



## **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, KHARTOUM – SUDAN**

### **REMARKS BY**

### **H.E. AMBASSADOR JAMES W. KINOBE – AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF MISSION UGANDA EMBASSY, KHARTOUM – SUDAN AT THE DINNER COMMEMORATING 100<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

Invited Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and pleasure to welcome each one of you to this important occasion.

The Embassy of the Republic of Uganda, Khartoum today join the rest of the world, in observing International Women’s Day under the theme “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world on the way to the Generation Equality Forum”. Our theme as a country this year is, ‘Choose To Challenge’ with a message that women are responsible for their own thoughts and actions every day and they challenge the world every day.

A fundamental principle of the United Nations Charter adopted by world leaders in 1945 is “equal rights of men and women”, and protecting and promoting women's human rights is the responsibility of all States. Uganda, a committed Member of the United Nations has gone a long way in recognizing, promoting and defending the rights of women with intentional efforts to ensure their place in human development is ring fenced and their role in leadership visible using affirmative action, practiced to promote and protect the girl child against all forms of social up evils, neglect and abuse, provision and access to education with special consideration given to female entrants in competitive admission to Public Universities. In all sector of our Government, participation of women in leadership is practiced to promote gender parity as a Constitutional mandate. This is one of the greatest achievement of the NRM Government.

During the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the year our Constitution was promulgated with elaborate provisions on gender parity enshrined therein, the world made a promise in Beijing, China, declaring - “equal rights and opportunities for all women and girls, everywhere.” Since then, Uganda continues to adhere to the declaration with more being done as a Constitutional mandate to promote “Women in Leadership.” As our student who are here should know, The 1995 Constitution Guarantees gender equality through Objective VI and Objective XI of the “National Objectives of State Policy” section (11). Objective XV recognizes the significant

role that women play in society. Gender is mainstreamed throughout the Constitution and within chapters related to the Protection of Human Rights, Land and Environment, and Institution of Traditional or Cultural Leaders. These chapters contain provisions that are directly related to women's equal right to land and that specifically outlaw customs that are against the dignity of women or that undermine their status (11).

In global ranking where Iceland was ranked the most gender equal country in the world as per Global Gender Gap Report of 2020, Uganda was ranked 65 out of 153 countries. The score card indicates that 34.9% of members of parliament are women against 65.1% male counterparts, 36.7 women hold ministerial position in the Uganda Cabinet against 63.3% male cabinet members. Meanwhile in the Foreign Service of Uganda, when His Excellency the President appointed 35 Ambassadors as Heads of Mission and High Commissioner to Uganda Missions abroad, 12 out of the 35 were women. This is a fair representation of "Women in Leadership".

As the world battles with COVID-19, women in Uganda are visible as front line fighters against the Pandemic. The country is done proud by the leadership of The Hon. Minister of Health and her Permanent Secretary, both "Woman in Leadership" in the COVID afflicted world. At our homes, women have taken leadership in keeping good hygiene, providing local steams for loved ones, the right meals and "*dawa*" tea necessary to strengthen immunity and kill the COVID virus.

The COVID-19 beaten economy calls for solution oriented leadership. Women have proved to have special grace and God given abilities in seeking and finding solutions, they seem to have naturally inbuilt survival instinct normally utilized unselfishly during trying times for the greater good of all. Ladies and gentlemen, such are the kind of leadership the world need today.

On International Women's Day, everyone appreciates the women in their lives acknowledging their worth, significance, and their contribution to society as well. Be it in professional life or personal life, celebrating women is a sense of obligation to all of us. This is why I take this opportunity to urge you to love and respect your wives, appreciate female colleagues where you live and work, encourage, support and promote our daughters as they endeavor to find their bearing in the whole wide future before them. Never neglect these mothers for they gave birth to the world. To our female staff and spouses, we appreciate you!

In conclusion, I call on everyone to let Women's Day be about making society realize that each individual matters. And, we must all work differently in our various roles to help transform society towards a better future having been awoken by the challenge of COVID-19 with lesson that in life situation can change rapidly requiring leadership that is dynamic, selfless, focused and inclusive.

I now invite you to stand up and let us toss to all the "women in Leadership" –

Happy International Women's Day.