UPDF and the War on COVID-19

President Yoweri Museveni Passes Out 4,325 Recruits

UPDF Role in Combatting Desert Locusts

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Headache
The Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC) wish to congratulate The President of Uganda H.E. Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, The Parliament, Government and all Ugandans on the 58th Independence Anniversary.

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As we celebrate the 58 Independence Day of our country Uganda, we can’t help recollecting with great pleasure and profoundly deep emotion the great milestones so far achieved through our collective diligent and commendable effort.

Nearly 90 per cent of the world economies have suffered and braved some form of lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has not only left the economies limping, disrupted consumer demand, it has also rendered millions of people out of work.

Uganda, as one of the fastest growing economies of the world has not been spared. Our economy has paid a lofty price. This however, should not daunt us into letting the economy collapse at our feet. The pandemic has significantly dealt a deadly blow to our social and economic fabric by impairing very sensitive sectors like education and affordable health care access.

COVID-19 is not the first epidemic/pandemic we have, under the visionary guidance of H.E YK Museveni, been able to defeat. We, more united than ever before, must craft a clear vision that will keep our heads high above our shoulders as we fight the pandemic. We need a multi sectorial approach. The time is now when we must appreciate the seriousness of this disease as H.E the President has endlessly be-laboured to and pleaded with us to put self-preservation top on our agenda. The time is now when we must learn the SOPs and guidelines by the Ministry of Health embrace and practice them genuinely.

The fight against Corona virus must be a daily commitment and struggle. Only and only then shall we be able to survive the pandemic, this is survival for the diligent. Most importantly covid should not blind us to our protracted war against HIV/ AIDS, malaria, cholera and other related diseases. The UPDF shall, as mandated by article 20-(b) of the constitution, as amended continue to support civilian authority, and the population as a whole and when calamity strikes/emergencies arise.

This year’s Independence theme Celebrating Uganda’s Steady Progress towards Economic Take-off and self-sustaining Economic growth strongly resonates with the enormous pile of achievements, one would need a bit of time to count and exhaust. We are grateful to Government for the sharp edged policies and the UPDF for enabling peace the combination of which two is the underlying operating system that is silently manifested in modern infrastructure including modern bituminized roads, increasingly spiking industrialization, rural electrification, a fast ICT network and improved railway and water transport, to mention a few off the fingers achievements.

As a Force we are fully committed to sustaining the prevailing peace and stability so as to achieve the National Development Plan III aimed at spurring the economy to middle income status. It is our loud call to all Ugandans to rise and call for growth and development beginning with household incomes.

I take this opportunity to thank H.E YK Museveni the President for giving a special recognition to women empowerment.

To all Ugandans, our catch word should be peace and mutual respect. I wish all Ugandans peaceful elections as you exercise your constitutional right to choose the leaders you want.

For God and my country.
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This Nation will remain the Land of the Free only so long as it is the home of the brave."
Newly appointed Defence Attachés (DAs) from the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) were equipped with the requisite diplomatic ethos for efficient and effective service delivery.

The French Government donated assorted items to Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) towards the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic. These were received by the Deputy Chief of Defence Forces Lt Gen Wilson Mbadi, who applauded the existing cooperation between the two countries.

The French Ambassador to Uganda H.E Jules-Armand Aniambossou, as he delivered the Two Thousand Five Hundred Ten (2510) jerrycans of 20 litres of hand sanitizer commended UPDF for turning their guns to fight the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister for General Duties Hon Mary Karoro Okurut on behalf of the Rt Hon Prime Minister Dr Ruhakana Rugunda deeply appreciated the Government of France for supporting UPDF during the fight against COVID 19. “Thank you for joining hands with us to fight this pandemic, all donations will greatly compliment our great efforts and together we can have a COVID-19 free Uganda,” she explained.
**4 SOMALIS APPLAUD UPDF ENGINEERS**

The Barawe District Commissioner Sheikh Umar commended the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces’ (UPDF) Engineers serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their quick response in improving the poor road network in Barawe.

Just like many parts of Somalia, Barawe was gravely ravaged by floods in the wake of the recent heavy rains in the country. The roads in Barawe and other parts of Somalia were affected, thus making transport very difficult.

BG XXIX Engineers conducted minor road repairs in Barawe to control the effects of floods and ease traffic flow. They also sensitized the community against the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheikh Umar reiterated the commitment of Somalia’s Government and the community in working with AMISOM to achieve lasting peace for socio-economic transformation in the country.

The BG XXIX Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Officer, Capt Obed Mbarebaki noted that activities in Barawe are enshrined in the UPDF pro-people ideology.

**5 MILITARY POLICE PASSES OUT VIPP TRAINEES**

The Commandant Military Police Col Keith Katungi passed out 68 trainees who successfully completed four weeks course in protecting Very Important Persons in Garuga, Entebbe district.

The course equipped trainees with knowledge in various disciplines, with facilitators drawn from Special Forces Command and Uganda Police Force.

Col Keith Katungi lauded all facilitators for harnessing synergies to make trainees better professionals.
Countrymen and Countrywomen,
Right from the 18th of March, 2020, when I made the first broadcast on the issue of the global Pandemic of covid-19, I told you of the two characteristics of this disease.

The two characteristics were, on the one hand, until we get a vaccine or a cure, this disease is very dangerous.

It is a killer and also a possible disabler even if you do not die and survive its attack. In the USA, 196,465 people have died from this disease in the last 6 months, many more than the (58,220) people (Americans) that died in the 10 years of the war in Vietnam (1964-1974); 134,935 in Brazil have died; 35,668 in Italy; 30,495 in Spain. 41,372 in the UK; 85,619 in India; 15,857 in South Africa; 646 in Kenya; etc.

Furthermore, among the many that survive, some may get the scarring (enkojo) of the internal organs (lungs) and the other organs are affected through a secondary means of intravascular coagulation.

Therefore, as one doctor working for the USA (Center for Disease Control) said: “It is much better not to have this disease”. This is the first characteristic of this disease: killer and also possible disabler.

The second characteristic is that it is very easy to avoid if you agree to undergo alot of the inconvenience of the lockdown and the losses (economic, social, etc.) that come with the restrictions. Right from the beginning, I had no doubt as to the right course of action. Life was more important than wealth –amagara gakira amagana.

That is why between the 18th of March and the 30th of March, 2020, I, with the approval of the National Task Force and the Cabinet, imposed a total of 35 restrictions as follows:
1. Closed all the Educational Institutions which account for 15 million young Ugandans;

2. Suspended communal prayers in Mosques, Churches or in Stadia and other open air venues;

3. Stopped all public political rallies, cultural gatherings or conferences;

4. Banned Ugandans from moving to or through category one (I) countries that had had a large number of corona cases by that time;

5. Only allowed returning Ugandans provided they underwent mandatory quarantine, at their cost, for 14 days at a venue identified by the Ministry of Health;

6. However, allowed the non-agricultural gathering points e.g. factories, hotels, large plantations, markets, taxi-parks etc. to continue provided they followed the SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) put out by the Ministry of Health;

7. Discouraged the hexagonal, extravagant Ugandan-style weddings; Weddings were allowed only for a maximum of 7 people;

8. Burials could not be postponed, but should be for a maximum of 10 people (close family members);

9. Suspended weekly or monthly markets such as cattle auction markets (ebikomera); and obutare (food markets);

10. At that time, allowed the public transport systems of buses, minibuses, taxis, boda-bodas, etc., to continue provided they were given SOPs;

11. Suspended all the discos, dances, bars, sports, music shows, cinemas and concerts;

12. Advised the public to maintain hygiene measures such as: not coughing or sneezing in public, no spitting, washing with soap and water or using sanitizers, regularly disinfecting surfaces such as tables, door handles, etc. and not touching your eyes, nose or mouth with contaminated and unwashed hands;

13. Advised the public on good nutrition to strengthen the body defence system;

14. Stopped all passengers coming into Uganda by air, land or water; this affected in-coming planes, buses, taxis or boats. Closed Entebbe International Airport and all other border points of entry except for Cargo airplanes and trucks;

15. Prohibited pedestrians from entry into the country from the neighbouring countries;

16. All public passenger transport vehicles were, later, stopped i.e. taxis, coasters, buses, passenger trains, tuk-tuks (tri-cycles) and bodabodas;

17. Only food sellers would remain in the markets; the non-food sellers suspended their activities;

18. Private vehicles were, initially, allowed to continue but with only 3 people maximum per vehicle at that time;

19. Ambulances, army vehicles, garbage collection vehicles, etc., would continue;

20. Later on, banned the movement of all privately owned passenger vehicles because owners had abused them by turning them into taxis;

21. Suspended the shopping arcades, hardware shops, which gather a lot of people to sell and buy non-food items. These were suspended for 14 days starting on the 1st of April, 2020;

22. Directed all the non-food shops (stores) to close. Only food shops, shops selling agricultural products, veterinary products, detergents and pharmaceuticals remained open. Home deliveries were, instead, encouraged;

23. The super-markets remained open but with clear SOPs that restricted numbers that entered and left the site at a given time and the handling of trolleys within the super-markets.

24. Established Food Markets in Kampala and the other towns continued to be open while maintaining social distancing;

25. The sellers were not allowed to go home during the 14 days. They had to arrange to stay nearby for that duration.

26. Salons, Lodges and garages were also shut for 14 days from the 1st of April, 2020.

27. Like the farms, factories could remain open. But the owners had to arrange for the crucial employees to camp around the factory area for the 14 days. If they could not do that, they were ordered to suspend production for 14 days;

28. Construction sites could continue if they could be able to encamp their workers for 14 days. Otherwise, they had to suspend construction for the 14 days;

29. The essential services i.e., the medical, agriculture and veterinary, telecommunication, door-to-door delivery, financial institutions, all media, Private Security companies, cleaning services, garbage collection, firebrigade, fuel stations, water departments, funeral services and some KCCA staff, could continue to operate;

30. Cargo transport by train, plane, lorry, pick-up, tuku-tukus, bodaboda and bicycle, within Uganda and between Uganda and the outside, had to continue but only with
minimum numbers, technically needed as follows: Cargo — Air-craft — only the crew; Lorry — not more than 3 persons i.e. driver, turn-boy plus one, etc., as were directed by the Ministry of Transport, working with the National Task Force on the Coronavirus;

31. URA could also not close business on account of not paying taxes in these 14 days;

32. Gatherings of more than 5 persons were prohibited;

33. Except for cargo planes, lorries, pick-ups and trains, starting with the 31st of March, 2020, at 1900 hours, there was a curfew throughout the whole of Uganda up to 6:30am;

34. In order to deal with other health emergencies, permission could be sought from the RDC to use private transport to take a sick person to hospital. Additionally, government vehicles that did not belong to UPDF, Police, Prisons or UWA, were pooled and deployed at the District Health Offices, including the divisions of Kampala, with their drivers, staying in tented compounds, ready to help in those health emergencies. Those vehicles were under the command of the District Medical Officer;

35. Boda bodas were ordered to stop their operations at 2:00pm.

On account of those tough measures, we limited the spread of the infections and the few imported cases were closely handled by the medical staff so that all of them recovered and we never had a single death from covid-19 until the 21st of July, 2020.

This was a period of about 126 days of battle with the Corona-19 virus without a single death. Congratulations Ugandans for that heroic achievement. This proved that the Corona-19 virus could be avoided and the few infected could survive if you acted right.

As usual, we had the usual enemies of Uganda and Africa who started saying that there was no “Covid-19” and that it was “dictator” Museveni who was using the cover of the Covid-19 to stop the Opposition from winning over the masses.

In any case, after careful study of each situation, we and the scientists, were getting convinced that provided we strictly adhered to the guidelines, we could re-open many sectors of the economy and activities such as: Public Transport, boda bodas, non-food shops, Hotels and food restaurants, using private cars, etc., etc.

There were detailed guidelines for each activity. Our Scientists are sure that if people strictly adhere to the guidelines, they will be safe. Let us take example of Public Transport.

A vehicle, a mini-bus, which should normally carry 14 persons, was now supposed to only carry 7 persons and no air-conditioning and provided everybody is putting on a mask and so on, activity by activity.

If the vehicle owners and the passengers adhered to this, people would be safe and the activity ought to go on.

The problem, however, is that many people, spurred on by the false prophets who were saying that there was no danger, never bothered to adhere to the guidelines.

In the Book of Galatians Chapter 6:7-8, it says that whatever a man sows, that is what he will reap (buri muntu weena, ekyabiba nikyo agyesha).

The exact quotation goes as follows: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life”.

Similarly, in this case by sowing negligence and disobedience, we are now harvesting more sickness and even more deaths; yet God had shielded us from the deaths until the 21st of July, 2020.

Today, the total sickness with Covid-19, the positive cases, are now 6,287, those who have recovered are 2,616; and those who have died are now 63.

Nevertheless, we cannot reverse the relaxation measures themselves; but we should put emphasis on the observance of the respective SOPs, activity by activity.

The increasing number of the people dying from the corona, which has covered the young and the old, the unhealthy and the healthy (with no-co-morbidities), should, by now, have convinced the skeptical, that this is no joke.

Our sensitization should now shift to the individual to look after his/her health. No bunching or crowding; always wear a mask while in Public or even at home if you are with strangers; ensuring social distancing of 4 meters from one another in public or even at home in case you receive new People who have not been part of the household recently; constantly washing your hands with water and soap or with alcohol-based sanitizers; never touch your nose, mouth or eyes with unwashed hands; and, in offices and other work places, always sanitize surfaces with alcohol based sanitizers as well as sterilizing documents with sterilizers that reach the temperature of 65°C because this virus cannot survive at that temperature or beyond.

Given this avoidability vis a vis the virus, provided the SOPs are strictly followed at the group and personal levels, the virus could and can be contained.
Therefore, my job today is to, again, emphasize the two tasks: for group behavior and for individual behavior. With this emphasis, it is now time to, further, relax the restrictions as follows:

- We have decided to re-open schools for the candidate classes of P-7, S-4, S-6, finalists in tertiary colleges and finalists in Universities.

Why? Number one, we think that it is safe because the finalists in each learning institution are a much smaller number compared to the total enrollment in these Centres.

Indeed, the total number of finalists is 1.2 million learners out of the total of 15 million, less than 10%. Therefore, each group of finalists will have bigger space for social distancing – whether they are in day schools or boarding schools. If they follow the SOPs, they will be safe.

Moreover, the cost of waiting any further, is quite high. Why? It is because of the jam that will be created in terms of the usual transition from the Primary School, Lower Secondary schools, Higher Secondary Schools, tertiary colleges and Universities, respectively. If the batch of 2020 do not move on, what will happen to the batch of 2021? Can we afford to have two batches in 2021? The answer is a clear: “no”.

Fortunately, it can be done safely if people follow the SOPs. A solution for the nonfinalist learners will be found by January 2021. International schools that have got less numbers, can engage the Ministry of Health on the way forward. The Schools will open for finalists on the 15th of October, 2020. We are aware of the dilemma of the Private Schools that were operating on money from Banks etc.

We have tried to help the teachers in Private schools by giving them a Ushs. 20BN (twenty billion shillings) grant for their SACCO. We shall continue to study and see how the Government can affordably, further, support these Ugandans – the teachers.

The schools will now open in the limited way pointed out above. If for some reasons, there are private schools that cannot re-open on account of the obvious disruption of the business of the Private Schools, the Ministry of Education is already directed to expand the number of secondary schools.

We were assuming a secondary school enrollment of 2 million learners (the current number is 1.6 million learners). If we take one classroom and one teacher to cater for 50 learners, we need 40,000 classrooms and 40,000 classroom teachers. If you assume a school of two streams per class up to S.4 and then a science and an Arts class for S.5 and S.6, each will be having 12 classroom units. This will, therefore, mean about 3,340 schools to accommodate the 2 million secondary school learners. The Government already has 1,267 Secondary Schools and we are planning to build 374 new ones. I direct the Ministry of Education to study the number of community schools that the Government can take over in the areas that do not have Government Secondary Schools.

If the worst came to the worst, the Government should have the capacity to absorb into Government schools all the learners and even teachers that are shed off by Private Schools on account of the financial difficulties facing private schools, precipitated by the Covid-19 crisis.

The Minister of Finance should also meet the owners of the Private Schools and see how the Government could come to their aid. The Government should not only think of rescuing the learners and the teachers and remain oblivious of the plight of those Ugandan entrepreneurs that invested in private schools because they did not know that a terrible disease would come from bats in distant China and cause so much chaos. Can UDB help? What is the magnitude? The Government plan for distance learning, through the provision of 9 million radio-sets, is on course. The money is available.

That route of alternative learning will continue to be consolidated, not only for dealing with the present crisis, but also for the future. That strategy may have some advantages such as democratizing access by all to good teachers etc.

- The International Airport and Land borders will now be opened for tourists, coming in and going out, provided they tested negative 72 hours before arrival in Uganda and provided the tour operators ensure that the tourists do not mix with the Ugandans.

How will this be done? The tourists will be driven straight from the Airport to their destinations or to designated transit hotels that are set aside for that purpose. Business delegations should also be handled in the same way by the Local Partners.

The returning Ugandans, who have negative PCR results, will be allowed to go home. The Ministry of Health will only get their addresses for follow up.

- Restrictions on movements on border districts are hereby lifted.
- Curfew, from 2100 hours (9 p.m.) to
LEAD STORY

6 a.m., will be maintained; but for the boda bodas, their movements must always end at 1800 hours (6 p.m).

• The places of worship, should open with the following precautions:

  • Individual prayers or confessions with priests or counseling with the necessary SOPs.

  • Prayers and fellowships whose numbers do not exceed 70 and by observing all the other SOPs.

  • Night prayers and transnights are not allowed.

  • The regular large gatherings of prayers and preachings of Sundays and Fridays will be considered at a later stage, depending on how the disease will be evolving; but the rule of the number of 70 and not more can be used on the Fridays and Sundays.

• There should be no Sunday School for children. Let the enemy first go away before the children are involved in this congregating (okwerundaana).

• Open air activities of sports will re-open provided there are no spectators and the players are tested for Covid-19, 72 hours before. This test will expire in 14 days. Hence, the Sportsmen will have to repeat the test.

• Sportsmen and women should remember that masks should not be worn, when you are engaged in strenuous exercises.

• With tournaments, teams should be quarantined for the whole season of the competition.

• Indoor sports activities, including gyms, remain closed. Why? It is because the virus spreads more in enclosed spaces.

• Casinos, gaming centres and cinemas remain closed. Why? It is because those activities are in enclosed spaces and are not compatible with social distancing.

• Bars shall remain closed. Why? It is because bars, apart from many of them being in enclosed spaces, which phenomenon favours the rapid spread of the virus, are not known for sobriety and lack of sobriety is not compatible with health safety through the observance of the health SOPs.

• Hotels will continue operating following the SOPs agreed with the Ministry of Health.

• Restaurants should continue to emphasize the takeaways. Indoor restaurant services should be minimized and follow the SOPs.

• Mobile Markets, monthly cattle auction and produce markets, should
remain closed as the Ministry of Health continues to develop SOPs.

• Mass gatherings are still prohibited. Some people have been trying to use the recent NRM elections to justify their own misbehaviours. Lining behind candidates, is not the same as holding public meetings. Lining behind candidates would have been done scientifically (social-distancing), if the organizers had been serious. With public meetings, however, there can be no social distancing, rationally.

• Our Bamasaaba grandchildren that are engaged in Imbalu in these months, have SOPs from the Ministry of Health that were agreed with the Cultural Institution.

There should be no processions dancing Kadodi – that is dangerous congregating.

The Security forces, especially the Police, should monitor those activities. Cases of Covid-19 have gone up in Mbale recently. They are now 107 and 5 deaths have occurred in that area. Ugandans, you have now tested both scenarios. Scenario number one, was the strict lockdown we started with until the 4th of May, 2020.

During that time, the infection was low and there were no deaths. When we effected the interim relaxation measures, the infections expanded and the deaths increased.

One, means safety and no deaths; the other, means more infections and deaths; the latter if you do not observe the SOPs. Yet, we cannot and should not remain in lockdown indefinitely.

Why? It is because the economy must grow; otherwise, bigger problems may show up. Besides, in many cases, lockdown is not necessary. Why not? It is because we have already shown you how to be safe.

A few weeks ago, I passed out 9,000 Policemen and Soldiers in Masindi and Kaweweta safely.

Cheptegei and Kiplimo trained in lockdown and went and broke World records safely.

Therefore, those who behave recklessly, will “reap” what they would have “sowed”. We would, therefore, like to appeal to everybody, to be your own health worker.

A few weeks ago, I passed out 9,000 Policemen and Soldiers in Masindi and Kaweweta safely.

Understand all the avoidance measures, put them in practice for your own good and for the good of others. That is why we are morally justified to open up because we have taught you what to do except for the activities that are clearly risky such as bars where sobriety is in great scarcity. It is a big shame to realize that out of the 6,287 cases of Corona-19 recorded in Uganda, 2,097 are from Kampala. Why?

Indiscipline and confusion. In the villages, people are so vigilant. They hunt any new-comer and hand him to the health authorities. With guidance, they can handle correctly burials, weddings, etc. It is the Kampalians (Abana-Kampala) that need to reform.

Again, I totally reject the logic of those that complain about the effects of lockdown as if it is the Government that caused the virus.

I have told you before of the Runyankore proverb: “Kifu kya mutima, ngu enju yasya, ati munyarire mbyaame”. Here, the Banyankore were referring to somebody of limited understanding, who was told that the house was on fire but, for him, he said: “prepare the bed for me to sleep”. “Sleep where? The house is on fire”, would have been the answer from the rational, serious People. Look at the picture of the Air-crafts that are parked with no business.

Somebody told me that the shops that used to sell textiles in the USA and much of the West, have gone bankrupt. Clothes are now sold online – through the internet or on phones. This is the way to go, Ugandan entrepreneurs. Stop crying over spilt milk.

Look for how to survive in the new atmosphere of tonsemberera (social-distancing). Business People in Uganda need to be very cautious. Let us take Public transporters.

If it turns out that people are being infected because of crowding in the Public transport vehicles, that will be the end of that business whether Government lifts restrictions on Public transport or not. People will simply not come. That will be the end of that business.

The time of self-deception is over. Let us be serious.

I cannot end this broadcast without talking about our Scientists who have guided us through this crisis and who are also working on the 3 lines of: our own diagnostics; our own vaccines; and our own therapeutics. Stay tuned, there may be pleasant news in the coming months. We have given all the necessary funding.

I thank you.
20th September, 2020 - Nakasero
President Museveni commissions War Game Center

The President of the Republic of Uganda and Commander-In-Chief of the UPDF, H.E Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni commissioned a sand model and war gaming center at the Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC) in Kimaka, Jinja.

The facility, worth Uganda Shs 1 billion, was funded by the Indian Association of Uganda.

The President hailed the Indian Association of Uganda for the donation saying it is a gesture of the long standing relationship between the Indian people and not only Ugandans but all Africans.

He thanked the Indian Community who contributed to the war game center as well as the Indian Military Officers teaching staff at SCSC who mobilized for the facility.

“I thank you all for this important donation. The facility will greatly add to the value of training in the UPDF,” he said.

“We also thank the Indian Army for assigning the Indian Military Advisory and Training team to SCSC. We are very happy to be associated with the Indian Army. They are an army with long standing military experience,” he added.

The Chairman of the Indian Association in Uganda, Mr. GN Mohona Rao said the donation is an appreciation of the Indian Community's peaceful, pleasant and profitable stay in Uganda.

“Thank you all for this important donation. The facility will greatly add to the value of training in the UPDF,” he said.

He added that: “This humble contribution from us is the least we could do as symbol of our appreciation to the highly disciplined UPDF for the role they play in safeguarding the peace that we enjoy in Uganda,” said Mr. Mohan Rao.

The Commandant SCSC Lt Gen Andrew Gutti said the war game center is a big achievement to the UPDF institution.

“The war game center will not only be of immense benefit to the College fraternity but also to the UPDF at large. It will be instrumental in training Officers in tactical, operational and strategic decision making and in testing new concepts in tactical and operational warfare,” said Lt Gen Gutti.

The function was attended by the Chief of Defence Forces Gen David Muhoozi, the Deputy Commandant of SCSC Brig Gen Bob Ogiki, Deputy Commandant Special Forces Command Brig Gen Stephen Chandia and the academic staff of SCSC.

Present were also diplomats; Ambassador of Uganda to Denmark, H.E Nimisha Madhvani and the Acting Indian High Commissioner in Uganda, Shri Sanjiv Kumar Goel and a few selected members of the Indian Association in Uganda.
The Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Gen David Muhoozi observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has tested capabilities of the mighty and the small around the globe. The CDF said this at Uganda's prestigious Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC) in Kimaka-Jinja District while conducting a quality assessment session of both international and national students at the college.

Gen Muhoozi who spent a full-day academic assessment with the students was impressed by the performance of participants in a two weeks training exercise superintended by the college's Commandant Lt Gen Andrew Gutti. “They have a good grasp of what has been taught and how to put it into practice. I’m confident that these officers will add value at the operational level,” Gen Muhoozi said.

Aligning the training with the current COVID-19 pandemic and other security challenges, the CDF noted that current global disaster challenges will necessitate reinforcing the training scope of the officers on operations other than war.

“Our focus is mainly on war fighting, but we also need to widen our perspective to non-kinetic operations to handle situations like the COVID-19 and other disasters. Nevertheless, in Uganda, so far so good,” he said. He added that response to crisis is one of the core roles of the UPDF which the Force has effectively fulfilled. He called upon other militaries to take the experience as an eye opener to crosscheck their capabilities and preparedness in handling unprecedented situations.

Gen David Muhoozi further observed that the multinational training environment in Kimaka fosters exposure of officers to international military practice and interoperability and has by far contributed in boosting war fighters and staff officers at the operational level. Lt Gen Andrew Gutti thanked Gen David Muhoozi and the Commander in Chief of the UPDF Gen (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the continued guidance and support to the college to perform to expected international standards.

“Our students both International and national have always appreciated the ambiance and environment of the college that creates the required standards for academic excellence. We thank you and Gen YK Museveni for the strategic guidance,” said the Commandant.

The concluded two weeks training exercise involving students from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa, South Sudan and Uganda is part of the year long grade II course leading to the award of a Master’s degree in Defence Studies from Uganda's Makerere University.

Makerere University academic staff as well as senior military trainers from the East African Community Partner States, South Africa and India teach the students. Gen Muhoozi was accompanied by the Commander UPDF Air Force Lt Gen Charles Lutaaya, the Chief of Staff Land Forces Maj Gen Leopold Kyanda, the Chief of Training and Recruitment Brig Gen James Kinalwa, the Chief of Operations Brig Gen Francis Chemonges, the Deputy Chief of Logistics and Engineering Brig Gen Jackson Mulondo among other Senior officers.
The UPDF Commander Land Forces (CLF) Lt Gen Peter Elwelu conducted a three-day working visit to Rwenzori Sub-Region to assess the operations, welfare and combat readiness of the UPDF Mountain Division.

The Mountain Division Commander Brig Gen Moses Kwiriza received the CLF at the Division Headquarters in Muhooti, Kabarole District.

The CLF met Key Commanders and Principle Staff Officers shortly after his arrival.

"I am on routine visit of Formations under Land Forces. It is important that we routinely visit our troops in the field so that we understand the real situation under which they operate. In this way, we are able to assess the welfare and combat readiness of our gallant fighters so that we can support them appropriately," said the CLF.

He added that the good health of soldiers is a commander’s responsibility including containing the current COVID-19 pandemic.

"Troops must follow the Presidential directives and Ministry of Health guidelines to fight against COVID-19. All must maintain social distance, use facemasks and wash hands with soap whenever there is an opportunity to do so. But please don't forget the other enemies such as HIV, malaria and typhoid," he said.

The CLF commended troops for relating with the local community in managing earlier floods that led to destruction of property and loss of lives in the region.

He further stated that it is the duty of the division to manage border security to deter any progress from Allied Democratic Forces as well as the non-military threats such as Ebola.

Brig Gen Moses Kwiriza thanked the CLF for his timely visit which will also increase the morale of troops while the commanders benefit from his wide experience.

Brigades that interacted with the troops include: 111 Brigade Commanded by Lt Col T.D Mawa, 222 Brigade Commanded by Lt Col D. Wandera, and 333 Brigade Commanded by Col Ben Sserwada.

The Mountain Division was formed last year as part of efforts to professionalize UPDF and build its capacity to handle special operations.

The Division is trained and equipped to operate on high and ragged terrain as well as forest and extreme weather conditions.
SUMMARY OF BUSINESS TRANSACTED DURING THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT (JUNE 2019 - JUNE 2020)

LAWS ENACTED
25 Bills were passed into law

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<td>02/06/20</td>
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<td>The National Payment Systems Bill, 2020</td>
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<td>The National Local Content Bill, 2019</td>
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<td>The Tobacco Control [Amendment] Bill, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>18/03/20</td>
<td>The Sugar Bill, 2019 which had been returned to the House by H.E. the President in accordance with Article 91 (3)(B) of the Constitution and Rule 142 of the Rules of Procedure</td>
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<td>05/03/20</td>
<td>The Electoral Commission [Amendment] Bill, 2019</td>
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<td>The Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998 [Amendment] Bill, 2019</td>
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<td>The Anti-Money Laundering [Amendment] Bill, 2019</td>
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<td>26/06/19</td>
<td>The Landlord and Tenant Bill, 2018</td>
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KEY
- Number of Sittings - 116
- Oaths administered - 3
- Bills enacted - 25
- Bills returned - 2
- Resolutions (A) To authorise Government to Borrow - 9
- Resolutions (B) To Grant Leave to Introduce Private Members’ Bills - 10
- Resolutions (C) To pay tribute - 6
- Resolutions (D) Other resolutions - 28
- Ministryal Statements considered - 105
- Statement by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament - 1
- Statements by Members - 5
- Response by the Leader of Opposition to the State of the Nation Address of 4th June 2019 by H.E. the President - 1
- Petitions concluded - 1
- Urgent Questions responded to - 314
- Questions responded to during Prime Minister’s Time - 252
- Questions for Oral Answer responded to - 8
- Committee Reports adopted - 16
- Reports of Parliamentary Delegations abroad - 20
- Report by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament - 1
Marking Fifty-Eight (58) Years Of Uganda’s Independence Amidst Covid 19 Is A Real Test Of The Goals Of Independence

By Maj Gen Henry N Masiko

As Uganda marks her 58th independence anniversary, the globe and indeed Uganda as a country has been experiencing the effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic now in its tenth month since the first outbreak in Wuhan of the people’s republic of China, has had the impact of necessitating countries to slam lockdowns, border closures; grounding of air transport, since most airports were forced to close, and a general slowing down of interstate interactions for fear of importing infections.

To some analysts, the pandemic was akin to the effects of cold war blockades that forced some economies like China of the 1960’s, Democratic Republic of Korea in the recent times, and Apartheid South Africa between the 1960’s to the early 1990’s, to experience a complete isolation and surviving on a self-reliance basis.

For Africa generally, the covid-19 pandemic is one in a series of catastrophes and disasters that have afflicted the continent in a period spanning over five hundred years.

The catastrophes include the plunder of African population into slavery across the Atlantic, to Europe and the Middle East; colonial domination that saw a whole continent fragmented and shared by Europeans; Genocide occasioned by the colonizing Europeans in different parts of the continent including Congo, Namibia, Togo, Tanganyika, Rwanda, Burundi, South Africa just to mention but a few.

The catastrophes have continued through Neo-colonial times and marginalization of the continent has continued to-date. It should be noted however, that despite the several catastrophes, Africans, unlike the indigenous peoples of America, Australia, New Zealand among others, have always withstood the onslaught and have survived being exterminated.

While the Red Indians of America; the Aboriginals of Australia, the Maoris of New Zealand, the Incas and Aztecs of South America did not survive the European colonizers, Africans on the other hand have survived disaster after disaster and sometimes have been aided by some calamities to regain some freedom.

Remarkable among some global catastrophes are the two world wars (Imperialist wars) of 1914-1919 and 1939-1945.

These two wars were a real disaster in terms of loss of human beings but on the other hand, they provided a silver lining that heralded the regaining of independence for the former colonies due to a “New normal” that saw weakening of Europe and the rise of new powers namely; the United States of America in the Western hemisphere and the Union of Socialist Soviet States – USSR in the East.

Both powers agreed on the granting of independence to the colonies, albeit for their own interests, which gave rise to a new phenomenon of Neo-colonialism. Nonetheless, Africans had survived the degrading and dehumanizing colonialism.

It is therefore in the context of the above opportunities presented by the otherwise catastrophic occurrences, that we view the current global disaster of the Covid-19 pandemic as yet another silver lining available to Africa to demonstrate its capacity to overcome the current neo-colonial obstacles and forces of marginalization.

The Commander in Chief and President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has had the occasion to articulate what he deems to be the six(6) Goals of Today’s generation of independence leaders.

These are;
• Ending slave trade
• Ending colonialism and securing independence
• Embracing democracy and safeguarding it
• Working for prosperity of all the people of Africa through socio-economic transformation and modernization.
• Working for strategic security of Africa, through re-integrating Africa and ending the weakness brought by Africa’s fragmented markets and political units.
• Preserving Africa’s heritage, culture and identity, by guarding against the conspiracy of turning Africans into Europeans, Americans, Arabs, Indians and Chinese.
These six (6) goals had been encapsulated in some of the Ten (10) points, of the National Resistance Army/ Movement namely; point No.4 that emphasized guarding and consolidating National independence and most importantly, point No.5 that spelt out the need to “build an independent integrated, self-sustaining National Economy.” Moreover, point No.10 of the same program envisaged that Uganda would pursue a strategy of “building a mixed economy” where both state and private sectors would play complimentary roles, avoiding the mistakes of those who advocated either vulgar capitalism that advocates for the invisible hand of market forces or pure socialism that over burdens the state in running all enterprises; small, medium and large ones, ignoring the factor of private interests in ensuring efficient production.

The correctness of the NRM’s ideology on the above issues of independence and the economy comes vividly to the fore as the country grapples with the effects of Covid-19 pandemic that has brought the globe to a near standstill, leaving each country and peoples to fend for themselves.

Moreover, the Commander-in-chief is on record for having assured the country that Uganda would survive and thrive in some sectors, such as manufacturing to cover up for the new requirements and substituting the imports that could not be accessed on account of the Lockdown.

His Excellency the President demonstrated clarity of leadership by articulating the concept of the “real economy” as opposed to the “artificial economy.”

Therefore, as Uganda marks its 58th Independence anniversary, it is important to recognize that Africa should indeed wake up and take advantage of the glaring opportunities presented by the pandemic that have almost equalized the globe. The resolve of Africans and indeed Ugandans ought to be: -

•Adopting a new mindset of self-reliance that shall be based on embracing modern agro-businesses; industrialization through value addition and innovation; modernization of infrastructure and above all de-colonizing the education system.

•Renewing the drive and zeal for Africa’s economic and political integration.

The pandemic, should teach Africans that it's through working together that Africa will emerge as the super power in the near future.

As the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed that indeed, the peoples’ Army shall always guarantee the preservation of territorial integrity and sovereignty, but is also up to the task of supporting civilian authorities in times of emergencies and natural disasters.

The role played by the peoples’ army in enforcing Anti-Covid safety measures namely; enforcing the ministry of health special operating procedures, distribution of the relief food to the vulnerable people in urban poor sectors, reinforcing the medical teams in both infection surveillance and treating of victims, has clearly shown that the UPDF is of age and remains the vanguard of the struggle to move Africa and Uganda from a third world, backward nation, to the first world, with a transformed and prosperous people.

Happy 58th Independence Anniversary.

Chief Political Commissar - UPDF.
Hon. Adolf Mwesige and UN Special Envoy Discuss Strategies For The Great Lakes Region

The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Hon. Adolf Mwesige met with the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Huang Xia at the Ministry of Defence headquarters in Mbuya, where they discussed various issues pertaining to the UN Strategy for Peace Consolidation, conflict resolution and prevention in the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Huang also briefed the Minister on the ongoing preparations for the upcoming high level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region.

Mr. Huang expressed high appreciation to Uganda towards the contribution of peacekeeping missions supported by the United Nations.

Particularly, he thanked the UPDF leadership for the high level of professionalism exhibited by the forces in peacekeeping missions. He remarked that the Great Lakes Region and Africa at large still face challenges such as the fight against rebel groups like ADF which hinder the efforts by the UPDF troops towards Peacekeeping.

Hon. Adolf Mwesige thanked the Special Envoy for the interactive meeting and said that the UPDF remains steadfast in repulsing any attempts or attacks made by the ADF informing him that the remnants had fled to eastern DRC.

Hon. Mwesige said that under the leadership of the President, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Uganda has and will always embrace the Pan African ideology especially in Peacekeeping and UN Missions whenever called upon. Ideologies such as the ones that birthed AMISOM and now East African Standby Force proving that African problems require home grown African solutions thus the successes of AMISOM in Somalia.

In conclusion, the Minister said that Uganda, alongside military solutions, had applied the Amnesty law that is dedicated to support, rehabilitate and reintergrate rebels who denounce rebellion.

In attendance were the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Rosa Malango, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, Mrs Rosette Byengoma, the Joint Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Joseph Musanyufu, the Defence Spokesperson Brig Gen Flavia Byekwaso.
By Hon Brig Gen Byekwaso Flavia

Violence breeds violence. In all its known forms, it does and does actually manifest itself and the scale to which it shoots, is deplorably detestable. It is a multi-headed poisonous ogre we condemn in the strongest terms we can master.

We are, as many of Ugandans are, alive to the fact that while there is no state sponsored violence we know of, electoral related violence has specifically captured our attention because these highly avoidable incidences are spiking to worrying heights. We have read of the various circumstances under which some Ugandans have lost their lives or sustained bodily injuries in the recently concluded party primaries owing to the simple fact that some people are intolerant and compulsively prone to violent behavior to settle equally simple issues.

A good number of the perpetrators of this growing social problem have been brought to interface with our courts of Law. (I choose to safely remain silent about the names of such persons for now, since the matters in courts of law). I find it worthwhile to remind our readership of the history of the state of Uganda.

In the pre-colonial kingdoms, the stronger militarily, the longer a kingdom lasted. It was survival for the fittest. The weaker kingdoms were overpowered and annexed/assimilated by the stronger ones. Refer to Buganda Kingdom, Bunyoro Kitara, Chwezi kingdoms etc.

At the dawn of colonialism, there were notably religious wars out of which the state of (B)Uganda was in a way conceived. The DNA of Uganda, as it is often joked about, was crafted out of war. Throughout the 68 years of colonial rule, there was unrest as various groups agitated for this or that.

The post-independence Uganda saw the misuse of power by those that held it against the people of Uganda they were meant to protect.

The skirmishes of the despotic military regime of Amin and Obote...
Il are painful to retell. All Ugandans above the age 35 or slightly above understand what I mean. I am better off leaving it at that point lest I open old wounds.

From the time Uganda was liberated from the fangs of brutality meted onto the innocent Ugandans by the regimes between 1966 and 1986, the country has slowly but surely been put on a calculated steady course for internal tranquility which has engendered the development that even the blind can see.

As we all settle to enjoy the peace ushered in by the NRM/A Government, we need to remember that UPDF, under the able leadership of the Commander in Chief, has sanitized the country of fighting heartless insurgents like Lakwena, Kony, ADF among others and also dealt a final blow to internal violent groups such as the pockets of urban violence that had come up in the early 2000s. Such were wiped them completely by various efforts such as “Operation Wembly”.

Unfortunately, a very small cabal section of selfish Ugandans is beginning to abuse the peace and order (democracy) the country enjoys by introducing a very wanton form of disorder – electoral violence.

It beats any reasonable person’s understanding why after ending all military combats, winning the battle over endemics like Ebola, pandemics like AIDS and now Covid-19, the country should see this kind of violence. Why would some people hate peace!!

Reports reaching our desk are to the sad effect that many players in the various levels of elective politics have resorted to some sort of retrogressive, violent behavior. They appear to have the conviction that they either emerge from their political ambitions victorious or everyone else should share in their loss in the quickest but very costly way by fanning violence.

War is such a terrible engagement that any serious country must do all it can within its power to avoid. It is usually the extreme last resort. It is costly in terms of resources including human resource, development and growth. Destructive as it may be, when it must be, the army has no choice but to fight and the UPDF has won accolades at winning wars/battles within and outside Uganda. Ugandans must remember and appreciate the price the country pays when it gets distracted from the course of development.

The relevant department is studying the levels of compliance of all officers and men especially the ADC’s to the various politicians to whom they were assigned. We did emphasize the role of such personal security aides to politicians. The UPDF shall ably wipe out any such further involvement of its men in political triviality. We are a professional and apolitical army force. Our commitment and mandate is a peaceful Uganda.

We will all do well to appreciate that while we asked the army (all other security organs have done the same) to steer clear of situations that might stain their reputation, especially with electoral violence at party levels; we are not affording the lay politicians lee way to indulge/instigate any manner of violence.

Political contenders should learn to lose honorably, concede defeat and try another time; the enviable spirit of sportsman-ship. It is often said politics is a game, of which there will emerge both a winner and loser. We can never have a situation where every contender comes out a winner. That would be anarchy; madness. Uganda is a democratic country that holds elections every five years. Losers have another time, another chance.

The army and (all the other security organs) cannot afford to play the bystander role and look on as irresponsible self-seekers drag the country in confusion and carnage it has just extracted itself from, at a very high cost. The forces have an unwavering standing invitation, by their constitutional duty, training and rehearsed roles to ensure the country is internally and on the outer side of its border, peaceful.

It is the conduct and ill intentions of such people that suck in and trap the army into the violence as a tranquilizer. Such persons who by their careless deeds tickle the forces into inevitably coming out to quell such violence turn round to point accusing fingers at how the army/forces are harsh, impatient and merciless to “innocent” citizens they were trained to guard.

How merciful could the army be to, for example the Karamoja prisoners who did not only break out of lawful custody, but also tread on the preserve of the forces, breaking into the armory and running away with guns and rounds of ammunition? This is how some simple minded people are taken advantage of and are tricked into testing the capabilities of the forces especially the UPDF. They unwillingly and unknowingly bring themselves to pay a heavy price, as many such haters of Uganda have, in the past.

We continue to warn basing on our Constitutional mandate specifically under Article 208 & 209 and section 7 of The UPDF Act, 2005; any and all persons who expect to make political or any other form of capital by planting seeds of violence in any part of the country, you will be rubbing the army the wrong side. It shall, as sure as night follows day, come for you. The time is up for careless conduct that puts the country at unnecessary risk.

The Writer is the Defence Spokesperson

NATIONAL NEWS
On the occasion of the 58th independence anniversary, The Secretary General of the NRM, Rt Hon Justin Kasule Lumumba and the National Secretariat congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda/ National Chairperson of the NRM H. E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and all Ugandans upon achieving another milestone on the Independence of Uganda.

For the last 34 years, the NRM has led Uganda through Socio-economic progress in areas such as service delivery, road infrastructure, Rural Electrification, Security and Stability, democracy, Pan Africanism, Patriotism, Health, Universal Education among others. As a Pro-people party, we pledge to remain committed and dedicated to serve the needs of all Ugandans.

On behalf of the National Resistance Movement, I seize this opportunity to congratulate the President on guiding us through this COVID-19 pandemic. I appeal to all Ugandans to embrace the guidance of His Excellency and the Ministry of Health SOPs. Every life matters. Stay safe.
T

he LORD of Hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so will it be; as I have purposed, so will it stand”. Isaiah 14:24.

In his book, “The richest Man Who ever Lived”, multimillionaire Steven K Scott gives what he called ‘The Happiness Secret’: A joyful heart is good medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones. Proverbs 17:22. He goes on to say that nearly 3000 years ago, King Solomon wrote what medical researchers have only recently discovered, that being truly happy produces wonderful health benefits.

Our country, like several others in an electioneering season, for example, Tanzania and USA, when one tunes in to any electronic media house, it is politics on air. When you listen to many of the guests, you would think Uganda is ending or rising from the dead with the coming elections. In addition to lambasting the current government, the amount of bitterness expressed, especially on social media reveal unhappy hearts.

Whatever the rhetoric, what matters, is whether our leaders have been diligent in serving our county or our political parties. Again the book of proverbs says “Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work is pure and whether be it right” Proverbs 20:11. It is important to start with divine guidance whether one is seeking office or heading to lobby are mainly those who do not work. Ultimately, everyone should know that its only God that does the work.

Admiral Quashie enlightens us on the soldier. He asserts; “A soldier should at all times take pride in his own professional performance; each person’s merit should speak for him or her. Otherwise you will end up putting square pegs in round holes which will affect the whole system. The people who should at all times take pride in his own professional performance; each person’s merit should speak for him or her. Otherwise you will end up putting square pegs in round holes which will affect the whole system. The people who lobby are mainly those who do not work. Ultimately, everyone should know that its only God that promotes.”

An honest leader never claims all the success on his own account; rather he/she recognizes, appreciates and rewards the contributions of others. “When the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:28). An honest leader searches for various new opportunities for the wellbeing of his people or organization. He/she explains values and goals honestly, involves people in the decision-making and implementation processes of those set values and goals.

Honesty is involved in the two commandments. “You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.” (Exodus 20: 15-16). “Lies will get any man into trouble, but honesty is its own defence” (Proverbs 12:13). Several political actors have been heard, telling lies about their opponents and then promising heaven on earth. Suffice to say that we need honest leaders, who will work for the common good and not self aggrandisement, and this should be based on performance where ever one has been.

Reminding ourselves of our country’s motto, we wonder why tribal venom raises its ugly head especially in social media. Jesus ordered us to love one another just as He had loved us, (John 14:27). Then one may ask, how different from those that betrayed Christ as is written in Acts 4:27- 29: “27 For this is indeed the very city where Herod and Pontius Pilate conspired with the Gentiles and the people of Israel against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed. 28They carried out what Your hand and purpose had decided beforehand would happen. 29And now, Lord, consider their threats, and enable Your servants to speak Your word with complete boldness”.

This is why I find the words of Prof Yemi Osinbanjo (Vice President of Nigeria on 23/6/17) instructive. “The rise of ethnic chauvinism rode on the wings of several agitations. The narrative of most agitations
Most ethnic agitations are centred around getting a larger share of the national cake or most favoured placement in the food chain, because they were essentially elite claims: the vast majority of the populations of the ethnic groups that win some concessions or the other never really benefit.”

Prof. Osibanjo goes on to lament; “Appointments in the public service are no longer judged on merit. The question is how many are from my own ethnic group. A terrible affliction, when you consider that what we are looking for are men and women of integrity and talent to run our economy and create a future for our children”. Thus merit has been sacrificed at the altar of sectarianism, what a shame!

Whatever the rhetoric, what matters, is whether our leaders have been diligent in serving our county or our political parties.

We have of recent witnessed the escalation such agitations frequently couched in deliberately intemperate and provocative language. The reckless deployment of hate speech and unashamedly expressions of prejudice and hate is a destructive evil in our politics. There have been efforts and use of threats calculated to create fear and uncertainty in the population.

The problem with hate – filled sectarian speeches is that they tap into some of the basest human instincts that lead to irrational suspicions, fear, anger, hatred and ultimately mindless violence. People that have lived together as neighbours, friends and even intermarried, suddenly begin to see each other as arch enemies!

As I conclude this missive, let’s share the words of our Lord Jesus; “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness. “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees Hypocrites!

For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed. Then you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would never have joined them in killing the prophets.’ “But in saying that, you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead and finish what your ancestors started.” Matthew 23:27-32.

Jesus condemned the Pharisees and religious leaders for outwardly appearing upright and holy but inwardly remaining full of corruption and greed. Living our Christianity merely as a show for others is like washing only the outside of a cup. When we are clean on the inside, our cleanliness on the outside won’t be a sham.

A hypocrite is one who uses the coating of public virtue to cover the rot of private vice. So bad is hypocrisy that while we hate it in others, we are often blind to it in ourselves. Check yourself: Do you want people to think better of you than what you really are? Are you living a double standards life? Do you spend more time and attention on the external appearances than on inner spirituality? To cure hypocrisy we have to admit this malady and continually bring it to Jesus our great physician.

VOTE WISELY, BEING IS A TRANSITION.
The importance of a generation’s ability to identify and pursue their Historical Mission and why this is critical to the struggle of consolidating National Independence and Sovereignty.

In recent speeches the Leader of the Revolution, President Gen Yoweri Museveni, has reminded Ugandans about their Historical Mission. Some responses, however, indicate inadequate understanding of the concept of a Historical Mission. Since the subject is critical to Sustainable National Independence (SNI), it is therefore important to share perspectives about it.

A Historical Mission is nothing but the role (Lubimbi) which History allots a given generation(s); to accomplish or to betray, as challenged by the pan African revolutionary, Amilcar Cabral.

From a Political Economy point of analysis, a phenomenon is historical if it is necessary or an essential outcome of a process playing out per the laws that determine the development of society.

Therefore, to understand whether a circumstance is historical, one has to be conversant with the Laws. Suffice to simplify say that, a Historical Mission is that which one pursues today and revolutionary actors of later generations are thankful that ones' efforts were a positive contribution to obtaining a historical process.

For our situation, a Historical Mission is one whose pursuit will enable this and future generations to live a prosperous life in a more independent and sovereign Uganda. Pursuing a historical Mission is to do certain historically necessary activities for which History absolves the actors. Implicitly then, pursuit of a Historical Mission is not a one person's affair but a social effort. It is a protracted effort that calls for the mobilization of all progressive sections of the broad masses.

This is why it is best accomplished in a framework of broad-based politics. This explains why, even into multiparty politics, the progressive forces still insist on running a quasi broad-based government, the better to exploit the skill set and strength of marching together. Since the pursuit for a Historical Mission is a mass affair it does not target individual, but rotten anti-people social forces.

That is why the revolution easily welcomes repentant elements from the adversary camp. The struggle for our Historical Mission therefore, and as a matter of historical necessity, targets to defeat the negative social forces, especially those that work to degrade national independence and sovereignty. This requires mass vigilance and concerted action of progressive patriotic forces. Pursuit of a Historical Mission is a matter of death or survival of a people.

Different historical epochs thrust different challenges, and hence Mission, to given generations. Revolutionary fighter, Amilcar Cabral, guided that it was essential for each generation to identify its Historical Mission, “out of relative obscurity”. Meaning that a generation has to scientifically delve into the fog of social contradictions to correctly ally themselves with the principle (progressive) one as well as chose a correct Course of Action (CoA).

Ability to identify a Historical Mission is important because some cadre can work against it while professing to be pursuing it.

Aim of Historical Mission. The aim of our Historical Mission, therefore, is to defend Uganda’s Sovereignty from seizure by anti-people predatory Social Forces. The negative forces target the Sources and Instruments of National Power; especially the Economic and the Military ones. They do so, mainly, by conducting negative efforts on many fronts to sabotage or hinder the full development of own Productive Forces.

Their aim is to keep victim countries economically dependent, hence weak and exploitable. Which is what neo-colonialism is about. The Historical Mission, therefore, has the supreme aim of rescuing Uganda and Africa from the neo-colonial yoke.

To achieve this, several historical essential efforts are underway. The human resource contribution is the most critical to the success of this effort. First, a Historical Mission is not a one-person-effort. It is pursued and achieved by conscious mass action thanks to objective conditions.

Thus, the understanding that it is the masseses who make History. However,“...the idea of historical necessity does not in the least undermine the role of an individual in history”- Amilcar Cabral. It also does“...not preclude the people from respecting the contribution of an outstanding individual” –Xiaoping.
Evidently, the primacy of objective conditions notwithstanding, revolutionary practice acknowledges the necessary role of selfless patriotic individuals, and the required organizational frameworks. That is the more reason why we should jealously treasure the leaders of the African revolution. Given recurrent adversary hostilities, there is need to groom more cadre, to shoulder the tasks ahead.

At every stage of the struggle for a Historical Mission, there are certain historically essential and necessary tasks, the pursuit of which inevitably and ultimately accomplishes a Historical Mission. President Museveni has done a sterling effort of distilling them into the following Four Principles:

a. Democracy.
b. Patriotism.
c. Pan Africanism.

The four are best comprehended, not as isolated components, but as an interconnected and interdependent lot. Democratic processes are, for instance, the mechanism which enables mass generation and tapping of ideas. It guarantees popular participation in governance, including the pursuit and defence of the Historical Mission. Democratic practice is also an awesome mobilizer and enabler for all the other principles.

It enables an orderly evolution, emergency and placement of leaders for the revolution. Patriotism and Pan Africanism are related. They define the joint all-of-the-people spirit and action necessary to guarantee our strategic security and survival. They support and are themselves fulfilled in the realization of Social-Economic transformation.

End State of Historical Mission. This should result in enhanced and sustainable Human Security, because it will be backed by a secure state that guarantees Sustainable National Independence and Sovereignty. Above all else, it is the prize that will guarantee the survival and the dignity of the Black people and their culture.

Black People’s woes are partly because some predecessors betrayed their Historical Mission.

Modus Operandi. Some of our predecessors betrayed their Historical Mission. In spite of fore warnings from Seers (including Nyakairimaka Muzoora of Uganda and MugowaKibiro of Kenya), they never rose en masse to secure the State, and thus lost National Independence and Sovereignty. We have seen that our generation’s Lubimbi (role) are the implementation of The Four Principles mentioned above. The way they are addressed matters. For instance the Four Principles require ideological and other super-structural mechanisms to execute them. Also, a Historical Mission requires maximum unity of effort of all sections of society. Success also requires a minimum program to maximize unity.

Unity presupposes some denial of self-interest for the common good: selflessness. Self-seekers, are a bane (nabbe, in Luganda) of unity. Selflessness is a supreme characteristic of a revolutionary and patriotic spirit.

“A person’s ability may be great or small, but if s/he has this spirit (of absolute selflessness), s/he is already noble-minded and pure, a person of moral integrity and above vulgar interests, a person who is of value to the people”. – Mao Zedong.

Such a selfless person has no qualms teaming-up with fellow patriots to pursue a Historical Mission. It is the essence of the broad-based politics of inclusiveness: to maximize synergies in a whole of the society approach.

A minimum program mobilizes the good and helps isolate the negative without undermining the forward movement and tempo of revolution. Since it emphasizes unity, it is national in character and essentially anti sectarian. The inclusion of the broad sections of society requires a democratic framework and revolutionary methods of work to facilitate popular participation and a flow of constructive ideas.

This also helps to generate and sustain zeal and vigilance against local traitors and foreign sabotage. As expected, reactionary forces work against unity and progress. Efforts to develop the country’s productive forces, as outlined in Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan III (NDP III), are geared at achieving Social Economic Transformation. This includes building a national capitalist base that can relatively flex muscles globally.

It should also transform peasantry into commercial agricultural production. There is need, though, for a more ambitious effort to align the NDPs to leverage the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The enemies of the Ugandan revolution, and their local agents naturally work to defeat this.

Revolutionary Discipline. There are many ways people respond to a calling to fulfill a Historical Mission. We begin with the negative forces. These use many subtle ways, covertly and overtly, to sabotage the fulfillment of a Historical Mission. Because of their evil agenda, they never correct their ways even when appropriately guided because they pursue selfish, as opposed to patriotic, agenda.

Then there are patriots whose erroneous approach can also cause problems. Given that they are patriotic, they are not selfish and have a revolutionary attitude to correcting them. Lastly, the patriotic forces who are in the thick of it, doing the correct thing, right. They do not only pursue the correct line at every
stage of the struggle but have a revolutionary attitude toward serving ordinary folks.

Mistakes of African leaders of yore have unfortunately not been instructive to most of their descendants, hence the need to continue the conversation on our Historical Mission, especially in a season when we discuss consolidating National Independence.

The Celebrations are, thus, opportune timing for a refresher on what a Historical Mission is, and how it relates with Sovereignty. More so, given that Independence Celebrations are an implicit denouncement of those of our predecessors who, since five centuries ago, did not do what they should have done and truth was not found in them.

Five Centuries ago, and a century ago, was time for the African of that time to unite and fight (remember one of Gen Museveni's favourite song: "kinokyekiseerafftulinaokulwaana", but they did not rise up the occasion even when African Seers (prophets) foretold the coming of foreigners who would massacre whole ethnic groups into extinction, depopulate huge swathes of the continent in a macabre plot/agenda that would leave Africa vulnerable to eventual colonization. The humble reason for this refresher is to further rekindle our guard against the pitfalls along the revolutionary path so that we can do better than our predecessors.

Pitfalls during struggle. While revolutionary forward movement is ultimately unstoppable, it can be temporarily derailed or reversed by the mistakes of individuals. Some leaders fail to identify their Historical Mission. This is at times is due to a range of selfish reasons, call it lack of patriotism. For to be patriotic is to be selfless, and vice versa. Patriots are not bapakasi. Patriots readily pay the ultimate sacrifice for their country, while bapakasi easily free when their country calls. Such desert from the pursuit of their Historical Mission. As Mzee LMuseveni often observes: “They leave undone that which they should do and there is no truth in them.” A few others fail due to excessive greed for material wealth. They without shame betray the Mission.

The State, Independence and Sovereignty. We conclude with a look at one of the topical forms of sabotage against African people’s pursuit of their Historical Mission. The threat is hidden under the cover of a sinister global crusade which alleges to fight for Human Security. The reality, however, is the adversary uses Human Security as cover, under which he sprung to aggress and degrade the State Security of victim countries. Proponents enforce the fallacy that Human Security should come before State Security. While the primacy of Human Security over State Security is indisputable, nevertheless the latter should come first because it is the guarantor of the former.

There is a dialectic interconnection between Human Security, the State, National Independence and Sovereignty. The key feature of National Independence is Sovereignty, or the power of the People to determine their History. It is this Power which the People entrust (cede) to the State, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995. The State thus acts as a trustee, thanks to the concept of Social Contract. The State exercises the same power to fulfill and defend the people’s Will, which is about fulfilling the people’s Historical Mission.

The Constitutional provisions however imply that Human Security is impossible under Natural Law (Aristotle and Aquinas). The Constitution is thus a vote of confidence in Social Contract and the necessity of the State. The State is the guarantor of the resultant joint Sovereignty.

Note that the ultimate motive of popular Will is to preserve and perpetuate that same Will (call it Sovereignty). Security of sovereignty is thus an integral part, the ultimate Aim, of a people’s Historical Mission. If the People lose their Independence, sovereignty also goes. Then all else is lost — including Human Security. However, the struggle for the fulfillment of all these is visible as that of Social Economic transformation.

Finally: We should continue to build a stronger State to guarantee Human Security and consolidate National Independence. We do so by struggling harder to enable, and to realize, the Four Principles championed by our Commander-in-Chief of the UPDF Gen Yoweri Museveni. When we do this, we are heroically pursuing our Historical Mission.
Connecting Aspirations

TATA Uganda Limited, Plot 52 Lugogo Bypass Kampala

The Management and Staff of Tata Uganda Limited congratulate
His Excellency Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,
President of the Republic of Uganda and the entire population upon celebrating

58th Anniversary of Independence

Long Live Uganda
To win a war against any aggression or enemy of any kind in modern history, one has to have effective communication machinery. For any government leaning entity like the Army or police, communication must be timely, balanced and factual devoid of spinning yet not flouting operation security. We have, however, also witnessed other attributes in communication of hostile and negative forces across the world that can only be termed as “propaganda”. Such communications influence the narrative and shape opinions of the intended audiences.

For purposes of better comprehension, by effective communication I mean the transfer of ideas whether orally, written or expressional where the meaning of the subject matter is understood in the same way and spirit in which the conveyor wanted to it sent. Therefore effective communication can only take place when a message has been not only transmitted and received, but also understood.

Ugandans must be proud that the leadership of this country led by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the indefatigable Minister of Health Hon Dr. Ruth Acheng and her team did a great job not only to communicate but communicate effectively. It was not by chance that the president has addressed the nation so frequently than ever before; I believe it was a deliberate move to effectively pass on the information to Ugandans as well as understand it.

This was as well augmented by other line ministries, security forces and critical agencies like immigrations. Despite the effort, I am quick to add that, a great deal of the fear surrounding the raise in numbers of COVID 19 infections is being fueled by widespread misinformation and complacency by the general public.

We live in a world of interesting parallels where we have access to more information than any previous generation, but at the same time we’re plagued by “fake news”, compromises and misinformation. This same phenomenon has hence opened up a front with effective communication hitherto fronted by the frontline fighters against COVID 19. It is this entanglement that has provoked me to interrogate and do introspection on whether effective communication has been attained in this fight.

Separating truth from outright falsehoods has been a daunting task, especially in the era of social media, and what at one time World Health Organization (WHO) termed as world’s first “infodemic” or “an overabundance of information, some accurate and some not, that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it”. Indeed the current surge I believe is contributed by this new “virus” which in the end produced complacency.

In Uganda now, corona virus is a reality. This is sparking fears that COVID-19 could overwhelm the already overstretched public health systems. Thank God, the initial aggressive control and prevention mechanisms have brought us this far. The same used narrative has to be supported by effective communication to avoid some doubting Thomas’s being reluctant to take any preparations.

At this moment, as communicators we need to intensify effective crisis communication until we regain our curve flattening once more. Any attempts to relax in communication can lead to an irreparable disaster.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Security forces guided by the Ministry of ICT and National guidance formed the National Strategic Communications Team (NSCT) where the writer is a member.

The team has since effectively communicated including taking our services upcountry to mobilize the people against the pandemic. I vividly saw and felt how difficult during an “infodemic” it is to fight the epidemic. The idea was using facts against rumors, and rumors being forced to marry facts. At this time I believed that effective communication was becoming increasingly critical in the fight.

Much as we have communicated our lungs out, it is at this time that Health experts and governments need to position themselves as trustworthy sources of information to the public, who need to understand the situation, be aware of the precautions they can take, and stay calm.

The President, NSCT and the Ministry of Health press briefings are a good example of effective communication”

The President, NSCT and the
Ministry of Health efforts to maintain a constant stream of information through the regular press briefings has been a model example of how effective communication can be used to fight national wide disease outbreaks. Since the outbreak of HIV and AIDS in Uganda in the early 80’s, this is the second time Ugandans have witnessed their leaders and the health body massively deploying its communication machinery to keep the country updated on this global health event. As a result, this has helped to manage real and potential public health emergencies. We have seen hospitals helped to acquire logistics, travelling regulated, curfews instituted and security enhanced. Like it was during HIV/AIDS outbreak, leaders at different levels should as well use communication specialists to engage with communities, raise awareness about COVID 19, and provide vital information on prevention of transmission. Any attempts to stop or underestimate communication will leave the country devastated by this epidemic. Uganda must hype effective communication by even creating Social Mobilization Networks which will play a key role in eliminating the epidemic in the country. This can be mostly young men and women who form the biggest part of our population to speak with their peers, parents and relatives about the importance of following the preventive measures like; rightly wearing masks, avoiding torching the soft parts, often sanitizing or washing hands with soap or and keeping social distance. These social mobilizes will complement other communication initiatives, including billboards now that the lockdown has been eased. Continued advertisements in print and broadcast media should not be put aside until we eventually realize a sharp drop in the number of COVID-19 infections and transmissions in high risk areas.

By world records, Uganda is at the top with other three African countries that have controlled the spread of the pandemic. We need not to lose the battle and “break the port at the door step”. Our leaders have and continue to communicate effectively. The country now needs to focus on community engagements to manage the outbreak. It is true that COVID 19 preventive measures have increasingly become a thing of urban centers that are also slowly following their rural counter parts leading to a spike in urban areas like Kampala. By going into communities and speaking with them through trusted media and community leaders, sharing factual information and taking time to allay fears while remaining open and honest, we can build trust and use this in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

To continue building trust we need to take control of the narrative as the outbreak continue to spread and recognizing that what is communicated is just as important as how it is communicated. As communicators, we need to show empathy and care while communicating. Effective communication can be a real game changer. As we always say “ALLUTA CONTINUA” "It is not over until it is over".

The writer is the Deputy Defence Spokesperson
By Col Dr John Lusiba

By the time I penned this article Uganda’s statistics were reading 1,223 confirmed cases, 1,102 recoveries and 05 deaths. Botswana had 804 confirmed cases, 63 recoveries and 02 deaths. Brazil on the other hand had 2.92 million cases, 2.05 recoveries and 98,644 deaths.

These are crude figures; they don’t take into account proportions tested and indeed the total populations of these countries, but they will try to shine a light on the strategies employed in dealing with the COVID19 pandemic and I promise not to delve into many more figures especially since it’s not my best subject.

A doctor friend in Malawi told me that they have their asymptomatic and mild COVID19 cases treated at home. This is similar in Kenya, South Africa, Europe and the United States. In these countries the numbers of cases have overwhelmed the health care system.

In Brazil it was largely business as usual with no lock down and little attention to the WHO guidelines of social distancing and other COVID19 preventive strategies. Botswana admits all their positive COVIS 19 patients whether symptomatic or not.

In Uganda, as luck would have it, and I am not talking about chance (luck is when preparation meets opportunity) the virus took its time before coming to Africa and indeed Uganda since most of our East African neighbors had confirmed cases as Uganda was still waiting for her index case. But as we continued waiting for the inevitable, lots of planning, strategies and trainings were on going in anticipation.

This is when we witnessed some bold steps like closing down schools at all levels that host a cool 15 million students! It sent mixed signals, caused a lot of inconvenience given that it was to be implemented within just 72 hours.

This closure was on the 18th March and on the 21st March the first confirmed COVID19 case of a 36yr old male businessman from UAE was announced having been tested at the airport upon his return.

The lockdown was soon to be total allowing only the essential workers and essential services like medical, security and the food industry to continue working but also under the most stringent of guidelines.

There was more anxiety and uncertainty especially for the informal sector, hotels, tourism and casual workers whose livelihood depends on daily earnings but this was to be taken as a war-like situation where we would all prepare for just basic survival, there was no luxury.

It was an extra ordinary situation that called for extraordinary interventions. There was no guarantee that we had an equal chance of survival or even loss of lives like the developed world. The virus was already claiming lives in droves in China and the West, and indeed it was hypothesized that Africa would pay the highest price in terms of lives given our lower GDPs and all these indices that determine development, of which the health care systems are part and parcel.

Knowing our strengths and weaknesses, it was going to be the public health interventions, the surveillance, contact tracing and IPC (Infection prevention and control) that would cast the biggest net. It was never the ventilators and critical care debate that had taken root in the developed world that would impact on care and survival in our setting.

We were not going to afford critical care at a very large scale, but also for the COVID19 pandemic, it was not going to be just your money but who is willing to sell their life saving equipment when they do not have enough. I will not over emphasize the fact that chances of walking out of an ICU (intensive care unit) with critical COVID19 were very dismal as well.

As Uganda our best bet was on stopping the spread of this imported disease. And being landlocked it was
going to be the airports and border points; I still wonder why the world was surprised by this discovery especially for the truck drivers. And indeed the quarantine centers were strengthened letting out only those that are negative.

The frontline quickly shifted to the border points and truck drivers; having taken care of those from the airports either in quarantine, treatment or discharged after meeting the discharge criteria.

These truck drivers were essential workers and much needed in sustaining our basic needs domestic and economic livelihoods. Testing and following these truck drivers greatly limited the chances of community spread.

For us in the case management pillar we would then receive everyone who tested positive for COVID19 symptomatic or not, just like Botswana. Some COVID19 positive patients (or clients at this rate) were even seen dancing, riding on ward trolleys and playing cards while on the wards, and some people quickly questioned the rationale of keeping healthy looking people on wards to carry away bed space, consume resources including the personal protective equipment (PPE) just to keep these patients around. Obviously some had symptoms and a survey we conducted indeed showed that 44% of patients in Mulago and Entebbe hospitals (the hospitals that carried the largest volumes of COVID19 patients) were actually asymptomatic.

We only needed to look harder for these symptoms and signs which we would manage aggressively, manage the comorbid conditions in some of these patients to ensure full recovery and on our part it paid off handsomely.

By keeping the asymptomatic patients (or read clients), those with mild symptoms and indeed the severe cases (the fewest in the spectrum); we indeed achieved and scored highly in terms of secondary prevention of spread of COVID19 to the population.

We limited what the epidemiologists would call the “K” and “R” factors of epidemic propagation in a pandemic of infectious nature like this one.

The K-factor is a measure of dispersion, how wide does this disease go in a population given a positive case in the community; while the R-factor is a measure of the reproducibility of the disease in the population from a single infected person.

Therefore by admitting everyone we greatly limited community spread, reduced the burden on the hospitals (from the would be many cases from community spread) and case management and it indeed allowed the case management teams to concentrate on manageable numbers as well as getting involved in research to get a better understanding of the short and long term effects of this novel corona virus in our setting.

It is obviously very premature to speculate on why we in Uganda and the region have had milder cases but as a Country the reasons for a very low mortality rate are among others the manageable number of patients we have received in our COVID19 treatment centers. And thanks to all the measures mentioned above and the preventive strategies put in place.

For a country to swing into action very promptly on all fronts to trap and limit the devastating effects of this novel virus; to commit and mobilize resources to save the population from the worst of the pandemic is very exemplary.

As UPDF through its constitutional mandate (Article 209 (b) that allows us to support civil authority in times of calamities, disasters and emergencies), the institution got involved in all the pillars of epidemic control and management. Right from policy and ministerial level down to the hygienists who disinfect surfaces, wards and spaces that patients and staff occupy in hospitals and offices.

We are involved in surveillance, contact tracing, management of quarantine centers, trainings, case management and research in this COVID 19 pandemic. Currently most of the Port health facilities at the border points are supervised and reinforced by UPDF medics who ensure the testing facilities run on 24hour basis. UPDF in addition have the enormous task of enforcing the public health directives, lock down and curfew together with sister security agencies in the fight against the pandemic and therefore are part of the good story so far posted statistically as Uganda’s fight against COVID19.

The lockdown was to slow down and study the trajectory and effects of this novel Corona virus on our population, to be more prepared to fight. We did achieve this and currently the total lockdown is no more, there is some freedom of movement, most businesses are open, transport, and health facilities are up with strict public health guidelines.

Generally most activities of daily living are up and about. There are obviously some casualties in this war against the novel corona virus. The tourism and entertainment industries are most notable.

But we would rather have casualties who have an opportunity to treat and recover from these injuries in a war than those who would never live to tell the story.

The calculated unlocking of services and economic livelihoods is good to avoid undoing the good achievements in this collective and unifying fight against COVID19.

We obviously have a very long list of people to thank as individuals, teams, institutions and government leadership all the way to the top. You will quickly talk of the medical, security, line ministries and the different task forces, the different scientific committees that engage on a daily basis to guide and ensure we cautiously go about our day to day lives, the Inter Agencies Task force (impacts on security and livelihoods) private sector and the business community that have contributed immensely in terms of time, resources among others to ensure the pandemic is manageable in the Ugandan setting.
We shall not forget the weekly briefings from the national task forces and indeed the Presidential weekly (sometime bi-weekly) to ensure the lowest person understands that we are in an unusual situation; we are under attack by a virus that has affected all aspects of our fabric and not just in Uganda but the whole world.

That this is the time to do the little things that would collectively amount to a huge impact as a country. That if I only observed social distancing, hand and cough hygiene I would go a very long way in preventing the spread of this very disruptive virus.

This consensus was achieved by consistent and persistent engagements and for the first time in a very long time the country was all facing in one direction and aiming to defeat this corona virus.

The deliberate planning, strategy and constant engagement of all stake holders was some piece of exemplary leadership and we give it to the government and the leadership at the top. And I will say again, when preparation meets opportunity, like the case of Uganda the results will be there for all to see.

Aluta Continua.
The writer is a Specialist Physician & Cardiology Fellow

COVID19 CASE MANAGEMENT
(UPDF & MULAGO NRH)
Board, Management and Staff of National Housing and Construction Company Ltd take this opportunity to wish His Excellency the President of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and the entire people of Uganda a happy 58th Independence Commemoration.

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"Every soldier must know, before he goes into battle, how the little battle he is going to fight fits into the larger picture, and how the success of his fighting will influence the battle as a whole." Bernard Law Montgomery.

On 1st September 2015, gallant UPDF Officers and Men died with one’s boots on as they courageously fought off an attack by the Al-Shabaab terror outfit on an AMISOM Base in Janaale in what is now known as the Battle of Janaale.

Carrying out duty to the nation and mankind, their loyalty and sense of duty in the hail of bullets was unquestionable. I imagine they were warriors who trained all their lives to be in the toughest and most brutal of conditions.

I felt the courage from beneath the National flag-draped caskets as they slowly rolled down the chartered airplane and put into the ambulances as they await the final military traditions for the combatants lost in the war.

As their warriors are lowered into their final resting places, I hear them sing loudly in unison as they re-echo the Warriors’ Creed:

“I will always place the mission first
I will never accept defeat
I will never quit
I will never leave a fallen comrade!”

Nelson Mandela remarked;

“When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace.”

There are no truer words to describe the gallant officers and men who paid the ultimate price at the altar of duty, honour and country that can be considered to have done their duty to mankind. John 15:13 affirms this that there is no greater manifestation of love than a person that lays down his life for the sake of his friends.

Gen Douglas MacArthur remarked;

“Only the dead have seen the end of war.” To our fallen comrades, you have gone before us but you have left behind the fight against terrorism.

This continues till peace is the universal language that reigns in the world. What will keep us soldiering is the fact that; ‘as one star falls, many more will rise’ and will resoundingly march towards the victory of righteousness with memories of your brave, courageous and heroic actions.

“Si vis pacem, para bellum” is a Latin adage translated as “if you want peace, prepare for war.”

As soldiers, we don’t like war but we cherish peace and abhor anything that seeks to threaten and disrupt peace.

We will go to any length to preserve this peace. Re-echoing the words of Gen Douglas MacArthur, ‘the soldier above all prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.’

When encountered with violence, we fight with a spirit and conviction to win and make the enemy submit to our will.

“We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made.” These are the words of James A. Garfield.

You executed your duty selflessly to the best of your ability and you were marched home as heroes. You gave your best and as God gave you light to see that duty, you can Rest in Peace.

With valour and honor, you did this; neither for praise and glorification but for the ones you called brothers and sisters – the Spirit of Pan-Africanism. You committed yourselves to defending Uganda and the lifestyles that we enjoy.

You sacrificed so as others may continue to live and enjoy the fruits of your sacrifice. When pressed against the thicket of the battlefield, you never gave up and ferociously fought with the determination of achieving victory at all costs.

Re-phrasing the words from the movie Rules of Engagement we may never know how many birthdays and Christmas seasons you missed while rotting in jungles or deserts while we enjoy this life.

As your souls continue to rest in peace, we say Thank You for Your Service.
The Management and Staff of Cable Corporation Limited congratulate H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and the entire population upon celebrating 58th Anniversary of Independence.

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By Paddy D Kayondo

In the past two decades there has been a marked increase in the involvement of military forces carrying out development activities that have traditionally been outside the military sphere.

This trend has been particularly evident in third world countries, where the need for social development is most pressing.

Many questions have been asked regarding the military participation in national development and need to maintain a balance in the composition of the military so that it can adequately perform assigned stabilization and reconstruction tasks.

Fortunately, in the current era of globalization and the emergence of liberal democracy, issues of human development are highest in the agenda of most countries especially the third world young democracies and all efforts is required towards the realization of social development, and our military forces can’t be left out in this great quest.

The main questions that linger in the minds of leaders and strategic planners are however; whether the military is a priority to economic development, if it is more prudent to allocate more resources to social projects rather than to the military?, what role does the military play in national development and what is the role of the military in the maintenance of national security?

While the military is expected to wade off external threats, can we comfortably maintain a military that has an expensive budget against other social needs?

What is more viable is it the safety and the security of the citizenry against crime or is it an external military invasion? These questions have come to the fore in the thinking of policymakers and planners in determining the allocation of the meager resources amongst enormous needs.

We are witnesses to constant debates on the floor of parliament in Uganda regarding the security budget and the involvement of the military personnel in legislation and in other sectors of the economy.

That can only signify the fact that many are not appreciative of the role the military play in social development of this nation and need for collective support and appreciation.

In conceptualizing the role of the military in national development, we need to look at the military from the prism of the national security, that include more than just external or internal military threats and requires the military to change its doctrine of analyzing threats and coming up with new strategies to engage the emanating new and complicated societal threats at different fronts that may not require hard power but soft power and civil-military relations/cooperation.

Consequently, modern armies no longer operate in the security-belligerency dimensions and there are a number of areas where the military can make an effective contribution to national development, and enable population to reach self-sufficiency within the foreseeable future.

When we talk about development we mean the process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components, and the purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources of the environment.

Development is visible and useful, not necessarily immediately, and includes an aspect of quality change and the creation of conditions for a continuation of that change.
While national development is the total effect of all citizens, forces and addition to stock of physical, human resources, knowledge and skill. ‘National Development’ is very broad and comprehensive; it includes all aspects of the development of a nation namely, political, social, economic etc. It is a dynamic and revolutionary development of the society. According to UN Decade report," National development is growth plus change in turn is social, cultural as well as economic and qualitative as well as quantitative.”

Whereas Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. Social development means investing in people. It requires the removal of barriers so that all citizens can journey toward their dreams with confidence and dignity. It is about refusing to accept that people who live in poverty will always be poor. It is about helping people so they can move forward on their path to self-sufficiency.

Social Development focuses on the need to “put people first” in development processes. Social Development promotes social inclusion of the poor and vulnerable by empowering people, building cohesive and resilient societies, and making institutions accessible and accountable to citizens. With these terms, blocking our military from effectively participating in spheres that ensure achievement of the above, is not only an abuse to their rights but a disservice to the very nation they swore to defend and protect against all enemies known and imaginary, foreign and internal, we stifle their potential and deny the country a very useful resource, that is very effective in task execution.

The starting point therefore is for the citizen appreciating that national security also involves the political, economic, societal and environmental, and encompasses the following: the security of human collectivities which is affected by factors in five major sectors, military, political, economic, societal and environmental; while political security concerns the organizational stability of states, systems of government and ideologies that give them legitimacy, the economic security concerns access to the resources, finance and markets necessary to sustain acceptable levels of welfare and state power and Society security that concerns the sustainability, within acceptable conditions for the evolution, of traditional patterns of language, culture and religious and national identity and custom; as environmental security concerns the maintenance of the local and planetary biosphere as the essential support system concerns and which all other human enterprises depend.

These sectors do not operate in isolation from each other. Each defines a focal point within the security problematique, and a way of ordering priorities and they all sum up sustainable national security.

Since all these sectors coexist symbiotically, it will be extremely suicidal to attempt to exclude military engagement in the planning, implementation and execution of the same.

We actually need to induce the military to participate in social programs arising from the fact that often the problems which exist among their own soldiers may originate in the problem of society. Thus, it may be wise therefore for them to assist in dealing with social problems before they become a serious impediment to combat effectiveness.

The failure by the society to understand that the military has always been used for civil socioeconomic wellbeing is a weakness in the civil-military relations. This perspective of the civil-military relations is an aspect of national security policy, it addresses the concern of who controls the military and for whose purpose it is established. It is there for the work of the military leadership through their CIMIC activities to promote this cardinal role and seek for civil support in fulfilling this mandate.

In terms of governance, the main goal for the military is to create an environment conducive to stable governance, the need to establish a secure environment, ensure the survival of the population and maintain a minimum level of economic activity in the country and this will definitely require...
military units participating in public service tasks during the emergency phase of the operation until such time that NGO, community based organizations and communities can stand on their own and in so doing the military is contributing to the social development of the nation.

In the coming years, our country continues to deepen industrialization, modernization, and international integration; the task of national construction and Defence faces both great opportunities and challenges. In order to join hands with the people to fulfill successfully the two strategic task in the new era, the military is required to not only to focus on improving its integrated quality and combat power, but continue to carry out well the task of production and economic development, making more contributions to socio-economic development and strengthening national capabilities and power.

The UPDF for example through its commercial arm the National Enterprises corporation (NEC) has been involved in the production of mineral water (Uzima water), Simi mobile phones (Namanve), Katonga model farm, dairy farming, agricultural products, fertilizers, provision of irrigation services, cement, medicines, arms factory in Nakasongola is contributing immensely to the economic development of Uganda, also through the financial arm, the WAZALENDONATIONAL NEWSits providing jobs and ensuring financial independence of the forces.

The engineering brigade is partnering with Kira Motors in manufacturing of Kayola and Kira motor-vehicles, it is also into construction of classrooms, hospitals, railways repair and other engineering works, this saves the country a lot of money and also provides citizens with employment.

Other areas that the military can contribute is the education and training, it plays the part of raising the levels of education among the country’s population, as this should lead to further development in the economic, social, and political fields, thus military plays an educative role both towards those in its ranks and towards civilians. It is also true that in a number of developing nations the military has significantly raised the standard of education among considerable section of the population without a clearly formulated educative program.

This is so because the conscript must necessarily receive some degree of training in verbal and technical skills in order to fill military posts competently.

Thus, after they are released from the army after their period of national service, not only have they had their general educational level raised, many of them have also become qualified to perform highly skilled and semi-skilled civilian jobs.

Thus, the educative role of the military towards the civilian population may take the form of training and applying to teach in schools under control of either the military or civilian authorities, another area that military is participating is through attaching of military personnel to communities to act as advisors an coordinators for educational and developmental work.

The military can also participate in the educational field by providing assistance in the construction of school building, the UPDF engineering brigade has effectively and efficiently constructed and completed classroom blocks and contributed to education sector in the country, through provision of teachers and establishment of school facilities that are used by both military families and civilians.

Another important area where our military has contributed is in health and hygiene sector, military forces worldwide have been used to deal with crisis situations such as floods, landslides, hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, fires and epidemics which affect a great section of the civilian population, they provide manned transport, communication equipment, excavation equipment and man power at short notice, and because their training equipped them to deal with similar situations in the military context.

One of the areas where our military personnel have proved their skills and usefulness is in the area of health and medicine they have worn accolades in that regard wherever they have been deployed within or on foreign missions.

During the doctor crisis in Uganda, our military medics came in handy to deal with the situation. As we speak now, a total of more than 200 military health workers have been deployed alongside the ministry of health in dealing with the COVID-19 epidemic in the different parts of the country. A number of military health facilities have their doors open to the civilian population who are seeking Medicare.

In the field of sports, UPDF is representing well, and several of our officers and men are involved in sporting activities at regional, continental and international level and have brought home a number of trophies and raised our flag high at international scene.

Therefore, the military cannot be wished away when it comes to their contribution in social transformation and national development and can only be appreciated and supported by all of us and encourage them to continue not only protecting our borders but engaging in all other five core spheres of national security as we have already highlighted.

The writer is an educationist and political analyst.
Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), congratulates H.E. Y.K. Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, the NRM government, the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) and the Citizens of Uganda, upon celebrating 58 years of independence.

The visionary leadership of H.E the President and the UPDF as steward of peace and stability has prepared the country to work towards modernization.

Human capital and appropriate technology are recognized as cornerstones for industrialization, UIRI has been instrumental in rendering Uganda with technical skills capacity for product and process development, technology transfer and diffusion as well as incubation of industry. Most recently the institute established the Machining, Manufacturing, and Industrial Skills Development Centre (MMISDC) at the Kampala Industrial Business Park in Namanve. The facility that was commissioned by H.E President Y.K Museveni on 15th January 2020, will engage in manufacturing of metallic and wood products, implements, and machine tools, as well as providing platforms for apprenticeship for technicians and engineers. Robotics, mechatronics, automation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are part of the practical training repertoire.

Over the years, UIRI has had an exceptional relationship with the UPDF in which its Executive Director Prof. Charles Kwesiga has played an integral role as the Vice Chairman of the Board for National Enterprises Corporation (NEC) and Member, Board of Control of the Senior Command and Staff College Kimaka (SCSC). The Institute has also supported 10 barracks through skills development under the UPDF Spouse Desk, whereby officers getting into retirement and their spouses have been trained in income generating activities such as production of laundry and cosmetic products.

The institute continues to enhance its collaboration with the UPDF by hosting delegations on elaboration ours at the Nakawa and Namanve campuses, to inspire them into entrepreneur and technology development. Most recently, the institute has hosted the Chief of Defense Force, General David Muhozi, the Board of NEC and senior staff of Luwero Industries, Officers and students of the SCSC-Kimaka and visiting delegations of military officers from Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya. We anticipate that in the near future the MMISDC will collaborate with the UPDF to enhance the work that is being done at the UPDF Luwero industries.

As our country moves towards embracing the fourth Industrial Revolution and meeting the industrialization targets envisaged in the Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan (NDPIII), UIRI is committed to supporting the government’s drive for industrialization through innovative product development, technology development, transfer and diffusion, analytical laboratory services, business incubation and skills development.

UIRI has supported 10 barracks through skills development under the UPDF Spouse Desk, whereby officers getting into retirement and their spouses have been trained in income generating activities such as production of laundry and cosmetic products.
The Deputy Commander Land Forces Maj Gen Sam Kavuma launched the retraining of Local Defence Unit (LDU) Personnel starting with those in Lubaga Battalion. The launch happened at Kakiri Barracks where all the personnel of the 10 Battalions of the LDUs operating in Kampala Metropolitan Policing (KMP) Area underwent weeks of the refresher course.

Maj Gen Kavuma hailed the LDUs for reversing the undesirable security situation that had prevailed in KMP such as robberies, kidnaps and economic sabotage on factories, among others.

"Records show that the LDUs have done great work in KMP. In the first six months alone, over 05 riffles have been recovered by the force, 02 pistols, 04 toy pistols, a number of walkie talkies, several rounds of ammunitions of different calibre and other assortment of military stores. These could have been used to gravely destabilize the security of the people in KMP," he said.

He added that 04 cars and over 15 stolen motorcycles, together with several household and office items were also recovered by the intelligence guided patrols of the LDUs in KMP in the last one year.

To maintain this positive trend achieved, the General said that when a battalion of the LDUs are under refresher training, the rest will continue patrolling," he added.

He noted that much as there are significant achievements registered, in all societies there are usually a few people who fall short of the required standards. "Nevertheless, over 99% of the LDUs are doing a great job. The few who fell short of the operational standards have been charged in the court as per the laws of Uganda."

He told the trainees, “The army you joined a year or months ago has got a history. The NRA/UPDF journey is very long and full of obstacles but we have been successful not by accident but because of our pro-people ideology. It is important that we remind ourselves of this important journey and what helped us reach this far."

He counselled the militants to watch each other’s back and ensure none strays away from the right NRA historical journey of symbiosis with the people. He added that discipline has been the first gear in close to the 40 years’ drive of the NRA/UPDF journey. “In order to stay with us you must observe conscious discipline. There is no short cut,” he remarked.

The D/CLF urged the trainees to take the training seriously so as to enhance their professional journey in line with the acceptable ideology of the NRA/UPDF.

Maj Gen Kavuma stressed that all special operations are backed by the mission training and so the current training is a routine in UPDF. “This training was overdue but we first had to respond to an emergency situation of COVID-19,” he said.

The training was conducted by the UPDF and Uganda Police Force instructors. The training program included political education, civil policing, Law and the role of media in military operations, among others. Maj Gen Sam Kawaga the Commander of the Infantry Division and other Senior Officers attended the opening ceremony.
The Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces has established structures to respond to the flood situation in Bundibugyo and Kasese Districts. These include; airlift support services on call, search and rescue, and a unit for relocation established on ground to respond to the emergency.

UPDF contingent from the 222 Mountain Infantry Brigade under the command of Lt Col Denis Wanyama is deployed to help in the relocation and assisting of the affected communities.

The Uganda Peoples’ Defence Air Forces is also on standby to render airlift services. On May 07, 2020, the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Air Forces airlifted the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, Hon Musa Ecweru from Kololo Airstrip to Kasese District to enable him coordinate Government efforts in response to the ravaging floods in the area.

The floods also affected the general infrastructure and essential service provision in the affected districts. Roads and bridges were destroyed as well as electricity distribution services such as at Kasese, Kilembe mine and Tronder hydro power plants were gravely affected. Some Primary schools were also affected.

The UPDF is working within its core constitutional functions stipulated in Article 209 to render support during the emergency. The UPDF remains a people’s Force, committee to working with and for the people of Uganda under all situations.

The UPDF remains a Peoples’ Force, committed to working with and for the people of Uganda under all situations.
Arab Contractors is a subsidiary of THE ARAB CONTRACTORS (OSMAN AHMED OSMAN & CO.) which is a Public Sector Company fully owned by the Egyptian Government and with its Head Office in Cairo - Egypt and Branch Offices in over Twenty Eight (28) Countries; with reference to the above subject we hereby introduce ourselves to you and express our interest to work with you in the Construction of any projects that may arise in future.

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C. MANAGEMENT AND MANPOWER CAPABILITIES
As already mentioned, Arab Contractors is a Public Sector Company fully owned by the Egyptian Government. The Company however operates as a financially autonomous entity.
The Company is headed by a team of highly qualified and experienced appointed Directors, a list of whom is attached hereto.
The Company employs over 70,000 specialists, highly qualified and experienced senior staff of whom about 6,000 are Engineers.

D. AREAS OF OPERATION/SPECIALIZATION
We are specialists in construction of Public and Cultural Buildings, Commercial, Industrial, Sports, Educational, Hotels, Administration, Residential, Mosques/Churches, Hospitals, Monuments etc.
The transport connected works include, roads and highways, bridges, fly over, tunnels and underground metro, airports, harbours, railways, ship building and repairs.
Also undertake water and sanitation projects, sewerage treatment plants, electrical and mechanical works, thermal power stations, etc.

E. EQUIPMENTS:
Arab Contractors has enough equipment, plant and machinery necessary to do any construction of any nature and size.

F. WORKSHOPS:
Arab Contractors. Has a Yard situated at Kiira Town (Wakiso district)
Containing the Main Store, Mechanical Workshop, and Ready Mix Concrete Facilities as noted below.

G. READY MIX CONCRETE FACILITIES:
Ready Mix Concrete Facilities have been added to the Company's activities for selling to others in addition to cover the Company Project's needs (60m3/h Batching plant, 42m Mobile Concrete Pump and 5No Trans-mixers of 7.5m3 each), with a Laboratory for quality control situated at Kiira Town ( Wakiso district)

H. WORK COMMITMENTS:
We carried out and are still carrying out works of different sizes/amount both at home and overseas. Arab Contractors opened up a subsidiary in Uganda in 1998 and since then they have already completed some projects while others are in progress.
Before the National Resistance Army (NRA) captured power in 1986, the soldiers’ sole role in Uganda was to maintain peace and security. The army stayed idle in the barracks or lingered on streets until an enemy struck and they would be deployed.

However, during the reign of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government, the army has become multi-purpose. Among the many roles which the NRA turned Uganda Peoples' Defense Force (UPDF) has embraced and successfully executed is transforming Agriculture. The idea of the UPDF getting involved in agriculture for wealth creation was a brain child of the Commander-in-Chief of the UPDF Gen Yoweri Museveni. Gen Museveni who founded NRA to dislodge bad governance in Uganda introduced the army to the idea in 2013. Having been frustrated by the challenges in the agricultural sector that was then under the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Gen Museveni decided to involve the army which he believed was loyal to his cause incorruptible.

The UPDF was first deployed to transform agriculture in Luwero and the eastern region. According to a 2016 report titled Transformation of Agriculture for Wealth Creation Involvement of UPDF in NAADS Programme and its Effectiveness, UPDF posted improved results within the first two years.

The success of the army was attributed to the chief coordinator of the project Gen Caleb Akandwanaho a.k.a Salim Saleh. He is commended for launching a partnership between Makerere University College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES), NAADS and UPDF to implement the new NAADS model that is corruption free.

“Our intention was to synergize all the functions, and
now at least they are talking to each other. They listen to us. We know how to navigate through all the complexities,” Gen Saleh said in a recent publication for Tarehe Sita Magazine.

In the first two years, the report says that the UPDF delivered to farmers 412,090 mango seedlings, 27.3 million coffee seedlings, 846,756 orange seedlings, 869.1 tonnes of beans, 4,199,355 tea seedlings and 2,063.5 tonnes of maize among others.

Before UPDF’s involvement, the NAADS had been riddled with corruption and misappropriation of funds, poor distribution of seedlings to farmers, and politicization.

Gen Saleh asserts that before Gen Museveni deployed soldiers to run the program, he realized that he had spent one trillion shilling in 10 years and yet there was nothing visible in terms of corresponding increased production.

“NAADS concentrated more on consumption, not production. It was about seminars, trainings and consultancies. We have reversed that by going for more inputs and giving people organized abilities and collaborations,” he remarked.

Gen Saleh added that he had found it easy to work with the army because the ex-military people implementing the project listen to and take his orders.

One of the challenges the operation has faced according to Gen Saleh is bureaucracy and delivery of inadequate farm inputs. He observed that soldiers make assessments and submit proposals demanding specific farm inputs but some technical staff at the NAADS Secretariat supply less of something that has crippled the program.

Despite that Gen Saleh now wants Ugandans to tap into the achievements of Operation Wealth Creation to embrace the Agro-industrialization for local economic development.

He has been backed by Gen Museveni who usually moves around the country encouraging Ugandans to embrace the achievements of Operation Wealth Creation.
Over the years, the public service of Uganda has been instrumental in the development process through various ways ranging from identification of development and reform initiatives to implementation and reporting on those initiatives. As part of the transformation journey for the Public Service, which is stipulated in the Policy Paper on Transformation 2011, Government committed to and established Civil Service College Uganda (CSCU) as one of the key interventions in nurturing a responsible and citizen responsive public service to steer national transformation.

This college is located in Jinja city, an ideal location for training given its learner friendly set up. While officially opening the college premises in November 2014, H.E President Yoweri K. Museveni emphasized that the college was “for civil servants to acquire and wake up to a new ethos that eliminates inefficiencies in service delivery to the public”. Catherine Bitarakwate Musingwire, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service stated that we are all called to create a new public service that has a culture of (positively) impacting on citizens and that it should be citizens first.

In this spirit, the college designs and implements various capacity development programmes to re-orient mindsets, as well as up skill public servants for the enormous task of ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery for national transformation. In all its programmes, which range from performance improvements trainings in various functional areas, to mandatory programmes focusing on Induction of new officers; equipping would be supervisors with Supervisory Skills training, Senior Management Skills training, Strategic Leadership training for institutional Chief Executives and National Leadership Training for Political and appointed leaders, the college emphasizes that participants must develop critical thinking abilities for self and community empowerment, as well as nurture innovative minds, which should contribute to national development and transformation. This is indeed crucial for national independence.

Since its inception in 2014, the college trains 3000 participants on average every year through trainings that are core, tailor made and discretionary. The training programmes are designed to run along the career path of the civil servant right from induction of newly appointed officers, orientation of promoted officers, supervisory skills enhancement, senior and strategic management training, as well as national leadership skills development while also training in retirement planning and management for the officers. There are also many other customized/tailor made training interventions that are established to suit the unique organizational performance challenges facing public sector institutions.

In the recent past, the customized trainings commonly known as tailor made trainings and discretionary trainings have been undertaken with Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Local Governments and about 4,961 officers have undergone capacity enhancement trainings.

In a bid to provide client oriented services, the College does not only train officers on their premises (on site) but also finds them in their respective entities or locations of their choice under what is known as
the “Caravan Approach”. This makes the training even more cost effective as experience has shown reduction in costs of training delivery, and also allows for a wider coverage in terms of numbers of staff that are trained.

Civil Service College Uganda has adopted a tag line “Building a mindset for the 21st Century and beyond” to fit the focus of its trainings which enlist innovation, positive attitude and attachment of value to service in Public trust as compared to service for self gain.

The trainings endeavor to explicitly and continuously demonstrate the value in the principle of “Service above Self”, just like the Rotary Foundation, including appreciation of the cultural affluence and diversity that the country has. It is this kind of attitude and Mindset that produces true independence in the delivery of services to our Citizens!!

In the recent past, the College has been able to develop a new Strategic Plan for CSCU (2019-2024); operationalised its Communication and Marketing Strategy; enhanced outreach through Caravan Trainings, introduced Quarterly Newsletter, operationalised aCSCU Alumni updates database; produced localized learning Videos; revitalized the CSCU Website and is in the final stages of establishing an e-Learning Platform to facilitate execution of on-line training programmes.

Savia Mugwanya the Commissioner for Civil Service College Uganda affirms that within the purview of the Ministry of Public Service, the College will endeavor to exploit the opportunities that are at its disposal, key among these being; partnerships with various entities, the Communication and Marketing Strategy, the Caravan and onsite training approaches as well as the room for innovation.

In the vein of improvement, the College pledges continuous commitment to building capacities for transformative service delivery and ensuring it is the place where a new generation of Civil Servants will be created as noted by one Azad Jaffari, Chief of Administration – ASAN Centers, Azerbaijan, who headed a delegation from Azerbaijan to the Ministry of Public Service and the College in 2019.
The Pearl of Africa holds true “HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE WILD” of abundance, varying in biodiversity, culture and the natural endowments of the people.

Brief History
At Independence in 1962 Uganda National Parks (UNP) inherited responsibility for managing the national parks while the Game Department took responsibility for game reserves and the protection of wildlife outside of protected areas.

However, the country’s turbulent history between 1971 and 1986 did not provide a conducive atmosphere for state conservation policies and institutions to function.

Since political stability returned in 1986, policies remained protectionist and UNP and the Game Department retained cultures that are strongly Para-military. This protectionist stance did not stop criminals from involving themselves in illegal wildlife activities.

The merger of the Uganda National Parks and the Game Department, and the enactment of the Uganda Wildlife Statute, which became an Act in 2000, saw the birth of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA).

The institution was mandated to ensure sustainable management of wildlife resources and supervising wildlife activities in Uganda both within and outside the protected areas. The merger of UNP and the Game Department and other structural reforms were intended to strengthen conservation practice in Uganda.

With over 10 National Parks and 12 Wildlife Reserves, Uganda is one of the few countries on the African continent that are gifted by nature. It is no wonder that the British Prime Minister Sir. Winston Churchill named it the Pearl of Africa in 1908!

I suppose having moved around Africa, he could find no better word to describe Uganda.

Furthermore, Uganda is one of Africa’s most popular birding destinations (with around 1,050 species, 50% of those on the continent and 11% in the world), its 18 primate species and its impressive panoply of outdoor activities, including fishing, mountaineering, rafting, community-based ecotourism, cultural tourism and more.

Below is a sneak preview of Uganda’s 10 National Parks that are well set to be encountered on Uganda Safari.

NATIONAL PARKS AND KEY TREASURES

1. Queen Elizabeth National Park

Located in the southwest about 400 km from Kampala, Queen Elizabeth National Park is Uganda’s second-largest and most popular conservation area. Its 1,978 sq.km were first gazetted in 1952 as Kazunga National Park, but its name was changed two years later in honor of a visit by the British monarch.

The park is a man and biosphere reserve. Its popularity is principally due to its breathtaking biodiversity. Spread across the Albertine Rift Valley, the park offers savanna, acacia woodlands, tropical forests, fertile wetlands and lakes within its borders, providing safe haven to over 600 bird species and 95 mammals, including elephants, hippos, African leopards and 10 species of primates. No wonder the QENP has been recognized by Birding International as an International Birding Area.

Two of the park’s unique wildlife experiences are chimpanzee tracking in the Kyamburara Gorge and sighting the unusual tree-climbing lions, which perch in the giant fig and acacia trees of the Ishasha sector. Other highlights are the two-hour boat ride along the Kazinga Channel; guided walks through the dark Maramagambo Forest; and cultural encounters with local communities, like the salt workers at the Lake Katwe evaporation pans.

2. Murchison Falls National Park

The sprawling 3,840 sq.km of Murchison Falls National Park, found 300-plus kilometers northwest of Kampala, make it Uganda’s largest protected natural area. It is also the oldest, originally established in 1952. Famous as the location of Murchison Falls, the thunderous cataract where the Nile River squeezes through a six-meter gap and then plunges 43 meters—the park is also a magnet for birders and animal lovers.

The 450 species of fowl recorded here include the rare shoebill stork and many endemics, while the 76 mammals include four of the Big Five (all but the rhinoceros, which live in special protected isolation at the Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary).
Although game drives are a customary means of scouting for wildlife here, a special boat cruise on the Nile is a relaxing way to take in the park’s changing landscape. The views of the water’s edge and up to the falls are not to be forgotten, as is the hike from the boat landing to the falls, which are visible from below and above.

3. Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park
Although just 321 sq.km, Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is of crucial importance as home to the world’s largest population of endangered mountain gorillas. With the global population of Mountain gorillas standing at over 1063 in the wild, Bwindi is home to over 500 individuals with the remainder in the Virunga Massif shared by Uganda, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

For an amazing gorilla trekking experience, one can visit any of the 23 habituated gorilla groups in Uganda. Preserved on the edge of the Rift Valley in southwest Uganda, Bwindi was established in 1991 as part of the conservation effort to save the mountain gorillas. Three years later, this island of remnant forest one of Africa’s richest and oldest (dating back about 25,000 years) was recognized by UNESCO as a natural World Heritage Site.

Beyond the gorillas, Bwindi is full of other life. In fact, it is one of the richest ecosystems in Africa, with 120 species of mammals, 350 species of birds (earning it the title of the Best Birding Destination in Africa by Travel Africa magazine), 200 tree species, 310 butterfly species, 88 moth species, 51 reptile species and 27 frogs, geckos and chameleons.

The humans of Bwindi are also notable. The indigenous Batwa people were exiled from their historic lands when the park was created and now reside in an adjacent buffer zone, from which they lead tours that teach visitors about their age-old hunting, hut-building, honey-harvesting, agricultural and trapping practices, as well as sharing traditional music and dance.

Gorilla trekking and the gorilla habituation experience are the most popular activities in Bwindi but visitors can also take part in nature walks, community visits and bird watching. Bwindi along with the Virunga National Park in Congo are the only places where chimpanzees and Mountain Gorillas can be sighted together.

Kibale is especially popular with visitors seeking out its habituated chimpanzees, as well as 12 other primate species. Spend a day with a Uganda Wildlife Authority guide to learn how chimpanzees are habituated and discover other forest inhabitants.

In addition to the chimps, more than 50 other terrestrial mammals and 350-plus species of birds take advantage of their freedom of movement along the important 180-kilometer wildlife corridor, of which the park is a part.

4. Kibale National Park
Two things stand out most about Kibale National Park; it is world-famous endangered chimpanzees and the diversity of its habitats.

A medium-size park running 795 sq.kms Kibale is a rare expanse containing both lowland and montane forests, including the last large tract of pre-montane forest in eastern Africa. Altogether, more than 350 tree species have been registered in the park’s lush and variable woodlands.

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5. Rwenzori Mountains National Park
This is another UNESCO World Heritage in the south-western corner of the country and next to the Virunga National Park in Congo.

Dominated by its famous “Mountains of the Moon” (the source of the Nile), the park is a world-class destination for hiking and mountaineering. Safaris here move through a mixture of ecosystems that include rainforests, alpine meadows, and a wonderland of glacier-carved and lake-filled valleys. These abound with rare montane vegetation and more than 70 mammal species (many of them endangered) and 217 bird species.

Visitors will also find the discovery of Bakonzo culture through village walks to be just as entrancing. A combination of heavy rains, cold weather and sunshine has led to the growth of rare vegetation commonly seen in cold countries.
6. **Kidepo Valley National Park**

The semi-arid valleys and savanna of Uganda’s far north is the setting of Kidepo Valley National Park, the country’s most isolated national park and home to some of Africa’s most stunning wilderness.

The park’s 1,442 sq.kms are divided across two river valleys, the Kidepo and the Narus. In dry season, the water recedes to seasonal oases wetlands and remnant pools near Apoka, in the Narus Valley.

This makes Kidepo perfect for watching the 475 species of birds and 77 mammal species that inhabit the park, including ostriches and cheetahs, via Jeep safaris on dirt roads that crisscross its southern and western reaches.

A cultural visit can also be arranged to visit the Karamojong, Dodoth or the endangered Ik tribe. Other activities in the park include mountain climbing, nature walks and visiting hot springs.

7. **Lake Mburo National Park**

Covering just 370 sq.kms of wetlands and woodlands, Lake Mburo National Park is a short distance off the main highway about 235 kilometers west of Kampala.

Once a controlled hunting area and then a game reserve, it became Uganda’s smallest savanna park in 1983. It is now the protected home of 350 bird species and 69 animal species, including zebras, buffalo, leopards, and hippos.

It is also the only park in Uganda with impalas.

Lake Mburo, around which the national park is wrapped, is part of a 14-lake, 50 km-long wetland system that was declared a Ramsar Wetland in 2006. The wetland system accounts for only about a fifth of the park area, the rest of which is spread over savanna and woodlands.

Some of the most common park pleasures are birding on the lake (one of the best birding spots in Uganda) and in the nearby Rubanga forest.

There are also game drives, guided nature walks to salt licks and cultural experiences with local Banyankore community groups.

8. **Semuliki National Park**

For a taste of Central Africa without leaving Uganda, there’s Semuliki National Park, the country’s newest park, which was confirmed in 1993. Semuliki sits in a wide, flat valley to the west of the Rwenzori Mountains, right along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Geologically, this is the eastern edge of the Congo Basin’s vast and ancient Ituri Forest, which is notable for its biodiversity.

The park is home to 441 known bird species and 53 types of mammals and is one of the few African forests to have survived the last Ice Age. There are also four ethnic groups that live near the park, including the Batwa (formerly known as pygmies).

Semuliki’s 220 sq.kms include a true lowland tropical forest (the only one in East Africa) and savanna grassland, much of it prone to flooding during the wet season.

Visitors can take this in during bird watching and game-viewing drives, and while hiking the 13km Kirumia Trail. They’ll also want to check out the well-known hot springs, such as Sempaya Hot Springs (which run so hot, they can hard boil an egg in 10 minutes) and the Mumbuga spring geyser.

9. **Mgahinga Gorilla National Park**

At a mere 33.7 sq.kms, Mgahinga is Uganda’s smallest national park, pushed up against the international border in the far southwest. While it may be limited in size, it is part of the much larger (and extremely important) Virunga Massif, which spreads for thousands of square kilometers across protected areas in Uganda, the DRC, and Rwanda.

This high-elevation park was established primarily to protect freedom of movement by the area’s endangered, forest-dwelling Mountain Gorillas and Golden Monkeys.

It is also part of the original territory of the indigenous Batwa people.

The park’s dramatic scenery includes the cones of three extinct volcanoes, a dramatic backdrop of the border-hugging Virunga Range, which is known for its rich biodiversity.

The Golden Monkey Trekking in Mgahinga Gorilla National Park Experience
Golden Monkey Trekking begins at 8:00 am local time in the morning with an orientation just like on many other Uganda tours and then after you head to the forest along what is referred to as the Gahinga Trail.

10. Mount Elgon National Park
This national park is a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve found at the border between Kenya and Uganda.

Most of the park is found on the Uganda side of the border. Climbing Mount Elgon (8th highest in Africa) is the main activity in the park but there are several animal species that can be spotted at the foot of the mountain and surrounding areas. The mountain area receives good rains throughout the year and when combined with the fertile soils support the growth of vegetation and forests that provide food for primates, buffaloes and elephants among others.

Nature walks are organized to experience the beautiful scenery, animal and plant life around the park. Visitors who are interested in exploring caves or visiting waterfalls will not be disappointed while visiting Mount Elgon. The famous Sipi Falls are one of the over 50 waterfalls found at the slopes of the mountains. Cultural tours are organized to visit the Bagisu in their coffee farms or to witness their ancient circumcision ceremonies. The other activities arranged within and around the park are bird watching, game viewing, camping, sport fishing, abseiling, cycling or visiting the Matheniko Bokora and Pian Upe Wildlife Reserves.

It is home to a wide variety of climates (influenced by elevation), mammals both big and small and 300-plus bird species.

Visitors to the park look to explore the park's waterfalls, gorges, hot springs within the caldera, explorable caves (which are known for animals stepping in to lick salt from the cave walls) and, especially, the mountain peaks. Activities here include vehicle tours, self-guided walking trails, animal and bird watching and more. The two-hour trail to the top of Mount Elgon's Wagagai Peak is rarely the ultimate goal; as many people carry on to explore the vast caldera.

Even with such beauty that the country and every Ugandan should boast of, it still exists with threats. The threats to animals are both geographic and environmental as a result of climatic changes. Climate change affects the wildlife more than the temperatures; this is because it leads to shifts in the amount of rainfalls, water shortages and catastrophic wildfires and rise in sea level. There are also threats of humans who have encroached on protected areas and displaced animals, and many cases of poaching.

All these have affected the life cycle of wildlife in the national parks, compromising the integrity of the wildlife habitat thus affecting the lives of animals in the parks.

However, the Uganda Wildlife Act 2019, passed by parliament last year, also prescribes heavy penalties for wildlife offenders including life imprisonment for anyone convicted for killing endangered species.

Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) continues to work tirelessly to minimize and eliminate these threats through recruitment, training and deployment of rangers to these different parks to ensure protection of wildlife.

It has been working with different agencies, security bodies to find solutions to the limitless challenges faced by Conservation Areas; UPDF is not excludable in its work, with its most unique art of security assurance including securing or protecting of the national parks.

UPDF also continues to support UWA in terms of training and physical deployment of personnel to national parks.

As we celebrate our 58th Independence Anniversary, under the theme, “Celebrating Uganda's steady progress towards economic takeoff and self sustaining economic growth”, preserving and promoting our hidden treasures as a country will contribute to this, seeing as Tourism contributes 7.7 per cent of the national GDP and 6.7 per cent of total national employment after creating 667,600 jobs.

Uganda earned $1.6b (about Shs5.8 trillion) from tourism in the 2018/2019 financial year, making the sector the country’s leading foreign currency earner for the fifth year in a row.

According to the Annual Tourism Sector Performance Report for Financial Year 2018/2019, the revenue rose from $1.45b (Shs5.3 trillion) in the 2017 financial year.

The report indicates that a number of tourists in 2018 reached 1,505,669, up from 1,402,409 in 2017.

It is imperative that every Ugandan take it upon themselves to protect, preserve and promote our treasures in the wild as we continue to promote our beautiful motherland.

“For God and My Country”

References

The writer is the Commander National Vital Assets and Strategic Installations Security Unit
The COVID-19 Inter-Agency Joint Task Force (IAJTF) led by the UPDF Chief of Staff Land Forces (UPDF COS-LF) Maj Gen Leopold Kyanda carried out spot checks at Entebbe International Airport, Kitoro Market and two quarantine centers to evaluate the effectiveness and welfare of the deployed security teams. The deployments are meant to receive and isolate Ugandan returnees from different countries following a decision by the government to allow them travel back home. The two quarantine areas visited included Lands & Survey centre and K Hotel.

"Whereas our personnel may know what to do, a certain level of supervision is mandatory to ensure all is moving as planned. Important to us is to ensure force protection of our personnel; the troops must be safe, their welfare is our primary concern as leaders," said Maj Gen Kyanda.

He added that no matter the degree of planning for an operation, the operational environment is dynamic and hence some abrupt constraints may arise. "We in leadership positions can best learn of these challenges when we go to the field to have a feel of the real situation that our troops go through," he noted.

According to the IAJTF, the current situation is out of the ordinary and has hence warranted more field inspections; therefore troops guarding quarantine centres should not go home and teams must ensure that personnel receive the important care that they deserve.

Maj Gen Kyanda further said that the task force is also mandated to ensure that field teams are effectively executing their duties as assigned. Field commanders indicated that the security team at the airport is doing a great job. The IAJTF commended them for a job well done.

Maj Gen Kyanda urged returning Ugandans and their relatives to cooperate with the teams implementing the quarantine requirement, in the interest of everyone in the country. He observed that the team is aware that most relatives of the returnees are worried and promised them a better stay at the quarantine centres, urging relatives to wait for two weeks before they can possibly interact with the returnees.

One of the roles of the task force is to assess and advise the strategic leadership on the implementation of COVID-19 related measures. The Inter-Agency Joint Task Force (JTF) was set up by Uganda’s National Security Council at both National and Regional levels to support the Ministry of Health (MOH) in Combating COVID19 epidemic in Uganda.

The JTF is led by the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces’ (UPDF) Deputy Chief of Defence Forces, Lt Gen Wilson Mbasu Mbadi and comprises of Officers from the UPDF, Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Prison Services (UPS), National Joint Intelligence Committee, Immigrations and Customs. Membership has also been extended to National Water and Sewerage Corporation, UMEME and KCCA.
National Drug Authority congratulates His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and the entire population upon celebrating 58 years of Independence.

The Authority is committed to supporting the Uganda Vision 2040 of a healthy and productive population that contributes to social and economic growth, by ensuring that safe, efficacious, and good quality medicines are available to the entire population of Uganda.

*Your Safety is NDA’s Priority, Safe Drugs Save Lives*
Company Commanders GRADUATE

Lt Gen Elwelu(TMT) awards one of the best participants

Commander Land Forces delivers his remarks to graduates
The UPDF Commander Land Forces (CLF), Lt Gen Peter Elwelu presided over the pass out of 93 Company commanders, four of whom were female Officers.

The graduation of the Officers who had completed six months of intensive training on commanding a company strength force was held at Junior Command and Staff College grounds in Gadaffi barrack, Jinja district.

The CLF congratulated the graduates and told them that the course they had just completed bridges their previous and future career progression.

“After company commanders course, you should be able to foresee your future in the military because the course is a critical intermediary course in military career.” Lt Gen Elwelu said.

He added that how well a person grasps the course and the extent to which he or she puts to practice the fighting skills attained in the course will greatly determine how the superiors will identify him or her for senior level progression.

However, the commander noted that the application of military science must be accompanied by good leadership and moral attributes such as honesty, humility, obedience and hard work.

"Once you apply your military science and add on these leadership attributes, you will attain what you are meant to be. You do not need to seek for any favors or soliciting for deployments to reach where you are meant to be," said Land Forces Commander.

He counselled that no matter where someone is placed without the requisite skills and attributes, that person will stagnate.

The CLF observed that soldiering is a calling from God and that there are no short cuts to the top.

"Your service in the Military is not by accident but a calling from God; you were meant to be what you are even before you were born, therefore, served diligently. That is how your seniors made it to where they are, not by shortcuts" he said.

The CLF concluded his remarks with a creation of awareness about COVID-19 virus saying that it’s real and so they as well as their subordinates must follow all the precautionary measures for the good of the nation and themselves.

Lt Gen Elwelu said that the army is a pillar of a country and should the virus affect it, the whole country will be affected and therefore the officers should take caution.

The Chief instructor Lt Col Anech Mubangizi who represented the Commandant said, the training was aimed at providing officers with Command and leadership skills, developing officers in the art of war and providing officers with great understanding of national issues among others.
President Yoweri Museveni Passes Out 4,325 Recruits

The President of the Republic of Uganda and Commander-in-Chief of the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF), H.E General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni passed out 4325 recruits of intake 16/19-20 who successfully completed their basic military training at Recruits Training School (RTS), Kaweweta, Nakaseke District.

The passed out included 636 female soldiers, the largest number ever recorded in a single intake.

In his address, the Commander-in-Chief congratulated the new soldiers upon successfully completing the training and advised them to live responsible lives. “Remember life is very important and your health too. Please don’t spoil your lives with alcohol and umalaya (promiscuity),” said Gen Museveni, adding that with self-discipline, they can go very far in the Army.

The Commander-In-Chief noted that the UPDF is now a professional institution that attracts citizens of various academic qualifications and professions. He was delighted by the quality of education of the new soldiers.

“Among the new soldiers are a number of degree holders; Masters, Bachelor Degree, Diploma, Certificate and other professional certificate holders.

“When we have an educated army, teaching is easy; they can easily learn,” said Gen Museveni. He re-echoed the need to pay scientists higher salaries and promised to make a follow up to that effect.

He emphasized that the country needs scientists to defend the health of the citizens as well as boost development through value addition,
industrial production among other values that can be accrued from well-motivated scientists. The Minister of State for Defence in charge of General Duties, Hon. Col (Rtd) Charles Engola thanked the parents of the new soldiers for entrusting the UPDF with their children for national service. He urged the soldiers to ensure they put their duty first and other things follow.

In his speech, the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), General David Muhoozi told the newly passed-out soldiers to remain loyal, patient and enthusiastically vigilant to defend the country.

He hailed the Commandant and instructors of Kaweweta Recruits Training School (KRTS) for a job well done in producing high quality soldiers within the stipulated timeframe. The CDF thanked the President for his continued guidance and giving direction towards refining the professionalization and capacity building in the UPDF.

He noted that over the years, the UPDF has built capacity to respond to both military and non-military threats. “Asides from ensuring the country’s security, the UPDF has been central in disaster control such as floods, locusts and COVID-19. As we continue developing capacity through training and equipping, we will be able to do more,” said Gen Muhoozi.

The Commandant of KRTS, Brig Gen James Ruheesi, congratulated the graduands upon completing of the Basic Combat Training Course. He noted that 65 trainees could not cope with the training and so fell out of the training. Ruheesi reminded the new soldiers that the training they have undertaken is meant to inculcate in them soldiery qualities and proficiencies necessary for successful military service.

Private Muhimbura Belton emerged best overall student while Private Zirimenya Daniel was the best in the field. Pte Tino Sharifah was the best female student and Pte Mutekanga Joel emerged best in class.

Present at the pass out were the Senior Presidential Advisor on Defence Lt Gen Proscovia Nalweyiso, the Commander Land Forces, Lt Gen Peter Elwelu, the Joint Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Joseph Musanyufu, Commander of Special Forces, Maj. Gen James Birungi, the Chief of Staff Land Forces, Maj Gen Leopold Kyanda, Chief of Staff Air Force, Maj Gen Charles Okidi, 1 Division Commander, Maj Gen Sam Kawagga, Chief of Personnel and Administration, Maj Gen George Igumba, Chief Political Commissar, Maj. Gen Henry Matsiko and other senior UPDF officers and civil leaders from Luwero and the host district, Nakaseke.
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) donated an assortment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies to the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) towards the fight against the COVID-19 global pandemic at the Senior Officers Diagnostic Center in Mbuya.

The Head of Protection Office at the ICRC, Ms. Oriel Gantier, handed over the donation to the UPDF Chief of Medical Service (CMS) Maj Gen Dr Ambrose Musinguzi who represented the Chief of Defence Forces Gen David Muhoozi.

The equipment included detergents, brooms, buckets, gumboots, mops, jerrycans, and sanitizers. Other items were non-medical masks and non-medical gloves.

Ms Gantier said the donation is part of ICRC’s support to UPDF detention facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Within the framework of our visits to UPDF places of detention, the ICRC supports the detaining authorities in their effort to take care of detainees during the COVID-19 pandemic. That is the reason why we are here today at Mbuya Barracks,” said Ms. Gantier.

The UPDF CMS commended the ICRC for its continued concern about the detainees in UPDF detention centers, both in form of material and psychological support. He pledged to put the donated items to their best use in safeguarding detainees from COVID-19 infection.

Present at the function were the Director of Personnel and Administration at the Chieftaincy of Medical Services Hqs Col John Kamanzi, Deputy Director Public Health Lt Col FX Bakehena, Head of Human Rights at the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence Lt Col Bonaventure Neema and Ms. Monalisa Noowe, among other guests.
Ms. Oriel Gantier (C) hands over an assortment of PPE to UPDF in Mbuya
Kawewewa Receives Modern Infrastructure

M/S J2E Investments handed over modern training infrastructure to Kawewewa Recruit Training school (KRTS) in Nakaseke district. It comprises of a dining hall, kitchen, office buildings, parade ground, a water supply system and accommodation facilities. All this happened in three phases.

While commissioning the multipurpose training infrastructure, Mrs. Byengoma thanked the President and Commander In Chief of the UPDF H.E YK Museveni for providing accommodation facilities for the recruits. "I am happy to note that the entire infrastructure is good and will make learning better, studying in grass thatched houses and under trees is now history," noted Byengoma.

She urged the Commandant of the school to make sure that the facilities are maintained well.

The Chief of Defence Forces Gen David Muhoozi remarked that training of troops must be supported with decent training facilities which UPDF is almost achieving.

He thanked the construction team for the commendable works. "The face of Kawewewa has changed from tree classes to built up classrooms, I thank Brig Gen Besigye the Commander Engineers Brigade for overseeing all the works at the various training centers," said Gen Muhoozi.

The Commandant of Kawewewa Recruit Training School Brig Gen James Ruheesi observed that the school has always been in need of such infrastructure and will go a long way to not only provide protection (security to trainees), command and control, comfort but also reduce on the continuous trespass while searching for local building materials.

The UPDF Joint Chief of Staff Lt Gen Joseph Musanyufu, Under Secretary Finance and Administration in the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs Mrs. Edith Buturo, Under Secretary Logistics Mr. Francis Kahirita, UPDF Chief of Training & Recruitment Brig Gen James Kinalwa among other Senior Officers, attended the commissioning ceremony.
Ps MODVA Mrs. Rosette Byengoma officiates grand opening of Kaweweta Recruit Training School
Lt Gen James Mugira lays Project Stone on the New Uzima Factory

The Managing Director National Enterprise Corporation (NEC) Lt Gen James Mugira laid a Project Stone on the new Uzima Factory and inspected progress of the ongoing construction works of a second modern fully automated mineral water production plant at Kakiri, Wakiso District.

NEC Uzima Ltd is one of the subsidiaries of NEC and produces Natural Mineral Water for, among others, the UPDF and general public.

He commended the Construction team for the work well done so far.

The new water factory expected to be commissioned this year will greatly increase the production capacity of UZIMA Natural mineral water.

Lt Gen Mugira was accompanied by his Deputy Maj Gen Moses DdibaSentongo and was received at the factory by the General Manager-NEC Uzima Ltd, Brig Dr. Emmanuel Shillingi.
The Board, Management and Staff of Kinyara Sugar Limited would like to congratulate His Excellency the President of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the People of Uganda upon celebrating the 58th Independence anniversary.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

#StaySafe
The Deputy Chief of Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) of the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) Lt Col Sam Ntambirwe on behalf of the Force handed over assorted food items to the Luwero District Khadi Shiek Mulindwa Ramadhan at the Luwero Muslim District Council Headquarters, Kasana.

Lt Col Ntambirwe, who represented the Chief CIMIC Maj Gen Innocent Oula, said the food items are Zakatalfitr from the UPDF to the Muslim community in the District.

He added that the UPDF believes in sharing with the community. He congratulated the moslems for the successful completion of the Holy month of Ramathan inspite of the challenges of COVID 19.

The food items included Sugar, Rice and cooking oil. Sheikh Mulindwa thanked the UPDF for the donation and said it is a manifestation of the Forces’ pro-people ideology. He added that the food items will be issued to the elderly, orphans, widows and the sick for Eid El-fitr celebrations.

The RDC of Luwero, Namulindwa Phoebe, thanked the Muslim Community in Luwero for adhering to the Anti COVID-19 guidelines during the holy month of Ramathan and urged them to continue observing the regulations even after Ramadhan. She wished the Muslims a happy Eid El-fitir celebrations to the people of Luwero.

The function was attended by among other people the Muslim clerics in the District and the Director of CIMIC under Land Forces, Lt Col Christine Nekesa.
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Forty three (43) senior military officers graduated from the Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC) Kimaka, in Jinja district, having completed a one year long Grade II course. Thirty two (32) of the graduates were Ugandans, with two (02) representatives from each EAC Partner States and one (01) from the Republic of South Africa.

The function was presided over by the Minister of State for Defence in-charge of Veteran Affairs, Hon Christopher Kibanzanga.

Hon Kibanzanga noted that Uganda has attained peace and stability, thanks to the UPDF tireless efforts supported by other security agencies and peace-loving Ugandans. He, however, noted that the country and Africa continue to face new challenges in the ever changing current operational environment, urging granduands to venture into research, continuous reading and further training so as to develop individual and collective diverse competences to handle unique encounters.

“We must continuously train to handle new challenges such as those that require skills other than war, like locusts and COVID-19,” said Hon Kibanzanga.

The Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Gen David Muhoozi appreciated the fact that the graduation was happening under peculiar circumstances of COVID-19 which has given the country a test to display its military capabilities. He said the attainment of Grade II qualification is a milestone in the Officers’ military career and their individual output should reflect the training attained.

“I congratulate you upon the successful completion of Grade II course. You have been trained, be prepared for the tasks ahead to utilize the skills you have acquired,” he added.

The Commandant SCSC-Kimaka Lt Gen Andrew Gutti said that the college has successfully conducted 14 courses since its inception in 2004 and that this was the 15th course. He added that, alongside the Grade II military course, the college also offers Masters in Defence and Security Studies (MDSS) and a Diploma in Strategy and Warfare (DISW), both affiliated to Makerere University and approved by the National Council of Higher Education.

Maj Adnan Kaale from UPDF emerged as the best
overall student, Lt Col SM Kitoni from Kenya Defence Forces was the best international student, Lt Col CT Wobugabe from UPDF was best in Commandant’s research paper and Maj Rogers Kabungo from Rwanda Patriotic Front was best in central lecture hall discussion. While Maj Olive Komutegeki from UPDF emerged best in joint warfare award.

Due to COVID-19 threat, this year’s function was characterised by all attendants wearing face masks with very few General Officers, Defence Attachés from the East African Community Partner States and members of academia being invited. No families or members of the public were invited in order to have room for social distance.

Hon Christopher Kibanzanga awards one of the best student officers
Wazalendo Savings and Credit Cooperative Society Limited referred to as “WSACCO” began as an institutional SACCO for Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs (MODVA) and Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) drawing its membership from UPDF soldiers and civilian employees of Ministry of Defence as principal members.

There was also another category of family members who included spouses and children of the principal members.

Guided by the Vision “to be a strong and self-sustaining SACCO that drives the development of its members”, Wazalendo SACCO Ltd today is the largest SACCO in Uganda with a total membership of 73,100 and share capital of UGX 219 billion, the SACCO has not only worked towards improving her members’ welfare but also the growth of the economy as a whole.

It mobilizes the savings of individual soldiers and lends it, when it is reasonable enough to encourage investment at both micro and macro levels.

While addressing managers of the 19 branches of WSACCO across the country, together with Heads of Departments at the SACCO headquarters in Kiwatule – Kampala, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wazalendo Col Joseph Freddy Onata applauded them upon their resilience, flexibility and selfless efforts in maintaining the high standards of service delivery to its members amidst Covid 19 challenges.

At the onset of the COVID 19 Pandemic, Wazalendo Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (WSACCO) donated ten (10) million shillings to the National Response COVID-19 task force. The donation was received by the Minister for General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut, at the OPM premises in Kampala on behalf of the Rt. Hon Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda.

The Chief Executive Officer encouraged the managers and staff to research endlessly for innovations that can improve service delivery in their sector, all the while working as a team, because that’s the only way they will excel.

The Human Resource Manager Maj Wesley Aine commended the excellent efforts which the Chief Executive Officer and UPDF leadership have put in place to motivate employees through allowances, good working environment and good communication flow which have contributed to the growth and development of the SACCO hence increasing revenue.

By contributing to the welfare of Ugandans, Wazalendo SACCO has given employment opportunities to 173 Ugandans of which 63 are civilians and it’s a demonstration of UPDF being a pro people force.

On 22nd Sept 2020 WSACCO marked its 15th anniversary in its efforts to promote the welfare of Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces and their families hence contributing to the national socio-economic development.

As a means of assessing the socio-economic impact of WSACCO by 2019, 711 WSACCO members were monitored across the country which brings it to a cumulative total of 1,181 members monitored since August 2018.

The numbers have since increased over the last 15 years, from the 30 at inception to the current seventy three thousand one hundred (73,100) as by 31st August 2020, both male and female, and they will continue to grow.
The Board, Director General and staff of Uganda AIDS Commission take this opportunity to wish His Excellency the President of Uganda Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, his cabinet and the entire people of Uganda a happy 58th Independence Commemoration.

Uganda AIDS Commission is a government body mandated to coordinate the multi-sectoral HIV and AIDS response through development of Policies, Plans and guidelines which are used by all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and other partners during implementation of interventions. As we celebrate this Independence which symbolizes the liberation from colonial rule to self-rule, we would like to reiterate the fact that HIV/AIDS is real and still a challenge with the total number of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) estimated at 1.4 million and 53,000 new HIV infections as of December 2019.

However, all hope is not lost. Through scale up of core prevention interventions, HIV/AIDS can be prevented. The core interventions include, Abstinence, Faithfulness and Correct and Consistent Condom use (ABC); Safe Male Circumcision; HIV Counselling and Testing; Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission; HIV Care and Treatment focusing on antiretroviral therapy; and ensuring the empowerment of women to reduce gender inequality. All the above interventions are viable weapons against HIV/AIDS.

Statistics show an increase in HIV infection among the young people (15-24years) particularly young women and girls which is estimated to be 19,000 as of December 2019. This is because many young people initiate sexual activity early in their adolescence and engage in risky behaviors such as alcohol and substance abuse which predisposes them to HIV, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and/or becoming pregnant. In addition, there is low comprehensive knowledge about HIV in this group. There is therefore need to empower the young people who are the next generation with the appropriate tools and skills to adopt safe behaviors, make responsible choices and encourage others to do the same.

A diagnosis of HIV is no longer a death sentence, those infected with HIV are encouraged to start on ARVs and faithfully adhere to treatment as this will help them live full and productive lives. The emergence of COVID-19 in Uganda has greatly affected accessibility to HIV treatment and other services due to the lockdown that affected livelihood including transport and access to income and food. However, as Uganda battles COVID-19, we must not lose sight of the fight against HIV/AIDS. We need to protect women and girls from effects of COVID-19 like increased Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), which makes women, and girls more vulnerable to HIV infections and the widely reported teenage pregnancies throughout the country. Now that funding priorities are shifting to COVID-19, we need to redouble and sustain our efforts on HIV prevention.

Finally, the fight against HIV/AIDS requires a concerted national effort so that we can end AIDS by 2030. As we run the last mile in the response, we call upon government, religious, cultural and all categories of opinion leaders but most importantly ordinary citizens to keep the candle burning by spreading the message of prevention and positive living in this country. Young people need to be in the driver’s seat to end new HIV infections, participating in the design and implementation of HIV prevention, care and treatment programs that respond to the realities of their lives.
COOPERATION VITAL
TO COMBAT COVID-19

By Godfrey Kyemanta

On January 31st 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern that created a new normal. This was done to help poorer countries deal with the Corona virus.

This declaration strengthened WHO’s disease surveillance on countries with relatively weak public health care systems, prepared them to deal with the virus and created global awareness to contain the pandemic, most especially in congested settlements like schools, markets and social clubs.

The Corona virus outbreak has put huge pressure on Uganda’s public, especially because it is happening at a time when Uganda is close to achieving an appreciable level of its Millennium Development Goals. Going forward, how do we ensure that all Ugandans are safe?

While Ugandans pin their hopes on the Ministry of Health guidelines and Presidential directives aimed at containing the spread of the novel pandemic, the international community is closely watching Uganda’s response to the global outbreak before tourism (to visit the mountain guerillas and chimpanzees) can flourish once again.

Arguably, the Ugandan government has taken strong comprehensive strategic measures to treat the virus infected patients and contained the pandemic although the spread of the corona virus still causes eminent fear and panic to most peace-loving Ugandans.

This is being compounded by there being “no known cure” for the corona virus, which has visibly claimed thousands of lives across the globe and affected various interaction mechanisms that spur progress.

The Ugandan government has been praised for communicating daily updates about the pandemic to the public and for adopting a comprehensive multi-sect oral approach to prevent the further spread of the virus.

We have witnessed the involvement of security agencies, diplomats, celebrities, private sector and business people; cooperating with medics to contain the virus. But given the uncertainty over the virus transmission, stepping up international cooperation is the bread and butter.

The onus of finding medical solutions and preventing its spread is not only a stand alone for China, where it originated, but a collective demand for the international community to stand with the medical personnel who skillfully put their own safety at risk and work around the clock treating virus infected patients.

An outbreak of such magnitude, just like the famous Spanish flue, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome that crowned Asia between 2002-2003, the Marburg disease; often acts as an ignition key to test for humanity, collaboration, cooperation and compassion.

Africa, Asia and Europe must work together for constant crisis management

One interesting thing is that we have to praise those who have successfully managed to contain the pandemic, pity those who still have rising numbers of COVID-19 infected patients and promise them that the situation is not yet beyond control. Such outbreaks even bring countries
with enviable medical systems to their knees as more people become vulnerable due to constant liberal policies that propel more exposure to the deadly virus.

I agree with claims that countries with advanced public health care systems should actively prepare strategies of cooperation with WHO and China to contain the epidemic turned pandemic and find a vaccine for the novel COVID-19- we miss prayers, debates and sport. Our COVID-19 recoveries need to catch up with their lost world.

The rising number of cases and multiple side effects of the virus clearly point out that no country can single handedly control the COVID-19 pandemic. This virus inevitably leads to social exclusion because of its pathogenic character and derails the merits of globalization which demands for enhancing channels that propel rapid interactions.

Notwithstanding the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, am constrained to believe that slowly poorer countries will become more dependant since they have smaller levels of technological and economic coverage.

Countries need to collectively find better, faster and cheaper efforts to end the differences in the battle against the novel corona virus, control its spread and find a permanent cure for it.

Africa, Asia and Europe must work together for constant crisis management to reduce the COVID-19 mortality rate and suppress its transmission. Fair competition and equitable distribution of resources amidst the pandemic should be our ultimate goal.

This will inevitably empower our engaged communities to take care of individual concerns.

Uganda without smiles is not the same. Our shared fight by carefully wearing face masks, regularly washing our hands with sanitizer and social distancing will make us win the war against the COVID-19 pandemic.

We must clearly and consistently accelerate science to have a safer world.

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Political legitimacy based on Commercial and Ethnic Prescriptions in Uganda

By Col Charles Kisembo

Nationalism is still a less powerful force in Uganda than tribal loyalties.” Sir Andrew Cohen, 1957

Much has been written about the effects of money and ethnicity in Africa’s politics. In this opinion article, much as I quote some sources on the categories in question, most ideas are mine and based largely on my experience as an independent observer and as participant in most political activities in Uganda.

I strongly say that commercial and ethnic prescriptions, a basis for political legitimacy, are not only features in Uganda’s politics, but thorns in most of Africa’s political landscapes.

Elischer (2013) observes that political parties in Africa are largely organized along ethnic lines, while Crawford (2002) considers ethnicity a key element in Africa’s politics.

The article tends to show that the two categories are not uniformly applied. As this article examines in passing the role of ethnicity on politics in some African countries, more focus will be on how the two categories have played out in Uganda’s politics.

Ethnicity is bandied up in form of social categorization (Crisp & Hewstone, 2007). Not every categorization is bad. The bad side is when political legitimacy is determined on the basis of social categorization.

That tends to show that the natural existence of such categorization is a danger to democracy. In actual sense, the danger is the colonial ideological construct that emanated from it, and the political elite who do not see that the application of western democracy in Africa as is exercised in the west negatively reflect social categorization of the society, since there are no distinct social and economic differentiations in a modern sense along which western democracy thrives.

In Rwanda and Burundi, political activity is viewed along the majority Hutu versus the minority Tutsi. Being majority Hutu does not mean political legitimacy over the minority Tutsi.

The Hutu and Tutsi are not political parties. They are simply an embodiment of the people’s cultures, values and traditions (Deng, 1997).

The question simply to ask is how can these historically determined social categorizations be juxtaposed with Western democratic patterns?

The colonial mistakes were simply ignored by the so-called African elite, who not only lacked experience but also lacked the knowledge to discern the dangers that would follow if politics were run along ethnic prescriptions.

The so called intellectuals have become victims of an erroneous intellectual thought, through the print and electronic media characterizing societies along ethnic lines –the majority Hutu versus the minority Tutsi, the majority Ganda versus other ethnic groups. Since these categorizations do exist in a political environment shaped by western democracy, one can easily see how they continue to shape politics in most African countries.

Since they have been manipulated, they are held culpable for all the political violence and genocide in countries like Kenya and Rwanda, respectively, which took the world by surprise.

In the case of Uganda, where the author of this article has lived, the two categories can be contextualized in Uganda’s politics.

Jorgensen (1981, p.227) observed that the ideology of tribalism was more than a threat to the unity of Uganda. Drawing from the illustrations above, the Ugandan elite are not different from those in the countries above.

The only difference is that in Uganda there was no distinct dominant ethnic group that would take political power along ethnic lines.

Even the biggest Baganda nationality with a population of about 15% of Uganda’s population cannot take power without forging some political alliances with the other ethnic groups.

Interestingly, even where one would think such strong lines of categorization in Uganda are not a political utility, the truth is they do exist.

The existing erroneous intellectual thought continues to distort the image of politics. Museveni’s government and military have not survived the negative categorizations.

The initial efforts by some political leaders like Milton Obote and Ignatius Musazi, who through political alliances and rhetoric, attempted to lift their parties above ethnicity, did not yield much results.

Failure to nurture a positive ideology saw those coming after them retracing the ethnic faults to their advantage.

In the recent years, the political landscape has become more defined by a relationship built on an ethnic and commercial platform.
Both the electorate and the elite pursue mutual undertakings—political support in exchange for financial gains. This makes both the electorate and the elite perpetuators of political corruption.

Taken to another level, when a candidate wins an election, the entire ethnic group from where he comes celebrates the victory of their son or daughter.

“Nationalism is still a less powerful force in Uganda than tribal loyalties.”

Sir Andrew Cohen, 1957

The euphoria behind all this is the financial gain and social influence in prospect. The bigger representation a particular ethnic group or religion enjoys in government agencies and departments, the better for that ethnic group, for that means big influence and resources.

Interestingly, the corrupt also enter political partnerships to protect their shoddy deals. Most politicians, who have gained political power along those lines, tend to focus more on “their people” rather than focusing on the bigger picture.

Normally, the business limitations and rules of engagement tend to limit their freedom of action in terms of deliberations and decision-making.

They cannot independently articulate and pursue policies perceived to contradict the local interests of the business clientele.

The young generation is getting entrapped as well. Many are attracted by the lifestyles of their leaders; hence wanting to live like them though without working.

Most of the informal urban economic groups—market vendors, motorcycle riders, tax operators and the unemployed are becoming an important political lever that cannot be ignored.

In conclusion, ethnic and commercial elements in Africa’s politics generally and Uganda’s in particular, are still dominant features.

They continue to define and shape the country’s political landscape. As long as the intellectual thought process does not change, and ethnic prescriptions remain tools for political legitimacy, the principle of democracy and good governance as articulated in western circles will never be realized.

The young generation needs to understand that their fortunes do not lie in political handouts, and that negative ethnic prescriptions do not build nations.

The writer is the UPDF Acting Chief of Policy and Planning (Ag CPP)
National Independence Demands Individual Responsibility

By Fr. Paulino Mondo (PhD)

What is Politics?
Politics is a Greek terminology meaning ‘affairs of the cities’ skilfully coiled to realize group decisions.

Apart from being a science, politics is an art used by the focused to influence the distribution of resources among those they are guiding. Every human being is by nature political. Something is categorized ‘political’ when it affects progressively the way people live as a group and how they make decisions.

Politics is about making agreements between peoples that are harmoniously put together determine their lifestyle. It is for this purpose that governments are formed. Politics is a process that schemes to fulfill relevant interests.

Today, we Ugandans celebrate fifty eight years of political independence mainly because we have discovered our God given natural resources, favorable climate, resilient citizens and credible political leadership. This is not only a time to celebrate our achievements but also a moment to realize that we had once become nothing and now we are real people.

The duty of politics
One classic answer to this question is about who gets what, when and how. This makes politics a settling contestation over the distribution of material goods. For any politics to stay relevant it must have a clear ideology. Politics influences the distribution of resources, specifies positions and influences culture. Politics is a battle between good and wrong ideas. Our national politics has made sense because of following the ethical code.

Ugandan politics have become so attractive to the extent that no Ugandan dreams of being the odd person outside the arena. What we may need to ask God is that he continues teaching us how to “love one another” John 13:34 for the rest to follow in line.

Independence is integrity
Politics necessarily involves people and their needs. Independence has taught us to focus on ethics of office and ethics of policy. Because of doing our best to respect policies and laws, national disasters have been minimized. As we celebrate fifty eight years of autonomy we need to make sure that our political ethics keep walking the talk.

Those who are in active politics and those aspiring need to master the lesson that “success and long life in politics only happens when we fulfill what we promise” Aristotle. Now that we are a Country and a nation, we shall have no one to blame for our failures apart from ourselves. To live well or to live badly is now our choice.

As we celebrate our national independence, we need to reflect on what we are contributing in order to make our country better. A Country is not a holiday resort but a home where each member is challenged to perform.

Nelson Mandela once said that ‘freedom is not free, everyone has a price to pay to keep it good’. To have a country we call home is a gift from God but also a responsibility. We are all called to continue beautifying our Country.

Independence is good life
Politics is about consensus leadership where citizens appreciate themselves and their country. Genuine politics becomes interesting when it makes sure that government is doing what it has promised to do. Since Independence in 1962 Ugandans have had decent housing, decent, affordable and accessible health care, decent education and freedom of association.

We can confirm that even when we still have a long way to go, we have improved immensely. We have access to education, we can travel freely all over our country, we can communicate and we can afford more than one meal a day.

For the past fifty eight years, Ugandan politics has proved that stiff competition between those who deliver social services and those who simply promise them is possible. We celebrate our Country because it has taught us not only to work hard but to work in a smart way.

Ugandans who have invested in education, industries, service delivery, information technology and agriculture are able to enjoy their profitable returns.

What Ugandans need today is continuous guidance
It is the mission of every citizen to
participate maturely in all forms of relevant development. When citizens engage freely in their national and international developmental policies, the outcome is peace, long life and prosperity.

For this to happen, our government has a mandate of training the citizens to love and respect work, sanity and order. Government is obliged by God to build mutual relationships across the general public instead of emphasizing the past, bad and painful history. Good enough, most Ugandans know who a servant leader is and why we all need to strive to be that servant leader at all levels.

One who loves people will necessarily love the country and love God. Today the game-changer most especially in Ugandan politics is that citizens are influenced and encouraged to stop complaining and start to do something good.

**Ugandan citizens have three duties to perform**

The first is to draw boundaries between different social spheres to avoid social conflict. The second is to defend **individual domestic essential elements** to minimize the dehumanization of members.

The third is to **persuade separate spheres** of society to support the **State** most especially when it comes to **upholding** legitimate functions. Good politics remind citizens that they must honor their promises while maintaining national unity and integrity.

A nation which fears and loves God like Uganda must be the model of common sense that other countries desire to emulate. In a Country where politics is sound; laziness shies away.

**Conclusion**

What is required of us Ugandans is **not promises** but the implementation of a strategically planned political agenda. Ugandans are lucky to be gifted with diverse knowledge, tribes, religion and gender but all converge when it comes to living a good life.

Our political independence needs to guarantee that Uganda and Ugandans are flourishing. Ugandans, the destiny of our countries is in our hands.
The Commander-In-Chief of the UPDF Gen YK Museveni recently made some new promotions and appointments. Our Sub Editor Kamwine Kafureka Kyangungu had a sit down with newly appointed Defence Spokesperson Brig Gen Flavia Byekwaso. Below are the excerpts.

1. Tell us about yourself. Who is Brig Gen Flavia Byekwaso?
Brig Gen Flavia Byekwaso is a daughter of Timothy Byekwaso and Justin Nakaayi who are both deceased. We are four siblings 3 girls and 1 boy.

I am married to Mr. Kyasanku and blessed with a son. Currently I double as a UPDF Member in the tenth Parliament of Uganda and Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs/UPDF Spokesperson.

2. Share with us your Education Background.
I started my schooling in Nakyesanja Primary and later moved to Kibibi Primary school where I sat my P.L.E. For Secondary school, I joined Kako S.S and later St.Kalemba Matthias, Nazigo where I completed both my O&A Levels.

During vacation I joined a Cadre program in Singo. Contrary to what people think, it was not political indoctrination but rather ideological in nature.

It was primarily to inculcate in the youths the spirit of selfless service to the community, emphasized the spirit of oneness and brotherhood of all Ugandans and Africans irrespective of cultural or social background, spirit of patriotism, loyal service to our motherland and instilled discipline in the youth who embraced the program. It was a very good program which I pray could be reinstated.

Out of my A-Level Class, we were only two girls and seven boys who made it to Makerere University where I completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration.

Years Later, I went back to the same University and studied a Masters degree in Public Administration and Management. I also did a Diploma in Transport and Logistics Management from Uganda Management Institute.

3. Share with us your journey of joining the UPDF?
My journey into the military is an interesting one. I saw the advert and did not fully understand what the term Cadet Officer meant. I also did not know or had never personally known anyone in the military for me to have a clue on what it meant to join the military.

I thought I would work alongside the military so it would mean some bit of orientation, similar to the cadre program I attended.

Never did it cross my mind that I was joining the real Military when I went to the recruitment center, which was at Kololo ceremonial grounds. Here, we were taken through vigorous
tests which I passed. We were later transported to Jinja School of Infantry.

4. Tell us about your military training and experience?
I was a young girl, a fresh graduate from Makerere, with all the pomp. Studying from Makerere by then was more prestigious than now because back then, admission was strictly through Government sponsorship, and restricted to 2000 per year. So, you can imagine how special and important I felt.

“Nothing ever truly prepares you for the experience of military training.”
Introduction to the camp was a nightmare. Having arrived in the training schools in the wee hours, my brain was not ready for what was in the offing.

After going through the preliminaries; registration, given military equipments like uniforms, mess tin, water bottles, accommodation items and all necessities, I thought “not so bad” but things slowly begun to change.

Shouts of “shave off your braids” began resounding, instructors towering over us and looking at us with scorn, a clear reminder that our degrees were of no consequence at that moment. The worst was yet to come... “Introduction to Camp.”

This exercise is meant to introduce cadets to all the different points within the barracks, similar to orientation week at any institution of learning. It sounds normal until the military aspect comes in.

It is during this exercise that we are introduced to different military “modes of walking”. Modes such as walk on twos, then fours, frog jumping, walking on bended knees, then crawling faster than a snake, and rolling...“A Real Nightmare”.

By the end, a Cadet cannot be differentiated from a Mad Person, dirty, caked with Mud, filthy, exhausted, and numb all over. That's when it sunk in me what I had gotten myself into. Questions kept running through my mind on whether I was in the right place, wondering what had compelled me to place myself in such a situation. Obviously as a human being, your first instinct is to run; you wonder how you can get out of this.

Despite all this I still nursed a plan to escape inside me, gave one of the instructors Shs 2000 aid my escape but all this would change later.

During this period my colleagues gave me a shoulder to lean on, encouraged each other, and together achieved alot

5. What was your Turning Point?
Looking back, I can really see God's hand in my life guiding me into my destiny as an Officer.

Throughout these hurdles, different questions started running through my head; “If I have stayed for these 7 days, doesn’t this mean I can survive the remaining days? If I leave now, wont all I have already gone through be all for nothing? Flavia, you know you are an orphan, if you fail here, where will you go?”

I kept wondering if the fact that I joined this without any clear picture could have been God's hand in life. Nevertheless, I continued to counsel myself to stay put.

As I was still pondering my next step, my friend, who is now my husband, sent me a care package. Of course, he did not know that it was not allowed, a huge box of many items, as you would send to someone in boarding school. Within that, he included a letter with a line or two.

It read, “Flavia, I know you are always determined to achieve what you want. I wish you well.”

I believe those words were my actual turning point. When someone tells you a virtue about yourself that you don’t know, it becomes a push factor. Now I was encouraged and my drive was to ensure that I live up to those words.

All the feelings of fear, self-pity and doubt ended there. I got up determined to make it and take charge of my life and I have never looked back since.

Finally I was commissioned in September 1997.

6. How many young ladies were you on Training?
We were 7 in number.

7. How did your family react to your joining the Forces?
The idea they had of Forces was of the past bad armies. Their reaction was one of shock, fear, anger and anxiety.

First of all there was still a lot of stereotyping on females joining the forces, it was frowned upon. Then they had also that image of soldiers of past armies who used to kill, rape and loot and highly indisciplined.

They could not for the love of God, understand why I would want to be associated with such a group. I think if my parents were alive then, they could have tried to dissuade me from joining.

However, when they saw me after commissioning, smartly dressed in my uniform, they were excited. Seeing me now, am certain that they are now proud of the fact that their daughter is part of the mighty UPDF.

8. Share with us briefly on Appointments you have held and Military Courses Done.
My first posting was in Presidential Protection Unit (PPU), currently SFC. I served as a detach Commander based at Mt.St.Mary’s S.S Namagunga in 1998.
I also served as ADC to then Vice President, Dr. Specioza Kazibwe. About the same time.

In 2000 I was transferred to Bombo army headquarters where I was appointed Protocol Officer.

Between 2000-2005, I enrolled at Makerere University to do my Masters degree.

I was sent for the Company Commanders Course and the Junior Staff course at Junior Staff College in Jinja.

Thereafter I was appointed the Military Assistant (M.A) to the Assistant Chief of Staff (Late Maj Gen Benon Biraro) and ADC to the Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Muheesi a post I held for a few months because I was selected to go for a UN mission as a military obsever in Sudan for one year between 2007-2008.

On my return I held other appointments; Administrative officer Kabamba, Director Women Affairs and Deputy Commandant Army General Depot in MagaMaga, a post I held for close to a year before I left for Battalion Commanders Course in China.

My next appointment was Principal Staff Officer Logistics at 1Division Kakiri, for 2 years, was transferred to 4Division Gulu in the same capacity for 2 years and in 2014, I moved to Chieftaincy of Medical Services in Bombo as Director Medical Logistics, a post I held until my recent appointment as Defence Spokesperson, a position I am currently holding.

9. Help us understand your work as a UPDF Member of Parliament.

My role is not any different from the cardinal roles of the other Members of Parliament, which are representation, legislation and oversight.

I serve on different committees; Committee on Presidential Affairs, Committee on Government Assurance and Implementation respectively.

10. Since we have a Multi-party system of Governance that includes ruling party, opposition and independents, where do UPDF Parliamentarians belong?

We belong to all groups. We cannot have any political leaning because we are a People’s Army.

When UPDF is fulfilling their mandate of protecting Uganda’s interests at home and abroad, providing a safe and secure environment in which all Ugandan citizens can live and prosper, we don’t segregate any Ugandan whatsoever. This mandate is derived from the Constitution of Republic of Uganda 1995, and that is who we are.

We ensure that as UPDF MPs we stay clear of things that are highly political in nature, contentious and highly partisan, we usually avoid and steer clear of them because we have to maintain our posture as a non partisan force that is national in character.

11. Your Appointment as the First Female DSP of the UPDF caused a lot of excitement, expectations and Joy. Tell us about your reaction.

When I hear people’s best wishes for me in this new appointment and how they feel proud that for the first time, a woman is holding this office, it is really humbling. Many of them, I don’t even know. I didn’t know it would cause such delight and enthusiasm.

The women are saying “this is our time”, my village people from Gomba are saying “yes, our daughter is there”, the media fraternity and the other stakeholders are equally delighted.

It is a mixture of feelings and each group has their own take on this appointment and reasons for celebrating with me.

This brings different expectations, and as the dust settles down, I have to measure up. It is Duty; it is Work and immense responsibility. I am the face of an institution, which by any standard is one of the strongest pillars of the State. It is the vanguard of Uganda’s socio economic transformation. Every word I say directly impacts on the institution. Therefore it is not about the excitement but the work load involved.

At this point, I would like to thank His Excellency the President and the army leadership for bestowing such high level of trust in me.

12. Tell us about your new role.

As Defence Spokesperson, am the mouth piece of the defence ministry I project the image of the institution and bridge the gap between the military and civilians. I assumed the office on 7th July 2020 to date.

13. What do you want to be remembered for?

I want to be remembered as part of the people who carried Uganda on their shoulders. We have the Uganda court of arms on our pips. It is a daily reminder; every time you wear the uniform that you are carrying Uganda on your shoulders. I would especially want to be remembered for keeping afloat the legacy of UPDF as a disciplined and peoples’ army.

14. As a female officer and once a Director of Women Affairs, you are in a unique position to understand the uniformed females in the UPDF. What advice would you give them?

Whenever I get the opportunity to speak to them, I always remind them that one of the cardinal virtues to go far in the military, besides training and length of service is discipline. Discipline in every sense of the word. No matter how well trained you are or who you know, if you are indisciplined, you will always tarry at the back.
Women, not only in the military, should not just expect favors because they are female. Avoid “Kushugulika,” (cutting deals with superiors for better placement).

If we are to make an impact for the generations of girls behind us, we must adopt the culture of hard work. We must be ready to work hard in any appointment we receive, so that it is known that we are equal to the task and up to the challenge.

They should also endeavor to upgrade their academic papers. You must add value to yourself.

I also need to add that they need to find ways of supplementing their salaries by putting in place income generating activities that can earn them some money. Salaries alone have never been adequate. You must have other streams of income, legal and acceptable within our life as military officers, wives and mothers.

15. Generally, forces are a Patriarchal Institution; do you think your abilities are judged any different because you are a woman?

UPDF as an army has a no discrimination policy. However, historically worldwide, there has always been an issue of keeping women at the back and undermining their abilities. Such sentiments are bound to crop up here and there amongst a few.

I believe what makes UPDF unique in this field stems from the foundation of the view of the Commander-in-Chief regarding the capabilities of women.

Right from the NRA struggles, Gen Y.K. Museveni has always recognized the key role women play in nation building.

16. What message would you give to that young lady or girl out there?

Young girls and ladies need to learn to work hard for what they want. They shouldn’t rely on anyone to hand anything to them on a silver platter. By God’s grace when you reach the helm of your career, no one should claim your hard work, by saying that you sacrificed your female dignity to achieve what you have.

You should be able to walk with your head high having no shame at what you had to do to get to where you are. This regime has done a lot in the field of gender equality and is really committed to providing equal opportunities for both boys and girls right from the grassroots.

17. Remembering that moment when you almost gave up at training, and looking at yourself now, how does it feel?

All I can say is I am glad I didn’t give up. I am glad God strengthened me to persevere.

I have come to believe that God designs us and how we are going to move in life. If we can only listen to the voice of God and obey, you will realize that he has a roadmap for each one of us even when it looks hopeless or bleak at that moment, because we don’t see as far as God does.

I didn’t know I would reach this far at this time in my life. I know promotions are the way of the military, but I can’t take it for granted.

I once again take this opportunity to thank the UPDF Leadership for who I am today.

Needless to add, I glorify the Almighty God without whose grace and mercy, any of this would not have been possible.

18. What role has your Family played in your career journey?

I cannot overstate the importance of family and social support in this work we do. As I said earlier, our work requires sacrifice, being away from home most of the time, the harsh conditions we encounter in the operation theatre, you cannot stay sane without the support of our spouses, children, parents, siblings and others.

Personally, my husband and son have been very supportive of my work. My husband always encourages me to love my work and give it my best. At no point, has he ever complained about my tight schedule.

19. Do you think your son is going to walk in your footsteps and join the army?

If he has that idea, he has not shared it. Like most young men his age, his target is to work and make money. At his young age, he has tried his hand at various activities like brick making and farming.

I have encouraged him to always ask God for direction and work hard. God’s design for his life will manifest.

20. Any Final Remarks?

Once again I would like to thank my Commander-in-Chief and the Army leadership for bestowing such trust in me to appoint me to this position. I am truly humbled and I pray God will grant me the grace to live up to their expectations.

It is gratifying as anyone working to look back and see how you have progressed.

I am among the many who can say that a woman can achieve anything they put their mind to. Our sex/gender has never been a weakness, because God does not make mistakes.

We can use our God given intellect, intuition, motherly instincts and apply them in any field to achieve the best.
On 9th June 2020, the country awoke to the sad news of the passing of Maj Gen Kasirye Ggwanga. A day marked as Heroes day in Uganda, took one of its own, known as a hero to many.

Rtd Maj Gen Ggwanga (RIP) was a Ugandan military General in the Uganda People's Defence Forces. He retired in 2018 after receiving his new rank. This was the second time he was retiring from the army. The first was in 2015 but just after three months out of the uniform, he bemoaned the life of a civilian, prompting the President to allow him to return to the army on a five-year contract which he ended prematurely by choosing to retire in 2020.

The late General, in his own words, had a long useful life. He was a Presidential advisor on Buganda Kingdom affairs who loved the kingdom and sought to promote its wellbeing. He was famous for his free speech and being able to stand for the truth, regardless.

He once remarked to a journalist, “I’m just living my life the way I want. I’ve stared at death more times than anyone in the world and to be here still energetic is already a miracle. In fact, I’m soon writing a book about my life and adventures.” Sadly, he did not live to fulfill that desire.

He was born in 1952, in Katakala, Mityana District, to a father who was a hunter and farmer. Kasirye Ggwanga learned both skills and was good at both. He attended Katakala Primary School, Namukozi then he studied at Kibuli Secondary School for his O-Level education. After finishing Senior 4, he joined the Uganda Army in 1972.

Following boot camp and initial training, he was posted to Arua in the West Nile sub-region, as a map reader, serving in logistics and transport in the Uganda People's Defence Forces having served as Officer in-charge of the NRA motor-transport workshop, deputy director of transport, and later became director and a logistics officer of the northern counter insurgency operations based in Gulu district.

Maj Gen Mukasa was sent to Libya for training by Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM) rebels in 1981 and returned in 1982. Later, he joined the National Resistance Army (Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces) under the leadership of H.E Gen (Rtd) Yoweri Museveni in the jungles of Luwero.

His colleagues, family and friends said Maj Gen Mukasa gave UPDF a true image of humility and discipline. Many described him as a selfless man whose generosity and exemplary work ethics touched many lives including educating children from disadvantaged homes.

In the words of the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen David Muhoozi, Maj Gen Eric Mukasa was a Muzanganda (Peace Builder).

Adieu Maj Gen Eric Lumunye Mukasa.
that capacity until 1977. In 1978, he was promoted to the position of artillery officer and the following year, he was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant. In 1978, the Tanzania People’s Defence Force (TPDF) invaded Uganda. In April they captured Kampala and deposed Idi Amin. Kasirye Ggwanga surrendered and was taken to Tanga, Tanzania, as prisoner of war number 17341.

In June 1980, President Godfrey Binaisa negotiated the return of the political prisoners to Uganda. They were first housed at Maluku Prison in Mbale District. Later, they were moved to Kirinya Prison, Jinja District. On 7 October 1981, Kasirye Ggwanga was in the first batch to be released.

Three months after Kasirye Ggwanga’s release, the Uganda Freedom Army (UFA) rebels led by Andrew Kayiira attacked the army barracks at MengoLubiri in Kampala. The government in power at the time, led by Milton Obote of the Uganda People’s Congress (UPC) mistakenly thought that the recently released prisoners (former Idi Amin soldiers) were involved in the attack. Kasirye Ggwanga was placed on the “wanted list”. He went underground. His elder brother, Lieutenant James Kasirye, a military pilot then based at Nakasongola Military Air Base was arrested and tortured, then killed when he refused to identify where his brother Kasirye Ggwanga was hiding.

To avenge the killing of his brother, Kasirye Ggwanga joined the UFA rebels, then about 650 in number. This group operated in the Mawokota and Mubende areas in Buganda. In 1985, he left UFA and joined Gen Yoweri Museveni’s National Resistance Army, which seized power in January 1986. During the drive to capture Kampala, Kasirye Ggwanga commanded a 120mm artillery unit.

Between 1986 and 2005, he served in several roles including as the LC5 chairman for Mubende District and as the director of stores in the UPDF. On 31 January 2005, he was retired from the UPDF at the rank of Brigadier. However, after three months on the outside he came back to the military and asked to be re-instated. The UPDF commander-in-chief allowed him to rejoin on a renewable contract of five years.

In March 2018, Maj Gen Kasirye Ggwanga was promoted from the rank of Brigadier to that of Major General, in a promotions exercise involving 1,384 men and women of the UPDF. He was also officially retired from the UPDF in 2018. After his retirement, he spent most of his time at his farm in Nakisunga, Mukono district which he code named Camp David, after the one of the U.S President. Here, he had two friends; the very one he has kept all his entire life—His dogs and the gun.

At Camp David, he enjoyed a quiet retirement life, punctuated with hunting adventures, exercise, merry making with his visitors. He was very outspoken in his fight to preserve and conserve the environment. He is well remembered for intercepting trucks ferrying charcoal or logs and branded himself an environmentalist who can’t afford to look on when people are destroying forests for fuel. The Fight against Covid 19, didn’t leave him behind. He was instrumental in ensuring the people in his hometown were living by the issued SOPs to ensure there was no spread of the virus. For those who will one day write his epitaph, I hope they say he lived his life to the fullest. REST IN PEACE GENERAL.

ARTHUR BANTU
Journalist
Department of DSP

“He enjoyed a quiet retirement life, punctuated with hunting adventures, exercise, merry making with his visitors.”
Fare Thee Well Afande Bell

Brig. Gen. Jackson ‘Bell’ Tushabe RO/0079, breathed his last at Nakasero Hospital in the wee hours of Tuesday morning, June 30. Another hero in the five the year (1981 – 1986) bush war that brought the current National Resistance Army to power, Brig. Jackson ‘Bell’ Tushabe has died aged 61.

While at Nakasero Hospital, he battled multiple organ failure told by one of the family members. He was at the hospital for some time and the UPDF was aware and giving maximum medical attention.

Having joined the NRA rebels led by Yoweri Museveni in 1982, Bell has been described by many as one who belonged to the daredevil category of commanders like Jet Mwebaze (RIP), Stanley Muhangi (RIP), Col. Patrick Lumumba (RIP) and Brig. Matayo Kyaligonza.

According to the eyewitness, this group of fighters was responsible for urban terrorism by staging several ambushes shortly after the attack on Kabamba as a diversionary tactic to divert attention from Museveni’s group which was only about 50 men.

As youthful as they were, that group started their work with only an SMG rifle and a pistol had in a few months carried out raids on various police stations in Kampala and its surroundings and got several guns. They were focused and apparently achieved their goals.

Earlier on in his career, Brig. Bell served as the UPDF fourth division Commander in Gulu, third division in Mbage and second division in Mbarara respectively. He was recently promoted to the rank of Brigadier from the colonel up to the day of his demise.

2008 to 2010, after retreating to Ggaba he mobilized fishermen to form a football club named Victors Football Club that played in Uganda Premier League. Founded in 2001, the team played in the premier league between 2005 and 2012 when they were relegated but had won the Uganda Cup twice in 2008 and 2010.

In 2009-2011, Brig. Bell’s team also represented Uganda in the CAF Confederations Cup where they were eliminated on preliminary stage and first-round respectively.

He also served as the Vice President in charge of Competitions during Dr. Lawrence Mulindwa’s first term in office at FUFA.

Between 2005-2009, Bell was also chairman Super division clubs association as well as Chairman Fufa Competitions committee.

In their condolence message, FUFA described the deceased as one who served the game of football diligently.

“Words are inadequate to express this sad moment as football has lost a great contributor to the game. Bell served the game with a lot of diligence and always showcased his vast experience in projects assigned to him,” FUFA said.

“He loved the beautiful game and he was enthusiastic on anything connected to football. We shall miss him dearly. Our condolences go out to the bereaved family and Uganda Peoples Defence Forces.”

Brig. Jackson Bell Tushabe’s death came barely a month after the demise of maverick Maj. Gen. Kasirye Ggwanga. He was laid to rest at his home in Kafunjo-Kashari, Mbarara District and at the burial the CDF thanked the fallen gallant son of the land for loving the army and serving for all that long.

Family, he was a family man who always loved hanging out with his children and grand children while telling the stories about the life he had in the bush.... With his good sense of humour, his narrations about the bush war stories were more like watching a movie and one would always pay attention to detail to catch every bit of the story.

Rest in eternal peace Brigadier General JACKSON BELL TUSHABE.

Written by Arthur Bantu
Brigadier General Victor Twesigye who passed away on the 2nd of July 2020 made his niche in the field of Communication as a Signaler. He is described to have been a brilliant officer, a sentiment shared by officers who attended the Company Commanders Course in 2001 with him. Colonel Apollo Mwasa said: “Brig Victor was a bright, industrious, polite and cooperative officer.” These sentiments are shared by Colonel George Situma Nambafu who described the late as a “free, jolly and very intelligent Signaler by profession.”

The fraternity of the Office of the Defence Spokesperson and Defence Press Unit will always cherish the late Brig Victor Twesigye for his valuable and immense contribution to the Tarehe Sita Magazine as columnist and who never hesitated to share his opinions and thoughts under his column, “In the Line of Fire” and his dedication towards the Tarehe Sita publication. His writings covered contemporary Africa and Global issues, the evolving nature of crime and society as well as governance. “Simba” as he was fondly referred to by his close friends, Brig Twesigye grew up in Kisiiizi Village, Rukungiri District. The late Brig Victor village. He never wanted to become a “Village Boy” a tag that was largely associated with people who were thought to be without ambition. Fate would have its way in the life of the late Brig Victor in 1986 when after completing his Senior Six education the first opportunity that presented itself to him was joining the military an opportunity he embraced and never looked back. An institution that he served with dedication, determination and discipline in which he struck his niche in the fields of Signals and Communications and he would later rise to serve as the Chief of Communications and Information Technology (CCIT) of the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces.

Johnson Katuura, his son said “our father always described himself as a warrior who enjoyed every bit of his career and accomplishing tasks in his line of duty.” He adds, “He never regretted joining the Army and for sure he wanted to die as a General.” He is described as a patriot who defended and protected his country, Uganda both in the battlefield and Diplomatic duties serving as a Defence Attaché to India and his last appointment as Liaison Officer at the East African Community Headquarters that he held at the time of his untimely death. As duty would later call, he had to be away in either the battlefields of D.R Congo and Northern Uganda or away on courses that required his skills and attention but what stood out especially to his family was that he always went back as a loving father different from a warrior from the battlefield. His impact transcended the military. It is said that he was not only the head of his immediate family but also the whole Malegano family that looked up to him as a family head and a provider. He was known to be an opinion leader in his village and also an ardent farmer.

“He never regretted joining the Army and for sure he wanted to die as a General.”

One fact is undeniable about the late Brig Gen Victor; he was a seeker of knowledge who never stopped reading and trying to learn. Education was a way of life. Brig Gen Bernard Obola a former Commandant of the Junior Staff College, while the late was a student on Company Commanders Course Intake 1 in 2001 described the late as “A quiet student, but brilliant and good at articulating issues.” His being articulate about issues was probably most reflected in his writings and his passion towards the communications field and practice. He was also known to be a good timekeeper and for the respect he accorded to civilian members he interacted with and members of other ranks.

He had a Masters in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building from Kampala International University and another Masters in Security & Strategic Studies from Nkumba University. In the words of Napoleon Hill, “The way of success is the way of continuous pursuit of knowledge.” Adieu Brigadier General Victor Twesigye M.

By William Orombi
Journalist
to train and prepare trainees for the officer cadet course conducted at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst in United Kingdom.

It trained its first officer Cadets in 1964/65 and later started conducting Young Officer’s Course and Regimental Account Courses among others.

The then School of Infantry (SOI) formerly in Jinja was later on transferred to Kabamba where it stayed until it was moved back to Jinja after 1979 Liberation war. After the takeover of NRM in 1986, the former School of Infantry (SOI) resumed training Officer Cadets with O/Cdt Intake 01/87 in Jinja.

SOI was later renamed Jinja Military Academy (JMA) which conducted various military courses including Officer Basic Course (OBC). In Nov 2007, JMA shifted to Kabamba in quest for suitable training ground and in the same year JMA was renamed Uganda Military Academy Kabamba (UMAK) with the mandate to run Officer Cadet and Platoon Commanders Course (PCC).

To date, UMAK has successfully been running a number of courses including Young Officer Cadet (YOC), Officer Basic Course (OBC) and the UPDF promotional examinations. UMAK is renowned for not only training Ugandan cadets but also trainees from other countries such as the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Eretria, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Federal Republic of Somalia, South Sudan, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Academy now conducts the degree program alongside other training programs as decided by the UPDF Leadership.

Justification for the Degree programme
Training of Officer Cadets and Junior
Commanders at UMAK forms part of UPDF efforts and plans to modernize and professionalize the army. These efforts and plans aim at transforming the Academy to the level of other international academies in the region and beyond. The introduction of Bachelor of Defence Studies at UMAK is in line with the East African Defence Cooperation Protocol and Security Council Resolutions that directed all East African Community Academies to review training from one year to three years in order to enable Officer Cadets acquire military leadership qualifications as well as academic qualifications leading to award of a degree.

The award of the degree to commissioned officers after three years aims at beefing the Academy to achieve its Motto, Vision and Mission; “Train hard and fight easy”, be the national center of excellence for training junior military leaders that will successfully perform military assignments both in peace and war times and, to produce Junior Military Leaders who are Robust, Courageous, Honorable, Patriotic, Politically conscious, Informed and well prepared for future professional development respectively.

Uganda Military Academy is among the UPDF institutions that offer academic programs to military officers. The objective of this development is to have an effective, affordable and efficient force capable of safeguarding Uganda’s security interests.

In order for the Degree Program to start, MoDVA/UPDF Leadership entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Makerere University. UMAK is affiliated to Makerere University under College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Political Science and Public Administration in order to run Bachelor of Defence Studies.

Later, the National Council for Higher Education accepted Makerere University to implement the program in accordance with University regulations.

Uganda Military Academy Kabamba is now at par with other military academies world over. BDSK Program started in 2019 and currently there are two intakes; 01/19-22 and 02/20-23. We must thank the MoDVA/UPDF leadership for all the support and guidance on implementing the program. Special thanks go to Makerere University especially School of Social Sciences for its support in delivering lectures to students on degree program.

Facilities
In order to implement Bachelor of Defence Studies, MoDVA/UPDF leadership has put in place some infrastructure to allow the smooth running of the programme. These among others include; construction of classroom blocks, computer lab, library, and provision of furniture. These however are not enough given the intended future plans for the Academy.

The Academy appreciates the contribution to the library made by different individuals such as Bank of Uganda, some Professors from Makerere University, and UPDF Officers-Deputy Army Spokesperson Lt Col Deo Akiiki among others. More support is highly appreciated to all well-wishers for the library and computer.

Selection of students
The selection of students for Bachelor of Defence Studies at UMAK is conducted following UPDF, NCHE and Makerere University guidelines. Currently, recruitment is carried out within UPDF. The eligible candidates are serving soldiers who performed well both in O’ Level and A’ Level. This is intended to equip them with knowledge and skills to enable them execute their command and leadership responsibilities.

Modules
Students are taken through both academic and military modules. Academic modules mainly cover Defence planning and Management, Human Resource Management, Logistic Management and Leadership and Administration.

The programme also emphasizes character development in order to bring out the core values of patriotism, pan-africanism, personal courage, integrity, loyalty, sense of duty, honour and confidence among others. The curriculum is based on four components of critical and logical thinking combining theory and practice using interdisciplinary approach and problem solving which are African centered.

Remember, “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education”. Martin Luther King.

Leadership
For the smooth running of the degree programme, the key leadership positions include;
• Deputy Chief of Defence Forces (Chairman Academy Control Board)
• Commandant Uganda Military Academy Kabamba (Chairman Academy Academic Board)
• Chief Instructor Academics UMAK (Programme Coordinator)
• Dean of School of Social Sciences Makerere University (Head Quality Assurance)
• Head of Department of Political Science and Public Administration Makerere University (In-charge Lecturers)

Despite the above milestones, UMAK looks forward to securing more text books for the library, expand the available infrastructural facilities including the computer laboratory, introduce other degree programmes, take on trainees from fraternal institutions and countries, enhance human capacity building and exchange programme for instructors.
The Deputy Sector One Commander who doubles as Deputy Uganda Contingent Commander in Somalia, Col John Winston Mugarura, has commissioned a brick making machine at the marine workshop in Basecamp, from where it was fabricated by a UPDF Officer in conjunction with three other colleagues.

A Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces - Airforce (UPDF-AF) officer serving under Battle Group Twenty-Eight as a Raven Commander, Lt Chris Collins, conceived the idea to make the machine.

The machine was made in a period of five weeks from 12 May 2020, a time around which COVID-19 lockdown started at the Base Camp.

While narrating the genesis of his idea, Lt Collins said that the desire to construct his own house in Uganda compelled him to seek for a way to minimize the cost of making bricks.

Collins shared the idea with the Marine maintenance officer, Capt. Gideon Kyeyune and with further research on the internet, they jointly fabricated the machine with the help of two other soldiers.

The manually operated machine can produce three types of bricks with each requiring its own mold set. The bricks include interlocking stabilized soil bricks, pavers of different shapes and plain stabilized soil bricks.

While the machine can produce two bricks per cycle and is operated by two to three people, all the said bricks are made by setting the machine to the respective mold. Collins further explains that in a bag of cement, one is able to mix 7 to 8 wheelbarrows of subsoil, with which they will be able to make 130 to 150 bricks.

Lt Collins says he intends to take the machine to Uganda and use it to make different bricks as well as help soldiers who would want to construct their houses with the said bricks. The bricks will be made at their construction sites, since the machine can be transported there.

The bricks which the machine makes are not burnt because he uses cement as the stabilizer, a process he called “curing the bricks”.

Besides being affordable in the overall process of construction, this machine ensures that there is no need of cutting down trees to burn the bricks, thereby conserving the environment.

One uses less mortar since the bricks interlock, and there is no need to do plastering of the brick since the latter makes a smooth and fine surface. Using them to construct a house takes a short time since the bricks are interlocked and that there is reduction in cost of transport since the bricks can be made on site by transporting the machine.

UPDF continues to support soldiers to be creative and innovative as a means to further contribute to national development.
Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) started conducting Air Force Cadet Training at the Uganda Air Force College Nakasongola Military Cantonment. The Deputy Commander UPDF Air Forces (D/CAF), Maj Gen Katsigazi Tumusiime, presided over the opening of the first Intake of the Cadet Course.

Maj Gen Katsigazi who represented the Commander Air Forces, Lt Gen Charles Lutaaya, said the training was overdue because the Air Forces have their own history and uniqueness that require specialized training separate from the Land Forces’ training.

“He cautioned students to be disciplined, focused and live a healthy life to fully benefit from the training and later be useful to the UPDF institution.

Speaking at the same function the Commandant of the College, Brig Gen Emmanuel Kazahura, said the course commenced with 74 Cadets, 14 of whom are females. He added that the course will cover technical proficiencies as well as leadership among other course contents. “On completion of this course, the trainees will graduate as Pilots, Engineers, and professionals in other aviation fields,” said Brig Gen Kazahura.

Present at the function were the Air Forces Directors led by their Director of Personnel and Administration Brig Gen Rebecca Mpagi, Commander Motorized Infantry Brigade Brig Gen Charles Byanyima, and Commanders from Nakasongola Cantonment.
With guns you can kill terrorists; with education you can kill terrorism”
— Malala Yousafzai.

On July 11th, 2020 marked exactly a decade (10 years) since the Kampala Bombings (Kyadondo Rugby Club Grounds and the Ethiopian Village Restaurant) happened and claimed the lives of 76 people, physically injuring other 71, and leaving scores more with emotional wounds.

An attack that was later to be claimed by the Al-Shabaab, a terrorist outfit operating in Somalia; it was an extraordinary and historical event in the lives of many football enthusiasts across the World and Africa in particular as fans braced themselves to witness the climax to this historic event. So historic it was that this was the very first time in football history that the World Cup final were being held on the African Continent, South Africa and it was for the first time that two countries (Spain and Netherlands) that had never made it to the final, were facing off for the top crown (bragging rights as it is known in the football world).

In Uganda, fans from different walks of life braced themselves for the much anticipated finale with so many events lined up to spice up the day. They flocked to different entertainment places including Kyadondo Rugby Club grounds, a popular hangout spot for Middle-Class Ugandans and Ethiopian Village Restaurant a place popular with foreign guests that became points of interest.

A group of 10 people (8 who were later to be convicted in the law courts on May 2016 and 2 suicide bombers) were orchestrating a sinister plot to carry out the most heinous of acts to blow up people as they enjoyed themselves.

The act (in the words of Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage, the then Spokesman of the terrorist outfit Al-Shabaab) was in retaliation for the Peace Operations engagements in which the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces have been involved in Somalia under the auspices of the AMISOM since March 2007.

AMISOM came on the heels of civil unrest that rocked Somalia for over 15 years after the overthrow of its then leader Said Barre and the subsequent failed attempt by the US troops to capture warlord, General Mohamed Farrah Aidid further plunging the country into civil war. Although the engagement of the
UPDF under AMISOM was received with a lot of pessimism from conspiracy theorists who believed the mission was doomed to fail, they were also welcomed by the Somali people as a ray of hope for peace to return to their lives and homeland. Thirteen years down the road, it remains one of the most successful peace enforcement missions by African countries.

Ten years after the 7/10 attack, Uganda has found itself in another unique form of engagement or war as it has been termed by the Commander-in-Chief of the UPDF, H.E Gen (Rtd) Yoweri K Museveni with the COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease) pandemic that has literally brought many world economies to their knees as they undertook lockdown measures to combat and curtail the spread of COVID-19.

It is an undisputed act that after 7/11, efforts were dedicated towards ensuring that such terror occurrences would never happen again. The efforts of the UPDF in response to the attacks on football revelers offer important lessons on how we should respond towards a crisis. UPDF and its sister security agencies focused on preventing a second attack on Uganda. Between the months of August 2010 and 2011, the UPDF led by now Maj Gen Paul Lokech under the auspices of AMISOM launched a counter offensive in Mogadishu, Somalia with the aim of neutralizing the Al Shabaab at its source. These efforts led to the flashing out of the terror outfit from their operating bases in Mogadishu Stadium and Bakara Market with the aim of destroying their operations and financial foundations.

COVID-19 has reminded us that many times we have to tackle a crisis head on from the source than wait for it to occur on our soil and force us to respond after.

Similarly, we must have concerted efforts in ensuring that we prevent an occurrence of a second wave of COVID-19 especially now that the country is easing the lockdown restrictions and we have now registered some COVID-19 related deaths. What is important to note is that there is a growing complacency attitude especially from the general public that will greatly be our undoing in the fight against both terrorism and COVID-19.

As we remember 7/10, a lot of questions are asked as to whether we are any safer after the attacks than we were before. Others question if it is really necessary to still have the UPDF in Somalia under AMISOM engaged in the fight against Al Shabaab. Terrorism is a visible enemy perpetrated by faceless people with no clear identity. It is hard to pinpoint who a terrorist is or who is likely to carry out a terror attack. After 7/10, we had of public figures say that one of the perpetrators lived within close proximity and were friendly to them but they could hardly imagine that he was up to some sinister motive.

Post 7/10, the UPDF has dedicated much more effort in combating the threats of terrorism both at home and in Somalia. Through hands on experiences and continuous training of the UPDF personnel on the evolving nature and operations of terrorism, the UPDF has now improved on its ability to combat the growing threat of terrorism with more precision and sufficient knowledge by developing specialized personnel to handle the different aspects of terrorism.

We always and will continue to have the security agencies issue warnings in form of terror alerts about planned terror attacks with the aim of improving the alertness and vigilance of the public; the only undoing or rather what is not usually addressed in the timing, location and the means of the attacks are never addressed which requires the public to have an equal effort in defeating such planned terror attacks.

We must come to terms with the fact that future terror attacks are possible and that the emergence of virus outbreaks are inevitable therefore we must have concerted efforts to address them. We must develop strategies to deal with any attack, and we must be dedicated towards developing capacity, strategies and personnel with the view of ensuring that we are not faced with circumstances similar to COVID-19.

For now we can only ask, how prepared are we for any Eventuality?

The Author is a Journalist in the Office of the Defence Spokesperson
Why Africa Needs To Emphasize Its INDEPENDENCE

By Catherine Aliso

“....Hence to fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy’s resistance without fighting.” Sun Tzu- The Art of War.

The mention of war provokes a certain kind of excitement in some people who have never experienced it; myself inclusive, yet this doesn’t erase the fact that war in particular is unpleasant, especially because of its aftereffects such as the loss of innocent lives and property, the resources wasted in financing it, all of these and more, sometimes just for the purpose of demystifying the question of power.

Africa as a continent did not participate very significantly in past major wars such as World War I and World War II where history notes that we only acted as aids to the conflicting states. And, ironically, neither did Africa wage any war on its own underdevelopment.

Arguably, the lack of such a war in Africa caused us to lag behind economically, socially and politically. We will look at a few of the aspects on which we need to reinforce more powerful struggles than we seem to have done initially.

The war on corruption and embezzlement

President Museveni recently demonstrated his hate for this vice when he led the anti corruption walk, an indication, that this scourge is seriously provoking us to go to war with it. To corrupt, his message was very clear; “I monitor your groups and the people who bribe you come and tell me. I do not have enough evidence to arrest you, but I know many of you are corrupt. If you see I have not arrested you, don’t think you’re safe. I am just still looking for enough evidence.” One important aspect during any war is to demonize the enemy so as to rally the rest of the masses against a common cause.

Now that it seems obvious to everyone that embezzlement of all kinds is still an enemy, will the rest of the citizens raise their arms to fight it?

The war on poverty and all related illnesses

Well, someone mentioned that poverty is a state of mind, and that if one’s mindset is transformed they would definitely get out of it. How unfortunate that many African youths got this assertion out of context; without considering that while a winning attitude is important, hardwork is even more important.

So now we have a lot of positive minded people not even trying to work but believing that somehow, wealth is mysteriously coming. The more reason people fall prey to scams of amassing wealth such as in some cryptosystems, where they end up losing even the little they have. I must say our land is full of resources that we can use to win the war against poverty. We can produce so much to offer to the world because what Africa needs is trade, not aid.

The war on disunity

How sad, that Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe went when some South Africans seemed to have forgotten the very core values for which our forefathers fought so hard to bring forth; African Unity! Our truth here is that Africa is one, but it is attended by a bodyguard of lies such as tribalism and much more. It’s clear to us that xenophobic tendencies primarily seem to undermine these values, and the benefits therein encompassed, an indication that the new generation needs to be coached on what kept us united and why or better still the songs that were sang then, be rewound.

The war on illiteracy and ignorance

With thousands of graduates rolling out of Uganda’s universities every year, it seems quite obvious that nearly every African is now learned, yet there’s still a significant number of people out there, who have not bothered or those around them have not bothered to help them attain an education, which is why we still need to be at the forefront in the fight against this.

Even those who are educated still seem ignorant or have deliberately refused to embrace certain transformations in society such as technological development as in ICT, gender equality and women empowerment (an aspect I’m very passionate about), preventive control of diseases, you can tell by the way some individuals have deliberately chosen to ignore the existence and probable consequences of the covid-19 pandemic), climate change and globalization. All of these gospels need to be preached again, and the media can help spread them.

Malcom X emphasized; “The media is the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power because they control the masses.”

While in the past Media was limited to media houses, it’s now much easier to influence the public using social media. Any ordinary human being can effect changes on health, innovations, agriculture, women empowerment, environmental protection and all aspects mentioned above can be wars for Africa to win, if the media is used for a positive cause.

Africa needs to reaffirm the independencewe so mightily fought for, by going to war, to fight the very wars other continents seem to have already won, and even though we’re already set on this cause, more effort is required. A Happy Independence Day to us all.

A Happy Independence Day to us all.
**Our Vision**

“To be a Centre of Excellence in Specialized Reproductive and Neonatal Health Care in Africa”

**Our Mission**

“We Commit to Provide and Promote Access to Quality Specialized Reproductive and Neonatal Health Care with Cutting Edge Research and Advanced Training”

**Our Values**

- Teamwork
- Excellence
- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Client Focused Care

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**Our Clinical Services**

- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Neonatology
- Anaesthesia and critical care.
- Uro-Gynaecology.
- Gyn- Oncology.
- Benign/Gynaecology.
- Reproductive Endocrinology & infertility

**Diagnostic Services:**

- Radiology
- Laboratory
- Pathology

**Others**

- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy

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“**In The Best Hands**”

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The Minister of State for Fisheries, Hon Hellen Adoa commended the efforts of the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces’ (UPDF) Marines in securing Ugandan fishermen from aggression by criminals who operated on the waters of Lake Albert.

“The UPDF has ably coordinated with their Congolese counterparts to foster good neighborliness. In this way, and through intensified operations on the waters of Lake Albert, they have by far addressed the longstanding problem of Ugandan fishermen being aggressed by some people who after afflicting our people utilized the laws governing international borders to escape by crossing over to the Democratic Republic of Congo side,” said Hon Adoa. She noted that the organized armed gangs used to confiscate the fishing gear of Ugandan fisherman or kidnap the fishermen for ransom.

The Minister said this while on a tour to assess the extent of the damage caused by floods on the communities living along the shores of Lake Albert; Butiaba, Walukuba, Runga and Kaiso landing sites, and to assure the people of government resolve to support them in mitigating the effects of the floods.

The UPDF Marine Brigade Commander, Brig Gen Michael Nyarwa, reiterated UPDF’s commitment in securing the fishermen against the threats from the criminals operating in the waters.

“We will never get tired or sit back and watch Ugandans suffering in the hands of these outlaws,” said Brig Gen Nyarwa.

Brig Gen Nyarwa emphasized the need for continued collaboration between the community and UPDF as well as timely information sharing with the Security Forces about the gang to enable the UPDF Marines and Police perform better in securing the fishermen on the waters.

He also warned of some people impersonating as UPDF Marines to extort money from fishermen.

The UPDF Marine Brigade Commander reminded the leaders of the landing sites that UPDF services are never for a fee and soldiers do not ask for facilitation from the public to perform their duties.

Exoneration of persons suspected in crime too is at no cost. He encouraged them to report to them anyone trying ask for any material thing in exchange for a favor or service.

Brig Gen Nyarwa also asked the communities to desist from criminal tendencies that expose them to possibilities of being conned.

He particularly cautioned against illegal fishing practices and explained the benefits of compliance with the set fishing guidelines.
The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of National Medical Stores (NMS) congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Cabinet, Parliament, the Judiciary and the people of Ugandans as we celebrate 58 years of Independence.

We thank God for this far he has brought us and for the milestones achieved this far. Let us all keep the faith that our best days are ahead of us. For Ugandans that we serve, help us serve you better by taking your individual responsibility seriously:

- Report theft of Government Medicines and Medical Supplies to the nearest Police Stations or Health Monitoring Unit.
- Do not pay for any medicines or medical supply with words, “NOT FOR SALE”.

Always remember to:
1. Wash your hands with soap and use a hand sanitizer.
2. Keep good distance from your neighbor of not less than two meters when you are in any public space. (Social Distancing).
3. Wear a facemask whenever you are in any public spaces.
4. Be your neighbor’s keeper by ensuring that you report people that are within your community and have persistent coughing or temperature.

Never before has there been a time in the history of our country when you individual and personal responsibility in adhering to simple but very important instructions given by Ministry of Health, has made all the difference in stopping the spread of a disease and saving our Nation.

You have the opportunity and responsibility to stop the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda.

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From the tops of shea trees, fields of pea plants and tall grass savanna, huge swarms of hungry desert locusts arrived in conflict torn South Sudan, with concerns already high of the humanitarian crisis in a region where 12 million are going hungry, according to the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Even when governments in East Africa have been caught off-guard, nevertheless, they are in “combat mode”. The locusts arrived in South Sudan after hitting Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Tanzania, Sudan and Uganda. Ugandan authorities were aware that subsequent waves of locusts would cause problems in the weeks to come. According to an excerpt of the update from the Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) Permanent Secretary Mr. Pius Wakabi Kassaja, Uganda had been invaded by locusts from neighboring Kenya through Amudat and to-date 24 districts in the 6 sub-regions of Acholi, Karamoja, Lango, Sebei, Teso and Bugisu. Uganda has so far recorded the entry of 9 swarms of mature desert locusts. These swarms have not caused significant damage to the vegetation cover. The eminent danger to food security and livelihoods however will likely be posed by the nymphs and young desert locusts that will hatch. President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni during the state of the nation address in June 2020, advised the army that to effectively tackle the situation, the spraying when done in the night or early morning would have a more positive end, because they are more dormant then. General David Muhozi appointed Major General Sam Kavuma, the deputy Commander Land Forces, to
spear head the operation. The deputy commander recognised that the biggest threat was from the eggs of the locusts which eventually would hatch. But he was confident that the army would control the situation.
The UPDF deployed a total number of 2000 troops to help in the eradication of these desert locusts which entered Uganda through Amudat district in the Northeastern part of the country. These 2000 troops underwent training at Ollilim barracks before embarking on the laborious task.

He also revealed that the air force had already been involved in airlifting supplies to the affected areas. Speaking to journalists on February 10th, 2020, the Chief of Defense Forces, General David Muhoozi, “We were told to mobilize 2000 troops but the task is huge, hence looking at mobilizing more than that. This is a cross government issue and when called upon, we had to respond quickly,” he added.

UPDF Air Force was involved in the airlifting of supplies to affected areas and helicopters were also used in the spraying process. The Prime Minister Hon Ruhakana Rugunda during a press briefing said Uganda was working hand in hand with Kenya on how to tackle the situation. He added that the ministerial and technical committees had both done a commendable job.

The Ministry of Agriculture had used both motorized and manual spraying pumps on the locusts in the affected areas of Moruita and Kakomole sub counties in Nakapiripit, near the border with Nabilatuk district.

The Commissioner Crop Production, in Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Stephen Tibeijuka said that chemical spraying was a special formulation used in low ultra-volume, meaning that the smallest amount of the chemical released was the one required for control of the locusts.

East Africa’s regional expert group, the Climate Prediction and applications Centre(ICPAC) had warned that eggs laid across the migratory path would hatch in two months and would continue breeding as the rainy season continued in the region. This would coincide with the main cropping season and could cause, “significant crop losses, potentially worsening the food security situation” ICPAC said in a statement.

Mr. Priya Gujahun, a senior FAO official in Uganda was quick to praise the “quite strong and very quick” response from the Ugandan government where the army provided valuable personnel assistance. The military-led response played quite a vital role in partnership with other stakeholders including scientists and agricultural officials.

Col Ezra Byaruhanga (R) shows Local leaders the effectiveness of the spray chemicals.
One thousand thirty-nine (139) Officers and Militants of the Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) honorably retired from active service in the Forces after most had completed 20 to 40 years of service to the nation and the region. Due to the COVID-19 situation in the country, the retirement ceremonies were conducted in eleven centers across the country to ensure social distance.

The Commander Special Forces Command (SFC), Maj Gen James Birungi presided over the ceremony for the retirees under his command at Entebbe SFC Headquarters whereas the Deputy Commander Air Forces, Major General Tumusiime Katsigazi presided over the ceremony for Air Forces personnel at Entebbe Air Forces Headquarters.

All the Division Commanders presided over the function or were represented by senior Officials in their areas of responsibilities in Masindi, Kakiri, Mbarara, Mbale, Gulu, Pader and Kabarole respectively. The biggest number; 362 Officers and Militants were retired from Land Forces Head Quarters in Bombo where the Commander Land Forces (CLF), Lt Gen Peter Elwelu was the chief guest. The CLF urged the retirees to consider being available for their families as one of the core issues to do on retirement. “You have been very busy and did not have time for your families, now you finally have the time,” he said adding that the retirees need to stay in their villages and concentrate on agriculture which is the backbone of Uganda’s economy and not run to the cities.

“The now that you are going home, I encourage you to go to the garden. When God created us, he put us in the garden, not in the cities,” he said. He also urged them to continue promoting peace and security while in their communities and shun all those that are deemed to create instability in the country.

Retirees march out of Bombo Land Force Headquarters

UPDF RETIRES 1039 OFFICERS AND MILITANTS Country Wide

O
“We have to make sure this country remains peaceful for this is the only Country we have, that God gave us,” said Lt Gen Elwelu.

Finally, he urged them to be ambassadors of government in spreading the messages aimed at protecting the people of Uganda against COVID-19. He shunned those who say there is no Corona virus and showed concern at the level of defiance by Ugandans in following the Ministry of Health guidelines against COVID-19. “COVID-19 is not a dream, it is real. Go and be ambassadors for humanity in your communities, sensitize against COVID-19 as per the Ministry of Health guidelines. The problem with us Ugandans is being very stubborn. We are only lucky that God is with us otherwise we would have paid heavily” he said, adding that Ugandans need to stay indoors as guided and that it is God’s will that the world is under lockdown.

“Tell your people that it is not government putting us under lockdown but God’s will. As per places of worship, they belong to God, if God so wants us to open them, he will create the condition to open them, stop blaming the President,” he said.

The senior most retiree Col Stephen Kato thanked the UPDF leadership for providing the retirement schedule three to four years in advance that enables the retirees to appropriately prepare for their next life. He said the retirees have got many experiences, learnt skills while in the force that will be beneficial in their future engagements.

Concurrently at the other retirement Centers around the country, various messages and advice were passed on to the retirees.

In Kakiri, Maj Gen Sam Kawagga told the retirees to walk with their heads high for having served in and been part of a great force, the UPDF.

“The force has contributed to peace and security in Uganda and beyond and it is just wonderful that you have been part of that journey,” he said. He added that their retirement is the normal journey of every soldier: recruitment, service and finally retirement.

“You have been very busy and did not have time for your families, now you finally have the time”

In Kabarole, Brig Gen Moses Kwikiriza told the retirees that retirement does not mean being tired. “Stay safe and remain focused, work hard to improve on your livelihood using your packages,” he said. Brig Kwikiriza further advised retirees not to live a reckless life that would expose them to dangers such as HIV. “The country wants you healthy, alive and as law a bidding citizens engaging in productive activities,” he said.

In Mbale, Brig Gen Joseph Balikuddembe thanked the retirees for selfless service rendered to the country and advised them not to be lured into subversive activities. “You have done a great job especially in fighting the Lord’s Resistance Army and insurgencies in Eastern Uganda. It is for these efforts rendered that the country is now stable. You are leaving us better than you started, thank you comrades and may you go in peace,” said Brig Gen Balikuddembe.

In Masindi, on behalf of Maj Gen Sam Okiding, the 101 Artillery Brigade Commander, Brig Gen. Dan Kakono, told the retirees to maintain their military discipline as a means to prosper in civilian life. He urged them to continue embracing patriotism, nationalism and Pan-Africanism.

He told them to further promote democracy and socio-economic transformation in their communities. In Pader, Brig Gen Michael Kabango told the retiring officers and militants to desist from indiscipline acts that might block their chances of being recalled for other special assignments by the army and asked them to keep fit through a healthy living. “The struggle in your lives is not yet over. You must be productive at all times and be good leaders as you interface with the community,” he said.

In Nakasongola, Brig Gen David Isimbwa (DAAC-LF) who represented the Nakasongola cantonment congratulated the Officers and men for their contribution in the liberation struggle of Uganda, and the region subsequently.
The Republic of India donated an assortment of vehicles and motorcycles to the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) to augment professionalization efforts. This was in fulfillment of the earlier pledge by Rt. Hon Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India when he visited Uganda in July 2018.

The Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs Hon Adolf Mwesige, who received the donation at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds on behalf of the Government of Uganda expressed his gratitude for the historic bilateral historic friendship existing between both countries, noting that the gesture will help UPDF register successes in delivering national security, regional and international peace.

He said that the various cooperation offers and support in technical and professional fields have enhanced the professional disposition of UPDF. “We view them as a sign of brotherly friendship and we shall always remain grateful for this immense cooperation,” said Hon Mwesige. Hon Mwesige promised to put the vehicles to good use since they will enhance troop mobility in execution of national defence as guided by the Commander-In-Chief of the UPDF Gen (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The Indian High Commissioner to Uganda His Excellency A. Ajay. Kumar commended Uganda for maintaining the deep rooted historic relationship between both countries, saying this is hinged on the struggle for both freedom and independence.
He pledged India’s continued support to UPDF in terms of capacity building and training.

The donations included: **10 Tata Buses, 10 Tata trucks, 02 Tata ambulances and 14 Motorcycles.**

The Handover function was also attended by the Minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs in Charge of General Duties Hon Col (Rtd) Charles Okello Engola, Chief of Defence Forces Gen David Muhoozi, Joint Chief of Staff UPDF Lt Gen Joseph Musanyufu, Under Secretary Finance and Administration Mrs. Edith Buturo representing the Permanent Secretary, representatives from the Indian community in Uganda, and other UPDF senior and general officers.
The Deputy Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Lt Gen Wilson Mbasu Mbadi congratulated the Special Forces Command (SFC) officers and men upon completing six weeks refresher course saying this should motivate them to serve their country better and also contribute positively to national and regional issues.

He said the course was organized with the aim of refreshing the officers both mentally and physically on the basics of military theories and practical applications.

“When you prepare like this, we are sure that you can contribute positively to national and regional issues more professionally,” he said.

Lt Gen Mbadi noted that UPDF’s idea, with the guidance of the commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Gen. Yoweri Museveni, is to establish an effective, efficient and professional force that is acceptable to the people of Uganda in order to deliver its constitutional mandate. He said that this can only be achieved by undertaking refresher courses like these that are progressive and motivational.

Lt Gen Mbadi was speaking recently as the Chief Guest at the SFC officers’ pass out at Amilca Cabral Airborne School (ACAS) in Nakasongola Military Barracks, Nakasongola district.

The Operators trained for five weeks at the Special Forces training school at Sera Kasenyi before conducting a one week practical training at Nakasongola Military Barracks. The officers underwent ideological orientation, physical training, political education and mobilization including various military and warfare drills and skills.

Gen. Mbadi later toured the training field where the trainees later demonstrated what they learnt from the course.

He said courses like these improve the competence and proficiency of the officers and men for better work. He urged them to perfect what they have learnt through continuously re-training and applying what they have acquired on ground to ensure consistency.

He urged the officers to have discipline and remain loyal to their country Uganda, constitution, H.E the President, institutions and commanders. He also encouraged them to continue exercising in order to remain physically fit and healthy.

He warned the officers against contracting HIV/AIDS, hepatitis among other sexually transmitted diseases urging them to take good care of their families saying that, “If you do not have a stable family, you will not perform well at work”. He thanked the leadership of the SFC for coming up with the idea to organize the refresher course for the officers during the COVID-19 period.

The Commander Special Forces Command Maj Gen James Birungi said that the administration of the SFC decided to train the operators during the COVID-19 lock down in order to refresh themselves. He noted that refresher courses are very good in reminding the officers of their constitutional mandate and to learn new ideas from each other.
Lt Gen Wilson Mbasu Mbadì briefing SFC trainees
The Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces has been successful in recovering guns from the Karamojong cattle rustlers so far.

The project of disarming the Karamojong warriors has been ongoing for over two decades now and counting but I must give credit where it’s due for the job well done by the UPDF.

Hopes of getting rid of all the illicit arms in Karamoja by the UPDF in bid to ensure total peace for development of the region were dashed by constant inflow of arms from these neighboring countries but UPDF disarmament exercise yielded results when the government took steps to stop arms trafficking and transaction in Karamoja involving the neighbors.

Karimojong warriors and their counterparts in Kenya the Pokot and the Turkana reduced carrying out armed cattle raids across the borders, the disarmament exercise with so doing yielded expected results.

Some warriors are always resisting to surrender their guns to UPDF because they have fear that when they surrender the guns, they will be vulnerable to the Karimojong hardcore criminals who come to raid and go to hide in Kenya and armed Turkana and Pokot of Kenya.

Leaders in the community said at times Karimojong warriors carry out armed animal raids and cross with their guns and their cattle into Kenya to take refuge and that when crossing back to Uganda, they come back more heavily armed than they went.

The local leadership now wants the African Union and the East African Community involved in the ongoing disarmament exercise in the region in bid to get rid of the illegal trafficking and transaction in illicit guns for development of the region.

The local leaders tipped the UPDF that because the biggest arms flow from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan through Kenya to Uganda, it is important for the government of Uganda to involve the AU and EAC in order to solve the problem for all.

While disarmament is taking place in Karamoja region, the UPDF should also deployed a force to monitor all cross border points with the assistance of Kenya government to ensure that armed warriors do not cross to take refuge and get rearmed. However because Karamojong tribes raid and kill each other the problem of Karamoja is in Karamoja itself, not anywhere else.

The fears that the Karimojong would be vulnerable to other tribes when they surrender the guns is a lame excuse cooked up by the leaders in order to remain with the guns for their selfish missions.

The Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) soldiers recently recovered 65 guns and 603 bullets from Karimojong rustlers.

The UPDF has always advised the Karimojong cattle rustlers to always hand in their guns without waiting to be hunted down for over a decade now.

The arms and ammunition were recovered from the nine districts in Karamoja Sub-region, which is part of the third division command.

The districts are Karenga, Kaabong, Abim, Kotido, Moroto, Amudat,
Maj Peter Mugisa, the UPDF Third Division spokesperson, said the weapons and ammunition were recovered this year from January to July in the ongoing operations to get rid of illegal guns in the region.

Maj Mugisa revealed that most of the weapons were recovered during a gun exchange with the cattle rustlers and also intelligence led operations.

"From January to June 8, we have recovered 65 guns, 603 ammunitions and 3,744 heads of cattle stolen by warriors in different districts and handed them back to the rightful owners," he says.

The UPDF has a force equipped enough to handle any situation in Karamoja to ensure there is peace for the development of the region and no other fears should be brought in to justify possession of the guns.

Whereas in other regions of the country the people follow their leaders, in Karamoja region the leaders follow their people by supporting them whenever there is an armed raid that leads to a clash with UPDF.

Until the leaders come out to condemn the armed cattle raids and desist from using the warriors for the same, the disarmament exercise might take long and the development of Karamoja too.

As Karamoja region grapples with raising cattle rustling and its effects, intelligence reports from security agencies indicate that remnant illegal guns are instigating the security tensions and the UPDF is doing their level best to contain the situation.

Conclusively, the UPDF has played its role in curbing down the cattle rustlers and their use of guns though it is not a bed of roses and the army will surely continue the disarmament mission until the guns are completed out of the wrong hands in the Karamojong community.
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. the President of Uganda Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, all of government and my fellow Ugandans upon the 58th anniversary of the Independence of Uganda.

We recognize the effort of government in the health sector, particularly in HIV/AIDS and other infections like COVID-19, to bring about better health outcomes for Ugandans. As a direct result of good government policies and oversight, JCRC is able to work with other implementers to support many Ugandans to live productive lives and contribute to national development.

We also appreciate government commitment to research and innovation, an avenue for Ugandan scientists and innovators, including JCRC, to solve local problems. We remain committed to advancing in new frontiers of health research, training and health service delivery in Uganda.

How resolved leadership turned around the HIV/AIDS situation in Uganda.

Despite the relative calm after the liberation war had ended in 1986, a certain plague of death consumed the population until there was no family in the land that was not affected. This plague was HIV/AIDS. First discovered in the Rakai area, HIV fast spread all over the country and caused untold suffering and loss of life.

The head of state H.E. President Yoweri K. Museveni tirelessly sought to find a lasting and scientific solution to this plague of death. He determined quite early that the solution could only be in concrete scientific and behavioral change.

In bold and visionary fashion H.E. the President took unprecedented action on both the behavioral and scientific fronts, a move that won international acclaim for controlling the spread of HIV.

He acted firmly against wide-spread stigma by opening up behavior change messaging about HIV, as well as championing multi-sectoral government and societal approach to behavior change.

Everybody in Uganda was able to hear the right messaging in a language they could understand. Every available platform was utilized so that every leader, teacher, spokesperson, and elders became champions for behavior change.

On the scientific front, H.E. the President led the establishment of the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC), a medical facility with the goal of finding a scientific solution to the devastating HIV/AIDS problem.

He brought together the best minds of the time, tapped into his networks abroad, and leveraged technical government departments to make use of available resources.

The Ministry of Health provided the requisite policies, the Ministry of Defense provided the start-up space, first equipment and initial funding, and the Makerere University College of Health Sciences provided the researchers and key personnel. These Government bodies are represented on the JCRC Board of Trustees.

To ensure sustainability, under the guidance of H.E the President, JCRC is able to partner with government, and also possess the capacity to operate as a private limited company which has allowed it to engage multi-country research engagements and compete for funding opportunities.

JCRC has grown to become a flagship medical research institution in the region, it has remained a committed partner of government in the provision of much-needed advanced healthcare services for various departments and sectors including the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF).

Furthermore, JCRC continues to be a center of excellence seconded by government to share experience in medical research and offer technical assistance to foreign military forces whenever requested.

Current developments at Joint Clinical Research Centre

Since 1991, JCRC has built a solid reputation in the health sector for contributing to the control of the HIV epidemic in Uganda. With a nationwide footprint and a host of Regional Centers of Excellence (RCEs), JCRC has strongly engaged in practical community-level interventions for demand creation and behavior change to address harmful HIV and TB trends head-on.

JCRC has also become a bedrock of enormous capacity in the management of HIV and co-morbidities, securing a niche countrywide as a reliable reference level for advanced HIV care.

At the Head Office in Lubowa, JCRC now offers general clinical services including Dental, Cardiac, TB, Radiology, Laboratory, Pediatrics, General Adult clinic, Private, Inpatient, and high dependency care.
Through pioneering outstanding research, JCRC has also contributed significantly to the global body of knowledge, influenced policy and practice, and participated in ground-breaking innovations. With an average of 15 research projects being conducted at any one time, JCRC publishes up to 30 peer-reviewed journal articles annually. Being a reputable global research site, JCRC hosts and coordinates various multi-site studies in HIV, TB and other conditions, and consistently satisfies the most stringent ethical and quality standards.

The world-class laboratories which conduct analysis of research and clinical specimen are certified by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), a highly stringent and detailed standard repeatedly attained by JCRC for the last 5 years.

In response to changing health needs in Uganda, JCRC has now fully embarked on the strategic journey to address non-communicable diseases and improve the wellbeing of those at risk. New ground-breaking treatment options, novel disease management approaches are commonly piloted and pioneered at JCRC.

Recent developments in the management of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) by Red blood Cell Exchange are part of the broader techniques of Apheresis now practiced at JCRC for patients with SCD and other blood disorders. Going forward, JCRC is strategically positioned to participate in new therapies and studies utilizing stem cell research for the cure of Sickle Cell Disease and other disorders. JCRC is also part of the global “HIV Cure” agenda.

**JCRC open to the general public**

Perhaps the most outstanding opportunity yet largely unknown to the regular Ugandan, is that JCRC is open to the public.

Any Ugandan can access the services of JCRC either as a private client or a program/study client. Private clients cover their costs out-of-pocket or through an insurance provider. Program/study clients are registered at JCRC and receive their services through existing programs or studies, which cover their service costs.

Dr. Cissy Kityo Mutuluuza
Executive Director JCRC

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**Ankole Coffee Producers and Cooperative Union (ACPCU)**

The Board of Directors, Management, Staff and Farmers of Ankole Coffee Producers Cooperative Union Ltd extends their sincere congratulations to H.E Yoweri Museveni the President of the Republic Of Uganda and to all Ugandans on the 58th Independence anniversary.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Having self-controlled processing facilities.
- Maintaining certifications, Fair-trade and organic on behalf of our farmers.
- Commitment to coffee quality that has increased access to market.
- Growth of business and increased benefits to members.
- Providing farmers with good quality coffee seedlings from Union nursery.
- Creating employment opportunities for over 150 people.
- Giving back to community/farmers.
- Securing market for farmer’s specialty coffee.

**PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY**

To strengthen women financially, ACPCU has started women saving groups in all member societies. In these groups’ women are saving and borrowing to solve their daily financial needs at affordable interest rate. As a way of promoting gender equality, women are represented at every committee of ACPCU and member societies.

**YOUTH IN COFFEE PRODUCTION**

Most of the ACPCU farmers are ageing and therefore, this calls for involvement of youth in coffee production for sustainability of coffee farming. In order to encourage youth to participate in the production of coffee, ACPCU has established a coffee demonstration garden at Nyakashambya Primary School located in Sheema District-South western Uganda.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

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The Directorate of Veteran Affairs under the Ministry of Defence has partnered with UN-Women to Support Women Empowerment and Gender Equality.

The Government of Uganda with support from UN-WOMEN (the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women) and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Uganda has developed the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Program through the Directorate of Veteran Affairs.

The program is a mechanism for implementing UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and other subsequent resolutions on Women’s Leadership in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. Other areas include Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence to which Uganda and the international community are a signatory to.

The program aims at;
- Harnessing the participation of women in building sustainable peace and security and also to enhance the capacity of women to participate in peace-building processes.
- Establishing an enabling environment for women to effectively contribute to peace and security in the country.
- Improving the living conditions of women and their families so as to promote increased human security.
- Strengthening structures that promotes effective participation of women in peace and security and
- Supporting the rehabilitation, psycho-social support and resettlement of military veterans as a key mechanism for building sustainable security in the country.

As a key output arising out of this process, a third generation National Action Plan (NAP) has been developed. The first NAP was implemented between 2008-2010 and the second from 2011-2015.

The participation of the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, in this program is premised on the principle of enhancing human security by addressing a broader spectrum of issues that confront some of the military veterans, female combatants, UPDF spouses and widows.

Accordingly, the program has enabled the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs to address the socio-economic issues affecting the target groups and to improve their livelihoods. It has enabled the Directorate of Veteran affairs to Train and skill counselors to respond to psychosocial support needs.
- Sensitization on public health, Parenting and child care-(KFCP) among others.

To guide the implementation of the WPS program, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies are expected to develop operational plans that contextualize the implementation of the program to their respective operating environment.

As Ministry of Defence and veterans affairs, Women, Peace and Security is in support of the constitution and national legislation that were passed in furtherance of international commitments and ratification as a country with regard to enhancing women’s leadership in peace making and conflict resolution as well as prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

It is important to use both men and women in different roles including security for organizational efficiency, effectiveness and productivity and attainment of sustainable peace and development in the country.

The writer is the communications officer at the Directorate of Veteran Affairs.
POWERCHINA and Sinohydro Corporation Limited would like to congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the People of Uganda upon making fifty-eight years of Independence.

Sinohydro Corporation Limited and the People's Republic of China are committed to building Karuma Hydropower Project into a modern and efficient state of the art underground hydropower plant with a production capacity of 600 megawatts. This 1.688 billion US. Dollar project comprises of the Karuma Hydropower Project and Karuma Interconnection Project.

Since its commencement in 2013, the project has created job opportunities for thousands of Ugandans from all walks of life and professions. The project has boosted the development of local industries through increased demand and consumption of locally manufactured products such as cement, steel, iron bars, timber, iron sheets and many other Ugandan made products. To this end, we are proud to promote the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) policy in a bid to realize the Government's vision 2040 as we promote and strengthen the good relationship between government of Uganda and the People's Republic of China.

In a bid to promote our Corporate Social Responsibility and create good working relationships with the host communities, Sinohydro Corporation Limited has donated bore holes, hospital supplies, carried out free medical treatment for the local communities, built a market, donated construction materials to churches, mosques, schools and offered scholarships to needy students within the project affected area. As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility, Sinohydro Corporation Limited has embarked on the construction of Amaji Primary School in Oyam District which is now at 45% completion, construction of Masindi Military hospital in Masindi District which is now at 80% completion and a Civilian Health Center IV in Oyam District which is now at 10% completion. The construction of all these facilities is being funded by Sinohydro Corporation Limited as away to give back to the community and surrounding districts of the Karuma hydropower project.

Once completed both the Karuma Hydropower Plant and the Karuma Interconnection Line will double Uganda's hydropower production capacity and greatly reduce power tariffs which will in turn promote growth of local manufacturing industries and job creation for the people of Uganda. We are committed to the promotion of China-Uganda friendship and co-operation through strengthening business ties and relations between our two great Nations.

Sinohydro once again congratulates His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and the People of Uganda upon this great milestone as you celebrate fifty-eight (58) years of Independence.
Uganda Peoples’ Defence Forces (UPDF) Military Police in partnership with Uganda Police Force passed out 21 defensive drivers and 14 outside riders at Kololo ceremonial grounds.

The Director Human Resources Development (DHRD) of Uganda Police Force, AIGP Brigadier Godfrey Goloba, officiated at the pass out ceremony.

He congratulated the trainees upon completion of the course and urged them to prepare their minds for the tasks ahead.

“This training was meant to prepare you for the challenges that you may encounter while executing your duties such as driving amidst reckless road users, navigating through traffic jam and maneuvering on narrow roads.

With this training and the demonstration exhibited, I guarantee that our visitors or Very Important Persons (VIPs) that you will drive or escort will be safe and enjoy their time while with you,” he said.

He however cautioned that the drivers and riders would only be useful as long as they are disciplined, take good care of themselves and live a responsible and healthy lives.

AIGP Goloba reiterated the commitment of Uganda Police Force in supporting its sister Force, the UPDF, in specialized training whenever called upon. He said the roles of the two sister Forces are complementary.

“The Military ensures greater security whereas Police ensures law and order. There cannot be law and order where there is no security,” he said.

The Commandant Military Police, Col Keith Katungi, underscored the significance of the training received from Uganda Police Force saying that it will help improve the capabilities within UPDF’s Military Police and that the training was a critical force multiplier.
He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts from various government agencies in ensuring a better living environment for Ugandans.

Pte Layet Lydia, the only female rider, was recognized as the most courageous rider while Pte Anyiku Emmanuel emerged the overall best driver and Lance Corporal Osinde Bernard emerged in the second position.

The function was attended by Officers and militants from UPDF’s Military Police and Uganda Police Force.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) Congratulate His Excellency the President, Cabinet Ministers, Honorable Members of Parliament, Officers and Men of UPDF and all the people of Uganda on the occasion to celebrate the 58th Independence Day.

UETCL, has embarked on the construction of Kole-Gulu-Nebbi-Arua (GERP) 132kV Transmission Line that is aimed at reinforcing power supply to the West Nile region, as well as connecting the West Nile region to the national grid, coupled with evacuation of electricity from the Karuma, Agago/Achwa, Nyagak I and III power projects in order to meet the region’s unserved demand.

With funding from the World Bank and the Government of Uganda, the project is a fulfillment of the National Development Plan and Vision 2040.

Our Vision
“Electricity Transmission for Sustainable Regional Development”

Our Mission
“To buy, transmit and sell quality Bulk Power”
A one on One with Two Pan Africanist Women Leaders at the Frontline Of Gender Issues in Uganda

By Kamwine Kafureka Kyangungu

“Violence against women is stupid and cowardly and marginalizing women is out of date” President Museveni.

Introduction:
Speaking on November 12 in Nairobi, Kenya where he joined other leaders at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 25), President Museveni pointed out that gender inequality was as old as man.

“Human beings have been here for four-and-a-half million years. Most of that time, gender inequality has been there,” he said.

“Therefore, I want to point out that you cannot achieve this equality if the society does not change itself.” “You cannot keep a pre-capitalist society in existence and you think you will achieve easily gender equality and other goals”.

The President has always said that creation of jobs is important in this fight because jobless, poor people are vulnerable and susceptible to exploitation. The President added that with joblessness, even good legislation on equality would run into implementation challenges.

He has continually emphasized the need to economically empower women adding that it is not easy for a husband to beat an economically independent woman.

The NRM government has strived to support as well as emancipate women and the girl child by introducing technologies that reduce on their labor like the fetching of water from distant water points carrying pots on their heads or looking for firewood in the bushes. The new technologies will leave the girls with enough time to concentrate on their studies.

The President has emphasized to the Ministry of Gender to always monitor the emancipation of women, and increase their funds.

Speaking with these ladies, was very rewarding and informative for both my personal life and career as a young woman. Each of them has a unique story of their journey at the back and later at the forefront of the Push for Women’s Rights. They represent a very big and varying group of Women.

Theirs is not an antagonistic push to cause change. “We cannot afford to be antagonistic because we have a hand in the coming into power of this Government. We desire it to stand and be better.”

As women, our main purpose is to be mothers, and for this role, we have so many God given unique abilities which we must equally apply in the push for gender equality, among which is we must be able to dialogue. For dialogue, you must listen to be listened to.

Unfortunately, most of the vocal and visible activism for women’s rights has been aggressive, confrontational and abusive. They have only served to turn away allies of this cause, alienate the cause and bring it to be misunderstood.

This is because the methods used go against our values that make us unique as African Women. Values such as humility, quiet wisdom, respectful and gracious. Many of our heroines for Change on the continent have been quiet, but persistent pushers for the agenda of women to be heard and for seats at the table. This has not only earned them allies from both women and men but also seats at the table, and in many cases, seats at the head of the table.

The ones recorded as aggressive, were so against the colonialists who tried to make Africans feel inferior in their own land. Their struggle was never against each other as Africans, case in point, is the late Winnie Madikizile Mandela.

Uganda has a great number of women that have made it their life’s passion to stand in the gap for their fellow women. To simply voice what is a hidden truth. “The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them…Ida B Wells.”

I had the honor to speak to two amazing Ugandan women who have turned the light of truth upon the injustices women have been on the receiving end for so long.

The Pan Africanist Women’s Organization (PAWO) is a women’s organization that was founded in 1962 (in Tanzania), a year before the founding of the Organization of African Unity (this means that PAWO is one year older than the AU) to bring together African women’s organizations in a single platform for sharing good practices and for joint action to promote human rights and gender equality.

I met with two ladies who were part of the formation of this organization as they shared with me a little of their journey in advancing of womens issues.
Mrs. Joyce Mpanga
“it’s a Pity she is not a Boy”
This is the title of Mrs Joyce Mpanga’s autobiography. The title was picked from the words of her late Grandfather who was a great man but undermined the capabilities of women outside. Every time she would do something intelligent, he would always lament that it was a pity she wasn’t a boy because her intelligence would go to waste.

Unfortunately, he didn’t live long to see how wrong he was. Not only has she excelled as Joyce but has paved the way for many women to excel.

Mrs Joyce Mpanga was the first Minister of Women in Development in the NRA Government, a member of the Legislative Council, Minister of State for Primary Education, Member of Parliament of Mubende District, and Member of the Lukiiko since 2009.

Originally the girls were left behind in formal education until the British came and said they were teaching us. However, the aim of education between the two sexes remained different. The boys were being educated to take the middle positions in government, companies and churches, and the women were being educated to be the wives of those educated men.

Right from the start, schools were started for the boys. The girls stayed mainly at home. For example, my grandfather has many daughters, but they had to only attend school for 4 years.

The most important reason was for them to be baptized, to learn catechism, to learn to read the bible and learn to lead family prayers. After that, they had to come back home and be trained in preparation to become wives, and that is exactly what happened to my mother.

Generally, the girls were not very highly educated but those who were abit more educated were taking up jobs as either a nurse or teacher. So, these women who were nurses or teachers realized that their husbands were bringing home their “Europeanized” co-workers and they needed to learn to entertain them. So, they formed groups such as Girl Guides, Mothers Union to help themselves to be educated more.

They were teaching them to bake, housekeeping, make table cloths, make mats and beautify their home.

“By 1964, when we went to Monrovia to represent Uganda in Uganda did not have one body uniting women groups. We had many groups such as University Women, Catholic Women Guild, Moslem Women, and Girl Guides, but not one umbrella body.”

In 1972, the late President Amin shut down all Womens’ organizations with the exception of Religious based organizations because they had the strong backing of the Church and Mosques.

The Governments before the NRA/NRM were not very keen on women issues. They had no clear policies on Women.

When the NRM came into power, H.E the President set up clear policies that advanced women, starting with Women in Government. He started by appointing up a Minister of Women who was Mrs. Joyce Mpanga, whose desk was in the President’s Office.

This appointment was backed by her long work in Government right from the older regimes. Even in the rewriting of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda, the women were given a direct role to play. Mrs Mpanga was among the women who participated in this process and who went right to the grassroots to capture the views of the women so as to be included.

My Message to Women at the forefront is there is no need to be aggressive. When you are aggressive, people will resist you and your message will not carry the intended effect.

“Emancipation” has been misconstrued. It is not African. There is no way a man and woman can be equal. Even physically, we are not the same. All we have been advocating for as Women in this sector is for equal Opportunities for both men and women.

I encourage the men to support the women in their lives. It starts from a father providing the same opportunities to his daughter as to his sons, a husband supporting his wife’s dreams, a male boss judging a female employees’ abilities on the same basis as her male counterparts.

“I had never thought that as a woman I had to fight. I went as far as I did in schooling simply because I was lucky that my father chose to take me to good schools and chose to take me when I was young.
Mrs Grace Majoro Kabayo
Each woman should recognize the role the Women before her have played and Make it Easier for the Woman coming after her.
Ugandan businesswoman, Grace Kabayo was recently elected as new Secretary General for Pan-African Women Organization (PAWO) after she was voted unanimously at the recently concluded 10th elective Pan African Women’s congress held in Namibia, Windhoek in February 2020.

Grace Kabayo as the new Secretary General of PAWO. This is the first time a Ugandan has been elected to such a position despite being up against 55 other contestants from various countries across the continent. Before her ascent to this position, she has served as the Executive Secretary of this organization for 10 years Eastern Region, covering 14 countries.

She is no stranger to the advancement of Women in power, having served in various positions in the NRM Government.

She continues to applaud His Excellency President Museveni and the NRM Government for continuing to recognize the crucial role women play in nation building. Right from the bush war, Women have fought alongside the NRA. The great women like Maj Gen Nalweyiso, Joy Mirembe, Mama Zizinga, Getrude Njuba, Mama Marita, Winnie Byanyima, and Jovia Saleh.

His Excellency came with clear views on women and implemented them. He truly walks the talk.

She continues to highlight the achievements of the NRM Government in their recognition of the role Women play. One such achievement is the introduction of policy of marital property rights for a woman who has lived with the husband for over 10 years.

Mrs Kabayo says we need to capture the young generation when still in school by making African history compulsory as we continue to educate our children on the true feel of Pan Africanism.
She added that her election as Secretary General is a win for all women. She continues to insist that Women must trust and support each other.

Gender Parity is now global; all that is needed is to implement and domesticate it.

Mrs. Grace Kabayo (C) after her election as Secretary General -PAWO in Namibia

His Excellency came with clear views on women and implemented them. He truly walks the talk.

Mrs. Grace Kabayo (R) speaks to a Tarehe Sita sub-editor Mrs Kamwine Kyangungu
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INDEPENDENCE DAY QUOTES 2020

“Independence is for the very few, it's a privilege of the strong” Nietzsche

“If your blood does not rage, then it is water that flows in your veins. For what is the flush of youth if it is not of service to the motherland” Chandra Azad

“Independence is loyalty to one’s best self and principles and this is often disloyalty to the general idols and fetishes” Mark Twain

“Be courageous, be independent, and always remember where true courage and Independence come from” Philips Brooks

“Independence is earned by a few words of cheap confidence” Albert Camus

“We are blessed with the opportunity to stand for something, for LIBERTY Freedom and Fairness and these are the things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to” Ronald Reagan

“A country’s greatness lies in its undying ideas of love and sacrifice that inspire the mothers of the race” Naidu

“The nation will the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave” Davis

“May we all think of freedom not only as the right to do as we please but as the opportunity to do what is right” Peter Marshall

“We must be free not because we claim freedom but because we practice it” William

“Do not be rude to people, do not beat somebody who has already been arrested, that’s what I mean by a Pro People Force” President Museveni on Police beating suspects.

“Please remember that the ultimate sacrifice of their lives was not in vain, surely we would not be sitting comfortably today if it was not for their bravery in bringing peace to Somalia, we will never forget them and we will fight to the end until when there will be no more Al-Shabaab in Somalia” Lt Gen Diomede Ndegeya, the new commander of African Union Mission in Somalia paying Tribute to Fallen soldiers.

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it” Thomas Paine

“Do not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to death your right to say it” Voltaire

“If Liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear” Orwell

“We must be free because we claim freedom but because we practice it” William Faulkner

“Humanity has won its battle, Liberty now has a Country” Marquis

“We fail to realize our good fortune in Living in a Country where happiness is more than a lack of tragedy” Paul

“Do not be rude to people, do not beat somebody who has already been arrested, that’s what I mean by a Pro People Force” President Museveni on Police beating suspects.

“Humanity has won its battle, Liberty now has a Country” Marquis

“We fail to realize our good fortune in Living in a Country where happiness is more than a lack of tragedy” Paul

“As compiled by Sarah Kazibwe
SDF is part of the $100 million Uganda Skills Development Project (USDP) which is a Government of Uganda Project funded by the World Bank. Over the period of four (4) years, the Skills Development Facility has strived to support and fund employer-led short-term trainings and recognition of prior learning as well as increased access to internships for TVET students.

The project has also been able support provision of skilled labour to the economy through funding of certification and assessor programs which prepare the labourforce with the required skills.

ROWOSA is an umbrella organisation for the Wives of Soldiers that was established to enable them drive towards self-reliance with a mission is to make soldiers wives become self-reliant other than relying on their husbands’ income. Using funding from Skills Development Facility, ROWOSA has been able to invest into baking several products like biscuits, cookies and cakes, bread. Conducting trainings with over 200 trainees in the bakery, including children who find making cookies so easy today.

ROWOSA has also expanded its expertise in that they make cakes for almost all celebrations going on in the army up to date. It also conducts tailoring trainings for members for example the Kaunda suits for army men, medical and school uniforms. The number of trainees in Tailoring has increased since all schools are closed and children are all home now. We were able to make masks for the soldiers and other civilian families in the neighborhood. They also provide laundry services to the surrounding communities, carrying out fabric design for the Uganda People Defense Forces T-Shirts.

ROWOSA has also managed to conduct ICT trainings and made available for soldiers’ families, wives and children in partnership with Makerere University Women. As of today, we have branches in Mbuya, Bombo and Airforce in Entebbe barracks, however due to the pandemic, all these schools are closed. Members have a savings and credit accounts sort of organization with in ROWOSA that provides loans to our members with a 12% interest per annum. ROWOSA has managed to come up with its own Training of trainers in order to save resources.

More so, in December 2017, the Skills Development Facility extended support and funding worth 264,077,899 Uganda Shillings to Wazalendo Savings and Credit Cooperative Limited. Wazalendo is an institutional Sacco composed of Uganda People’s Defence Force personnel and their families, UPDF Reserve Forces, and staff of Uganda’s Ministry of Defence, to boost and empower self-sustainability of involved groups.

ROWOSA received Ugx 70 Million Shillings from Skills Development Facility in 2018 as a grant to spearhead and support the mission of the organisation.

**IMPACT STATISTICS**

**FACT SHEET FOR SDF SUPPLEMENT**

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