



REMARKS

BY

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MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND
INNOVATION OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

AT

THE PRESS LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2023.

STI SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS, NTINDA, KAMPALA

WEDNESDAY 27TH OCTOBER, 2023

Colleague Ministers,

Heads of Government Institutions,

Captains of Industry from the Private Sector,

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests,

Allow me to first and foremost welcome you to this very beautiful day, that carries with it the blessings of divine providence from God.

I extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all of you on this momentous occasion, of the launch of the National Science Week 2023.

It is indeed an honor to host you here at the premises of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Secretariat, Office of the President, often referred to as STI-OP. Your presence today is a testament to the crucial role you play in Uganda's journey towards achieving socio-economic transformation.

In the contemporary world, it has become increasingly impossible to divorce the realms of Science, Technology, and Innovation from national economic development.

Globally, we witness strong economies realigning their priorities to adapt to the ever-evolving landscape.

Uganda cannot afford to remain a passive observer as global initiatives, primarily driven by our counterparts in the fields of Science-led transformation, shape the future that will determine our very survival.

Therefore, it is our collective duty as a nation to seize these ground-breaking opportunities and align ourselves with global developments.

The National Science Week is designed around eight thematic areas, which are technically aligned to the work we do here at the STI Secretariat under our Bureaus.

This year, during a six-day science and technology extravaganza, scheduled from the 6th to the 11th of November 2023, we promise to offer participants from all walks of life a hands-on understanding of the remarkable progress Uganda has made in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

It is our hope that you, fellow citizen, will grasp the profound impact these fields can have on our economic transformation as the Pearl of Africa.

This year's National Science Week 2023 is anchored on the theme, "**Uganda Tusimbudde: Our Science-led Journey Towards Socio-economic Transformation.**"

This theme is a call to action, inviting every Ugandan to actively participate in this exciting journey towards socio-economic progress, facilitated by Science, Technology, and Innovation, through the STI Secretariat and our partners.

"Uganda Tusimbudde: Science-led" underscores the pivotal role of innovation, transcending all sectors, in both individual and national growth. After all, we are all Ugandans first, and this commitment to our nation's development is everlasting.

The thematic areas that we will explore and showcase during this year's National Science Week 2023 are as follows:

1. Pathogen Economy: Focusing on pathogens and their manipulation for our health, including drug and vaccine development.
2. Mobility: Centered around the manufacturing of automobile products, with Kiira Motors leading the way in providing mobility solutions in the region.
3. Import Substitution: Aimed at enhancing the competitiveness of locally made products (Made in Uganda, Buy Uganda Build Uganda), and reducing import dependence.
4. Infrastructure Innovation: Targeting breakthroughs in energy, railways, roads, airports, nanotechnology, minerals, materials, STI-linked communications, and industrial manufacturing.
5. Export-Targeted STI: Innovations aimed at boosting Uganda's foreign exchange earnings through products like honey, banana flour, leather, value-added coffee, and more.
6. Industry 4.0+: Focusing on high-tech innovations, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), electronic manufacturing, fintech, and additive manufacturing, among others.
7. Productivity Acceleration: Increasing output per unit input in agriculture, industry, and service sectors to bolster Uganda's economic growth.
8. Aeronautics and Space: Exploring innovations in space exploration, satellites, airplanes, aerial vehicles, astronomy, and more.

Today, we not only launch the National Science Week 2023 but also unveil the event program.

It is an honor for me to present a brief overview of the 6-day event schedule, which will be inaugurated by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

On day one, the 6th of November 2023, we will have our Press Day. This day is a celebration of your role, as the fourth estate and we invite all of you to actively participate and discover the power of a science-led media. We will host two enlightening panel discussions focusing on domestic innovations in journalism and media.

Day two, which is the Opening Ceremony on 7th November 2023, will be the official inauguration led by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda who is also the guest of honor for this year's National Science Week.

On day three, the 8th of November 2023, we shall convene the Academia Day, and we invite academic institutions across the country to bring their students to be inspired on the path to developing scientific innovations. Panel discussions will also highlight the urgent need for nurturing of young scientists.

Day four, which is our Policy & Synergy Day, on the 9th of November 2023 shall involve Senior Leaders from private organizations, government parastatals, Parliament, and all legislators, to engage in discussions on policy and synergy science-led growth.

The Investors Engagement Day will happen on day five, the 10th of November 2023, will feature a series of discussions with investors, focused on aligning Uganda as the prime investment destination, where returns are guaranteed, especially in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The last day of the National Science Week 2023, which is day six, will be reserved as a Family Day on 11th November 2023. This day is dedicated to our families, both traditional and modern, to explore the wonders of Uganda's innovations.

Guiding innovation at the family level is crucial for nurturing future innovators. The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, will officiate the closure of this weeklong event, which will also be concluded with high-powered entertainment from talented artists and local performers.

As I wrap up, I want you all, Ugandans, to remember that this is your home, and you are always welcome to seek accurate information on matters related to Science, Technology, and Innovation.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds from the 6th to the 11th of November 2023.

I thank you.