



THE
HOME IS BEST
DIASPORA SUMMIT
2018

**19th-20th
DECEMBER**
JINJA, SOURCE OF
THE NILE HOTEL

**THEME: ENHANCING
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
THROUGH DIASPORA REMITTANCES**

**REPORT ON THE 'HOME IS BEST' DIASPORA SUMMIT 2018 IN
JINJA UGANDA.**

Theme: Enhancing Enterprise Development through Diaspora Remittances

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT

19th - 20th DECEMBER 2018

JINJA, SOURCE OF THE NILE HOTEL

Background

Since 2003, Uganda Investment Authority in collaboration with other Government agencies and the Private Sector in Uganda have been organizing the Diaspora Investment Summit, under the theme “Home Is Best Diaspora Summit”.

Since 2009 the summits took on regional dimension and have been hosted rationally in different regions.

The main objective of these Summits is to;

Enable the Ugandans in the diaspora to appreciate the economic development all over the country;

Provide the opportunity to explore first-hand the investment opportunities in the different regions;

Establish sustainable platform for dialogue and networking between Government on one hand and both Ugandans living in the diaspora and those residing the country, on the other hand.

Regional summits held so far

YEAR	VENUE
2009	Lira
2010	Mbale
2011	Gulu
2012	Mbale
2014	Gulu
2015	Masaka
2016	Kampala
2018	Jinja

HOME IS BEST DIASPORA SUMMIT 2018- JINJA

This year, the Home Is Best Diaspora Summit 2018 was held in Jinja. The core Objectives of the summit were to:

- i) Rejuvenating the economy of greater Jinja through increasing the productivity of agricultural products and investing in tourism services and the creation of tourism products
- ii) Review the achievements of the last 8 summits in order to gain strategic direction that will benefit all the participants (both those residing in the diaspora and their partners and/or stake holders in Uganda)
- iii) Further strengthen the Uganda diaspora partnership with private sector through trade, investment transfer of expertise and technology, as well as interaction with public sector back home through dialogue and exchange of ideas formulating enabling policy for Ugandans in the diaspora to engage favourably in Ugandans development
- iv) Reaffirm the Ugandan diaspora commitment to participate in the national development programs at local level in all regions of Uganda

The Summit attracted about 120 Delegates constituting the Uganda's business community, especially those based in Jinja, members of the Ugandan Diaspora, Business development services providers, investment financiers MDAs, the media fraternity, etc.

The 'Home is Best' Diaspora Summit 2018 gave the delegates the opportunity to network with each other enabling them to discuss business prospects going forward.

This year's Summit was held on 19th - 20th December 2018 in Jinja, at the Source of the Nile Hotel under the theme, "Enhancing Enterprise Development through Diaspora Remittance".

DAY ONE: Wednesday, 19th December 2018

REMARKS

Welcome remarks by the Mayor of Jinja Municipality.

Hajji Majid Batambuze, the Mayor Jinja Municipality and Chairman Urban Authorities Association of Uganda welcomed delegates to Jinja and to the 2018 Diaspora meeting and:

- a) Thanked UIA for choosing Jinja as the host district for the summit;

- b) Informed the Summit of the district plan to improve on the infrastructure and the source of the Nile area, which will have the five star hotel in order to attract more tourists which will improve the tax base of Uganda;
- c) Noted the advantages of the Nile and Lake Victoria which can help on water transport of cargo and people to different business destinations like Mwanza Kisumu, Mombasa hence all these can be off loaded in Jinja or Port bell;
- d) Further, informed the summit that Jinja should remain the industrial park of Uganda though Kampala is the capital city of Uganda as he gave two factors that makes Jinja an industrial park that is electricity at bujagali and Jinja being on the high way to Mombasa; and
- e) Highlighted the investment areas and opportunities within Jinja



Hajji Majid Batambuze delivering the welcome remarks

Remarks by Mr. Basil Ajer, Ag Executive Director Uganda Investment Authority.

- a) He welcomed the delegates to the summit and:
- b) Informed the Summit that the event was organised by different partners and agencies like UDN and Jinja Municipal Council.
- c) Further informed the summit of the government incentives to help attract more investment as he informed the audience of UFZA with a special Free zone

Programme that members of the Diaspora should take on as an opportunity to invest home.

- d) Urged the technical staff of UIA to share the incentives offered by the government to everyone in the summit.



Mr Basil Ajer delivering the welcome remarks.

Opening Remarks by the Chairman UIA Board of Directors

In the remarks delivered by Mr. Opolot Fred, a Board Member, the chairman welcomed the delegates to the 2018 Summit and:

- a) Appreciated the mayor of Jinja Municipality since he had set the tone of the engagement in the summit, as his remarks were elaborate in regard to areas of priority like tourism, agro processing and so forth.
- b) Welcomed members of the Diaspora and all agencies available and made remarks on the failed attempts to organise the summit in 2017 due to logistical issues.
- c) Made remarks on challenges that has retarded the progress of investment in Uganda like corruption and less attractive incentives compared to the ones of East African Countries.
- d) Appreciated the summit again and informed members that this summit was put to test when it was organised over ten years ago when Prof. Maggie Kigozi was still the Executive Director of UIA and the tireless efforts of Mr. Musajjakawa John who were the initiators of the summit and it has since evolved to regional annual event with the aim of encouraging the members in the diaspora to invest in viable projects in Uganda.

- e) Informed the summit that government has prioritised investment in sectors that will create jobs that is tourism, agro processing, oil and gas, mineral beneficiation and others.
- f) Aware of the Diaspora desk at MOFA, he urged them to take on all opportunities that are available in their area of interest since financial institutions offer good interest rates for the Diaspora like equity bank.
- g) Demystified the adage that the Government of Uganda favours Foreigners in the investment incentives particularly access to free land since in the industrial area, 64% of occupants are Ugandans, 30% are foreigners and about 6% are government institutions hence with the knowledge that development progresses more when locals are the ones involved thus promoting local content.
- h) Informed the Summit that initiative of one stop centres is good and it has improved on the turnaround time of setting up a business and some of these are being bench marked by the East African countries; and
- i) He then officially opened and launched the summit.



Mr. Opolot Fred delivering the welcome remarks for UIA Board Chairman

Presentations

Investing as per the National Development Plan II and navigating the bottlenecks to doing business in Uganda. Mr. John Bosco Kavuma, NPA

The presentation, which is hereon attached provided an overview of Uganda's planning framework and NDP II priorities. It comforted the participants that Uganda's development is planned; investments made in Uganda give good returns and are secure. It pointed out to possible investment opportunities in the five priority areas of NDP II. Further explored bottlenecks in different priority sectors and how they are being addressed. Noted that what so called bottlenecks present investment opportunities through public private investment.



Mr. John Bosco Kavuma, NPA

Investor facilitation by Mrs. Prossy Kikabi, Ag. Director Investment Facilitation and Aftercare, UIA.



- a) She welcomed all the dignitaries at the Summit and also emphasised that the diaspora are taken as a priority because they are exposed and have a record of good savings as well as have good network that they have built over time in most resident countries. She further submitted as follows:
- b) Informed the Summit that UIA is a one stop centre which allows the investors to access all information that is required for joint ventures and other opportunities for example NEMA, UFZA, URA, Immigration and so forth.
- c) Further, informed the summit that UIA has a good working relationship with all government agencies as she emphasised that UIA assists investors in acquisition of land for industrial and commercial agriculture.
- d) Informed the Summit that UIA still has land in different parts of the country adding that interested members can be facilitated by UIA. She further noted that the Authority facilitates linkages between potential land buyers and land owners and even facilitates prospective investors to people who have land and also do policy advocacy which includes conducting sector specific meetings which brings together the investors in the sector to discuss the opportunities, challenges and the recommendation required most recent being the Transformers manufacturers.
- e) Informed the Summit that UIA had just recommended to the Planning Authority about the steel industry, which should be encouraged at the upstream level that is a stage of the production process, which involves searching for and extracting raw materials.
- f) More so, informed the Summit that UIA is the secretary to the Presidential investor round table, an initiative where the president chairs meeting with local and international investors to advise government on the sectors to be prioritised

for example ICT and agro processing. And they also do investor survey, which they usually do with Bank of Uganda as well as with COMESA.

Investment opportunities in Jinja District, by Ms, Kayongo Christine, Jinja Municipal Council

- a) She Welcomed all members of the Diaspora and informed the Summit that Jinja is about 80kms from Kampala and it sits on 60 sq. kms that is both on land and water and Jinja is privileged to have both Lake Victoria and Nile;
- b) Highlighted the opportunities for investment within Jinja which included:
 - i. Production of clean energy, especially solar Public bus terminal and looking for someone who can do the feasibility Study to Promote fish farming because of the presence of the water bodies, which also boosts tourism as well as sports on the available water bodies.



Ms Kayongo Christine

Land acquisition for investment, by Ms. Susan Nakibuuka, Physical Planner, Land Development Division, UIA

- a) She welcomed everybody to the Summit and informed members about the land acquisition procedure at UIA as follows:
- b) Noted that UIA has set up different industrial parks in Kampala, Mukono industrial park at Namanve, Mbarara, Mbale, Soroti, Karamoja, Kasese, Jinja industrial parks and also allocated to over 200 investors to the industrial parks mentioned above. Kira motor project will be established in Jinja; and
- c) Further noted that members of Private Sector can approach UIA and formally express their interest if they require land in any of the parks



Ms. Susan Nakibuuka, UIA

PANEL DISCUSSION



The discussion was moderated by Mr. Ronnie Mayanja, the Coordinator for the Uganda Diaspora Network. The panel entailed different themes that included: Business Registration and Licencing processes, Environmental Approvals, Free Zones opportunities and the diaspora matters and the key highlights are indicated below:

Expectation of Ugandans living in the diaspora in the business space, by Prof. Maggie Kigozi, patron, Uganda Diaspora Network.

- a) Diasporas have been proven to play an important role in the economic development of their countries of origin. Beyond their well-known role as senders of remittances, Diasporas can also promote trade and foreign direct investment, create businesses and spur entrepreneurship, and transfer new knowledge and skills. Prof. Maggie Kigozi Welcomed the delegates at the summit and:
- b) Thanked them for their untiring contribution to economic advancement of the country;
- c) Informed the summit that there are a lot of opportunities in Uganda that the Diaspora can take on since even the president of Uganda is passionate about investment in Uganda.
- d) Highlighted the priorities of Uganda's economy, being tourism, agro processing which the Diaspora should exploit; and
- e) Reiterated to the Diaspora about the political stability, which members that had previously gone to exile should not fear and they should consider Jinja as an area of investment.



Prof. Maggie Kigozi addressing the Summit.

Taxation, Uganda Revenue Authority by Mr. Byaruhanga, Supervisor, Jinja Branch.

- a) Welcomed everyone at the Summit and informed the delegates that there are enormous opportunities that the Diaspora can take on since they have a lot of incentives offered by URA like the agro based businesses, mineral sector, energy sector like solar;
- b) Elaborated on the services offered by URA like tax clearances which are swiftly done to help investors in their processes of registration of the companies that wish to initiate businesses in Uganda;
- c) Emphasised on the production of oil and gas in Uganda which is a good business venture that the diaspora should take on as area of investment for the development of Uganda's economy;
- d) He as well informed the summit of the E-services that is offered by URA which has given easy access to information and tax obligation have been easily done on line; and
- e) Informed the summit of the importance of the paying taxes as most members had mixed feelings about the high tax levies in Uganda and emphasised that paying taxes lead to infrastructural development irrespective of the challenges they face as well of persuading citizens to pay taxes.



Mr. Byaruhanga Lincoln URA

Environmental Approvals, Dr. George Muganga, Principal Officer Lead Agency Coordination, NEMA.

- a) Welcomed delegates to the Summit and informed the Summit that NEMA (National Environment Management Authority) which is an autonomous institution established by the National Environment Act (NEA), Cap.153, in 1995 to coordinate, monitor, regulate and supervise all matters on environment in Uganda.
- b) Noted that they are also part of the one stop centre at UIA in order to give the Environment Impact assessment easy for the investors.
- c) Mentioned delay and location as some of the challenges faced by NEMA in order to expedite the process of giving Certificates to Investors.



Dr. George Muganga, NEMA

Business opportunities under the Free Zones programme by Mr. Richard Jabo, Executive Director; Uganda Free Zones Authority.

- a) The Executive Director applauded the Delegates for attending the summit and UIA for organising the event, further noting that holding the event in Jinja gives Delegates the opportunity to tour the scenic town. He further submitted as follows:
- b) Informed the Summit that Uganda Free Zones Authority is incorporated under the Free Zones Act of 2014, which act is domesticated or what is provided for under the East African Community Customs Act of 2004 and its regulations of 2010.
- c) Elaborated on the relevance of the Free Zones to the Diaspora, which is a good area of investment as well as informed the summit that UFZA had licensed about 17 Free Zones in Uganda.
- d) In addition he gave the benefits of the Free Zones by government which had an interest in creation of employment, promoting FDI as well as adding value to the agro products of Uganda and gave the types of licenses offered by UFZA like the Developers, Operators and Managers Licenses.
- e) Informed the Summit of UFZA's Plan of developing a public Free Zone in Jinja and Entebbe hence encouraging members of the Diaspora to pick interest in investing in these planned Zones; and
- d) Added that Entebbe Free Zone would be of high standard since CAA is undertaking the airport expansion and UFZA will be part of that wonderful design for its public Free Zone hence the members be encouraged and take interest in the Free Zones Scheme in Uganda.



Mr. Richard Jabo, Executive Director; Uganda Free Zones Authority.

SME EXHIBITION

The SME exhibition was carried out after the plenary sessions at the Summit. The overall objective of this exhibition was to provide a platform through which domestic investors and Ugandans based in the Diaspora could exhibit their products and services and also interact.







Day 2: Thursday, 20th December 2018

Establishing joint venture partnerships that work

Dr. Charles Ocici, Executive Director, Enterprise Uganda made a presentation on the establishment of joint ventures that work in Uganda. He said that joint ventures may be licensed to participate in a range of petroleum related business undertaking provided there is, within such joined venture participation by the Ugandan Government or a company that is 48 percent Government aided. He also talked the reasons for lasting venture partnerships. He also made a presentation on causes for high partnerships failure rate, which included rushed decisions socially best choice of partners.



Mrs. Juliet K. Kibirige, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Kibirige applauded the Delegates for attending the Summit and UIA for organising the event, further noting that holding the event in Jinja gives Delegates the opportunity to appreciate what Jinja has to offer. She highlighted that Ministry of Foreign Affairs is committed to enabling the members of the diaspora in all their needs for investment and in all their needs when they are in their respective countries. She encouraged members of the Diaspora to take advantage of the Uganda Embassies and Missions.

Closing remark.

Mr. Basil Ajer, Ag. ED UIA thanked all the delegates who attended the Summit and in particular Jinja District for the warm hospitality shown during the two days. On behalf of UIA he promised to work closely with the different Government institutions and members of the diaspora. Ag. ED concluded by informing participants that the next Home Is Best Diaspora Summit 2019 will be held in Western Uganda.

Other Diaspora Activities

UIA also participated in other Diaspora activities e.g. Diaspora BBQ diners at Source of The Nile Hotel, visits and excursions to Busoga Palace and Itanda Falls as well as the Annual Diaspora Breakfast and Networking Gala, organized by the Ugandan Diaspora Network.



The visit and excursion to Busoga Palace

Diaspora Networking Breakfast and Gala Night

UIA contributed to and participated in the Diaspora networking breakfast and gala night.

Photographs



The delegates in a group photo after the Summit.





Excursion to Itanda falls