



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**REMARKS FOR THE**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY**

**MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
COOPERATIVES**

**AT**

**THE UGANDA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR**

**UMA SHOW GROUNDS, LUGOGO**

**5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2022**

*Theme: “Business recovery by harnessing local sourcing  
and deepening value chains integration”.*

## **INVITED GUESTS**

H.E Wamkele Mene, Secretary General Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Hon. Ministers;

Hon. Members of Parliament;

Ambassadors/ Heads of the Diplomatic Missions in Uganda;

Chairman & Board of directors, Uganda Manufacturers' Association (UMA);

Business community / Industrialists;

Government Officials;

Media Fraternity

## **Distinguished Guests**

**Good Morning!**

**Jambo!**

I am happy to be here this morning at the opening ceremony of the 28<sup>th</sup> Uganda International Trade Fair, the flagship event of the Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA). On behalf of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, I would like to warmly welcome all of you to this important event.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Uganda Manufacturers' Association (UMA) headed by Chairman Mr. Deogratious Kayemba for leading the preparation of this event that has taken a lot of time and effort to organize. I also recognize the roles

played by participating institutions in organizing this year's International Trade Fair such as, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Office of the President, other Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Uganda Small Scale Industries Association (USSIA) and the Media Fraternity.

I welcome the exhibitors from both within Uganda, the East African Community and the rest of the World to this trade fair. The UMA trade fair is one of the avenues through which companies have exhibited and expanded their industrial capacity. It has also been an avenue for product launch opportunities, bench marking and business linkages among others.

The economic significance of the trade fair is an image event which includes trade and economic, science and technology and educational components, where different sectors of the economy are represented with their goods and products. In addition, this platform provides an opportunity for an active dialogue between all participants, establishing direct contacts with buyers aimed at enhancing economic, sustainable development, strengthening regional cooperation and trade.

The theme of this trade fair is ***“Business recovery by harnessing local sourcing and deepening value chains integration”***. I am glad to inform you that Government is committed to the harnessing of local sources. This can be seen through the implementation of the BUBU Policy, PPDA Act amended, Investment Code Act, Public Private Partnership Act and the recently passed Local Content Bill. Government is ready to increase reservations in public procurements for products

produced the Uganda Manufactures. I implore you to build sufficient capacity to meet standards and quantity requirements for the reserved products. There are many opportunities in upcoming projects such as the 15-billion-dollar investment in oil and gas, rehabilitation of the railway and road expansion, among others.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, as you are aware, implementation of BUBU Policy has enormously contributed to the growth of our local industries since it was launched five years ago and I would like to cite some few examples:

- Government has more than tripled procurement of uniforms and clothing materials from local manufacturers from UGX 2.6bn (2017/18) to UGX 8bn (2018/19);
- Contracts to local road construction companies especially by Uganda National Roads Authority between 2017 and 2019 averaged 26% of UNRA's annual budget. Kampala Capital City Authority awarded 52% of its road's construction budget to local providers in the financial year 2018/19;
- Government through National Medical Stores has increased its purchase of medicines and medical supplies from local pharmaceutical companies from 156 billion Uganda Shillings to 165 billion Uganda Shillings between 2017 and 2019;
- Supply of transformers, transformer wiring and repairs, and electrical switch gears totaling to 1.1 billion Uganda Shillings was awarded to Local Providers in 2017/18 by Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited. In the same year, Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited awarded local providers contracts totaling to 11.6 billion Uganda Shillings to supply generators, energy meters and wood poles.

- There has been increased investments as manifested by the establishment of more industries manufacturing cement, salt, sanitizers, masks, tiles, phones among others;
- Shelf space for local products in supermarkets has increased to around 60 %;

As a Ministry, we have undertaken strategic interventions to provide a conducive environment to facilitate industrial development and trade. These include;

- Revision of the National Industrial Policy that was approved by Cabinet in 2020,
- Promotion of value addition to local materials through equity financing through Uganda Development Corporation.
- Harmonization of Ugandan standards and facilitating their enforcement through UNBS
- Inaugurated the 9th National Standards Council to improve the Governance of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards and fasttracking the decentralization of UNBS services, two regional centers in Gulu and Mbale have been established with new state of art testing laboratories
- Construction of One-Stop-Border-Posts & Establishment of Border Export Zones,
- Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs),
- Strengthening the District Commercial Extension Services by the DCOs,
- Revitalization of cooperatives and fast tracking the establishment of the Cooperatives Bank.

## **Markets**

Uganda's population growth, life expectancy and urbanization present a fast-growing consumer market with long-term demand for manufactured products. There are also market opportunities in the EAC with a population of 283.7 million, COMESA, 560 million people and AfCFTA with 1.3 billion people, these economic blocks are available for supply of our products. In order to access these market opportunities, I implore you to improve on the quality of your products, adoption international standards, embrace e-commerce and acquaint yourselves with the relevant rules and regulations in the above markets.

## **Conclusion**

Government will continue to support the private sector to create new innovations, produce high quality products that can compete well in the domestic, regional and international markets, thus promoting import substitution and export promotion. This not only creates income for the companies involved but also increase revenue to the Government and employment opportunities for Ugandans.

I would like to congratulate UMA management for consistently delivering the Trade fair as a world class event.

I thank you all and wish you the best in this International Trade Fair.

**For God and My Country**