



FORUM FOR  
DEMOCRATIC  
CHANGE



# MANIFESTO

2021-2026

BUILDING A NEW UGANDA

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One People



# FORUM FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) is to work for a socially, economically and politically transformed Uganda where Ugandan citizens: men, women, youth and children live a life of dignity, have access to equal opportunity and become masters of their destiny. This mission is rooted in our ideological conviction and belief that leadership is a service and those who are called to serve must do it with humility, dignity and with the uttermost respect for individual freedoms and liberties as enshrined in our national constitution and international covenants. This is what distinguishes us from others especially the incumbent leaders who take leadership as a right.

The FDC is committed to offering Ugandans a brand of political and public service leadership that is transformative, selfless, and patriotic. We are committed to pursuing policies that make growth more inclusive, create new, decent and well-paying jobs, dramatically improve the quality of public service delivery and strengthen citizenship.

This Policy Agenda and the principles, values and policy commitments stated herein are therefore not just political promises, rather, it is our pledge and a compact with the people of Uganda to offer an alternative leadership that espouses the dignity of the human person, merit-based leadership, social justice and equal opportunity to every Ugandan woman, man, youth and child.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
Statement of the Party President and Presidential Candidate - Eng. Patrick Oboi Amuriat	3
Statement of the Party Chairman - Amb. Waswa Birigwa	5
Statement of the Party Secretary General - Hon. Nathan Nandala Mafabi	6
Statement of the Leader of Minority in Parliament - Hon. Aol Betty Ocan (Mrs)	7
<b>OUR AGENDA FOR THE COUNTRY</b>	9
<b>PILLAR ONE: THE TRANSITION</b>	
<b>Transitional Agenda:</b> The immediate tasks	11
	13
<b>PILLAR TWO: LIVELIHOODS POST-COVID</b>	
	15
Covid-19 economic recovery measures	17
<b>PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT</b>	
	21
Raise Ugandan politics to democratic levels	22
Devolve power to communities to take charge of their decision-making	23
Every region shall be a “special region”	25
Limited access to Justice by poor Ugandans	27
National debt	28
Lift the fight against stealing public resources right from State House	29
Empowered and self-esteemed persons living with disabilities	31
No Woman left behind	33
Socio-economic support to single mothers	35
Youth-driven economic growth and development	36
Social rehabilitation and Economic empowerment of disadvantaged children and youth	37
People-owned armed forces, with decent compensation	38
National virtues to restore the dignity of Senior citizens	40
Responsive education and skilling Ugandans	41
Quality Healthcare for all	43
Decent and affordable housing for all	45
My land, my life: Security of tenure and planned community settlements	46
Farming: A neglected goldmine	48
Ugandans to control and develop their mineral sector	50
Clean Water and Environment for Ecological balance	51
Tourism: as driver of national development and identity	52
Sports and Creative Arts: as a primary driver of wealth and health	54
Internet and communication channels for all - uncensored	56
Science, Technology, and Innovation: as an integral part of life and progress	58
Energy: to power livelihoods and economic transformation	60
Public Works and Transport: to facilitate life and commerce	62
Champion a new economic order for East Africa	64
Foreign Service driven by national interest	66



# STATEMENT OF THE PARTY PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



***The Manifesto focuses on strengthening every aspect that facilitates production, productivity, prosperity, and development, which the NRM junta has failed to address meaningfully in 35 years.***



Fellow Citizens,

This election is unlike any other. It has come at a very critical moment when our beloved country is in many deficits; democratic, economic, social, and moral. This election period is one which must end Museveni's state capture. The time is now to forcefully end the theft of votes and of hundreds of trillions of shillings while Ugandans languish in poverty; his nepotism, arrogance, and failed economic policies. It is time to stop his impoverishment of the people, his era of unemployment and joblessness; his bad land policies, which have resulted in dehumanizing evictions, which have made you landless, deprived, unproductive, and poor.

We're in this election to end Mr. Museveni's abuse of our fine military and police. We are seeking to put a full stop on his tendencies to unleash the military on unarmed and peaceful civilians, and end the unjust society he has created.

We must all rise up and resist stage-managed 'democracy' and the pronging of a military dictatorship.

This Manifesto contains our agenda to dismantle a chronically sick corrupt system, and how we shall construct a New Uganda that is free, prosperous, fair, and just for everyone.

The Manifesto focuses on strengthening every aspect that facilitates the production, productivity, prosperity, and development, which the NRM junta has failed to address meaningfully in 35 years.

We are therefore humbly seeking your overwhelming votes in support of our governance plan 2021-2026 to reclaim and rebuild a new Uganda together. It is now or never. It will be worse if the junta gets access to oil money.

Fifty-nine years ago, our nation Uganda was re-born by acquiring independence from the British colonialists, in

1962. It was a re-birth that many Ugandans hoped to be a deliverance from white colonial masters. But that was never to be. Ugandans started a new bad governance journey that was coupled with constitutional crises, political and social injustices, brutality, cruelty, economic destruction and dishonest leadership which the majority (90percent) have suffered up to this day.

The 2021 election is an anointed moment by God for oppressed Ugandans to exploit the opportunity for accelerating a non-violent people led struggle to end the dictatorial rule that cannot end by a mere casting of a ballot paper. We either unite in diversity and together build a strong force to reclaim our country in the spirit of *twerwaneko* or crumble together.

When we promise to create one million jobs per year, we do not just mean that we will create programs to employ you, but also that we will challenge you to stop seeing yourself as a job seeker and start seeing yourself as a job creator. When we promise to ensure that every household is able to eat three meals a day, we do not just mean that we will give you cheap fertilizer to increase food production, but also that we will challenge you to work three times as hard in your fields as before.

When we promise to build new homes with a solid roof, electricity, and tap water, we do not just mean that we will bring investors to make this happen, but also that we will challenge you to work towards owning that home. When we promise to give one million youth and women capital to start their own businesses, we mean that we will link them to markets and banks to leverage their gains.

As we unveil this people-centered Manifesto, today, in a spirit of patriotism, we promise to give our country servant leadership that will set an example of strictly submitting to constitutional processes, provisions, and institutions that are designed to ensure good governance.

As President, I will go to Parliament not only to give the State of the Nation Address but to be questioned by the



People about my handling of state affairs. The idea of “listening to the President in silence” is not attractive to us.

I will propose legislation to reduce the powers of the presidency and empower institutions to operate independently. We shall reduce the huge cabinet with a threshold of a total 42 ministers and Deputy Ministers.

We shall seek to reduce the size of Parliament to two representatives per district, a woman and a man. Future creation of new Districts will only be possible after every five years and based on population growth, not on politics and certainly not on the whims of the President.

The time is now for the power of resources to be transferred back to the people through yet to be created federal States.

Citizens should not be beggars from politicians but rather should be the bosses of their country to determine their destiny. This will be realized by uplifting the stunted health sector, education, industry, malnourished children, funding for skilling the youth, roads and using the rescued funds from robbers for the benefit of the majority poor Ugandans, the tax payers presently suffering under the scourge of predators and dictatorship.

In our efforts to see that the people have real power and exercise it, we shall need the cooperation of all democracy seeking forces. Therefore we push for broad national unity starting with the formation of an all-inclusive transitional government of forces of change.

The Transitional government will among other tasks involve all Ugandans in discussing what type of New Uganda they want. That will include making a new Constitution, Truth-telling, Justice and Reconciliation, rebuilding State institutions and Political Parties, and organizing Free and Fair elections where people's true choices are declared winners.

Proudly and confidently, therefore, I know I am a candidate of the sidelined peasants, a candidate of struggling workers, and millions of unemployed youth, a candidate of the poorly paid soldiers, policemen and policewomen, and prisons warders, and the underpaid public servants, the teachers and medical workers.

I am a candidate of the Ugandan businesses community, market vendors and bodabodas and transporters who suffer high taxes.

I am a candidate of the underfunded local governments, and of the champions of devolution of power and resources.

I am a candidate of those who have lost their land to landgrabbers.

I am a candidate who shall dismantle the imperial Presidency in Entebbe.

I am a candidate of anti-corruption warriors.

I am a candidate of sports lovers, sports developers and promoters.

I am a candidate of the largely ignored PWDs blinded by tokenism.

I am a candidate not fighting for State House but leading FDC team focused on Ugandans reclaiming our country.

I am a candidate for regional integration, Pan-Africanism and peaceful co-existence of all nations

I call upon you all to join us in this people's struggle.

**Patrick Oboi Amuriat**

# STATEMENT OF THE PARTY CHAIRMAN



***Our hope for a democratic transition through elections and a peaceful transfer of power from one leader to another has been shattered every time. Nevertheless, all is not lost By the power of God that works in us; WE MUST SET OURSELVES FREE AGAIN.***

Fellow Country Men and Women

Over thirty-four years of NRM leadership has given us a dose of political mischief, abortion of electoral democratic governance with voter robbery and sham presidential elections, rape of the constitution with fundamental articles manipulated to give one particular citizen life presidency and entrenched fully-fledged dictatorship that has for over three decades suffocated and oppressed majority Ugandans and denied them the opportunity to enjoy 'the land of freedom'. These are the social economic and political injustices that the Forum for Democratic Change seeks to address in this election.

It is no secret that we have had change of government administration one after another by use of military hardware and coup de-tat. Our hope for a democratic transition through elections and a peaceful transfer of power from one leader to another has been shattered every time. Nevertheless, all is not lost By the power of God that works in us; WE MUST SET OURSELVES FREE AGAIN. The black colonial agents under the NRM government over years have turned us into beggars through excessive patronage politics and false or empty promises.

They promise prosperity but deliver poverty; promise nationalism but deliver sectarianism and favouritism to foreign interests and a fractured Ugandan society of the haves and have not, the well paid by the government and those surviving on one or no meal per day. They have continued to promise political tolerance but deliver human rights abuses; promise good governance but deliver corruption and incompetence; promise relative autonomy of State institutions but deliver state capture where the State, the government and the ruling Party are fused into the Presidency.

A call to the youth. You are aware that while our founding fathers and mothers accomplished their goal of national liberation from the colonialists, it is your generation that must accomplish the national goal of political and economic liberation.

**Ambassador Waswa Birigwa**



# STATEMENT OF THE PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL



**Today, Uganda ranks number three among the poorest countries in the world, as revealed by a study conducted by Focus Economics in 2020. Uganda lags behind Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi, which posted stronger GDPs per capita.**

Fellow countrymen and women,

This FDC Manifesto outlines programs that must be undertaken by Ugandans to resuscitate our national economy. There will be financial and economic programs, which are short-term; and long-term political programs. It effectively deals with how to handle the Covid-19 induced crisis and its collateral damage to the economy.

Today, Uganda ranks number three among the poorest countries in the world, as revealed by a study conducted by Focus Economics in 2020. Uganda lags behind Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi, which posted stronger GDPs per capita.

The FDC Government will put in place economic interventions which will focus on the use of internal and indigenous skill and capital to acquire scientific means, and master technology to industrialize the economy. We will build the required infrastructure by ourselves, research, develop institutions and reduce reliance on foreign capital and labour skills.

Today, we have rapid migration of rural folks to the urban areas beyond the carrying capacities of the cities and towns they migrate to and remain idle as there are no jobs for them. The influx has led to the exponential growth of slums and ghettos and high crime in the cities.

The mothers of this nation continue to die in labour due to preventable diseases because of the collapse of the health service system.

Millions of citizens still cannot access safe water nor electricity in their homes. Women travel on footpaths instead of paved roads, mostly walking or using bodaboda (motorbikes). Their railway network and services were shut down decades ago.

Quality education remains a myth under the current government for the majority.

Various vulnerable and disadvantaged interest groups of citizens like the PWDs, youth, and workers and women are silenced and remain victims of token elective offices filled by regime agents.

Men and women deserve a responsive, accountable, and caring government for themselves and their families. The needed interventions, however, can only be achieved when Ugandans have the power in their hands to undertake the changes themselves. It cannot happen where the state institutions are all under capture and controlled by a power-hungry kleptocracy.

**Nathan Nandala Mafabi**

# STATEMENT OF THE LEADER OF MINORITY IN PARLIAMENT



Fellow Ugandans,

We have a country to build and not a moment to waste. So, let's all get to work as foot soldiers but not only vote casters.

Power must belong to the people. Elections must be without manipulation of results by the elites appointed to deliver someone's Life Presidency.

Minority Members of Parliament tried, in vain to stop this dangerous project. We still recall the brazen invasion of Parliamentary Chambers by Presidential guards in December of 2018 and the beating up and arresting of MPs who were opposed to the removal of the presidential age limit from the Constitution. It was a national shame except that the powers that be no longer feel any shame.

The incident, which ended in the forceful constitutional change angered many Ugandans. We call upon Ugandans to turn that anger into a force and use this forthcoming elections and if necessary civil disobedience to resolve this matter, to reclaim their power over the presidency. We have had enough as a country.

Covid -19 funds and supplementary budget, development partner's funds in trillion including the last financial year 2019 unspent classified funds up this day does not have any accountability. Everyone connected, including those in State House, just ran away a piece of the carcass in broad light robbery. Yet livelihoods of Ugandans are under threat. Several youths have so far committed suicide due to Covid-19 related oppression by security forces and LDUs.

The management of the Covid-19 pandemic has been politicized, allowing NRM to disallow both open free campaigning and virtual campaign and as usual, using usual state resources to do whatever they want.

We wish to challenge civil society organizations to develop a culture of robust protests against all those on the wrong side of justice.

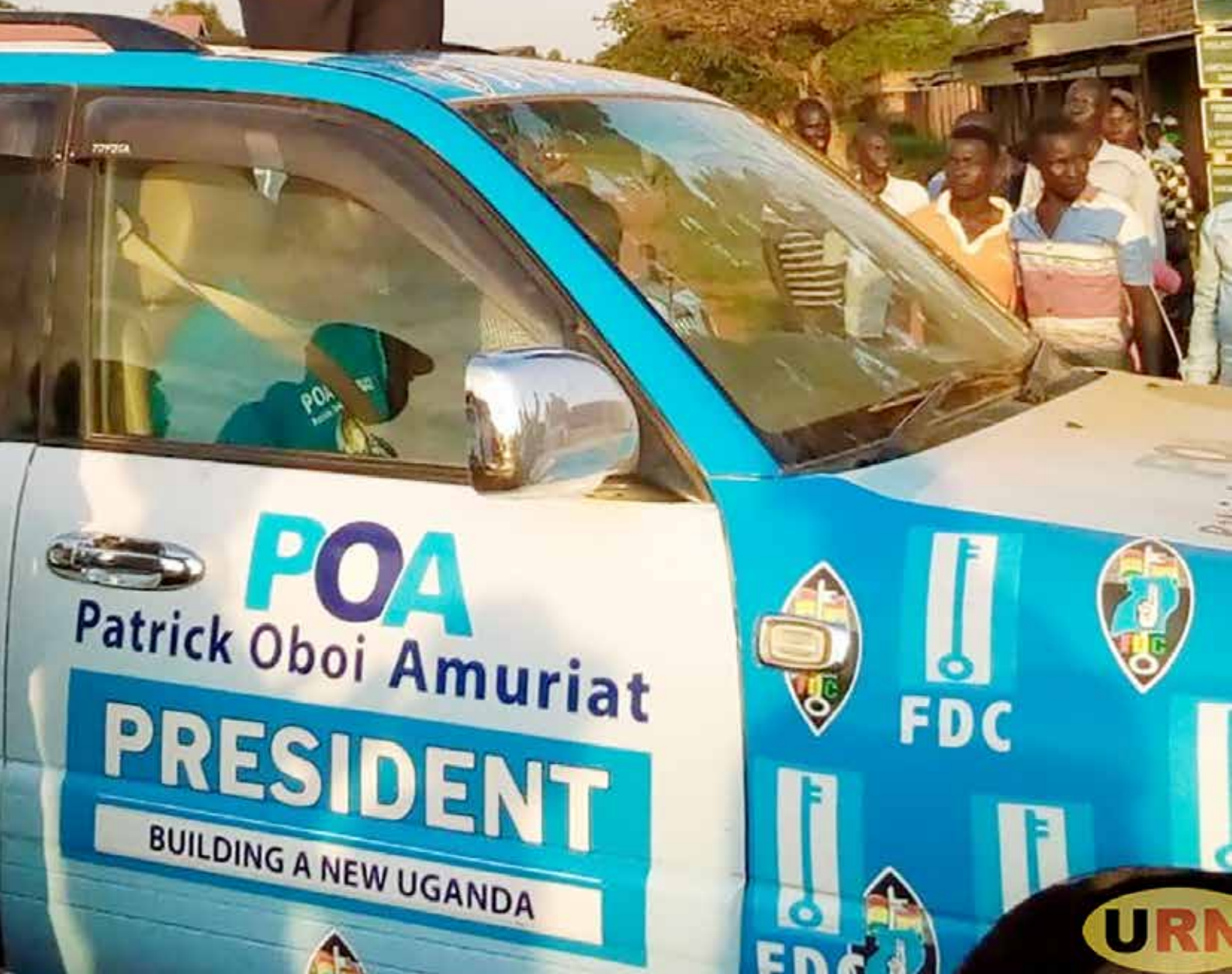
We wish to request our development partners to respect our vision and plans for our own country and to partner with us in ways that respect our dignity and sovereignty, not ways that undermine it.

This election is part and parcel of our continued participation in the fight for a return of constitutional power to the people of Uganda, through which they shall determine their destiny.

**Aol Betty Ocan (Mrs)**



**Power must belong to the people. Elections must be without manipulation of results by the elites appointed to deliver someone's Life Presidency.**



POA  
Patrick Oboi Amuriat

**PRESIDENT**

BUILDING A NEW UGANDA

FDC



URN



# OUR AGENDA FOR THE COUNTRY

This manifesto outlines the issues, why they matter and what we shall undertake to do in order to build a new Uganda, which is our vision for the period 2021-2026. Our agenda emanates from the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Constitutional goal, aims, objectives and guiding principles established in Articles 6,7 and 8 of our Party Constitution.

Our agenda laid in this manifesto demonstrates the pursuit of our goal as espoused in our party Constitution in Article 6, that 'the goal of the Party shall be the establishment of a truly united and peaceful Uganda; and the empowerment of the people of Uganda to achieve a better quality of life for all Ugandans', crowned by our motto, 'One Uganda, One people'.

We are aware that the issues are many, including but not limited to the failure of our democratic agenda and constitutional order, economic disparity due to failed development policy, social exclusion and marginalisation of many, weakened institutions, abuse of state power and violation of human rights, the militarisation of our governance processes, loss of dignity and powerlessness of the Ugandan people, and dominance of power by a small group of individuals in the ruling party and associates.

We know that these issues matter for building a new Uganda, anchored on the 1995 Constitution's emphasis on equal distribution of resources and development, that we aim to make available to all citizens equally.

We, therefore, seek to undertake several actions aimed at facilitating production, productivity, prosperity, and development by proposing in this agenda a robust financial, economic, and political programs, which are short-term; and long-term. Our agenda also includes ways to deal with the Covid-19 induced crisis and its collateral damage to the economy.

FDC Government will put in place economic interventions which will focus on the use of internal indigenous skill and capital to acquire scientific means. FDC will invest heavily in and master technology to industrialize the economy with our youth turned into innovative technology warriors.

The FDC Government will build the required infrastructure, research, and development institutions; reduce reliance on foreign capital and labour skills in combating crises like Covid-19 and Ebola now and in the future in order to achieve a new Uganda.

Our economic agenda will focus on the reduction of rural migration into cities by making rural life productive and attractive; skilling the youth in all areas, including investing in agriculture, tourism and industrialisation; various forms of financial and



***This manifesto outlines the issues, why they matter and what we shall undertake to do in order to build a new Uganda, which is our vision for the period 2021-2026.***



economic interventions; the reduction of accumulated national debt; application of tax measures that create an enabling environment for businesses; responsible land management; developing the mineral sector; doubling efforts on access to energy; promotion of tourism; prioritising science, technology and innovation through investment in Research and Development; increased focus on public works and transport; and tackling corruption. These interventions we know are relevant for building a new Uganda.

Our social agenda will focus on the promotion and protection of the social and cultural rights of Ugandans by restructuring the education system to make it responsive to current development challenges; strengthening the health care system and offering health insurance for Ugandans; tackling unemployment; safeguarding social security nets where the elderly, vulnerable and those outside formal social security are catered for by the state; targeted interventions to mitigate the impact of Covid-19; decent and affordable housing for all; provision of clean water; responsible environmental management which mitigates the impact of climate change; prioritizing sports and the creative arts; and the empowerment of women, youth and PWDs. These interventions we know are relevant for building a new Uganda.

Our political agenda will focus on far-reaching electoral and political reforms, including legislative reviews in order to strengthen democracy-building institutions such as Parliament, Judiciary, the Electoral Commission, the security agencies like the army and police, and the media through the promotion of internet and communication channels; championing a new economic order for the East African Community; and foreign service that is driven by national interest. These interventions we know are relevant for building a new Uganda.

Our administrative agenda to build a new Uganda will thus, involve the restoration of our national priorities

with equal opportunities for all Ugandans as well as the strengthening of local governments by ensuring meaningful devolution of power to regions and local governments with affirmative action to close the gaps in the unequal distribution of resources and growing dividends. These interventions we know are relevant for building a new Uganda.

Finally, our democratic agenda and aspiration is to fight for the return of constitutional power to the people of Uganda, with which they can determine their destiny through free and fair elections as well as meaningful participation in the development process of our country. These interventions we know are relevant for building a new Uganda. We shall not be able to achieve these goals alone as FDC. We shall need a united front of all democracy seeking forces. Whether we win elections or not, we shall first set up an all inclusive Transitional Government of National Unity.

The needed interventions, however, can only be achieved when Ugandans have the power in their hands to undertake the changes themselves. It cannot happen where the state institutions such as the Judiciary and Parliament are all under capture.

It is our strong belief, that given the mandate to lead this country, these programs outlined in our agenda and this Manifesto will restore trust, dignity and confidence to Ugandans; provide assurance that for once, shared economic growth is possible, and free and fair elections are possible; freedoms and justice for all are feasible; and that a democratic dispensation should be given a chance. We are confident that our well thought out national agenda and the detailed steps outlined in this manifesto will make it possible to build a new Uganda, where our motto of 'one people, one Uganda' is a reality.

We invite you to participate in building a new Uganda, first by voting for FDC flag bearers at all levels, and later in the implementation of this manifesto and holding the leaders accountable in the delivery of this agenda.

## PILLAR ONE

# THE TRANSITION

There is a governance crisis in Uganda. The aspirations held by our forefathers during the independence take over did not last. The new leaders used the same terror tools to oppress Ugandans: terror and coercion, granting favours to collaborators, controlling information, and divide and rule.

The current thirty-four years of NRM military rule, administered by Legal Notice no. 1 of 1986, is the latest major crisis in the country. Exclusion, injustice, and human rights violations have escalated.

There exists state capture in Uganda. The Regime and its agents dominate and influence policymaking in favour of their interests. The Regime is at will to apply coercion, such as when the Regime military attacked Parliament tortured and maimed Members of Parliament to ensure the passing of a constitutional amendment of interest to the military ruler.

Furthermore, after the general elections of 2016, the military massacred hundreds of civilians in Kasese, daytime, imprisoned their King, in a bold act of abuse of state instruments of coercion.

The Regime uses the Central Bank resources the way it wishes outside the law of the land.

It directs the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and the Judiciary to deliver the Regime's interests. The supreme Regime ruler is the one who appoints 100% of the judges. Those are the courts responsible for adjudicating any contestations against the Regime and its agents.

There are no free and fair elections because the Electoral Commission is partisan in the way it is constituted and directed by the Regime. The Regime has rejected reforms to democratize the composition and activities of the Electoral Commission.

Therefore, the 2021 elections, like those before this one as demonstrated by courts of law rulings, will never be free and fair.

Under these circumstances, the country needs a negotiated five-year, all-inclusive TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION to restore the rule of law and to democratize governance.



*The FDC Presidential Party Primaries.*



## Transitional Agenda: The immediate tasks

### THE ISSUE

Electoral democracy has eluded the country, and the people have lost power to the rulers. The 2021 elections are not going to be free and fair because there is no democratic dispensation in Uganda that can enable a free and fair election

State institutions are so fused with the political party in power that they run on directives of the NRM and its leaders.

The top leadership of the security forces have declared that they will not accept and respect opposition forces taking over power in Uganda. Accordingly, they have taken over electoral affairs in the country.

The Regime has deliberately refused to implement the various recommendations to reform electoral laws as directed by courts, election observers, and proposed by the opposition in Uganda.

Further, to this conducting the elections in the usual way is problematic due to the Covid-19 scourge. In essence, it is not an election but a ritual to legitimize the dictatorship.

Because there cannot be an administrative vacuum, a transitional administration should be put in place to carry out a minimum agenda assigned by the people of Uganda, to pave the way for democratic governance.



*Votes do not count under a dictatorship.*



### WHY IT MATTERS

For the people of Uganda to direct their affairs, they need their power and dignity restored first.

Ugandans cannot meaningfully participate in their governance if their freedoms, rights, and liberties remain

encumbered by the state and the junta.

And yet, “campaigning digitally” will deny Ugandans their constitutional rights to access and elect their leaders.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We wish to propose the formation of a 5-year all-inclusive transitional administration that will implement the following agenda whether we win elections or not:

- a. Restore the rule of law and constitutionalism by reviewing the 1995 Constitution and the legal environment, and carry out all reforms needed for free and fair elections, including the recommendations of Courts of law and election monitors.

Rebuild State institutions:

- Strengthen the independence of institutions in their day-to-day running.
  - Restructure and downsize Parliament, the Executive and local governments.
  - Depoliticize the army and police forces.
  - Increase the number of judges to District level
- b. Carry out Truth-telling, justice, and reconciliation to reunite the population.
  - c. Implement a minimum socio-economic program to revive the livelihoods of Ugandans

- Foster economic growth, increase employment, safeguard monetary policy, and increase public spending to solve the needs of the poor.
- Revamp the health sector to focus effort on preventive medicine, health insurance, health infrastructure, and welfare of health workers.
- Invest in the education sector to focus on technical education, apprenticeships, and excellence.
- Eliminate theft of public resources and all its tenets by strengthening checks and balances and leading by example.
- Strengthen access to justice by all citizens.
- Restore and strengthen the security of person and property

- d. Appropriate at least 50% of the total budget to local governments.

- e. Conduct free and fair elections

These undertakings above form the foundations for our commitment under Pillar Three: Medium and Long Term Development.

## PILLAR TWO

# LIVELIHOODS POST-COVID

Ugandans have suffered from Covid-19 and its effects. Unfortunately, they have suffered the lockdown more than the virus itself. Now we think it is time to loosen up and target the impact of the arbitrary restrictions.

The lockdown on March 18, 2020, was meant to prepare the country for easing up movements. The question is, did we achieve it? How much was done safeguarding the lives and livelihoods of citizens?

The fundamental objective of the lockdown was to allow the country time to prepare appropriately on how to deal with the virus and its aftermath.

No one can stop the virus. However, the virus can be delayed, adequately managed as we wait for a cure or vaccine. Unfortunately, those in charge of State resources have failed to do that.

Instead, the dictatorship took advantage of the pandemic to rob Ugandans of trillions of Uganda shillings after encumbering them in lockdown. Over UGX 12 trillion could not be appropriately traced for the period ending June 2020. Behind the epidemic was a great exploit that dwarfs all the previously known corruption acts of our time.

Our focus will be to save lives and livelihoods. That is, building a robust health service system and putting in place a well-prioritized sector stimulus packages for the economy to enable the country to get back to a healthy footing. (swapped the paras).



*Small traders shall get soft loans.*



## Covid-19 economic recovery measures

### THE ISSUE

**Lack of framework:** The Constitution of Uganda provides for how an emergency is declared through Parliament. That has never been invoked, but The ruling elites relied on Public Health Ordinance of 1935 and used it to fight against the principle Act.

**Tourism:** The tourism industry employs 6% (700,000 Ugandans) of the population and has been the most hit by Covid-19. Tourism, which employs about 700,000 people and contributes 7.7% to GDP was completely shut down.

**Unemployment:** Covid-19 escalated the unemployment problem in the country. Before the pandemic, Uganda's unemployment was already at a staggering 64%.

**Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs):** These comprise over 70% of our economy. Furthermore, MSMEs contribute over 20% of our GDP. Yet, Covid-19 effects have hit this sub-sector quite massively, much harder than the larger manufacturing industries.

**Bodabodas,** taxi, truck and bus operators, salon operators, *toninyiramukange* restaurants, hotels, and market sellers were hit hardest, more than the large and manufacturing industries.

**Agriculture:** The sector has remained backward, undeveloped, unorganized, and subsistence. But thankfully, it is still resilient and continues to provide food for the urban population. Agricultural inputs, modern equipment, storage, and organized marketing have remained a big challenge and deterrent to the modernization and growth of the sector.

Because our peasants are not organized in producer and marketing cooperatives, they are massively cheated by

middlemen, some from across country borders. They do not get value for their labour.

The market for various agricultural products was variously impacted, especially given the complete closure of the hotel and welfare businesses. In particular, poultry and fish farmers were massively affected.

Other products, such as cattle and other animals, continued to be consumed measurably well owing to the mostly free-range nature of farming enterprises.

**Education sector:** About 15 million pupils and students are at home, as the Ministry of Education grapples over Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) re-opening schools.

**Transport sector:** The lockdown and ban on both private and public transport for two months left carriers of various chronic ailments exposed to death due to lack of accessible health facilities.

**Health sector:** Health centers were empty because patients could no longer access the facilities, or they feared contracting the deadly Covid-19. Many people resorted to the dangerous self-medication.

Immunization went low, and it was reported that post-lockdown, patients, especially with non-communicable diseases, were and are in worse conditions.

Hundreds of patients, especially expectant mothers, have either lost their babies or their lives because they couldn't quickly reach health facilities.

Private health facilities lost revenues up to 70% of the regular incomes, and have laid off staff or cut down salaries over 20%, among other measures.



## PILLAR TWO: LIVELIHOODS POST-COVID

**Social impacts:** Socially, the lockdown increased domestic violence. Further, there was a high increase in poverty across the country and the social strata resulting from increased unemployment. About 75% of SMEs laid off part of their workforce. Over 25 million additional people fell into the poverty bracket, while over 15 million more were at the risk of falling into the cue.

Covid-19 has left most ordinary Ugandans in a more vulnerable state.

**Housing sector:** Tenants, landlords, and financiers are at loggerheads over unpaid rental arrears. Water and electricity bills remained unsettled and still accumulating.

**Banks, Telecom, Media, and IT sub-sector:** this is a significant component of any economy anywhere. Banks, telecom companies, the media, and Information Technology (IT) service providers are essential anchors of our struggling economy.

Among these, the media and IT service providers were walloped by the Covid-19 lockdown. Many workers in this sector lost jobs while others had their pay slashed because the companies they work for lost significant revenues.

**Freedoms and rights:** The government used the pretext of Covid-19 regulations to suppress political rights and liberties deliberately. The junta has restricted the participation of other citizens in mass media such as radios and TVs

**Weakened and desperate population:** The lockdown massively affected the socio-economic wellbeing of Ugandans. While some people succumbed to the Covid-19 virus, many more people have died due to the underlying diseases and lockdown restrictions.

**Debt burden:** Covid-19 found the Ugandan economy already on its knees, with a debt burden of UGX 48.9 trillion. However, additional borrowings and grants have since been secured in the name of fighting Covid-19.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Covid-19 and lockdown disrupted people's lives, both individual and institutional. Without income, Ugandans became vulnerable, with many succumbing to death due to opportunistic diseases and hunger.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

#### 1. Social welfare intervention

**Water and electricity:** We shall waive and pay all water bills for domestic use for a period of six months

**Residential housing rent:** We shall pay all residential housing rent for the category of tenants paying up to UGX 300,000 per month for six months.

**Food and broader social protection:** Uganda is mostly a hand-to-mouth economy. About 85% of Ugandans are in the informal sector. They need food immediate household reliefs. We assure citizens that we shall provide nutrition improved food and household help to the citizenry whenever complete lockdown becomes necessary.

We shall remit UGX 100,000 monthly to every household for the first six months during lockdown.

Waive all taxes on selected essential commodities, such as sugar, salt, and soap.

**Midterm access to NSSF savings:** We shall allow contributors mid-term access to their savings. NSSF money is personal savings and not government funds. This does not need any government funds from the national Treasury.

#### 2. Financial and economic stimulus intervention

Trade disruptions have led to wide-scale loss of business, adversely impacting on employment and tax revenues. Moreover, about 42% of the taxes collected by Uganda are from international trade, both import and export.

**Breathing life into the tourism sector:** In particular, support the hotels, restaurants, guest houses, bars, and tour companies to provide some relief to their businesses.



We will defer VAT for upcountry hotels, restaurants, and bars for a period of five months during lockdowns.

**Support to private schools amidst closure:**

Considering the significant percentage of private schools and the fact that the government ordered the closure of schools; all private school workers will be taken care of for the whole period of closure.

We shall pay 75% of the salaries of all private school workers for the period of closure. The schools will then invest their savings in maintaining their schools in the same period.

**Government schools:** We shall disburse fees for the maintenance of all public schools during the period of closure.

- Lift the ban on recruitment by Public Service, and recruit more teachers to meet the Standard Operating Procedures.
- Provide immunity boosters for school children.

**Agricultural sector:** The production of all agricultural products must be stabilized and indeed improved to cater for the much-needed food security. As such, there will be varying support interventions to all established farmers across the country. We shall:

Support value addition to improve the incomes for farmers, and for resuscitating cooperative societies to enhance production and marketing.

**The transport industry:** Apart from trucks, transporters have experienced a major hit by the lockdown, particularly the passenger transport business.

- Negotiate with bodaboda and matatu business people on the way forward for the business. They must be involved in the negotiations without impositions.

**Industrial sector:** Lockdown and closure of wholesale and retail businesses meant that the market became very limited. In the process, many industries laid off workers, and others have since reviewed the remuneration packages of their workers with cut downs.

Across the board, therefore, all industries need interventions to recover.

**a. Manufacturing**

All employees laid off in the manufacturing industry will have 75% of their salaries met by the government for three months during any lockdown.

Also, the manufacturers to be given tax waivers for one year for them to invest in recovery.

**b. Mining**

Through their associations and other groups, we will support all private miners by meeting 20% of their losses for two months during lockdowns.

**c. Banks, Telecom, Media, and IT sub-sector**

The banks, IT, and telecom companies to be considered for any intervention shall be locally owned, such as Centenary Bank, and UDB.

- To deal with the effect in the whole service sector, we shall address the question of non-performing loans. We shall provide relief to banks through the Bank of Uganda open market operations to reduce loan interest rates per annum for six months during lockdowns.
- Further, we shall invest in ICT to double rural penetration from the current 40%.

**d. MSMEs**

Through the Private Sector Foundation, we shall assess and determine necessary interventions, but should include the following:

- a. Waive all payroll tax payments to ease business cash flows for five months during lockdowns.



## PILLAR TWO: LIVELIHOODS POST-COVID

- b. Pay all outstanding income tax and VAT refunds to the claimant taxpayers
- c. Lower taxes on products with locally sourced raw materials.
- d. Review the NSSF Act to provide for access to savings during national emergencies of the Covid-19 nature.
- e. Support efforts by KCCA and other cities to revitalize business health in their areas.

### e. Clearing domestic arrears

We shall clear all domestic arrears of about UGX 3.7 trillion through a negotiated plan. A detailed plan on how the money is spent within a period of two years will be negotiated. This would further ignite development beyond the recovery plan.

### f. Markets

- Provide stimulus package to market vendors to enable them to start alternative businesses they may consider.
- Provide additional space across the country to open up new markets to accommodate social distancing requirements and the new normals.

## 3. Healthcare interventions

Planning for necessary management of the healthcare situation in the wake of Covid-19 should have been the purpose of the lockdown. Fundamentally, novel coronavirus is here to stay with us. So, the question is about what we plan for the long-term.

Accordingly, we shall implement the following:

- a. Undertake comprehensive emergency planning as commanded by the Constitution of Uganda.
- b. Avail personal protective equipment, including masks and where necessary hand gloves, in sufficient quantities and quality and sustainably.
- c. Extend grants to support local institutions, such as Makerere University to produce some of the equipment.

- d. Encourage and support other organizations or individual Ugandans who demonstrate the potential to explore them for all relevant solutions.

**i. Large scale testing.** This is highly necessary to determine how widespread the virus in the country is and what nature of the intervention is needed and where, rather than relying on the assumption that there is no widespread community infection.

**ii. Address non-virus health responses:** Rather than turning all the sensitive facilities into Covid-19 -patient facilities, ensure that all the other health needs have space and personnel in the health facilities across the country.

- a. Double the ICU capacity from 55 to 110 in Uganda and spread them to all Regional Referral Hospitals.
- b. Rehabilitate and equip all Regional Referral Hospitals.
- c. Rehabilitate and expand capacities of Health Center IVs and Health Center IIIs.
- d. Provide incentives for local producers of medical supplies.
- e. Boost immunity of population – through purchase and supply of eggs from the abundant sources in the poultry farmers to enable citizens especially children boost immunity.

Review and increase the pay for health/medical workers immediately.

The fact that health workers are at a greater risk and are getting infected by the Covid-19 and considering that all the while there have been significant gaps in the deployment of manpower in the sector (like all the rest), we shall immediately recruit additional health workers to fill all the vacant positions in the country.

## PILLAR THREE

# MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

Our medium to long-term development plan provides details of the agenda for the transitional government. It further deepens the initiatives undertaken to provide immediate reliefs arising from the Covid-19 effects.

These programs will restore trust, dignity and confidence to Ugandans. They will provide assurance that for once, shared economic growth is possible, and free and fair elections are possible. Freedoms and justice are feasible, and that a democratic dispensation should be given a chance.

The five year transitional government will focus on medium and long-term programs in:

- Agriculture
- Clean water and environment
- Devolution power
- Access to justice
- National debt
- Dignity of Senior Citizens and the vulnerable
- Education system
- Energy to power
- Health
- Housing
- Internet and communication
- Land
- Minerals sector
- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)
- Raise Uganda's democratic credentials
- Science, Technology, and Innovation
- Sports and Creative Arts
- The armed forces
- Theft of public resources
- Women, Youth and PWD
- Works and Transport Sector
- East African Community
- Foreign Service



## Raise Ugandan politics to democratic levels

### THE ISSUE

No society can be better than its politics. It is through the political process that resources are allocated to educate citizens, provide them with healthcare and other services, and ensure that they freely enjoy full rights amidst prosperity.

Uganda is a captured state where a tiny minority of about 1% that controls guns, money and power is in charge of all state institutions, including the Judiciary, Parliament, the Treasury, and the armed forces. The dictatorship also largely determines who prospers in business and who fails, through manipulating systems and institutions, and sometimes outright sabotage.

The National Resistance Movement is a military organization that captured the state and only left a tiny window for political parties to organize, with most of their activities confined to their headquarters. Between election cycles, legitimate activities of political parties are broken up by the police and other security forces at the behest of Resident District Commissioners and other regime functionaries.

Political competition is criminalized, with the opponents of the regime spending considerable time in custody over flimsy or no charges.

Campaign processes are often vulgarised, with colossal sums of public funds stolen and poured into the country to procure continued stay in power for the dictatorship. Where money does not work, brute force is unleashed onto the citizens, with what are supposed to be nonpartisan forces drawn in to brutalise the citizens they are supposed to protect and serve.

### WHY IT MATTERS

An estimated half a million people were killed for Mr. Museveni to grab power in 1986. Thousands more were killed in wars that sought to get him out of power in the first two decades of his rule. Every attempt to peacefully get him out of power through elections in 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016 has been met with his State inspired violence in which scores have been brutalised or killed.

Museveni's predecessors, especially since 1966, also got into power against the backdrop of violence in which many Ugandans were killed. FDC never gets tired of reminding Ugandans that no Ugandan leader has ever peacefully handed over power to another. This sad state of affairs is because of the low level of democracy in Uganda, which FDC was set up to struggle and address.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Carry out far-reaching electoral and political reforms to return the power to choose leaders to Ugandans. The reforms will include reviewing the appointment of the Electoral Commission, de-militarising elections, regulating campaign financing, and financing political parties in general, among others.

All political prisoners and those on trial on political charges will be pardoned and released. Prison sentences will be expunged from their records.

Repeal the Public Order Management Act and any such law that may be interpreted to give the police power over the activities of political parties.

Review the work of the office of Resident District Commissioner (RDC) to free the political and police leadership at district level.



## Devolve power to communities to take charge of their decision-making

### THE ISSUE

The highly centralized governance system in practice disempowers citizens from managing their own decisions and resource allocation and utilisation.

According to the Local Governments Act, the amount of money that a particular district receives as a non-wage grant from the central government is determined by its population size and geographical area. There are also other factors, like water coverage, which get into what increasingly becomes a complicated matrix to determine which district gets what. In several cases, district leaders say, the amounts are determined by how much one lobbies those who allocate the resources.

The critical issue is that the central government has clung to the money, starving districts, and lower local governments of resources. The concentration of resources at the centre has proved to be non-redistributive, with cries of unequal distribution of the national cake flying around.

The underfunding of the local governments is happening amidst continuing slicing up of the country into small, unviable districts, now numbering 136. These tiny entities, each operating on its own under the tutelage of an overarching central government that is inefficient and micromanaged by an overbearing dictator, cannot aggregate the concerns of the people to come up with appropriate solutions to varied local problems across the country.

The central government further extends its over-lordship on the local governments by retaining the power to appoint the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who is the head of civil service and accounting officer at the district level. And through the RDCs, who are appointed by the President to represent him at the district, local decision-making is further diminished. The RDC chairs the

security committee at the district despite the presence of a District Police Officer and the LCV Chairman, amplifying the dominance over the districts by the President and central government.

At the lowest levels, the LCIs and LCIIIs remain mostly government volunteers without any structured facilitation and retainer fee and/or salary for compensation for their work.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Development is often bottom-up as opposed to up-bottom, which is why most countries that have made progress adopted the devolution method as opposed to centralization or delegation. The districts and sub-counties know best the needs of their communities, and it is even better if the local/regional governments are bigger. That is why the FDC is pushing for a federal system of government with much bigger local governments than the districts.

Furthermore, the women and men in the local council system present a massive blessing to the social service support, oversight, and accountability system at every village in Uganda.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Amend the legal framework to provide for devolution to federal governments/regions.

Devolve real power in terms of money and budgets for services.

Ensure that affirmative action is revamped and fully funded in respect of disadvantaged areas and regions.

Devolve works, procurement, and transport from the centre to the sub-national levels.



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT



*Ugandas need to have more say in their governance and resource sharing.*

Rationalize salaries and remuneration of the public service.

Establish service standards in the social services delivery and public service employees.

Devolve the health, education, roads and construction works, police, prisons, and Judiciary to the federal states.

Decentralize the tax collections to the federal states, and they remit a percentage share to the National Government.

Review the number on LCI and LCII leadership committees and start to pay them total monthly allowances of UGX 140,000 and UGX 240,000 respectively.



## Every region shall be a “special region”

### THE ISSUE

The creation of “special regions” in the budgeting process has caused more significant imbalances in development than it was supposed to cure. This matter will be addressed in the FDC planned establishment of Federal States

A study by USAID in 2017, corroborated by UBOS statistics, found that the Central region produces 69% of Uganda’s GDP despite accounting for only 37.6% of the country’s population. Further, the Central region as demarcated in the study is the only part of the country whose percentage contribution to GDP is higher than its population contribution.

In contrast, Northern Uganda – defined for purposes of this Manifesto to include Acholi, Lango, West Nile, and Karamoja – had 21.3% of the population but only produced 7.7% of the country’s GDP. Eastern region, with 15.1% of the population, produced only 6.9% of the country’s GDP. The Eastern region was defined to include Bukedi, Teso, and Bugisu.

Karamoja sub-region accounts for 3% of Uganda’s population but produces only 0.7% of the GDP.

Kampala City accounts for 4.9% of the country’s population but produces 22.5 of the GDP, making it the most productive part of the country by far.

Currently, the country has state ministers for Karamoja, Northern Uganda, Bunyoro, Teso, and Luwero Triangle. However, Karamoja, Northern Uganda, and Teso have hardly made strides in the fight against poverty despite being designated as “special regions” and having ministers to deal with their affairs.

From the preceding, “special regions” as the current rulers are implementing does not work at all. There is a duplication of activities by these ministries housed under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Many of the activities are also enlisted by the line sectors such as Education, Health, and Agriculture. In a devolved system, those activities shall be the mandate of the planned Federal States.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Equitable development across the country facilitates faster transformation since all the resources across different areas would be effectively tapped to speed up the process.

It would also lift pressure on some areas, especially Kampala and other urban areas since people would then

stay back in their areas of origin with a good chance of realizing their economic potentials and interests.

Equitable development across regions would also positively contribute to resolving the political concerns over marginalization.



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Make every region a “special region,” each with a federal, regional government that plans and implements development interventions to address local priorities.

Intervention projects will be developed and implemented on a large scale rather than silo-based activities.

Provide special equalisation development programs to the least developed federal, regional governments to actualize regionally balanced development.

Scrap all affirmative action programs under the Office of the Prime Minister and direct all funds under the Regions

budget to the Local Governments within the Special Regions or later Federal States, in the next five years.

Local Governments within the Regions should plan for special affirmative action programming for areas in most need under a clear mission, objectives, and SMART goals for each Fiscal Year.

Allocate funding to focused investment in all areas of development, including infrastructure, access to water, education, health, and agriculture, including animal re-stocking in the North and North-East regions.



*The untapped human resources of Karamoja.*



## Limited access to Justice by poor Ugandans

Access to Justice is “ a process which enables people to claim justice remedies through formal or informal institutions and in conformity with human rights standards.” Justice is “ the amount of fairness that people experience and perceive when they take steps to solve disputes and grievances”

### THE ISSUE

Despite the legal and policy framework in place, a considerable part of the Ugandan population can be categorized as poor, vulnerable and marginalized and therefore such groups of people often struggle or fail to access justice.

The justice system is largely partisan, corrupt and takes orders from the Executive, especially, if the case involves opponents of the regime.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Without effective, inclusive and affordable access to justice mechanisms, the poor, vulnerable and marginalized are denied the opportunity to enjoy, claim or reassert their rights or challenge breaches thereof.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We shall fund access to legal services for the poor, vulnerable and the marginalized citizenry to improve access to justice and the enjoyment of every human rights.

We shall have more judges recruited, for every District and we shall keep the judiciary independent of the Executive

Recruited into the Judiciary shall be independent of the Executive.



*Need for equality before the law.*



## National debt

### THE ISSUE

Uganda's public debt has increased by 20.5% in the last one year, from \$12.5b (sh46.2 trillion) in June last year, to \$15.3b (sh56.5 trillion) in June this year. The debt burden is huge without much to show for it.

### WHY IT MATTERS

We are borrowing mostly for consumption and consumption cannot pay back the loans we are borrowing. Moreover, most of the funds borrowed are stolen by the junta cadres. The biggest portion of our national budget of 29% is today going into debt repayment. This challenge weighed against other recurrent and administrative costs leaves the country with limited resources for national development.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We shall renegotiate for debt cancellation

However, some of the lenders that continued to give money to the junta against our plea, we shall invoke the principle of odious debt so that the debts are credited on Mr. Museveni and his cronies

There will be no further stealing of tax payer's monies and we shall ensure a frugal usage of the vital public resources.





# Lift the fight against stealing public resources right from State House

## THE ISSUE

The rampant corruption and budget indiscipline in the public sector is responsible for the widespread poverty in the country.

The global organization Transparency International keeps tabs on the perceptions of corruption around the world, and its findings over the years have consistently shown that Ugandans perceive their country to be very corrupt.

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019, released in January 2020, showed Uganda had not made progress in the fight against corruption. For the year in question, out of 180 countries, Uganda was ranked the 43<sup>rd</sup> most corrupt country in the world, at a score of 28%, while the government perceived to be least corrupt, Denmark, had a score of 87%.

And it is not just about perceptions. Whenever money is released to carry out any public function, the chances are enormous that a corruption scandal will follow. Even during the Covid-19 lockdown when Ugandans were most distressed, there was a corruption scandal in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) the moment the government reluctantly made some funds to buy food for starving Ugandans. Top OPM officials, including the permanent secretary, were arrested and charged in court.

So many public officials are charged over corruption. However, the majority of the cases usually drag on for years and are never concluded, deliberately, while a large number of corruption crimes go unpunished.

Much of the discussion about corruption in Uganda, however, is only skin-deep because it fails to describe the problem clearly and lays the blame on smaller fish. That is why FDC aims to lift the debate on stealing public resources to the presidential level, in State House where

the scourge is today clothed in “Classified “ attire.

Mr. Museveni, as President, often originates and pushes through Parliament additional financing on matters which wouldn't qualify as emergencies as required by the law. Such monies get spent as “classified” expenditure to escape scrutiny. The latest was during the Covid-19 lockdown when the most significant public health and economic emergency ever experienced in decades was taken advantage of to bleed the Treasury of trillions of shillings for ‘classified’ and other expenditures.

Just recently, Patrick Ho, a former minister in Hong Kong, walked out of an American prison where he had served a sentence since 2018 for bribing Mr. Museveni and Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa with \$500,000 each.

The bribe, a court in the US found, was in a bid to secure business dealings in railway services, infrastructure construction, fishing, hydro-energy, banking, and finance as well as tourism for the Chinese conglomerate CEFC China Energy Co. Other potential deals for CEFC included construction of a Chinatown to boost tourism on land near Lake Victoria and possibly an island.

This offers a pointer that many foreign business people who arrive in the country offer bribes to the topmost people in the NRM government, which means that the corrupt officials cannot, in turn, negotiate the best deals for Ugandans.

Also, business people in the country are cajoled into contributing to the ruling party for fear of loss of business or worse. The money thus generated, plus that which is drawn from public coffers is in turn used to bribe Ugandans during election campaigns. Mr. Museveni has been seen dishing out cash in big bundles and sacks to members of the public to keep in power.



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

### WHY IT MATTERS

Theft of public funds, especially the high level and grand type, has destroyed the moral fiber in the country and set in motion a race to grab public resources by whoever can lay hands on them. It has significantly misled many youths to look for quick

wealth over patient hard work, which puts the future of the country in jeopardy. And because resources that would have been used to improve the wellbeing of Ugandans are often stolen, poverty has deepened across the country.



*No Brown nor white envelopes under the table shall be tolerated.*

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Establish performance parameters for all government officials and harshly punish all those caught stealing public resources including confiscating their property.

Design an overall monitoring and evaluation policy to streamline and harmonize the conflicting activities of M&E in all government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), including the Presidency

Undertake a precise functional analysis of the entire government agencies to streamline roles and responsibilities

Improve planning and institute budgetary controls to avoid huge supplementary budgets by ensuring that all the predictable items and activities are appropriately planned and budgeted for.

Develop an action plan to strictly implement the Auditor-General's recommendations and put into place a strict control mechanism to avoid the abuse and 'irregular' diversions of funds to other activities not approved by Parliament

Institute "bounded transparency" and "basic minimum accountability and transparency" in security organs and State House, particularly for the audit of the amount of money and ascertaining the financial value of materials or services procured through classified expenditure budget outlays.

Redirect the Presidency's budget expenditures from consumptive to capital development.



## Empowered and self-esteemed persons living with disabilities

### THE ISSUE

The physical and emotional environment for people with disabilities (PWDs) has remained hostile and disempowering for PWD progress.

Over 4.5 million people in Uganda have at least a physical impairment, and up to 61% of old persons have a disability. PWDs include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and active participation in society on an equal basis with others. They face multiple forms of discrimination based on disability.

There is high unemployment amongst PWD due to discrimination by employers user unfriendly workplaces and the highly neglected agriculture sector from which they mostly derive their livelihoods. PWDs constitute the majority of the very poor in the country.

Many children with disabilities are not in school because the government never prioritized special schools for children with disabilities. It is unacceptable that there are very few special needs schools in the country a situation that leaves millions of our PWD children abandoned in homes.



*PWDs shall be empowered.*



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

PWDs have challenges accessing health care, information, and transport because of the blind policies and designs in place.

Because of poverty, physical, visual, or hearing impairment, many PWDs find it challenging to participate in politics. Given the increased violence in Uganda's politics, PWDs mostly find it hard to participate in political processes,

especially competing for open seats.

Article 32(3) of the Constitution 1995, as amended, section 14 and 15 of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2007; the Building Control Act, and Subsection 4.1 of the National Development Plan II all provide for eased movement and access to places for PWDs. None of these have purposefully been implemented.

### WHY IT MATTERS

It is inhuman and disgraceful to lockout nearly 4.5 million people from the development process.

The dignity of PWDs, like all citizens, matters.

Article 8 of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) argues for the tireless awareness creation of the rights, potentials, and opportunities for PWDs. Being a signatory to the international guiding instrument, Uganda is mandated to pursue this.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will provide affordable, inclusive, and practical education to the PWDs, able to make them tap their utmost potential.

Increase funding in agriculture with focus on PWDs to improve the economic base of the 80% of them who depend on agriculture.

Enforce transport and construction standards as provided by the law.

Provide tri-cycles to all PWDs who have challenges in movement.

Domestic and implement the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of PWDs, to which Uganda is a signatory.

Recognize and enforce the rights of PWDs to work on an equal basis with others by creating quotas for PWDs in workplaces.

**Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political processes through peaceful, free, and fair electoral processes.**

**Fast track the health insurance policy so that all people have access to quality health care.**

Enact a healthcare-affirmative law to provide special consideration for PWDs.



## No Woman left behind

### THE ISSUE

Women constitute 51.2% of the country's population. Unfortunately, this fact is not mirrored in the sharing of national resources and the exercise of decision making. The underlying issues have never been addressed to transform their lives, but women have been induced to tokens that display favourable gender numbers only for selfish reasons.

The regime's introduction of affirmative political seats for women never transformed women to fairly compete with their male counterparts because the issues that affect women participation, such as poverty and patriarchy, have not been addressed. While women constitute 34% of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament, the growth of these numbers has been a result of the creation of districts and not women having a competitive edge.

In 2018, out of the 290 open seats, women occupied only 19. Currently, there are only two (2) women out of the 135 LCV chairpersons; three (3) women out of 50

Municipality Mayors; and 12 out of 1,406 sub-counties and Town Councils Chairpersons. This demonstrates a complete failure of the Affirmative policy, which was supposed to be a transit to women's equal political participation as provided in the Constitution.

The majority of women are employed in the informal sector, which is not streamlined. The bulk of those in informal employment are in care work such as nursery teaching and nursing or occupy jobs at the edge of institutions. As a result, women miss out on benefits of formal employment such as retirement benefits. This is the reason older women are poorer than their male age-mates.

While women provide 73% of the labour in agriculture, they own only 7% of the registered land in Uganda. This means that they are limited in decision making on the land that they eke their lives on. Moreover, lack of land titles implies that they cannot acquire loans to improve their farming. They thus remain small holder agriculture farmers with minimal fringe benefits.



*Happy women make a happy Nation.*



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

Significantly, the regime has neglected the agriculture sector. For the last five years, the budget for agriculture has stagnated at 3-3.5%. Consequently, most women have been rendered destitute.

The introduction of Universal Primary Education (UPE) and Universal Secondary Education (USE) bridged the sex gap in enrolment. Enrolment for the girl child in primary one has often surpassed the number for boys. However, the number of girls keeps dwindling as they move into

upper classes. Majority of the 73% of children who drop out of school before primary seven are girls

Finally, women continue to suffer from outdated cultural practices, some of which border on infringement of rights and freedoms. These include female genital mutilation and widow inheritance. A combination of obsolete practices and poverty has left women vulnerable and susceptible to domestic violence. About 50% of Ugandan women experience sexual and/or gender-based violence

### WHY IT MATTERS

Uganda is a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-2030) that envisions the empowerment of women and attaining gender equality through the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, No. VI, recognizes Gender balance and fair representation of marginalized groups. Women are among the people listed under the historically marginalized.

Moreover, it would be unreasonable putting to waste

over 50% of the human resource of a country. The former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan (RIP), best summarized the importance of engagement and inclusion of women in the development process: “gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”

It is for this reason that the FDC government is committed to ensuring gender parity.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

#### Education for women

Provide free sanitary pads for all girls in UPE and USE schools.

Build and equip secondary schools in every parish so that children, especially girls, do not have to walk long distances, exposing them to temptations.

Build separate latrines for boys and girls and provide clean washrooms for girls.

Make schools attractive by providing food, reducing congestion and increasing learning materials and provide extra-curriculum activities.

Support and develop guidance and counseling in rural

schools, in particular, to contribute to reducing the high dropout rates of girls due to pregnancy.

Prioritize functional adult literacy to reduce illiteracy rates among women, particularly those who did not get a chance to those who dropped out or did not go to school at all.

#### Economic empowerment of women:

Avail appropriate technologies such as animal traction and mechanization, cheap energy which, if up-scaled, can help in the reduction of time and labor burdens amongst women to allow them to participate in other productive ventures.

Provide safe water in every homestead so that time is not wasted long walking distances in search of water.



Provide quotas of government tenders to women groups.

Increase funding in the agriculture sector that employs majority women.

Remove long winding and expensive procedures in land registration to enable women to title their land.

Offer supportive engagement with individuals who can guide female entrepreneurs as they seek to operate a business in a male-dominated sector.

Facilitate active exposure to the sector through apprenticeships or other work experience programs.

Provide cheap affordable loans to women for boosting their informal businesses.

### **Participation of women in politics**

Reduce the number of constituencies, and allow only one man and one woman for each constituency.

Reduce the prohibitive nomination fees for every elective position. The current UGX 3 million for a Member of Parliament, for example, is unaffordable by many women who would wish to join the contests.

### **Women Health**

Recruit more midwives at Health Center IIIs to deliver mothers.

Provide free mama kits in the health centers to encourage women to give birth in health centers.

On overcoming sexual and gender-based violence

Outlaw and enforce outdated cultural practices such as FGM, widow inheritance and child marriages.

Build rehabilitation homes for survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Operationalize the sexual violence law that was passed ten years ago.

## **Socio-economic support to single mothers**

### **THE ISSUE**

Across the country we are faced with an increasing population of single mothers and economically disempowerment women struggling on their own to provide for their children and themselves without a voice to talk for them and without any economic empowerment.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

A country with more than 52% of its population being female, cannot afford not to care and provide social support to them. Every shilling invested in a mother, there are high chances it will be invested in the children and the family.

### **OUR UNDERTAKINGS**

We will provide special social and economic state funded support to the poor women in the urban and rural disadvantaged communities to uplift the livelihood of their dependants in the short and long-term.



*Our mothers of the Nation suffer neglect.*



## Youth-driven economic growth and development

### THE ISSUE

About 70% of youth are unemployed. The youth, aged 18 to 30 years, constitute 23% of the population. Further, 52% of the entire population is below 18 years. This poses a huge dependency burden to the country.

The majority of Uganda's youth bear the burden of unemployment. In total there are about 8m youth, 46% of which are females.

Youth graduates have deficient skills as a result of the poor quality education system. They have a poor attitude to work, mostly manual work. The uneducated youth in villages are equally unemployed because of the fewer fortunes that characterize the agriculture sector.

Instead of investing in productive sectors such as agriculture, trade, industry, and tourism that could generate jobs for the youth, the NRM government has chosen to take the short cut of providing Youth Livelihood Fund and venture capital. By June 2018, only 165,000 youth out of the 7.8 million had benefitted from the Youth Livelihoods Fund. Moreover, the Youth livelihood is shrouded in corruption and partisan politics. The December 2018 Auditor General's report revealed millions of funds allocated to non-existing groups.

Many of the youth from 18 to 24 years are neither in school nor employed in any productive work. These are the youth who have dropped out of school for various reasons.

Like the women, youth are politically disenfranchised because of the monetized politics. Instead, old politicians use the youth to pin posters and fight political wars.



*The youth shall be attracted to farming.*

### WHY IT MATTERS

A young population has high energy and capacity to spur national transformation. With a good education, Uganda's young people can provide the country with the vast human resource needed to produce development.

A young, growing, healthy, financially empowered population is a source of market for products from the new industries. Very importantly, a young community provides an opportunity for technology and innovation because young people quickly adapt to technology and innovations.

The exclusion of youth from development processes is against the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy No. VI, recognizes Gender balance and fair representation of marginalized groups. The wasting-away of eight (8) million young people is a catastrophe created by the NRM government.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS On Youth unemployment

- Invest in productive sectors of agriculture, industry, trade, and tourism with a focus to promote the establishment of youth cooperatives and avail public land to the Youth for agribusiness; support market access for Youth produced goods both at home and abroad.
- Support infrastructure development, such as storage facilities that enable small scale producers to increase their efficiency.
- Create employment quotas for youth in all government and private sector jobs
- Reserve at least 40% of public procurement contracts for youth-led businesses or businesses that employ the Youth with proof of at least 60% of the labour force in such companies being Youth.
- Require in all foreign contracts a provision for the transfer of technology and expertise to the local labour force.
- Institute labour export regulations and policies to eliminate human trafficking and improve the working conditions of our Youth in the diaspora.



- Institute measures to support youth business startups and nurture new businesses, with a target to create five million new well-paying jobs including planting trees to green every District of Uganda, in the next five years.
- Establish innovation and incubation centers at the district level to create opportunities for business growth, thereby increasing the pace of job creation.

### On youth health

- Set up a user- friendly health system for the youth that affords them reasonable privacy, greater openness and preventive advice.

### On Youth in Leadership

- Change the mandate of the National Youth Council to place it at the center of addressing issues of Youth.
- Mainstream youth issues in all Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.
- Increase budget allocations to youth activities at a district level, i.e., at least 5% of the local revenue and at

least 5% of the unconditional grants from the central Government should go to Youth activities.

- Reinvigorate the existing students' movement (UNSA) to enable learners to meaningfully participate in and influence decision making processes. Strengthen the governance systems of UNSA to ensure that it acts as a training ground for leaders and skilled workers.
- Establish an independent fully-fledged Youth and Sports Ministry – to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate youth and sports development programs in the country.
- Reduce nomination fees for political representation.

### On Youth Access to Education

- Make education affordable and focus more on vocational education
- Develop local workforce through State funded internships in both public and private work places.
- Set up one year post high school and university regional transitional youth centers where youth are compulsorily trained as they get into workforce

## Social rehabilitation and Economic empowerment of disadvantaged children

### THE ISSUE

In just four urban centres Kampala, Jinja, Mbale and Busia, there are over 15,000 children living on the streets. These are a security time bomb for the country if they are not helped to become better future citizens.

### WHY IT MATTERS

The children came to the street for a variety of reasons, the most important of which were broken families and poverty. The recent wars in Uganda and the AIDS epidemic contributed and continue to contribute to the growing number of broken families. Nevertheless, for the children on the street, the hostility, harassment, including rapes, unlawful arrests and imprisonment, and the pervasive deprivation they face, call for concerted and urgent action.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We shall establish a state funded model for street children resettlement and education, skilling institutions, social support and sports centers.

Provide economic livelihood support to the street children who are of age to engage in productive life and grow into responsible citizens.



*They too need a good life.*



## People-owned armed forces, with decent compensation

### THE ISSUE

The dictatorship has held the armed forces of Uganda under captivity, preventing them from freely serving their country in a manner that shows patriotism, professionalism, and non-partisanship as provided for by our Constitution.

The duty of the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces is to protect Ugandans and our country's territorial integrity, and that of the Uganda Police Force to ensure law and order, have been subverted by the dictatorship, which has required the armed forces to instead pursue regime survival as its cardinal objective.

Because of the skewed objectives which our armed forces have been forced to pursue, their leadership has for decades been manipulated to lean on ethnic and political lines, which has been a cause of discontent within the country for long. The soldiers that try to be professional and act against the dictates of regime survival are sidelined and witch hunted.

In order to be seen as serving with distinction within the armed forces under the dictatorship, the army and police officers are forced to do illegal acts, with those who excel at it being rewarded with promotion and bigger offices. The most bizarre case is of the promotion from the rank of Brigadier to Major General of Peter Elwelu, after he commanded the bloodbath in Kasese in 2016 in election violence. Whereas he was promoted and deployed to a more prominent posting as Commander Land Forces after the massacre, the reaction from elsewhere in the world was in contrast.

On the face of it the dictatorship purports to love the armed forces because they are its lifeline, but indeed, the love is nonexistent. Most in the forces, especially the rank and file, live in subhuman conditions. The servicemen

lack decent housing and share rooms among families partitioned by bedsheets.

The police have been toying with the idea of erecting 10,000 housing units for lower rank police officers who range from the inspector of police to police constables for years. However, financing has always been a problem due to low prioritization.

Our servicemen are also burdened with loads of work aimed at protecting the dictatorship. Many police officers are kept on duty for far too long as they are required to police the people and stop them from overthrowing the dictatorship.

The underpaid armed forces have also been drawn into different sectors of the economy, with many institutions of the state, like the police, revenue collection, and agriculture extension unnecessarily militarized.

### WHY IT MATTERS

The cardinal duty of any government is to secure and protect its people and the country. However, this cannot happen with a demotivated force that lacks the respect and confidence from those they are to protect. As a result, some servicemen and women are often involved in criminal activities and perversion of justice largely for survival. They are underpaid and operate under very harsh working conditions.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Pay a decent living wage for service members.

Build new and modern accommodation for the servicemen.

Establish duty-free shops for service members across the country.



*The cry for a truly people's army is loud.*

Provide insurance cover to service members and their families.

Transform the security forces into a national force that serves national and state interests and which is subordinate to civilian authority.

Increase the police-citizen ratio to one policeman to every 500 citizens – from the current over 750 - within five years by recruiting and training professional police cadre.

Enhance efficiency by providing at least two police vehicles and two motorcycles per Sub County.

The soldiers, police officers, and other security personnel who have committed human rights violations under the junta will be pardoned, provided they come out to tell the public their deeds through a committee that will be set up for the purpose. Those who will fail to own up their misdeeds, if discovered, will be prosecuted. And if found guilty, they will be punished according to the present law.



# National virtues to restore the dignity of Senior citizens

## THE ISSUE

Mahatma Gandhi, the illustrious former prime minister of India, once said: ‘The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.’

Our motherland requires us to spare no effort to make it great, through dedicated service in the armed forces, education, health service provision and/or any other field of endeavor. After years of toil, and having given our all to serve our country, raising upright children and serving in whatever other way, it comes to a time when the body is no longer able to work for a living.

When Ugandans retire, whether they are ex-servicemen or retired teachers or peasant farmers or anyone who on account of old age, can no longer sustain themselves, our country should be in a position to look after them well. In some cases, vulnerability may not even be occasioned by age, like in cases where one may be rendered infirm by illness or accident. Whatever the case, vulnerable people should be made to take pride in their country.

Our senior citizens should be made to feel appreciated for what they contributed to the development of the country. It is callous and immoral to see them as unwanted and a burden to the country when we are living on what they built. We can never have a generational cut off point as new political players seem to think.

To court the older persons, the dictatorship has pushed through an amendment to ensure that five MPs represent them in the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament. But, just like special representation has not necessarily uplifted women or the youth, it will not uplift the older persons either.

However, older persons – those who are 60 years old and above – are, in fact, already overrepresented, occupying 86 slots out of the 457 in the outgoing Parliament. Therefore, older persons, who are less than 1% of the total

population of Uganda, already occupy 19% of the country’s parliamentary slots. Further, the current occupants of the topmost offices in the land – President Museveni (76), Vice President Edward Ssekandi (78), Speaker Rebecca Kadaga (64), Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda (72), and many others are in the category of older persons.

More tokenism, as in creating a few more seats in Parliament for older persons, will not fix the dire needs of senior citizens in the countryside, particularly their economic and health needs.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Taking care of older persons is not just a matter of morality and duty towards the senior citizens. It is a reassurance to those still toiling for our country that working hard to create value for a fair society will also profit them in old age. Such comfort will help to rebuild the moral fiber of society and stem the specter of theft of public funds in our country.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will provide a monthly grant of UGX 60,000 to every older person who is 65 years and above who is not on a pension or other publicly funded or supported program.

Design modalities to fully pay all outstanding pension obligations within the five years of the transitional government.

Establish a modern Veterans Development, Research and Training Institute (VDRTI) as a special purpose vehicle to promote the reintegration of veterans into productive economic life. The Institute will be a multipurpose facility supporting a wide range of development programmes, applied research into veterans’ issues and public policy, undertaking targeted economic development activities such as farming and industrialization projects, as well as training.

Ensure that the BTVET Centres of Excellence develop and deliver special skills training programs for veterans, ex-servicemen as well as former combatants.



## Responsive education and skilling Ugandans

### THE ISSUE

The majority of children in school are not learning, and the education system in Uganda has lost sync with the needs of the country.

Since the inception of UPE and, subsequently, Universal Secondary Education (USE) the education standards in the country have taken a negative turn. The global initiative of UPE and USE came at the time when the country was also embracing liberalization, which saw the introduction of private schools.

Subsequently, there has been an unequal education system where children of a few rich are taken to private schools to enjoy better facilities compared to the majority from low-income families that can't afford good private schools.

As a result, children who study from the top private

primary schools continue to top private secondary schools and end up with State sponsorship in Ugandan government universities or get scholarships to study abroad. On the other hand, children from poor homes study in UPE, USE, and often have to pay for a college education if they are lucky to slip through the sieving net and get admitted.

UPE and USE schools have:

- congestion in classes
- high dropout rates
- low competencies in literacy and numeracy
- inadequate education materials
- poor hygiene
- high teacher absenteeism
- low pay for teachers
- children and students have to study on empty stomachs.



*Catching them young with livelihood skills.*



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

University students no longer have tutorial lessons because of the large numbers in class. Moreover, lecturers are overstretched because they have to teach multiple courses and classes, often at different universities in order 'to make ends meet'

Many children graduating from college do not have the skills required at the workplaces.

### WHY IT MATTERS

Education is a human right. National Objectives and Directive principles of state policy no. XVIII (II) of the constitution states "the state shall take appropriate measures to afford every citizen equal opportunity to attain the highest educational standard possible". The Importance of education is well summarized in Uganda's National Development Plan III (NDP III) where it is stated thus "a country that does not invest in human capital mortgages its future. Well educated enlightened and healthy human resource are essential to facilitate development."

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Allocate the education budget equally to all students in the country, irrespective of their performance and the schools they attend.

Provide FULL funding for all students eligible to and enrolled in technical and skills education in the country.

There shall be a technical and vocational skills training college in every district.

Mainstream technical education and skilling along the entire education chain.

Establish centers of excellence where bright talent can be groomed and profiled for the future.

Fast track construction of more classrooms, train and re-skill required numbers of teachers to reduce congestion in classrooms and improve on teacher-pupil ratios.

Every school shall have a separate latrine for boys and girls and washrooms for girls.

Establish an internship and apprenticeship compulsorily train youth for one or two years program to skill students and young graduates in a live working environment.

Establish a promotional system for teachers based on their performance.

Provide lunch in schools and exciting extracurricular activities.

Establish holistic education at all levels and particularly at University to align it with the needs and demands of society.

Prioritize funding for research in Universities.

Strengthen School Management through restating Parents Teachers Associations.

Establish twenty-one (21) sub-regional centers of excellence in special needs education to address the issues of capacity in infrastructure, access, knowledge, and skills.

Refurbish and modernize community libraries that have so far been neglected.

Increase teacher's salaries with effect from July, 2022. Starting salaries for a Primary school teacher and secondary school teacher will be 800,000 and 1,200,000, respectively.

Reestablish robust free Adult education at Sub-county level

Provide information early to Youth about the profitability of specific sectors, perhaps through informational campaigns or career guidance in schools that highlights the fact that traditionally male-dominated industries are often more profitable.



## Quality Healthcare for all

### THE ISSUE

If one needed evidence that the NRM dictatorship operates an apartheid-like system in Uganda, they just need to look at healthcare.

When the rulers and their assistants fall sick, they are treated abroad at immense public expense. Only last year, the topmost bureaucrat at the Ministry of Finance revealed that for the year 2016, the government sent 5,000 privileged people for treatment in India alone, spending \$123m (UGX 455 billion) in the process.

A lot more officers of government go for treatment in Europe, North America, South Africa, Israel, Kenya, and other countries, meaning that the figure that was spent on the treatment of public officials abroad for just that year was much higher.

It goes without saying that for one to be sent abroad for treatment at public expense, they have to be connected to the 1% minority group that captured the country. And this has been going on for far too long. In 2003, Mr. Museveni's daughter flew the presidential jet to Germany to give birth, spending UGX 180 million of taxpayers' money in 2003 prices. This practice has not changed.

That is a far-cry from what ordinary Ugandans go through – the millions who the NRM dictatorship has placed at the bottom of the ladder. Many critically ill Ugandans, including expecting mothers, cannot make their way to health centres on time due to lack of ambulance services, an unfortunate situation which the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Diana Atwine, recently acknowledged.



*The need for caring medical workers.*



## PILLAR THREE: MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT

Atwine said that the country has a deficit of 160 ambulances, which seems to be a gross underestimation. Because of the dire need of ambulance services in the country, politicians have stepped in to fill the gap, with many buying omnibuses which they brand as ambulances, for political manipulation of the electorates.

As late as the year 2018, the NGO First African Bicycle Information Organization (FABIO) introduced a free bicycle ambulance service to serve some areas of central Uganda. And if bicycle ambulances appear to be the worst, there are yet areas in remote places of Uganda where people carry their sick on their shoulders or on wheelbarrows.

There are many unnecessary deaths as a result of the neglect of the healthcare system. As the World Health Organisation notes in its Country Cooperation Strategy brief for Uganda for the year 2018, “Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) remain a big problem in the country, affecting mainly rural poor communities.” The urban poor are not spared either, for they cannot afford the exorbitant fees charged by private hospitals. For instance, Malaria is the leading cause of death in Uganda, killing 27% of all Ugandans who die per year.

Something must be done and done very fast to refocus our healthcare system and make it work for all Ugandans.

### WHY IT MATTERS

No economy can be healthier than its healthcare system. A sound healthcare system that focuses on prevention and has a robust curative component, with well trained, remunerated, and motivated staff, saves the country much money through ensuring that people are healthy and work as they should, and less money is spent on treatment.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Every Ugandan shall have health insurance coverage for preventive and curative interventions.



#### *Preventive medicine is key.*

Village health teams shall be supported and upgraded to government employees to support communities better.

Will embrace and adopt telemedicine as a mechanism to cascade medical expertise to upcountry places.

Every family shall be attached to a doctor and clinical officer for concerted medical follow up and records.

Construct and equip health care facilities, and deploy well trained and motivated medical workers.

Deploy e-governance systems to achieve greater systems accountability, leadership, and effective governance in health services delivery. The focus will be on management systems, health referral systems, medicines, and other medical supplies channels, data generation and management systems, as well as inter-institution and inter-sector coordination.

Prioritize funding for support supervision to local governments and referral hospitals.



# Decent and affordable housing for all

## THE ISSUE

The housing system in Uganda is skewed against the poor, leading to shambolic housing communities, devoid of any proper planning.

Majority Ugandans still live under squalid housing conditions. Over 66% of Ugandans in rural areas use *tadoba* for lighting, 95% use firewood, 80% use pit latrines, and 82% don't have access to hand-washing facilities.

Of the 18% of Ugandans who live in urban areas, 60% of them live in slums characterized by high unemployment, congestion, poorly constructed houses with no access roads. On the whole, only 15% of Uganda's population has access to clean tap water.

The challenge of slums is caused by poor planning and a national failure to construct decent houses to match the growing urban population. Yet, this urban pressure will continue to grow due to the dwindling fortunes in agriculture, pushing many young men and women to urban areas in search of opportunities. Besides, the problem is exacerbated by the lack of appropriate construction standards and the high prices of construction materials.

As a result of congestion and lack of access to clean water, many Ugandans, especially slum dwellers, are susceptible to water-borne and communicable diseases, such as diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, and typhoid.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Adequate housing, much like education and health, is a fundamental human right enshrined as such in the 1995 Constitution of Uganda and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to which Uganda is a signatory. Good housing is essential for the proper and fit sanitation and dignity of the household

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Fast track physical infrastructural plans ahead of all urban centers.

Avail affordable housing to the rural and urban low-income earners.

Establish a revolving fund for housing in rural and urban areas.

Establish gazetted settlements to enable organized social services provision.

Reduce taxes on building materials by 30%.

Develop and enforce appropriate building regulations and standards to control and improve the quality of housing.

Introduce a particular training program for local builders and artisans to cope with new building technologies.

Provide long-term and affordable mortgages for decent housing.

Fast-track provision of clean water in the settlement.

Provide free solar panels to households in order harness to solar energy to encourage its roll-out for lighting and cooking.



*Such housing shall be availed to low income earners on long-term mortgages.*



## My land, my life: Security of tenure and planned community settlements

### THE ISSUE

Security of land tenure is threatened by greed and land-grabbing aided by the state machinery.

The land sector suffers persistent problems of land administration, duplication of land titles, poor handling and permanent loss of records, escalation of land conflicts, and rampant degradation of natural resources.

Nearly half of land holdings in Uganda were disputed as reported by UHRC. The dictatorship has, in many instances, disregarded the citizens' right to land and facilitated or looked the other way as Ugandans lost their land to grabbers who are, in many cases, well connected within the system.

Over the years, systematic grabbing of land has been achieved through duplication and forgery of land titles with impunity.

Thousands of Ugandans are landless, and the promise of resettlement never comes. The Benet people of Sebei, who were evicted from the Mt. Elgon National Park in 2008 and have since then lived in sub-human conditions – in camps – between Kween and Bukwo districts.

Dr. Kizza Besigye, then the FDC presidential candidate in 2015, promised to resettle the 400 landless families, to which Mr. Museveni responded by ordering Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda to have the Benet people resettled immediately. The Benet still live in their squalid conditions in camps five years later.





## WHY IT MATTERS

Land is not only one of the most critical resources, but also a means to the realisation of other human rights such as the right to food, right to life, and the right to cultural identity.

About 70% of Ugandans depend on subsistence agriculture, and of these, 72% are women.

Even for the other Ugandans, access to and use of land is a significant determinant of their ability to prosper, which is why those who grabbed power from Ugandans are using it to seize all the available tracts of land forcefully.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We have to decisively deal with historical distortions of land ownership, use, and transfer that cripple Ugandans from fighting their way into prosperity. The process of acquiring land must be made quick and transparent.

Establish a robust land fund to acquire land commercially and redistribute it to the landless within the federal states FDC shall propose to create and issue free title deeds.

Establish well-planned settlements for rural and urban communities and supplied with basic utilities like running water, power, paved roads, schools, health facilities,

decent housing and recreation grounds. That will free more land for modernized large scale commercial farming.

All land will be surveyed and titled, complete with a digital identity.

Compensate absentee landlords across the country, by providing more Land Fund reserves to enable the resettlement of landless Ugandans.

Establish a national data bank on land and mineral resources to inform development decisions and effectively address the needs of landless people.

Enforce existing laws, such as the Land Act, to control rampant evictions of lawful occupants of the land including community landowners.

Design and finance a comprehensive land rights public education program to make citizens more knowledgeable and able to defend their land rights.

We will negotiate with landowners to release their land on which to build the lower-income residential houses in return for a share in the rental income or by giving them long-term promissory notes.



## Farming: A neglected goldmine

### THE ISSUE

Agriculture, the country's breadbasket, continues to dwindle, currently contributing to a paltry 24% of the economy due to corruption and negligence.

Agriculture remains Uganda's most important sector, employing over 34 million of the estimated 44 million Ugandans. Rich in its soils, Uganda produces the famous organic coffee, tea, bananas, maize, tobacco, rice, sugarcane, cotton, and horticultural products. Further, Uganda has animal products such as milk and beef. Uganda also produces fish for export.

Despite this significant contribution to the country's economy, the ruling government pays lip service to the sector. For many years, the budget allocation has remained at about 3%. The National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO), the National Coffee Research Institute (NACORI), and National Animal Genetic Resource Centre and Data Bank (NAGRIC&DB) are not a priority to the NRM government.

Private individuals grabbed the public agricultural land in Tororo, Maruzi, and Aswa. The army continues to fight with local communities on water bodies over fish and particularly the very expensive fish maw. The invasion by desert locusts exposed the government's lack of preparedness for agriculture-related disasters.

Many Ugandan farmers still use the hand hoe.

NDP-II target to increase coffee production to 20million 60kg bags by year 2020 did not materialize because of failure to fund the Uganda Coffee Development Authority.

There has been failure to commercialize agriculture, recruit more extension workers, mitigate the effects of



*Need for stable prices for crops to increase production.*





climate change, provide better quality seeds to farmers, avail fertilizers, and scale-up cooperatives, among others.

The neglect of agriculture has escalated income imbalances because its mostly rural dependents remain poor compared to those in urban areas. Poverty in rural areas now stands at 23%, compared to 9% in the urban areas

### WHY IT MATTERS

Agriculture employs 70% of the labour force, 72% of whom are women. The sector contributes about 24% to the National Gross Product (GDP) and 40% to the country's export earnings.

The agricultural sector is a source of livelihood for the majority of Ugandans, especially those that live in rural areas and an essential source of industrial raw materials.

The majority of Ugandans (85%) live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for food and nutrition. Moreover, even the urban population depends on the food grown by the small farmers in the rural homesteads.

The neglect has caused income and wealth imbalances between the rural and urban dwellers.

Uganda is a signatory to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that envision halving poverty and uplifting of women to 50:50 by 2030. Since the majority of farmers are women, their improved wellbeing must be tied to the improvement of the agriculture sector, which is lacking.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Increase budget allocation to the sector. Uganda is a signatory to the Maputo Protocol, which committed signatories to a 10% allocation of budgets to the agriculture sector over a period of three years. We will provide needed funding to revamp NARO and all its affiliated research organisations.

Revive Cooperatives; We will revive Cooperatives to

assist farmers obtain quality inputs, train their members, and bargain the best prices for their products.

Dedicate at least 2% of the agricultural budget towards funding farm research and development (R&D) as the engine that drives agricultural productivity. Modern regional agricultural farm institutes will be established as a back-bone for regional farm research and development.

We shall establish and fully capitalize a National Bank for Agricultural as the epicenter for agricultural finance delivery, and will be managed through a public-private partnership arrangement.

Establish a National Land Development Agency to champion strategic utilization of land resources in agricultural development, including through public-private partnerships of farmers and the State.



*An affordable revenue stream for every family.*



## Ugandans to control and develop their mineral sector

### THE ISSUE

The mineral sector faces the greatest challenges arising from insider corruption, inadequate supervision, and enforcement. As a consequence, there are over 600 non-performing mining licenses across the country, owned by former staff of the relevant ministry, politicians, and their relatives.

Uganda has a rich mineral potential but remains underdeveloped. It is marred by corruption and is grossly under explored for commercial mining.

There is rampant and deliberate under collection and

under-declaration of royalties amounting to billions of Uganda shillings over several years for exports of gold, tantalum, and tungsten, among others.

The sector suffers inadequate Geological Surveys. A large part of Karamoja (80%) lacks an airborne geophysical survey, purportedly due to financial constraints.

As a consequence, speculation and issuance of redundant licenses without reference to updated geological surveys have partly contributed to the under utilisation of the minerals and exploitation of the locals by politicians and speculators.

### WHY IT MATTERS

A vibrant Mineral sector owned by Ugandans would significantly improve GDP and reduce poverty levels through the collection of taxable revenues.

A locally developed Mineral sector would deter repatriation of profits by foreigners by otherwise foreign investors.

A vibrant mineral sector would lead to a dynamic manufacturing sector due to the raw materials availed by the minerals.

A locally developed mineral sector reduces revenue loss by government and the cost of legal expenses to claim such revenue through court. The ruling government had to fork out UGX 6 billion “reward” to recover taxes from Heritage Oil.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Auction Mineral exploration licenses, rather than insider-dealing, the first-come and first-serve system. This will increase competitiveness and ensure that the government gets maximum revenue from these licenses.

Carve out 60% of large mines to be owned by Ugandans to forestall the otherwise massive repatriation of profits by foreign firms.

Establish Cooperatives and extend special funding to them for small artisanal miners for purposes of collective bargaining and processing of minerals against the weighty force of large Multinational companies.

Establish Mineral marketing centers to forestall illicit

trading in major mining centers like Mubende, Buhweju, Bugiri, Namayingo, Ntungamo and Amudat

Local governments and cultural institutions should be involved all the way and shall share in royalties from the mineral revenues in their areas.

Owners of land where minerals are found shall be granted shareholder equity in the mining business.

Audit all existing mining licenses to filter out redundant ones and re-issue them to other prospective and more serious miners. This will improve access to potential mineral resources while freeing large tracts of land from inactive speculative holders.



# Clean Water and Environment for Ecological balance

## THE ISSUE

While Uganda is endowed with water resources, only 2% of our water resources are used for production. Further, most farmers in the country rely on rain-fed agriculture, with only 12.5% of farming households practicing some form of irrigation farming.

Wetland coverage countrywide has since 1994 reduced from 15.5% of the total national land cover to the current 8.9% due to poor physical planning.

Rampant deforestation led to the decline of forest cover from 24% in 1990 to the current 8%. Uganda loses 2% of its natural forest annually, the highest rate in the world. This is a dangerous and worrying trend.

Air pollution is one of the leading public health risks in Uganda's major towns, especially Kampala city. The concentrations of particulate matter in Kampala are three times higher than the World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines for ambient air. Air pollution is one of the unfunded priorities for NEMA in the FY 2020/2021, while KCCA has no allocation at all.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Clean water and environment is a fundamental pillar of the Ugandan economy as it plays a pivotal role in securing, stewarding, and sustaining the environment and natural capital of Uganda. Water, as a resource, is vital for life and livelihoods and supports diverse and crucial ecosystems in wetlands, lakes, rivers, and forests.

Uganda's economy is dependent on its stock of

environmental and natural resources. Agriculture, which is Uganda's mainstay, relies on ecological and natural resource goods and services to enhance its productivity.

Water and environment is a significant employer and is critical to hydropower development, agricultural production, health, industrial development, tourism development, and adaptation to climate change and its effects.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will introduce a greening Uganda policy where wreaths will be replaced by fruit trees seedlings at burials. Our Government shall encourage the use of fruit trees instead of wreaths at all funerals.

We shall employ a big army of youth in every District to plant trees and green the whole of Uganda. At least two million trees per year.

Scrap taxes on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to promote transition by an additional 30% Of charcoal users to LPG use.

Expedite the cancellation of illegal land titles in wetlands and forests across the country and without exceptions.

Reduce water tariffs for priority public institutions like hospitals and schools. Our Government shall introduce pro-poor measures in the NWSC water institutional tariff by disaggregating public institutions with a reduced tariff for public schools and healthcare facilities.

Allocate a percentage of the environmental levy towards reducing air pollution. At least 5% of the Environmental levy will be applied to the establishment of green belts and the procurement of air quality monitoring equipment.



## Tourism: as driver of national development and identity



*The king of Uganda tourism.*

### THE ISSUE

Tourism faces significantly low levels of public investment towards developing and marketing our tourism potential.

Whereas our total dry land area is a mere 0.02% of the world's total, our country has over 11% and 7% of the known world's species of birds and mammals, respectively.

Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) figures show that Uganda received 1.8 million tourists in 2018, up from 1.4 million in 2017. For the year 2019, the country was targeting an increase of one million tourists to 2.8 million visitors until the Covid-19 disruption set in.

All this has been happening against the backdrop of a tourism sector that suffers significantly low levels of public investment and low domestic tourism.

Our country is the source of the great River Nile, shares Lake Victoria with its neighbours, and has virtually every tourist attraction that is to be found in the Tropics, complete with warm weather and a hospitable people.

There is a lack of aggressive planning and investment in tourism that would absorb a significant percentage of our currently unemployed youth, raise incomes, and draw foreign direct investment into our country.



## WHY IT MATTERS

Developing the tourism sector is a compelling alternative for Uganda to compete with industrialized countries in terms of income. At the same time, it maintains the health of its environment and absorbs more significant numbers of unemployed Ugandans.

UBOS figures show that the 1.4 million visitors who came to Uganda in 2017 alone injected into the country \$1.4 billion, which is 10% of our GDP, even amidst low funding and planning.

Developing our tourism potential would help relieve our stressed natural environment as vegetation and other natural resources would be more preserved than exploited.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will create, resource, and empower an Uganda Tourism Authority (UTA) to replace the Uganda Tourism Board, staffed with top-notch marketing professionals, to compete on the world tourism market.

FDC sponsored President of Uganda shall prioritize this sector as a presidential project for financing and marketing purposes.

Build the Government's institutional capacity to manage tourism: knowledge, attitudes, passion, and resources. Consequently, there will be at least four million arrivals by 2023, up from the current 1.4 million, with exponential growth across 2021-26.

Uganda shall invest in international television repeat advertising, pitching directly to consumers. We shall place a more substantial footprint both at the trade intermediary and consumer levels.

At the Presidential level, the Government will pitch the

top executives of the big tour operators in Europe, America, Asia, and Australia and invest aggressively in publicity and television, internet and magazine/brochure marketing, and exhibitions. Uganda's display stands at events like the ITB have been pitifully modest.

Waive landing fees for charter flights; joint country and tour operator planning for consumer marketing with Uganda carrying the cost.

Assure tourists of our potential, build the relationships, and introduce our local Destination Management Companies, including hotels, lodges, museums, and park operators.

Pitch international airlines to fly direct to Entebbe and to offer convenient transit connections.

Invest up to \$50-100 million into the tourism sector over the next five years to spur over \$20 billion in tourist spending across that period in the country. Consequently, it will generate potentially over one million direct jobs and tax revenues.

Zero-rate hotels and tour and travel companies for Value Added Tax (VAT) to keep our local destinations competitive; the gain being in corporation tax as well as jobs.

Establish and grow a more robust and more prominent airline to out-match Kenya's ring-fencing of East African visitors, and offer direct long-distance flights to tourists from the targeted countries.

Develop the country as a tourism conference destination. Lake Victoria and its beaches, scenic, and cruise potential are viable building blocks the country will pitch to experienced large international conference facility investors from abroad.



## Sports and Creative Arts: as a primary driver of wealth and health

### THE ISSUE

The sports and creative industry has produced the biggest number of celebrities and wealthy people worldwide. This means that Sports and Creative Arts provide a huge opportunity for business and high paying jobs. However, for the last 34 years of the NRM, the regime has practically neglected developing this potential.

For a long time, sports and other extracurricular activities have been undermined and underfunded. Schools have abandoned extracurricular activities in favour of coaching

children to parrot material for passing exams.

Government officials have encroached on all public playgrounds where recreation used to take place.

Often, national sports persons and athletes have resorted to public appeals to raise funds for air tickets and subsistence. Where regime has provided funding, it is always too late. But they are always opportunistically prompt in praising athletes who on their own efforts won medals in international competitions.



*The neglected gem.*



## WHY IT MATTERS

Games and sports play a pivotal role first in the development of children, and then later in the prevention of non-communicable diseases.

Games and sports are catalysts for team building, friendships and social harmony.

Sports is a crucial aspect of youth development and assists education, employment, health, gender equality, social inclusion, and peace-building.

Sports generate income and new jobs, as well as having a positive influence on behavior. It captures the interest of young people, and provides many with a point of entry into society. The unique ability to engage and bring young people together makes sport an active catalyst for strategic development programs.

Today, many countries have cultivated sports talent as a critical foreign exchange earner. It is a business in which associations and private enterprises participate by offering various services.

Creative arts, too, are an essential investment for peace and stability and are a prerequisite for the success of human development. A more visible and active inclusion of creative arts in development programs at local, national, and international levels is critical for sustainable development.

Cultural heritage generates income and builds social cohesion, mobilizing communities around its care and management. Furthermore, Arts teaches young people survival skills for the future, a chance to express their thoughts and feelings, and an opportunity to find something they can excel in.

Arts education shapes child behaviour and vision of life and also provides a means of responding to the identity crisis and social breakdown.

Sports and the creative arts promotes tourism, social inclusion, national identity and a healthy nation.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will establish proper sports and creative arts infrastructure, equipment, and opportunities and promote Uganda's visual and performing arts.

Enhance talent identification and development as a means of stimulating social and economic wellbeing of young people

Establish community sports recreation centers to harness talent.

Provide tax incentives to the private sector to encourage investment in sports.

Facilitate and encourage the better management of sports and the professionalization of games by introducing professional coaches in schools.

Provide incentives to the entertainment, arts, and creative industries to enable it to compete effectively on the world stage.

Strengthen the copyright regime to enhance protection for creative works.

Strengthen partnerships with traditional and cultural institutions to promote creative arts and culture as part of our national heritage and individual identity, which is fundamental to improving tourism.



*Marathon world champion, Cheptegei, makes Ugandans proud.*



## Internet and communication channels for all - uncensored



*The tower of communication revolution*

### THE ISSUE

Internet usage and communication is significantly censored in Uganda. There is regulatory overreach, political interference, and retrogressive taxation.

The Uganda Communications Commission has been immensely pointed at for overstepping and misapplying its mandate. In May 2019, for example, UCC illegally directive that 39 journalists from different media houses step aside from their jobs. This was aimed at curtailing the journalists' rights to practice their trade.

UCC has also used the Uganda Police to switch off radio stations that host prominent opposition figures, especially Dr. Kizza Besigye, or simply looked away as government cadres do so.

UCC discriminatively allocates most frequencies for radio stations across the country mostly to NRM politicians or NRM affiliated businessmen/women.

The internet is a key enabler of communication, yet today, Uganda's internet coverage is 55 percent. This casts a communication shadow over a big part of the population. Further, internet speeds are still inadequate, averaging 2.4 Mbps (compared to a global average of 7.0 Mbps). Besides, Ugandan has the most expensive mobile data in East Africa, and it is the eighteenth most expensive in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). In a survey, where researchers compared the monthly income of a given country's populace to the cost of 1GB of data, Rwanda is shown as having the cheapest data in the East African region, followed by Kenya, Burundi, and Tanzania.

Mobile money services have turned the mobile handset into a bank. However, the imposition of 0.5% tax on



withdrawals in the FY2018/19 undermined the growth of this service as a financial inclusion facility.

The supposed national broadcaster, UBC, has failed to rise to its mandate and continues to hold out as a platform of the NRM party.

The Media Centre serves as the official spokesperson of the NRM party instead of being the official spokesperson of the government.

## WHY IT MATTERS

The world is ruled by information and communications technology.

ICT is a facilitator in the development of systems that give the citizens opportunity to reap the benefits of the ICT revolution.

Since its liberalization the early 1990s, the information and communications sector has played a leading role in the economy and social relations in the country.

ICT is the single biggest employer, after the agricultural sector, employing about 1.3 million Ugandans directly and indirectly through associated services. Its contribution to GDP now stands at 9.8% (2018/2019) and still growing.

The sector has also come to occupy a central role in business and trade. Thus today, the sector institutions, particularly the telecommunication sub-sector, are the backbone of efficient and secure business processes.

The Information and Communications sector is also crucial for governance and national security by linking various government agencies (e-government), financial institutions, business, and day-to-day citizen engagement.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will increase funding from the current 0.5% to 5% for five consecutive years, to reposition ICT as one of the drivers of economic growth and development in the country.

Make internet services more affordable to Ugandans. The current policy of internet bundles expiring, for example, is a robbery and shall be banned by FDC government.

Reform UCC to improve its effectiveness and end partisan approach. Make the UCC a more independent and non-partisan institution through an open recruitment system. All people will have uninterrupted access to all media houses in Uganda irrespective of their political beliefs and affiliations.

Invest in Research and Innovation. ICT will be strengthened by:

- Increasing funding for the sector
- Invest in capacity building of IT experts to grow their ability to undertake research.
- Give tax holidays to all ICT startup firms employing more than five people, for five years
- Introduce ICT Research grants and incentives for innovation.

Reform the Government Media Centre, so that it sticks to communicating government business, as opposed to partisan politics. The positions of the Director and Deputy Director shall be filled competitively.

Streamline the process of frequency allocation and broadcast licenses to benefit all the deserving and meet criteria regardless of political affiliation.

Remove OTT and Mobile money tax to allow free access to information through social media.



## Science, Technology, and Innovation: as an integral part of life and progress

### THE ISSUE

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) tools are a pre-requisite for sustainably harnessing of our natural resources for economic growth and sustainable development. STI has the potential to stimulate growth of new enterprises and employment. However, instead of ploughing investments in those areas, the Regime preferred a series of presidential initiatives with no meaningful commitments to invest in basic and applied research.

STI is driven by competition and clarity in terms of objectives and annual outputs, as well as investments to drive knowledge transfer. However, Uganda has no clear strategy for investment in STI, and the allocation of funds for STI is entirely unplanned. It is according to Museveni's wishes.

The few innovations, research, and development at some institutions, such as Makerere University and Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) that seemed viable, fizzled out shortly after they were announced.

The Makerere University Kiira EV, and the multipurpose tractor - the MV Mulimi that can thresh maize, pump water from a depth of seven meters to a height of 33m - have all stalled because of lack of financial and political support.

The various innovations that have been unveiled by Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) have unfortunately not progressed to the development and mass production stage. These include a UV sterilizer prototype to sterilize sanitary pads for women produced by the Paper Pilot Plant; an affordable hand sanitizer from Aloe vera containing both ingredients of sanitizing and moisturizing; and a ceramic coral that imitates the natural coral found in salty seas, to mention a few. The artificial ceramic corals are reportedly awaiting installation in the demonstration pond.

Strategic science and technology policy institutions, including agricultural and industrial research centres are largely under-funded, dilapidated, and do not have the necessary research infrastructure.

The Uganda Industrial Research Institute, National Council of Science and Technology, Uganda Development Corporation and the Uganda Development Bank seem to have constituted for public relations of the NRM without a firm commitment to developing science and technology.

There is no central coordinating entity which should bring academic, industrial entrepreneurs' and research institution to think together.

There is no substantial effort in the promotion through the education curriculum of practical rather than theoretical science and engineering instruction in institutions of higher learning. There is no program for the early identification and promotion of students with a science orientation.





## WHY IT MATTERS

Investing in building our technology and innovation capabilities will enhance our ability to tame nature and mitigate the hazards of climate change. Science knowledge helps us to develop new technologies that will facilitate the participation of our citizens in the services and knowledge economy and increasing our competitiveness in the regional and global economic marketplace.

Technology eases communication due to the coming up of different simplified communication gadgets such as multipurpose phones and computers with the capacity to process a huge amount of information. Trade and commerce are made more efficient.

STI is crucial for the modern diagnosis of diseases and efficiency in healthcare. Furthermore, scientific research in the health sector has also helped in the discovery of new remedies to conditions by enhancing the development of the pharmaceutical industry.

## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We shall invest at least 1% of GDP annually on STI, and promote national, regional, and international collaborations to increase investments in STI.

Will establish science, technology and innovation parks to provide the right environment for innovation, and provide space for ideas to flourish and support domestic technology development and research.

The FDC government will embark on a massive, sustained public awareness campaign of Science Technology and Innovation. STI information will be repackaged in local languages to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in STI. Special focus shall be put on increasing students' interest and performance in science and technology subjects at all levels to help spur a science culture.

There shall be a national innovation fund to finance competition where the winning innovation wins seed funding to operationalise the idea.



We will foster collaboration across the private sector, universities, and governments through public-private partnerships.

Our government will mainstream STI in the education system and all other sectors of the economy as an essential component of building science and technology capacity.

We shall strengthen the legal, policy, and institutional framework for the STI sector.

Our government will facilitate the acquisition of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) by scientists, researchers, and innovators. We will sensitize stakeholders on the importance of intellectual property rights.

Capitalise and decentralise the Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau and their technology incubation and business registration programmes respectively, alongside the future Cities Programme.



# Energy: to power livelihoods and economic transformation

## THE ISSUE

Uganda is endowed with immense water bodies, abundant sunshine, and a lot of fossils for biogas and thermal, but only about 20% of Ugandans are connected to the national grid, and only 7% of people in the rural areas use electricity.

While the country has attained a good capacity in power generation, currently at 1,252.4MW, the cost of accessing energy in Uganda continues to be prohibitive to many consumers. This accounts for the low national electricity access rate of 23%, which is lower than the 42% average access rate in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The low access and, subsequently, limited connections draw from the inadequate transmission infrastructure, high power tariffs, and insufficient funding. This scenario contributes to high rates of underdevelopment and poverty. Small scale industries in the local communities are not enabled, leaving the masses impoverished and vulnerable.

The country mostly relies on firewood or charcoal for cooking. This places pressure on the existing forest cover. Uganda's forest cover has been depleted from 24% in 1990 to 8% today. The current demand for wood biomass is estimated at 44 million tonnes against an estimated sustainable yield of 26 million tonnes, leaving a deficit of 18 million tonnes.

While there has been an increase of Electricity supply to 1252.4MW in the last 30 years, the cost of electricity for domestic use is currently at UGX 725 and UGX 400 for domestic and industrial use, respectively. The cost makes it impossible for local people to afford the power and increases the cost of locally produced goods and, therefore, their competitiveness.

The NRM regime is obsessed with the generation of hydro-power, even at the cost of destroying nature, such as the world-famous Murchison Falls, without due consideration of the imminent adverse effects of climate change and potential alternative sources of energy.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Low power costs stimulate industrialization and spur economic growth and development through small scale industries that employ a vast number of people, especially the youth that are currently grappling with high levels of unemployment now at 13.3% (age bracket of 18-30).

Cheaper energy for industrial use makes the cost of production lower hence making our products on the world market more competitive and improve the terms of trade of our country. Exports would be boosted, foreign exchange inflows rise, and the local currency stabilised and strengthened.

Furthermore, affordable energy promotes the manufacture and use of electrical appliances, which in the end, increases electricity demand domestically and local demand for such items. Local manufacturing industries would grow, tax revenue would rise, and, if well applied, service delivery improves.

Clean energy sources like coal, solar, and nuclear will reduce pressure on natural energy sources like charcoal. And this will save our environment from destruction. Forest cover and natural water rapids and rivers that are a source of national income through eco-tourism will be protected from extinction. Note that tourism contributes a great deal to the national economy, accounting for US\$1.4 billion, about 4.6% of GDP.



## OUR UNDERTAKINGS

We will make connectivity less costly. Resources will be deployed into the power distribution infrastructure to make connectivity less expensive, less bureaucratic and more widely spread.

We will waive VAT and Import tax from Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and Import Tax from gas Cylinders and Stoves to promote alternative sources of cooking energy. Consequently, this will result in a fall in charcoal demand by 0.5 million tonnes by the year 2040, and a wood saving of 4.5 million tonnes.

Restore Fuel stocks. We shall provide for minimum

fuel stock at government storage facilities to secure the economy from the risk of inflationary pressures arising from fuel shortages.

Focus on Alternative Sources of energy. The sustainability of dams is in question. Accordingly, we shall diversify into simultaneous alternative sources such as solar, coal, wind, and nuclear power.

Reduce electricity charges to all domestic users and SMEs to encourage power usage and improve on the general standard of living of the people of Uganda. Accordingly, theft of public funds will be effectively checked, which, today, contributes to the high power tariffs and costs.



*Power to every village.*



## Public Works and Transport: to facilitate life and commerce

### THE ISSUE

In the last 15 years, works and transport received the most significant share of public investment funding. But, the results have not been that attractive.

In the budget for FY 2019/2020 alone, according to the budget speech, the Ministry of Works and Transport was allocated UGX 6.4 trillion, which is the highest allocation to any sector. In comparison, Education and Sports, which was given UGX 3.4 trillion, received just about half of the

budget to Works and Transport, while Health received UGX 2.6 trillion.

The disappointment comes when many roads which are built develop potholes immediately after they have been commissioned. The Kampala-Masaka highway developed potholes shortly after completion. The Tororo-Soroti road also had potholes shortly after completion. Many others suffered a similar fate.



*When the bad roads get tough, the tough ones keep going ( POA pushing his car).*



The road works are often shoddy because a lot of the money that is supposed to build the roads is stolen. There are numerous examples of this.

Most of the roads that have been built with the immense resources poured into the sector are very narrow and have no walkways and provisions for cyclists, contributing to the scary road carnage in the country. According to a report by the Uganda police released in May 2019, 9,000 Ugandans are killed in road accidents each year.

Besides, the cost of many of the road projects is grossly inflated. Entebbe Express highway, for instance, is rated as one of the most expensive roads in world history. A lot of taxpayers' money is unnecessarily skimmed off in one project, denying the country opportunity to do more.

In many parts of the country, many of the roads are ungraded and become impassable when it rains, tremendously increasing the cost of doing business.

This is compounded by the virtual absence of a railway system and undeveloped water transport system.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

Modern development is based on the ability to move people and goods from place to place, and the cost and speed with which people and goods move within an economy is a crucial determinant of how fast that economy grows.

### **OUR UNDERTAKINGS**

Establish high standard inter and intra-city transport road network to connect the country.

Construct Modern bus terms across the federal states

Establish or upgrade to international standards airports in Soroti, Gulu, Kibale, Nakasongola, Tororo, and Mbarara.

Build a railway line across the country and refurbish the dilapidated railway stations for cheaper transport and economic transformation of regions across Uganda,

Construct and maintain district roads that are critical to agriculture transformation and local economic development.

We shall create 20 regional road works and maintenance centers, well-equipped with machinery and technical personnel, to ensure regular and timely road repairs within the regional governments.

Establish weighbridges within the country and at every border entry point for efficient and effective revenue collections.

Reduce taxes by half on the importation of building materials for water vessels.

Build capacity of local companies by reserving 55% of construction procurements for local Ugandan companies.

Develop a National Pedestrian, pedal cyclist, and bodaboda safety plan, including programs for the training of bodaboda riders.

Secure road reserves for all roads in Uganda to reduce the costs of compensation and damages to road edges. Most District roads have no road reserves.



## Champion a new economic order for East Africa

### THE ISSUE

The NRM long-term dictatorship has, in many ways, destabilized the progress of the EAC. On the political front, for instance, Mr. Museveni is by far the longest-serving of all the leaders within EAC, having been in power for 35 years, thereby reversing the gains already made.

When his time was up in 2006, because he had served his two elected terms, he bribed parliament and deleted

term limits from the Constitution. Even after doing that, he would have been ineligible to run in the 2021 elections had he not unleashed soldiers to openly beat up Members of Parliament in House Chambers. They were opposed to the removal of the 75-year age cap from the Constitution which prevented him from standing for Presidency again. Mr. Museveni's highhanded and draconian methods have, over the years, put off many people within the EAC, thereby loosening the bonds of integration.





The EAC has grown from the three original member states – Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania – to now include Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan, with the Democratic Republic of Congo pushing for admission and growing.

However, Uganda, under Mr. Museveni, has cultivated a reputation of courting conflict with many of its neighbours. For the second year running, our shared border with Rwanda remains closed because of such disagreements. Such is no conducive environment for integration.

### **WHY IT MATTERS**

Meaningful integration built on trust and genuine desire to fashion a robust economic bloc is essential for the long-term development of our country and its neighbours, within a harmonious environment.

Integration has the potential to widen linkages between the peoples of our region and facilitate trade, providing a broader market and greater bargaining power in dealings with the rest of the world. It can also significantly reduce the potential for conflict since closer cooperation among the countries of the region would lead them to view war between them as destructive, less beneficial, and undesirable.

Countries around the world pursue regional economic integrations to enhance their competitiveness in the international system. Uganda, with its 45 million people, is much less competitive in the global system as a single unit than if it engages as part of a bigger whole of the six-member East African Community (EAC), which has a combined population of about 180 million.

### **OUR UNDERTAKINGS**

The FDC government will pursue a policy of respect for the sovereignty of all member states to build confidence and reduce suspicion among the EAC member states.

The FDC government will look to strengthen the expanded EAC and seek to re-establish common services that were run by the old East African Community, which included Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The common services, among others, will consist of railways, merging the different national airlines to create the East African Airways, postal services, research institutions, education, East African Currency Board, and seek to strengthen the East African Passport under the same immigration regulations. Our government will also look to establish an East African tourist board. This pooling of resources will help to quicken our development, air travel within East Africa will become cheaper, and air connectivity will become easier hence boosting internal tourism.

The FDC government will push to actualise the idea of no work or residence permits for East African citizens.

We will negotiate with partner states on how and where individual countries can surrender some of their state powers and sovereignty to an East African Authority. For example, we will seek to empower the East African Parliament further, the East African Court of Appeal for political cases and human rights violations in each state.

If a visitor gets a Ugandan visa or Tanzania or Kenya, it should be valid to all the EAC countries.



## Foreign Service driven by national interest

### THE ISSUE

The Foreign Service is dominated by political appointees and cronies whose objective is to draw a stipend from the consolidated fund for survival, rather than for strengthening Uganda's international relations and trade.

Diplomacy is about advancing the strategic interests of a country in foreign lands. To succeed, the interests to be advanced must be well defined, and the team to move them competent as guided by the country's Foreign Service policy, which Uganda lacks.

Uganda currently has 36 missions abroad, with most of them found in Africa (14) and Europe (09), while it hosts 39 foreign missions in Kampala. Some of Uganda's missions abroad serve multiple jurisdictions, meaning that the coverage of our missions abroad is much bigger than 36.

Many of the senior NRM politicians who do not succeed in elections are usually appointed to head many of Uganda's missions abroad and overnight take over the role of chief diplomats when they are not schooled in diplomacy and don't understand the procedures and even which interests to pursue. Their appointment often leaves career diplomats frustrated due to lack of opportunities for promotion, dampening morale, and turning our missions into battlefields.

At the government level, there is no deliberate process to develop strategic goals that have to be pursued by our diplomats in line with the changing world to impose the interests of Uganda on the international agenda. It is unfortunate that what matters today in our foreign policy is Mr Museveni's personal political and economic interests.

The Foreign Affairs sector attracts only 3% of the total

annual budget, indicating the low prioritization by the government. Consequently, Uganda's missions abroad are mostly dilapidated and demoralized with virtually no innovation.

### WHY IT MATTERS

A well-executed Foreign Affairs policy has the potential to promote and protect Uganda's interests abroad. Endowed with some of the most favourable conditions for organic agriculture in the world, Uganda can market its exports to different countries and penetrate high-income markets, which in turn would spur production and expand incomes for Ugandans and our country at large.

### OUR UNDERTAKINGS

Develop a robust and patriotic Foreign Service policy centered on national interest, away from President's interests and draw a wide-ranging strategic plan to guide the operations of all the missions abroad.

Undertake market research led by Foreign Affairs career diplomats on export opportunities abroad for Ugandan products.

Increase budget allocation for foreign affairs' programs and the development budget for the missions abroad.

Develop a legal framework to guide foreign service operations and staff appointments.

Develop a national Diaspora policy in consultation with Ugandans living abroad.

Leverage the increasing interest that the discoveries like Uganda's oil and minerals have created to further market what the country can offer.





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