



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

PRESS RELEASE

BY

Hon. Esther Anyakun Davina (MP)

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR EMPLOYMENT AND
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

ON THE RETURN OF UGANDAN MIGRANT WORKERS FROM

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE AMNESTY

GRANTED BY THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

11TH NOVEMBER 2024

UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE

KAMPALA

Members of the Media Fraternity, Fellow Ugandans,

On the 21st of October 2024 I announced to the nation the outcome of a Ministerial and Technical visit to Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which I led from 14th to 17th October 2024.

During that visit in a meeting I held with the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Eng. Ahmed Alrajhi, Saudi Arabia agreed to pardon Ugandan migrant workers who had been stranded in deportation centers and prisons across the Kingdom.

This is therefore to update you on the progress made so far in regard to securing the release of our people in Saudi Arabia as well as the current amnesty granted to Ugandans in the United Arab Emirates due to expire soon.

I am happy to inform you that 146 Ugandans have so far been repatriated back home, the latest being 54 Ugandan girls who arrived this weekend aboard Air Arabia.

This is a key development and underscores our commitment to the welfare of our citizens abroad, and we continue to

work with our partners to ensure safe return of all Ugandans still stranded.

I would like to call upon Ugandans who find themselves in these circumstances to take advantage of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pardon which has a window of 90 days and the Amnesty by the United Arab Emirates to Ugandans currently residing in the UAE without proper documentation or facing legal issues.

This amnesty is in effect until **December 2024**. We urge all Ugandans in the UAE to seize this opportunity to return home without incurring penalties, as the amnesty will end in December.

To those who wish to take advantage of this amnesty, please proceed to the nearest airport and arrange your travel back to Uganda. The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development, remains resolute in its commitment to safeguarding the rights of Ugandan migrant workers abroad, whether through bilateral negotiations, repatriation, or reintegration initiatives.

The Ministry is partnering with the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** to offer counselling, rehabilitation and re-integration of the returnees.

Our recent progress, in partnership with both the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, affirms our commitment to ensuring that Ugandan workers are treated with respect and dignity. We look forward to continued dialogue and further collaboration aimed at strengthening labor relations, protecting our citizens, and enhancing Uganda's standards for labor externalization.

Thank you for your attention.



Hon Esther Anyakun Davinia (MP)

Minister of State for Labour, Employment, and Industrial Relations