



MINISTRY OF ICT & NATIONAL GUIDANCE

A Knowledge and Productive Society driven by ICT & National Ideology

MINISTRY OF ICT AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE
SPEECH BY CABINET MINISTER- HON.CHRIS BARYOMUNSI
DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE ICT BUSINESS TOUR
FRIDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 2023

SALUTATION

- 1. HON. JOYCE SSEBUGWAWO, MINISTER OF STATE FOR ICT**
 - 2. HON. KABBYANGA GODFREY BALUKU, MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL GUIDANCE**
 - 3. PERMANENT SECRETARY MOICT&NG, DR AMINAH ZAWEDDE**
 - 4. HEAD OF DEPARTMENTS**
 - 5. CHAIRMAN AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE BPO AND INNOVATION COUNCIL**
 - 6. OUR PARTNERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR**
 - 7. CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE JICA– MR INOUE YOICHI**
 - 8. OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM THE ICT INDUSTRY IN JAPAN**
- ALL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Good Morning!

Ladies and Gentlemen

I'm delighted to be here with you this morning to give closing remarks on this occasion to conclude the ICT business tour.

I would like to thank all those who made this tour possible, and I extend special thanks to JICA for partnering with the Ministry of ICT&NG to make this possible.

First of all, I take this opportunity to officially welcome our distinguished delegates from Japan to our beautiful country Uganda. I am aware you have been here since Sunday and you have visited different startups and hubs including our very own National ICT Innovation Hub and UICT in Nakawa, I hope you have enjoyed and benefited from your tour thus far.

Uganda is steadily progressing toward its vision of becoming a middle-income country and creating employment opportunities by 2040. In this regard, this ICT business tour is a step in our journey to achieve this.

Our National Development Plan 3, under the Digital Transformation Program, highlights ICT as a fulcrum of development and a crucial driver of social and economic development and it states that over the NDP III plan period, an economic growth rate of close to 7% is expected. This is expected to yield an annual average of 520,000 jobs.

To ensure the realization of the aspiration in the Digital Transformation Program, we are Cognizant that investment into the ICT industry is inevitable.

ICT is one of the areas of investment that contributes directly and indirectly towards Uganda Vision 2040. The Government believes Investment in ICTs is essential in the sustainable development of Uganda, our political stability, steady Economic growth, Geographical location, and Legal & Regulatory Environment of presents a favorable environment for both international and local investors.

We also believe that the entry of foreign investors into the economy comes with the opportunity to link domestic firms with international firms and boost knowledge spillover and job opportunities across the different sectors. W

The Japanese government through its agency (JICA) has supported Uganda in several sectors and we believe that the recently signed record of a discussion between MoICT&NG and JICA is an opportunity for Ugandans and Japanese to engage in mutually beneficial activities as it will create a platform for linkages between Uganda ICT companies and to Japanese ICT businesses. These linkages will further extend to academia for skills transfer and knowledge sharing. The Ugandan youth is key in this

partnership as they will also benefit from employment and capacity-building in various skills like software development, telemedicine and education among others.

The Ugandan population which is about 44 million is largely dominated by the youth who are under 30 years of age, thus you can be sure that we have an abundance of educated young people who are more than eager to take on any innovative opportunities available to them.

Uganda's ICT sector also reflects the increased use of ICT as there is a sizeable growth in e-business transactions in Uganda like mobile money, Jumia and Safe boda. These have played a big role in the economic development of the country.

As a country, we have also positioned ourselves as Africa's innovation powerhouse and the hub for Business Processing Outsourcing. The main opportunities for business process outsourcing and ICT services exist in agriculture, health, tourism, banks, insurance, and public administration.

Conclusion

The Ministry of ICT&NG would like to assure all prospective investors that Uganda is ripe for investment.

I, therefore, take this opportunity to invite you to invest in our economy and also encourage other Japanese firms and companies to visit Uganda and also explore the different investment opportunities we have in the different sectors.

Finally, I look forward to having more discussions with you later today and also wish you all the best.

For God and my country