganda Airlines' second Nigerian destination after Lagos, aims to foster economic, political, and social exchanges between Uganda and Nigeria. By providing direct air connectivity, the route is expected to reduce travel time and costs, facilitating trade and investment. Uganda Airlines will operate two weekly flights on this route—on Thursdays and Sundays—departing Entebbe at 16:00 and arriving in Abuja at 18:15, using the Airbus A330-800neo.

Speaking at the launch, Hon. Byamukama emphasized the strategic importance of enhancing air connectivity across Africa and its role in advancing Uganda's efforts to implement the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The new route will significantly boost trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges by connecting Uganda with Abuja, a major economic and political hub in Nigeria.

Additionally, the 4th Nigeria-Uganda Trade & Business Forum was held in Abuja on September 13, 2024, bringing together key stakeholders from both countries to explore opportunities for collaboration. The launch of flights to Abuja marks Uganda Airlines' 14th destination and underscores Uganda's commitment to improving intra-African travel and supporting the continent's growth through enhanced connectivity.

*Compiled by Jadrine Komukyeya | Courtesy Photos.*





Uganda Airlines

Fly the Crane to the Pearl of Africa



# ENTEebbe ABUJA

2X WEEKLY (THURSDAY & SUNDAY)

Greater Connection **New** Opportunities







## Uganda Airlines Expands Its SADC Footprint with 15th & 16th Route To Lusaka, And Harare.

Compiled by Mildred Nansirumbi | Photos by MoFA Press

Touching down and taxiing to water cannon salutes, cheers, dancing and jubilation at both the Kenneth Kaunda and the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airports on September 24th 2024, flight UR 720 to Harare via Lusaka marked 5-year old Uganda Airline's 15th and 16th destinations.

The Uganda delegation aboard the flight was led by the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the Hon. Matia Kasaija received by Hon. Museba Frank Tayali the Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Republic of Zambia.



Speaking to the media in Entebbe before take-off, High Commissioner of Uganda to Zambia, Amb. Col (rtd) Fred Mwesigye, flanked by MoFA's Head of Regional Economic Cooperation, Amb. Richard Kabonero, said that the new route not only symbolizes the historical bonds of the three countries but also represents "a strategic move to enhance social and cultural exchange leading to the boosting of business cooperation."

In his remarks Hon. Kasaija, who led Uganda's delegation on the inaugural flight, encouraged the spirit of "Africanisation", which should promote "oneness" among Africans with the aim of growing economies together.

He thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the relentless work involved to see this happen. "Air travel bridges distances and is even more important in Africa, where alternative means of transport to connect the continent are lacking," he said, adding that it was his hope to see an improved balance of trade between the three countries. "It is my hope that improved air connectivity between our countries will support a vibrant travel market that facilitates better business, trade and tourism linkages between Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe".

In Lusaka, Hon. Museba welcomed the commencement of flights from Entebbe as an important milestone in the Zambian aviation industry further reaffirming that Zambia recognizes Uganda as a key strategic partner in promoting economic development, trade and investment between the people of the two nations. "The commencement of flights will enhance the already existing business linkages and create opportunities to promote tourism, trade and foreign direct investments in Zambia and Uganda," he said.

At the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport in Harare, High Commissioners Paul Amoru (Uganda) and Winpeg Moyo (Zimbabwe) emphasized that the flight would strengthen people-to-people connections and support regional integration. "As members of the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, Uganda and Zimbabwe are working towards enhanced connectivity that fosters economic growth and development," said Amb. Moyo.

Uganda Airlines CEO, Jenifer Bamaturaki, expressed excitement about resuming flights to Zambia and Zimbabwe, countries with close cultural and historical ties to Uganda. She highlighted the airline's commitment to expanding travel options across East and Southern Africa by offering safe, affordable, and reliable air transport. The flights will cater to travelers ending their journey in Uganda or connecting to destinations like Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam, Dubai, Johannesburg, and more. Uganda Airlines will operate the EBB-LUN-HRE route four times a week.





**Uganda Airlines**  
Fly the Crane to the Pearl of Africa



# Direct flights to multiple cities across Africa and the **World**

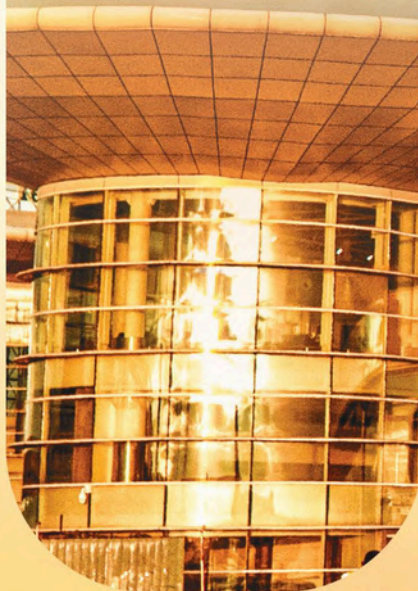
ENTEBBE  
**ABUJA**  
2X WEEKLY

THURSDAY  
& SUNDAY



ENTEBBE  
**LUSAKA**  
4X WEEKLY

STARTING  
25TH SEPTEMBER, 2024



ENTEBBE  
**HARARE**  
4X WEEKLY

STARTING  
25TH SEPTEMBER, 2024



**Greater Connection New Opportunities**





## Uganda Participates in the 50th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Yaoundé, Cameroon.



**Amb. Suleiman Lubega, Deputy Head of Mission at Uganda Embassy Riyadh flanked by Mr. Allan Tazenya, Counselor, International Political Cooperation Department at MoFA Headquarters, during the meeting.**

**Yaoundé** - Uganda reaffirmed its commitment to international cooperation at the 50th Session of the OIC Foreign Ministers, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from August 29th to 30th, 2024.

Representing Minister of Foreign Affairs Gen. Odongo Jeje Abubalkhar, Amb. Suleiman Lubega, Deputy Head of Mission at the Uganda Embassy in Riyadh, led the delegation.

The session focused on improving intra-OIC transport and communication infrastructure to combat poverty and insecurity.

Discussions emphasized the importance of infrastructure in fostering economic growth and trade across the OIC's 57 member states.

A key moment was the swearing-in of Dr. Ahmad Kawesa Sengendo for a second term as OIC Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs.

In his address, delivered by Ambassador Lubega, Minister Gen. Odongo urged OIC members to move from planning to implementation, particularly in upcoming OIC programs focused on infrastructure and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza to enable humanitarian aid flow.

Ugandan delegation engaged in bilateral discussions with the Philippines delegation, led by Chief Minister Murad Ebrahim, to explore collaboration on global issues, including the Philippines' bid for a non-permanent UN Security Council seat in 2026. Uganda's active role in the OIC highlights its dedication to shared prosperity and peace.



## Hon. Justice Duncan Gaswaga Visits Uganda Consulate in Arusha.

**Arusha** - On the 9th of September 2024, the newly sworn in Judge of the African Court on Human and People's Rights in Arusha, Tanzania, also a Justice of the High Court of Uganda, Honourable Justice Duncan Gaswaga, paid a courtesy call at the Uganda Consulate Offices in Arusha, Tanzania and was received by the Consul General, Amb. Anne Katusiime.

Amb. Katusiime welcomed Justice Gaswaga to Arusha and congratulated him upon his recent election to the African Court. She briefed him on the activities of the Consulate in Arusha especially representing Uganda on the East African Community integration process and providing consular services to Ugandans living and working in Arusha and the surrounding areas.



Justice Gaswaga (in grey suit) thanked Amb. Katusiime (in navy blue coat) for the warm reception and appreciated the work the Uganda Consulate Arusha is doing in pursuing Uganda's Interests. He further pledged to work closely with the Consulate during His tour of duty in Arusha.







## Amb. Bigombe Presents Credentials to the King of Thailand & President of Vietnam.

**Bangkok** - In a momentous ceremony on June 23, 2024, H.E. Dr. Betty Oyella Bigombe, Uganda's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, presented her Letters of Credence to His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua at Bangkok's revered Grand Palace.

This formal gesture not only marked the official recognition of Dr. Bigombe's diplomatic appointment but also symbolized the beginning of her crucial mission to fortify the longstanding ties between Uganda and Thailand.



**Hanoi** - In a similar ceremony, Presidential palace in Hanoi, Vietnam, General Secretary and President To Lam met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Uganda to Vietnam H.E. Betty Oyella Bigombe, who presented her credentials to him, alongside other envoys, on the morning of September 17th, 2024.



## Uganda Embassy Paris & Tour Operators Highlight Unique Travel Packages at IFTM Paris.



**Paris** - Uganda made a remarkable presence at the International & French Travel Market (IFTM) in Paris held from September 17-19, 2024, at Porte de Versailles, Hall 1, and Stand U084.

The Ugandan Embassy, alongside key industry players such as Gorilla Tours Ltd, Safari to East, and Bantu Travel, showcased the country's unique tourism offerings, positioning Uganda as a must-visit destination for travelers.

Renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, rich biodiversity, and unmatched cultural experiences, Uganda has steadily gained recognition on the global tourism map.

With its iconic mountain gorillas, vast savannahs, and vibrant cities, the country provides an unforgettable blend of adventure, wildlife, and hospitality. At IFTM, attendees will have the opportunity to explore tailored travel packages, from thrilling safaris to serene nature retreats.

This exhibition reflects Uganda's commitment to promoting sustainable tourism and strengthening partnerships within the global travel industry. The Embassy's involvement in IFTM Paris exemplifies Uganda's readiness to welcome international tourists, offering them the adventure of a lifetime.







## Uganda Wins Best Organizer Award at the China International Tourism Industry Expo (CITIE) 2024.

By Margaret Kafeero | Courtesy Photos by Embassy, CITIE 2024 Press.

**Guangzhou** - The Ugandan Embassy in Beijing and the Ugandan Consulate General in Guangzhou Showcased Uganda's Tourism Potential at the China International Tourism Industry Expo 2024 in Guangzhou, China, 13-15 September 2024. CITIE is an annual event that takes place once a year in September.

The Expo highlighted Uganda's rich cultural heritage, diverse wildlife, and stunning natural landscapes to attract Chinese tourists and investors.

The International Tourism Industry Expo was hosted by the Culture and Tourism Development and Support Center of Guangdong Province, China (Guangdong); the International Tourism Industry Expo kicked off at the China Export and Import Fair Complex, Guangzhou, from 13-15, September 2024.



Known as China's largest comprehensive international tourism expo, CITIE 2024 covered an exhibition area of 40,000m, 100 destinations, 500 tourism service providers and suppliers from more than 50 countries and regions, and 43,000 visitors. CITIE 2024 facilitated the exploration of the tourism market in southern China, enhanced the high-quality recovery of the industry, and jointly created a new pattern for the world tourism economy.



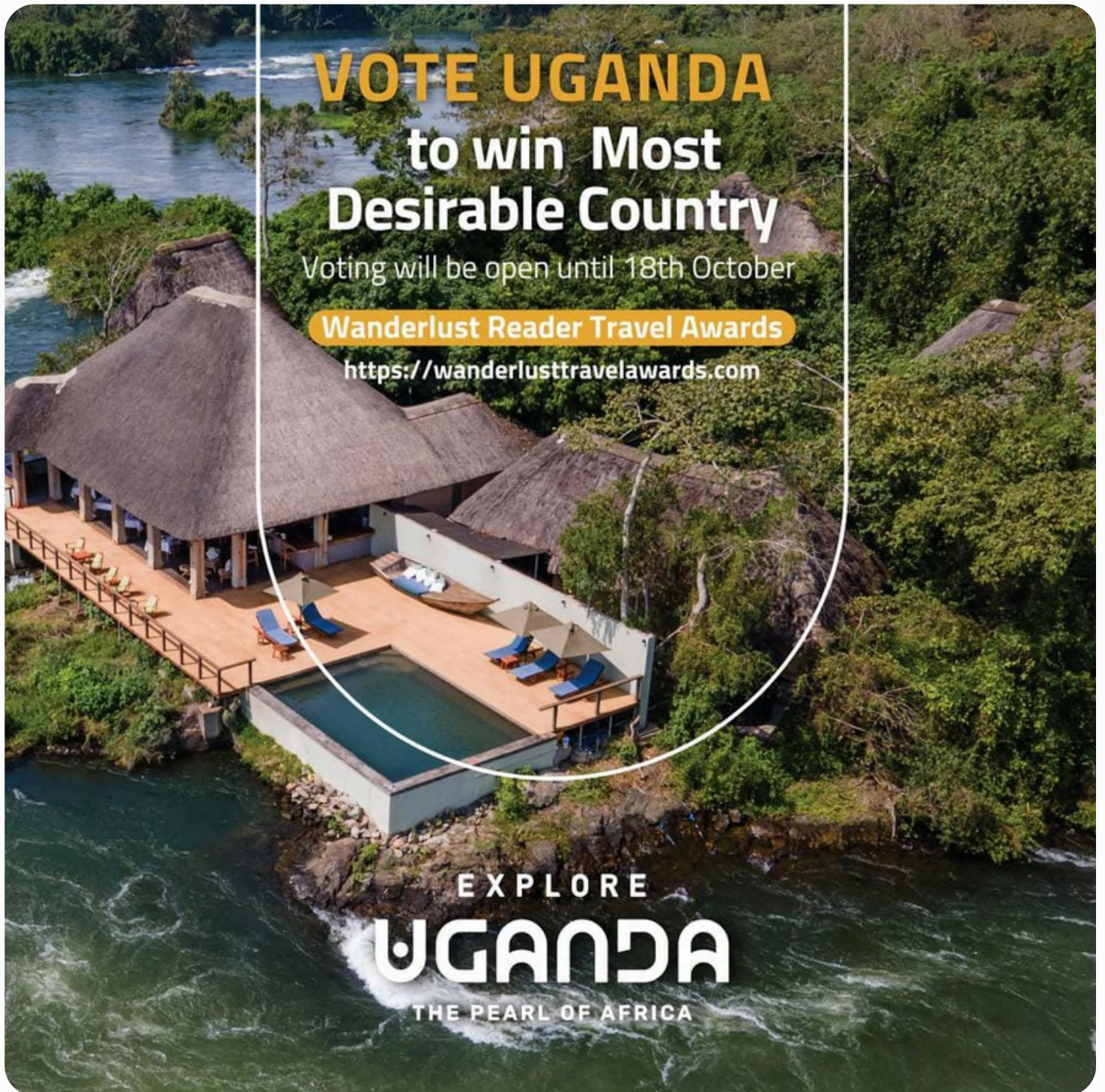
People were drawn to the Uganda stall because of Uganda's rich and diverse cultures. The wildlife, mainly the Big Five lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants, and buffalo, and natural endowments like waterfalls, parks, freshwater bodies, and hot springs) and Ugandan Coffee.

During the closing Ceremony on September 15th, the Ugandan Consulate in Guangzhou shone brightly, receiving an accolade as the Best Organizer. Recognized for its outstanding efforts in promoting Uganda's tourism potential and fostering international partnerships, the consulate's innovative initiatives and captivating exhibits show-cased Uganda's cultural richness and investment opportunities to a global audience.

Other categories included Best Organising Prize, Best Supporting Unit, Best Design Prize, Best Travel Agency, and Best Airlines, which other Exhibitors won. Speaking after she received the award, Amb. Nsababera said "The accolade underscores the consulate's commitment to excellence and its role in positioning Uganda as a premier destination for travelers and investors, solidifying its reputation on the international stage. The Ugandan Consulate was requested to co-organize next year's Expo.







Click here to Learn more







## Brussels Airlines to Showcase Rwenzori Documentary on Long-Haul Flights.

By Belinda Sebunya | Courtesy Photos.



Brussels Airlines is proud to announce the inclusion of the award-winning documentary, **"Rwenzori – The Source of Life,"** on all its long-haul flights. Passengers can now enjoy this captivating feature during their journey, offering a glimpse into one of Uganda's natural treasures.

The documentary follows His Majesty Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, the King of Tooro Kingdom, as he summits Margherita, the highest peak of the Rwenzori Mountains.

It highlights the pressing issue of climate change, showcasing its impact on the mountain's melting glaciers and the surrounding communities.

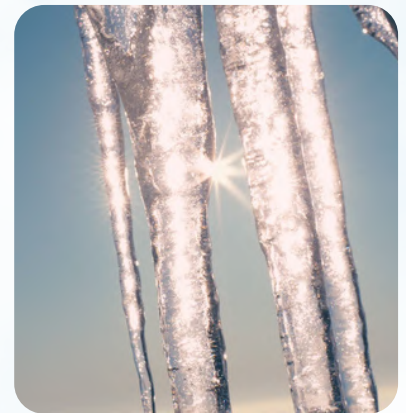
King Oyo's message underscores the need for environmental conservation to protect these valuable natural resources.

The awards attributed to the documentary include;

- Rwenzori-The Source of Life - Gold Trophy 2023 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards.
- Rwenzori-The Source of Life" - 2023 US International Awards winners - Tourism - Tourism Products category.
- Rwenzori-The Source of Life - Top 5 World Best Tourism Films in the Tourism Products category, World Tourism Film Awards (Valencia) 2023.
- Winner – ART & TUR International Tourism Film Awards (2023) - Portugal.
- 2nd Place – Tourism Product, Blue Danube Award – SilaFest Wards, Serbia.

Brussels Airlines' commitment to promoting Uganda as a top destination is further enhanced through this powerful documentary, which beautifully showcases Uganda's rich natural beauty, diverse culture, and remarkable wildlife.

**Keep an eye out for this inspiring feature on your next Brussels Airlines flight.**



King Oyo during filming of the award-winning Documentary in the Rwenzori Mountains, Successfully Summits Highest Peak, Margherita.







## President Museveni Celebrates Regional Unity at Karamoja Cultural Festival.

By Emiru Jane Francesca | Courtesy Photos, Statehouse PPU



The 9th Karamoja Cultural Festival took place from September 2-7, 2024, at Jubilee 2000 Secondary School in Karenga District, celebrating Uganda's last living culture.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Chief Guest, emphasized the need to align cultural practices with modern science and called for an end to harmful traditions like female circumcision and drinking unboiled milk. He praised the Lokirama Peace Accord between the Karimojong and Turkana of Kenya for fostering regional peace.

The festival brought together cultural groups from across Uganda and neighboring countries like Kenya, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

It featured cultural exhibitions, traditional dishes, and performances showcasing the Atekerin heritage. The President acknowledged the challenges of water scarcity in the region and reiterated the government's commitment to addressing the issue.



The Minister of State for Gender and Culture, Hon. Peace Mutuuzo, acknowledged the significance of the Cultural Festival as a source of strength and lauded President Museveni for his support to cultural Institutions.

Hon. Peter Lokeris, Minister for Karamoja Affairs, and other dignitaries thanked the President for his support in restoring cultural institutions and unwaveringly promoting development in Karamoja.

The event concluded with a vibrant cultural parade and showcases.







**Arinaitwe Rugyendo**  
Guest Contributor

## Rare Relics of Uganda Martyrs Unveiled in Kampala after 138 Years.

*The writer is Ugandan author, journalist and media entrepreneur.*

*Pictured below: Archbishop Ssemogerere and a Priest arrive with the relics at Namugongo.*

In a move that will boost religious tourism in Uganda, rare relics of the Uganda Martyrs have been unveiled after 138 years in a historic exhibition at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU)'s Rubaga Campus. The launch of this 47-day exhibition took place on September 14 before a select cohort of invitees who included the chief guest and Minister of Tourism, Wildlife & Antiquities, Hon. Col. (Rtd.) Tom Butime.

The exhibition is part of the theme: **“God and Caesar. A Historical Exhibition Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Uganda Martyrs’ Canonization,”** which commemorates their canonization by the Catholic Church in 1964.

These relics hold deep religious and historical significance for Uganda, as they are not just physical remnants of martyrdom but symbols of faith, sacrifice, and national identity. Additionally, the jawbone of Matia Mulumba and relics of Charles Lwanga, classified as ‘First Class’ relics, are part of the collection, further enhancing the emotional and spiritual impact of the exhibition.

The unveiling of these relics for the first time in over a century offers a unique opportunity for Ugandans and international visitors to reflect on the profound legacy of the martyrs. The launch of the historic exhibition was highlighted by a compelling panel discussion centered on the theme “God and Caesar” exploring the intersection of faith and secular authority, reflecting on the Martyrs’ legacy and its relevance in contemporary contexts.

In a panel discussion, the Chief Curator, Dr. David Tsimba, observed that the commemoration of the Martyrs led to significant changes in the Catholic Church, including its democratization and a profound rational and spiritual renewal. “Following June 3rd celebrations, women were finally permitted to join church choirs, and songs in local languages, rather than just Latin, were introduced. Additionally, traditional instruments were subsequently allowed in church services,” he revealed.

According to panelist Prof. Ssemakula Kiwanuka, the conflict between God and Caesar did not begin in Uganda. It has been a global issue across generations. He noted that Pope Paul’s visit to Uganda was not solely due to its designation as the “Pearl of Africa,” but rather because of the significance of the Martyrs.

On his part, panelist Prof. Lwanga Luyingo from Makerere University observed that the Uganda Martyrs’ story was not coincidental, as our ancestors had a profound spirituality even before Christianity. “There were similarities between traditional beliefs and Christian teachings, suggesting that these parallels may explain why Christianity gained such traction,” he noted.

But according to Fr. Dr. Vienne, one of the panel discussants, the story of the Uganda Martyrs sheds a glorious light on the history of Uganda and was a true martyrdom. The event was inaugurated by Hon. Tom Butime, who revealed that the cabinet had decided to take charge of Namugongo as a facility of great national and international significance.

At the launch, the VC Prof. Patrick Kyamanywa announced that the Uganda Martyrs University Nkozi will host the grand canonization celebration on October 18, 2024, at the university’s Nkozi campus. He revealed a library dedicated to the martyrs will be established at the campus to position the university as a central hub for scholarly work on the martyrs. This ongoing exhibition promises to be a landmark in preserving Uganda’s historical and religious heritage. At the end of the exhibition, the relics (one pictured, right) will be returned to the Vatican in Rome.







## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: HERITAGE SITES

### Karuziika Palace, the Heartbeat of Tooro Kingdom's Legacy and Rich Cultural Heritage.

The Karuziika Palace, nestled on Karuziika Hill overlooking Fort Portal Town on the picturesque Kabarole Hill in Fort Portal, is more than just the official residence of the Omukama (king) of Tooro; it's a living embodiment of the Tooro Kingdom's rich cultural heritage.

The Royal Home was built in 1963 during the reign of Omukama Sir George Rukidi III, the 11th King of Tooro, upon the restoration of Kingdoms. The first palace was called "Kakwamwemi", meaning the one that ended the war.

Muammar Gaddafi, the former Libyan leader, contributed to the restoration and renovation of the palace. His involvement came about in the early 2000s when he financially supported the refurbishment, helping to restore it after years of neglect following the abolition of traditional monarchies by the Ugandan government in 1967.

The palace's history is a testament to the resilience of the Tooro Kingdom. After being destroyed in the 1960s, Karuzika was fully restored in 2001, symbolizing the strength and revival of Tooro's royal heritage. This resilience is not just a historical fact; it's a living reality embodied in every stone of the palace.



*The Karuziika Palace, nestled on Karuziika Hill, overlooking Fort Portal (Tourism City).*

Karuzika's stunning architecture perfectly blends traditional and modern styles. The palace offers a breathtaking view of Fort Portal, and on a clear day, you can catch a glimpse of the famous Rwenzori Mountains.

The palace is like a royal museum where one will find relics from the kingdom's rich history.

The walls are covered with pictures of various kings, both the familiar and unfamiliar, offering a deep dive into the stories and traditions of the Tooro people.

The palace is more than just a building; it's the heartbeat of the Tooro Kingdom's cultural life. From enthronement ceremonies to royal gatherings, Karuzika Palace is where the most important Tooro cultural events take place. The recently concluded EkyootoHaMpango24, marking 29 years since Omukama Rukirabasajja Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV became King at the age of three, is just one example.

According to Tooro tradition, the king is supposed to stay in the palace alone, and when he marries, the wife is just called upon as he wishes. Separate quarters are built outside for his servants, princes, and princesses.

In the Tooro culture, one enters the palace from an entrance called "Ilembo," and "Mugaba nte" is the chief entrance to the palace. "Omusanga is the royal pala or chief veranda where the King sits on cultural functions. One of the most interesting things to see is the royal drum called "Kisurumbi", which is stationed at the royal palace from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. When the king is around, it is sounded to inform his subjects of his presence.

A lady called "Omuranga" sits next to the "omusanga"; her role is to protect it, and she is the only one allowed to touch it. Karunga Lillian is the third generation daughter from the Bahinda clan to become the Omusanga since it is hereditary in nature.

The Karuzika Palace is not just a landmark; it's a living chapter of Tooro's royal legacy, quietly nestled in the hills but brimming with stories. Next time you find yourself in Fort Portal City, don't just pass by-let the palace show you what resilience looks like, where every stone has a story waiting to be told.

**By Hilda Victoria | Photos by Marvin Mugerwa**







## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: HERITAGE SITES

### Buganda Kingdom's Iconic Kasubi Tombs Reopens Gates to the Public.

By Wabusimba Amiri | *Courtesy Photos*

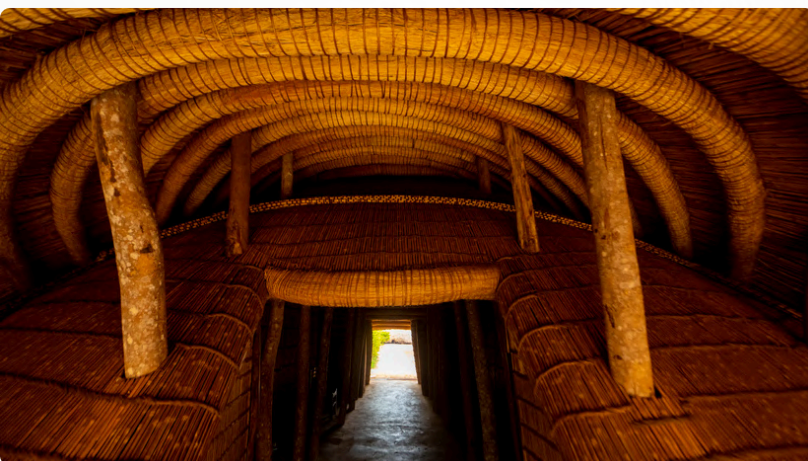


The Kasubi Tombs are open again after 14 years, welcoming visitors to share in the rich history and cultural treasures. Located in Kampala, the tombs sit on 30 hectares of hillside, serving as the final resting place for Buganda's Kings. The site is an architectural marvel, made from organic materials and celebrated for its unique construction and intangible cultural values.

This sacred burial ground for Buganda's kings, had been closed after a devastating fire in 2010 that had ravaged the main building, leaving the site in disrepair and halting tourism. UNESCO stepped in, declaring the site endangered and providing aid for restoration.

After years of hard work, the Kasubi Tombs have been removed from the endangered list, thanks to the reconstruction of the main funeral building, restoration of the guardian's house, and installation of a state-of-the-art fire-fighting system.

With the reopening, the Buganda Kingdom and Ugandan government are eager to share this cultural gem with the world, attracting tourists and generating income. The Kasubi Tombs are once again a place of wonder, spirituality, and connection to the past.



**About Kasubi Tombs:** Located on nearly 30 hectares of hillside in Kampala, they serve as the final resting place for Buganda's kings. At the heart of the site lies the former palace of the Kabakas, built in 1882 and converted into a royal burial ground in 1884. The site includes the Muzibu Azaala Mpanga, a circular building topped with a dome, which houses the tombs of four Buganda kings.

An architectural marvel made from organic materials like wood, thatch, reed, wattle, and daub, the Kasubi Tombs are celebrated for their unique construction and intangible cultural values, such as belief, spirituality, continuity, and identity.







## National Theatre Hosts Filmmakers' Symposium Success Strategy Session

By Githa Oguma | Courtesy Photos, Muhumuza Osbert

At the National Theatre, during the three-day film and culture market event themed "Upgrading the East African Film Industry". Ugandan filmmakers gathered to explore ways to elevate filmmaking into a lucrative venture in Uganda which aims to boost the local film sector's profitability.

European Union Ambassador to Uganda, H.E. Jan Sadek, highlighted the importance of Ugandan-made movies and commended filmmakers like Nana Kagga and Louk Man Ali for their exceptional contributions to award-winning film productions. Amb. Sadek articulated the need for the government's support in nurturing the creative industry to provide employment opportunities for Ugandan youths.

Addressing the challenges faced by the Ugandan film industry, Margaret Kafeero, Head of Public Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the significance of producing films that reflect Ugandan culture and interests. She encouraged filmmakers to collaborate and register as formal entities to gain government support and enhance their credibility for sponsorships and partnerships.

"It must be a story about who we are, what we believe in, what our culture dictates, and what our problems are," filmmaker Mariam Ndagire stated in unison. We won't connect with a story about problems from another place, nor will we come to see it, if it doesn't touch our souls.

The Kampala Film Foundation's Executive Director, Godfrey Musinguzi, addressed concerns including the absence of distribution networks and filmmakers' dependence on foreign revenue streams in order to highlight the necessity of developing a successful film industry in Uganda.

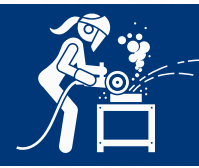


1 Panelists on the business Forum; from extreme right to left: Irene Kulabako, Margaret Kafeero, Mariam Ndagire, Wabwire Ian & host Dhialo Ssekidde.

2 Amb. Jan SADEK (4th from right) in a photo moment with the Kampala Film Development Foundation (KFDF) organizing committee.







## CREATIVE ECONOMY

### MoTIV Empowering Uganda's Jobless Young Adults with Wood and Metal Skills to Boost Job Prospects.

By Herbert Ssekatawa | Photos by MoTIV



In an interview with Mr. Ombe Luther Kahanguzi, the head of the wood and metal department at MoTIV, a creators space in Uganda, he discussed the reasons for establishing wood and metal as a separate division within MoTIV.

He mentioned that in the wood and metal domain, they typically offer two types of programs: "Upskilling and One-off trainings."

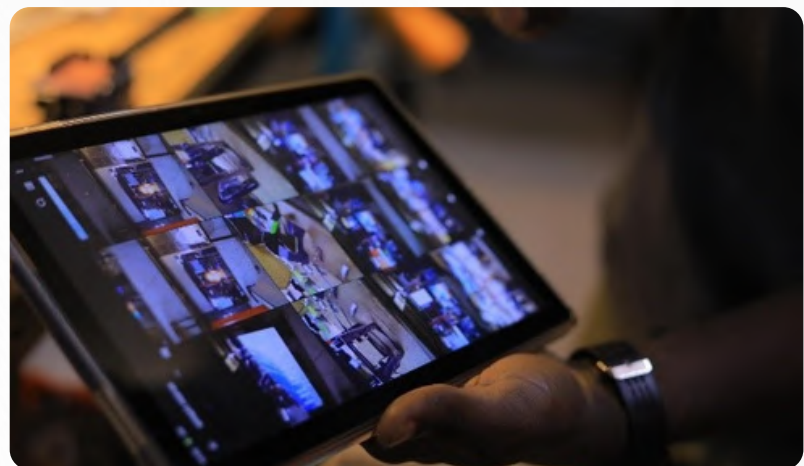
MoTIV sets up boat camps in locations like slums, churches, and schools to identify skill gaps in mechanics and plumbing, carpentry, welding among others.

Trainings last for three months and have impacted over nine hundred students for an enrollment. Under the upskilling program, MoTIV focuses on practical skills for students with theoretical knowledge. Training lasts six weeks, ending with certificate issuance to all trained students.

Mechatronics is a sector in wood and metal producing high-quality goods like electric bicycles, televisions, smartphones, and motorcycles. It caters to skilled students with a professional demeanor.

In the discourse, Mr. Ombe discussed providing a maker space for trainees with access to machinery, exposure opportunities, and interactions with artisans and entrepreneurs in woodwork and metalwork. This is accomplished through four pillars: the Academy, production, maker space and market space.

MoTIV focuses on branding and marketing to the younger generation, shifting youth mindset, promoting patience in learners before entering workforce. They collaborate with institutes to impart skills to students.



[Click to learn more about MoTIV](#)







## Kasese Shines as Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon Draws 3,600 Runners & 100,000 Spectators.

By *Wabusima Amiri* | Courtesy Photos, *Watsala Kenneth*

Kasese came alive with the third annual Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon, held on August 24, attracting over 3,600 runners from 33 countries and around 100,000 Ugandan spectators.

This vibrant event infuses the region with tourism energy, showcasing Kasese’s scenic beauty near the Democratic Republic of Congo border. Once plagued by violence and disease, including Uganda’s first mpox cases, the region now enjoys a refreshing change thanks to the marathon.

Since its debut in 2022 with only 800 runners, the Rwenzori Marathon has seen tremendous growth. This year’s event highlights Uganda’s prowess in distance running while featuring multi-day celebrations.

Organized by Amos Wekesa and his partners, an East African tourism entrepreneur, the marathon aims to replicate the success of the Kilimanjaro Marathon, boosting local tourism and infrastructure.

Kasese residents have welcomed the influx of visitors, benefiting from improved roads and increased business for street vendors and bars.

According to locals, “The marathon is good business,” reflecting its positive impact on the community. This event represents a significant advancement for both Kasese and Uganda, enhancing its global reputation and economic prospects.



Cross section of participants, from around the world, at the Marathon in Kasese.

[Click to view Photos from the Marathon](#)



L-R: State Ministers for Tourism, Sports, & ICT, participate in the Marathon.



Amos Wekesa, Marathon Lead Organizer, cheers on!







## IN PICTURES: Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon







## Jinja City Queens Crowned Champions of the 3rd Edition of TICAD Cup 2024 Tournament.

By Donald Kirya | Vision Group Correspondent



Shamim Kilikumwino scored two first-half goals in a five-minute span, as Jinja City Queens cruised to a comfortable win of the 3rd edition of the Tokyo International Conference on Africa Development (TICAD) Cup 2024 Women's Football tournament.

The two-day soccer tournament, comprising six girls' football teams was organised by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Uganda in partnership with Soltilo Bright Stars FC, Federation of Uganda Football Association (FUFA) and UNHCR at FUFA Technical Centre, Njeru. It ended on August 7th, 2024.

The teams that participated in the tournament included; Rwamwanja Queens from Kamwenge, Tagy High School from Entebbe, Jinja City Queens which is also the official women team of BUL, King of Kings, Agojo Star Girls and Pagirinya young Ladies from Adjuman district.

Kilikumwino scored a brace as her team was playing against Fort portal-based King of Kings SC team during a final game of the TICAD Cup held at FUFA Technical Centre, Njeru in Buikwe district on Saturday.

The TICAD Cup 2024 tournament aimed at empowering women through sports

saw Jinja City Queens defeat King of Kings 2-0 after full time, to clinch the Championship.

King of Kings started on a good note as they displayed good techniques against their opponents and dominated the first 20 minutes of play in the first half.

But the game changed after Kilikumwino, while in the area, headed straight in the back of the net after a corner kick from the left wing by Teddy Nyafwono, sending team mates into jubilation. After a five-minute span, Kilikumwino headed inside her second goal from a left corner kick by Nyafwono in the closing moments of the first half.

Prior to scoring her brace, Kilikumwino and Nyafwono directed shots towards King of Kings goal keeper, Cecilia Kamuli, who punched the balls over the bar several times & managed to grip a few.

During the second half King of Kings SC's chances of scoring were too minimal as Jinja City Queens did a lot of defending.

In the two Semifinal games that were played in the morning, Jinja City Queens beat Tagy High School 4-2 in penalties after a 1-1 draw of full time as King of Kings defeated Pagirinya Young Ladies SC 1-0.

"I feel happy because we worked as a team to score the two goals I did not get any challenges while playing and we challenged them mentally as they used a lot of vigour during play," Kilikumwino said.

Rashur Aliamba the head coach of Jinja City Queens said he was excited after his team winning the TICAD Cup 2024 championship adding that they strategized properly and prepared for the final game. Aliamba noted that teams were really good but the determination of his players helped them to achieve whatever they wanted.

The coach of King of Kings, Rogers Ayesiga, admitted losing to Jinja City Queens 2-0 in head ball situations, two corners and conceded two goals. "We are now going back to the drawing board to work on the set pieces and it did not go well because the girls somehow forgot to mark during set pieces because they had several of them when they were heading the ball when they were free. So that is a homework for us the coaches to go back to improve on that area," Ayesiga explained.

Hadija Balinabyo who emerged top scorer in the tournament with 4 goals said the tournament was so competitive in that all teams exhibited their best during play but for their side, they managed to take the championship after following instructions from their coaches.

The first edition of the TICAD Cup women football tournament was won by King of Kings in 2022, the second edition was won by Kawempe Muslim SS in 2023 and Jinja City Queens emerged winners for the 3rd edition in this 2024 year.

The chairman of BUL FC Ronald Barente, Inoue Yoichi, the Chief Representative of JICA Uganda Office, John Chrysostom Kalibala the Honorary Executive Member at FUFA and also responsible for development of women football at FUFA; and Margaret Kubingi the Uganda Women Football Association (UWFA) chairperson handed over the championship trophy to the Jinja City Queen team.

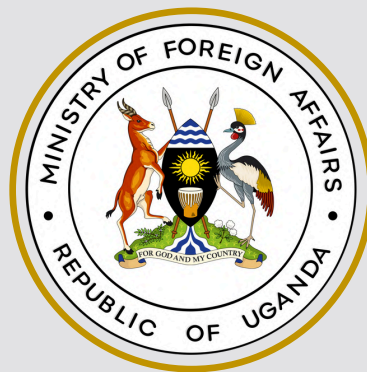




# Spotlight Photo



The Uganda Secretariat at the Uganda–Mozambique Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) Meeting, showcasing their dedication and tireless efforts by working to ensure the successful production of outcome documents, for consideration by the respective delegations.



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