



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

SPEECH

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY Y.K. MUSEVENI
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

ON

THE OCCASION TO MARK INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

AT

KAMPIRINGISA NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTRE,
MPIGI DISTRICT

12TH AUGUST 2018

- ❖ H.E The Vice President
 - ❖ Rt. Honourable Speaker of Parliament
 - ❖ Rt. Honourable Deputy Speaker of Parliament
 - ❖ Your Lordship the Chief Justice
 - ❖ Rt. Honourable Prime Minister
 - ❖ Hon. Ministers and Ministers of State
 - ❖ Hon. Members of Parliament
 - ❖ Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
 - ❖ The UNDP Resident Coordinator
 - ❖ Mpigi District Leadership
 - ❖ The Chairperson, National Youth Council
 - ❖ Distinguished Youth Leaders
 - ❖ Ladies and Gentlemen
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I salute all of you and congratulate you on this auspicious occasion of commemorating International Youth Day 2018.

In a very special way, I congratulate the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development together with UNDP for making the Songhai Model a dream come true.

In December 2016, I did instruct Minister Hajat Janat Mukwaya and the Permanent Secretary Mr. Pius Bigirimana working with UNDP to establish the Songhai Benin Integrated Agricultural Model in Uganda. I am happy that this has been done in a record time - Thank you very much.

To Prof. Fr. Godfrey Nzamujo, I thank you for not being like other professors who invent nothing. Professors must contribute to the creation of knowledge and finding solutions to people's problems and not simply creating chaos and disharmony in education spaces.

The theme for this year's International Youth Day "**Safe Spaces for Youth**" is very relevant as we launch the Songhai Model and celebrate successes of Youth Livelihood Programme, Uganda Women Enterprise Programme, Youth Venture Capital Fund and Operation Wealth Creation among others. You cannot meaningfully talk about Safe Spaces in poverty. Poverty and insecurity of any kind are our worst enemies. I am therefore happy with Prof. Fr. Nzamujo for being part of the solution to solving the poverty problem and equally contributing in a scientific manner to

environmental protection. For our soils to be productive they need constant nourishment. The agricultural methods we use, will either dupe us or lead us to agricultural production vibrancy.

Around the 1970's I realized that many things were going wrong. There was economic turmoil, political instability and social disharmony. I got inspired by some of the writings by *Frantz Fanon, Machiavelli, Dale Carnegie, John .D. Rockefeller* among others; and I, with a few colleagues decided to do something; **Dale Carnegie** said, *"If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it; Go out and get busy"*, and **John Rockefeller** said, *"If you want to succeed, strike out on new paths, rather than travel the worn paths of accepted success"*.

We therefore left the known paths; we conquered fear and made ourselves busy in the bush. This resulted into the fundamental peace and stability that we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy today. This peace and safety did not just happen; people sacrificed their lives and time. We must therefore at all times jealously guard this peace and ensure

that all people have safe spaces to live in. I will not allow anybody to play around with our hard earned peace. I am also determined to move extra miles to ensure that our people are loosened from the chains and bondage of poverty.

For us to do this better and very fast, we must look at new innovations of dealing with our chronic problems of poverty, laziness, lack of ideological clarity, application of non-scientific methods of agricultural production, exporting raw materials instead of finished goods; depending on God's mercy for crop production instead of irrigation, environmental degradation, poor post harvest handling, lack of a saving culture especially among the youth, poor infrastructure and lack of innovation among others.

Those are very dangerous bottlenecks/barriers to attaining a middle income status. I am happy that while inspecting the Songhai Pilot Project here in Kampiringisa this morning, I saw some solutions to some of our endemic and cancerous problems. I saw some light at the end of the tunnel. But this is just a pilot; we need to work towards the replication of this

model on large scales in other parts of the country. I think the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries, Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development and Ministry of Industry and Cooperatives need to constitute a team to come up with a plan for taking this model to yet another level.

In my State of the Nation Address on 6th June 2018, I pointed out to you that this year, the economy will grow by 5.8% per annum and rise to over 7% per annum by the Financial Year 2019/2020. Indeed a Centre at Harvard in the USA predicted that Uganda will be one of the fastest growing economies in the world by 2026 or thereabout. What surprised me was that Uganda will be the first or second fastest growing economy in the whole world. I am sure this is because of the deliberate steps we have taken to lay the foundation for a complete take off. Those of you who thought we are jokers must now wake up and move with the tides.

Fellow Ugandans, our economy is growing reasonably well based on the growth of the four key sectors thus. In the previous financial year, industry grew at 6.2% per annum, Services at 7.3%, ICT at 7.9% and agriculture at 3.2% (DHS 2016/17). It is only agriculture that is still growing slowly. Fortunately we have the will; and will soon have the necessary boosters for agricultural fast growth. We cannot permanently depend on rain-fed agriculture; that is why this financial year, the Government will work on 17 irrigation schemes in the different parts of the country including Doho phase II in Butalejja District, Mubuku phase II in Kasese District, Wadelai in Nebbi District, Tochi and Ngenge in Oyam District, Atari in Bulambuli and Kween Districts, Katete in Kanungu District, Kawumu in Luwero District, Amagoro in Tororo District, Nabigaga in Kamuli District, Rwimi in Kasese and Kabarole Districts, Nyimur in Lamwo District, Musanya in Kayunga District, Kibimba in Gomba, Kabuyanda and Matanda in Isingiro District and Igogero – Naigombwa in Iganga and Bugiri Districts.

These schemes once completed, they will greatly boost agricultural production. In order to roll-out a global irrigation

system for the whole country, we are encouraging industrialists to set up assembling or manufacturing plants for solar-powered water pumps. Many of the pumps and water conveyance systems will be used in the government funded irrigation schemes while others will be used by the farmers at their own cost. It is time for modern farming – agricultural production without application of scientific modern methods is unsustainable and extremely risky.

On import substitution, I have been very categorical and I am still keen on seeing reductions in importing many useless things that we can make here, or things we do not need; dead people's hair, perfumes, shoes, textiles, furniture, artificial nails, toys. In the State of the Nation Address this year, I informed you that Ugandans spend about 7 billion US dollars a year in terms of imports on such useless things!! I have told you time and again that we can manufacture or process most of these things here (The BUBU Concept - Buy Uganda build Uganda) but many of you do not listen.

I have therefore decided to move with some of the youth and women who seem to be listening to support them

under the Youth Livelihood and Women Enterprise Programmes and other interventions to make shoes, bags, shirts, mats, carpets, etc. These undertakings will save our foreign exchange, create more money for us; but also create jobs for our youth. This is how our unemployed youth can be transformed into property owners; job creators and cease to be mere guzzlers of wealth.

I am therefore happy that for the fiscal year 2018/2019 budget, shs 65billion has been provided for the Youth Livelihood Programme to fund over 5,000 youth enterprises and benefiting around 61,000 youth. We did also provide 39billion to support about 2,700 women enterprises targeting 35,000 women (remember, some youth are both youth and women at the same time).

As I did point out in the State of the Nation Address this year, Uganda continues to attract bigger foreign and local investors. Our strategic interventions in this area has already helped to locate in Uganda 44,316 factories and 8,200 service companies. These employ 600,000 and 1.2million people respectively; majority of whom are youth. For some

of you who travel like I do, a drive a long Gulu and Jinja Roads, will make you witness many new factories that have been built. This is how jobs are created; poverty fought and wealth realized.

Ugandans should also note that liberalization of the economy by the NRM Government has led to rapid growth of many sectors. You will recall that before the 1990's Uganda had one Radio station and one TV station; these have since multiplied to over 300 Radio stations and over 80 TV stations, from one University (Makerere University) to over 35 universities, from a few hotels that were being managed by Government (Uganda Hotels) to hundreds of hotels, from one Transport Company to hundreds of transport operators. If this is not growth and transformation; then I do not know what it is. Therefore, when I hear people making noise, I turn to the Bible in **Mathew 13:12-15**, which says "they have eyes but cannot see, ears but cannot hear" then what is the purpose of having eyes and ears? They have heads but do not think! Why have the head then?

I would therefore want to urge the young people, to have eyes that see, ears that hear and heads with brains that think and energy that is used for the right tasks and enterprises.

I urge you not to be lured by people who are not focused and have no transformational agenda for the country.

On our side as Government, we shall continue to invest in areas that facilitate growth and development. These include infrastructural development such as roads, railway, power-generation, water & electricity; but we shall also ensure that our people are healthy and educated.

As an economist, I know that one of the stimuli for faster economic growth is the low cost of doing business in the economy. With investment in the above; and with refinancing of Budhagali and a better deal for managing transmission of electricity and minimize both commercial and technical losses, we shall achieve the low cost of electricity per unit, added to the low cost of money through enhancing Micro Finance and Capitalising Uganda

Development Bank; we must surely be able to reduce the cost of doing business.

Finally, I would like to officially declare the Green Incubation Project – Songhai Model officially launched today 12th August 2018.

Thank you so much; and I wish you happy celebrations.