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## **REMARKS BY THE MANAGING DIRECTOR- UGANDA SECURITY PRINTING COMPANY LTD ON THE OCCASION OF THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE SECURITY PRINTING FACTORY AT ENTEBBE UGANDA.**

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Our Chief Guest- Hon. Milly Babirye Babalanda- Minister for the  
Presidency;

Hon. Cabinet Ministers present;

Hon. State Ministers present

Your Excellency the German Ambassador to Uganda;

The Head of Public Service/ Secretary to Cabinet

The Deputy Head of Public Service/ Deputy Secretary to Cabinet

The Secretary, Office of the President;

The Permanent Secretaries present;

The Directors and Commissioners present;

The Religious Leaders present;

The Chairpersons and Board of Directors of Government Agencies  
present

The Chairperson and Board of Directors of USPC Ltd  
The Accounting Officers of Government Agencies present  
The representatives of Veridos GmbH;  
The Project Contractor;  
The Area Chairperson of the LC1;  
All Invited Guests;  
Protocol Observed:

Allow me to take this opportunity to welcome you to this ceremony.  
As USPC and Uganda at large, today, we are celebrating one of  
the key milestones under the joint venture agreement signed in  
2018.

Our Chief Guest and invited Guests, in 2015, the Government of  
Uganda with the guidance of H.E the President of the Republic of  
Uganda Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, embarked on the process  
of searching for an investor who would work with the Government  
to revamp Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation (UPPC).  
In 2016, a multi-stakeholder committee was set up with a  
secretariat based at the Privatization Unit (MoFPED). The purpose  
of this committee was to develop terms of reference, which would  
be issued to the interested potential bidders/ investors. Between  
2016 and 2018 a number of activities including bid preparation, bid  
evaluation, due diligence, and negotiations were undertaken by the

team, which finally resulted in the award of the contract to the German Consortium of Veridos GmbH and Giesecke & Devrient GmbH.

Our Chief Guest and invited Guests, on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018; the Government of Uganda represented by the Office of the President, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), and Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation (UPPC) signed a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with the German Consortium (Veridos GmbH and Giesecke & Devrient GmbH). This JVA resulted in the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (Uganda Security Printing Company Limited-USPC Ltd) in which the Government of Uganda owns 51%, while the German Consortium owns 49%. Hon. Minister, whereas the process for concluding the JVA took a longer period, we are happy to note that finally, the process yielded positive results, which we are here to celebrate today.

Our Chief Guest and invited Guests, I wish to inform you that there are two major purposes of this JVA.

- I. To revamp the Uganda Printing and Publishing Corporation (UPPC) by redesigning, developing, constructing, completing, testing, and commissioning an e-Passport and ID factory.



- II. To supply the Government of Uganda with all security documents and their corresponding supporting system.

On this note, Hon Minister, allow me to thank the Office of the President, the Office of the Attorney General, the MoFPED, DCIC, NIRA, Bank of Uganda, and all the other stakeholders that were involved in this process.

Since 2018, USPC has registered a number of milestones that have included; the supply of the ePassport System to the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control. Under this project, USPC has been able to establish an interim personalization center, delivered ePassport Blank Booklets, and refurbish Three (3) regional offices (Mbarara, Mbale, and Gulu). Currently, we are working with the Management of DCIC to rollout the ePassport System to Seven (7) Missions and as of today, Three (3) Missions (London, Washington, and Abu Dhabi) have been completed. The remaining four (4) i.e. Beijing, Copenhagen, Pretoria, and Ottawa will be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

Hon. Minister and invited Guests, I wish to thank the leadership of DCIC for the cordial working relationship on this project. I do acknowledge that there are some things that have not been delivered according to your expectations, but I want to assure you that all will be well.

Besides the ePassport System, we are also implementing the Uganda Driver Licensing System (UDLS) Project under the Ministry of Works and Transport. Under this project, services are rendered to the public from seven (7) regional offices (Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Gulu, Arua, Mbarara, and Fort Portal). Through this project, we have been able to improve the efficiency of service delivery as evidenced by the compliments from the public. Currently, UDLS is considered one of the most effective and efficient service delivery projects in the country. On average, it takes 30 minutes for one to get a Driver's License. I wish to thank the leadership of the Ministry of Works and Transport for their invaluable support towards this achievement.

Our Chief Guest, as we continue to pursue the mandate of the JVA, we are currently working with NIRA to deliver the Blank ID Cards and the corresponding IT Support Systems. I am hopeful that this collaboration will yield results and hence enable the successful construction of this factory. We wish to thank the leadership of NIRA for the cordial working relationship that we have so far had.

Hon Minister, from the above brief, one can clearly note that USPC is State Own Enterprise. For this matter, giving business to USPC is like Government doing business with Government. It is therefore on this basis that through you, Hon Minister, I wish to appeal to all



the MDAs to allow Government to do business with Government in order to serve our country better. I am aware that we have a number of potential clients here like the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Education and Sports, UNEB, NICHE, MoFPED, MAAIF, and Ministry of Health to mention but a few. If these MDAs emulate what MoWT, DCIC, and NIRA are doing then, as a country, we shall go a long way to reduce the foreign exchange hemorrhage, expand the employment opportunities, widen the tax base and boost the revenue base of our country.

Hon. Minister, you will note that one of the precursors for the realization of the above objectives, is factory construction. Today, as we embark on the groundbreaking ceremony for this factory, we are setting a strong foundation upon which, the production of all Government security documents will be domiciled.

Hon. Minister, I wish to inform you that the design of this factory has gone through strict scrutiny with the aim of ensuring that it is fit for its purpose. The process has been handled by highly technical people with both international and national experiences in designing and managing similar strategic infrastructures. The process has also been subjected to regulatory requirements in order to ensure compliance. At this point Hon. Minister, allow me

to mention some of the key members that have played a critical in the design of this factory.

- I. Eng. Robert Waswa
- II. Dr. Kuhn Holger
- III. Dr. Stefan Neiffer
- IV. Arch Tom Kajumba

The factory project has two main components i.e. the Civil works and the equipment component. The civil works component will cost a grand total of Ugx 41bn and will be completed within a period of 18 months. USPC is going to use its internal resources to finance the civil works and this component has been contracted to the Consortium of NEC and TA. I congratulate the Contractor (NEC/TA) for having succeeded in the bidding process. Based on your past experience and expertise, I am quite sure that you will not let us down but do a job that gives clout to USPC, UPPC, and the Office of the President.

The equipment component is expected to cost approximately Ugx 66bn. This cost is expected to be financed through a loan from any financial institution or a vendor. Upon completion, the factory will have two production lines i.e. paper-based and card-based. It is expected to create direct employment to close to 300 people.



Hon Minister, this being a key Government strategic installation, quality assurance is of paramount importance. For this matter, a Contract Management Team has been constituted to ensure that they routinely monitor the implementation of this project. The team is expected to demand accountability from the contractor and to ensure that the contractor adheres to the design and the other regulatory requirements.

Hon. Minister, as we celebrate this milestone allow me to recognize the following key stakeholders who have enabled us to reach this far.

Through the Board, Secretary Office of the President, and through you Hon. Minister, I wish to thank H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his visionary guidance during the process of setting up USPC. Without his guidance, USPC would not have been established.

We thank you Hon Minister for being there for us at all times. We appreciate your support even in times of turbulence, criticisms, and attacks. You have always been by our side and you have guided us on how to remain focused on the agenda. Relatedly we thank the Secretary Office of the President who has worked to ensure that there is always harmony between our internal and external stakeholders. Thank you so much, Sir.



The Office of the Attorney General and Solicitor has always been by our side to ensure that they offer legal guidance for our operations.

I thank our esteemed customers who have enabled us to reach this point. Special thanks to the leadership and management of DCIC, MoWT, and NIRA.

I also thank our shareholders UPPC and Veridos GmbH and the Board of Directors of USPC for steering us in the right direction.

Special thanks to all our business partners including all the service providers like External Lawyers, Auditors, Bankers, Operations, Clearing and Forwarding, Insurance, IT, and our esteemed Contractor (NEC/ TA). Special thanks to our Event Manager (ITSL) for making this event colorful.

Finally, Hon. Minister allow me to introduce to you the USPC winning team that has been behind this event and I thank them for their dedicated service. It has been a hectic exercise for them but because of their dedication and passion, they have made it possible. Thank you so much my winning team and thanks to the organizing committee.

Thank you our Chief Guest for embracing and officiating this function and thank you, all the invited Guests.

May the Almighty God grant you journey mercies.

Laurent von Büren  
**Finance Director**

Mugerwa George  
**Managing Director**

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!**