



UGANDA

**Permanent Mission of Uganda
to the United Nations
New York**

Tel : (212) 949 – 0110

Fax : (212) 687 - 4517

**SPEECH BY H E RICHARD NDUHUURA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

TO THE UNITED NATIONS,

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 53RD ANNIVERSARY OF UGANDA'S
INDEPENDENCE, October 09, 2015**

October 09, 2015

Please Check Against Delivery

Excellences

All invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

On October 9, 1962, Uganda gained her independence from the British rule to which it had been subjected for 68 years. Although there was no armed struggle for independence, we later experienced a good share of the struggle among ourselves mainly because of the distortions that had been visited on the country by the imperial power. In a period of 24 years only after independence, Uganda was led by a total of 8 Presidents and each one of them being removed violently.

It had to take 5 years of struggle for an organized group of young Ugandans to retreat to the bush and plan to create conditions for lasting stability and peace in the country. The struggle correctly diagnosed the country's problems and prescribed appropriate solutions. Although for some time there were some groups which still believed in the old order, they were all eventually neutralized. Since the year 1986 Uganda has been stable, secure, peaceful and on a steady course of Socio-Economic transformation.

Uganda is a very beautiful country situated right at the Equator. The beauty stems from its wonderful climate, its unique fauna and flora, the lakes, the rivers, the mountains, the valleys and not least the very warm and welcoming people. Sir Winston Churchill, a British statesman , who later became the Prime Minister of United Kingdom twice (1940 – 1945 & 1951 – 1955) had at the end of his tour of Africa in 1908 wrote in his memoirs thus;

“My Journey is at an end, the tale is told, and the reader who has followed so faithfully and so far has a right to ask what message I bring back. It can be stated in three words; “concentrate on Uganda”, it is the Pearl of Africa”.

Uganda has a lot to offer in terms of tourism as was recently exhibited at the UN by our Ministry of Tourism, Wild life and Antiquities. The country has no territorial access to the sea but because of regional integration efforts under the auspices of the East African Community, Uganda has become land-linked. Our target is to achieve lower middle income status by the year 2020. This will be realized through the country’s competitiveness for sustainable wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth.

The National Resistance Movement, which is the ruling party in Uganda, has an ideology, with four pillars, namely; Democracy, Nationalism, Pan-Africanism and Socio-Economic transformation. It is the pursuit of these goals that have caused political stability and economic growth in the country.

Perhaps of most interest to the UN and the international community is Uganda’s Pan-Africanist stance. It is this particular pillar that drives Uganda’s participation in the pacification efforts of other African countries. We strive and aspire to have a peaceful Africa because only then can the people’s potential to cause Development in their respective countries be realized.

Having built a professional and highly disciplined national army we feel duty bound to assist our sister African Countries to attain peace and stability. We call upon the UN whose duty it is to ensure international peace and security, to complement these efforts.

The United Nations General Assembly did adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development only two weeks ago. Uganda is very proud to have been at the helm of the General Assembly as its President, when this and other important processes were successfully negotiated and concluded. Therefore as we mark our national day and congratulate ourselves, I cannot forget to thank all the member states of the UN for the great support they rendered to Uganda during the just concluded session. We were extremely humbled.

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to celebrate our National day. I wish you an enjoyable evening and thank you for your kind attention.