

INTERVIEW SPEECH

We are back in Kampala for the momentous Fourth Edition of the UAE–Uganda Business Forum.

The Uganda - UAE Business Forum is an annual event organised by the Uganda Embassy - Abu Dhabi, and the Uganda Consulate General - Dubai, in collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Kampala, Abu Dhabi Department for Economic Development, Abu Dhabi Chamber, Dubai Chambers, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala.

Objectives

- i.) Strengthen bilateral partnerships for investment, trade, tourism and innovation.

- ii.) To facilitate networking among business leaders, investors, policy makers and entrepreneurs
- iii.) Discuss opportunities and challenges of doing business between Uganda and the United Arab Emirates.
- iv.) Showcase innovative products, services and business models.
- v.) Influence policy dialogue and create an enabling environment for business.

Thematic Areas

- i.) Commercialised Agriculture, agro-industrialisation and agri-business.
- ii.) Tourism development
- iii.) Energy, mineral based development, oil and gas, and renewable energy.
- iv.) Infrastructure development, Innovation and Technology and Real Estate

v.) Trading and manufacturing

Format and Approach Activities during the Forum

The Forum will be a three days event including: Field visits, Plenary Sessions, High-level panel discussions, B2B, B2G, and G2G.

i.) Field visits on **Day One**

ii.) Official opening ceremony, High level panel discussions, B2B, B2G, & G2G on **Day Two.**

iii.) Plenary sessions, continuation of high-level panel discussions, B2B, G2G, & G2G on **Day Three.**

The relationship between Uganda and the United Arab Emirates has evolved into a dynamic and multifaceted partnership, underpinned by strategic economic, diplomatic, and infrastructural collaborations.

The Partnership reflects a shared commitment of sustainable development, regional connectivity, and technological advancement. The connectivity has been enhanced by the **six daily flights between Uganda and the UAE.**

Diplomatic ties between Uganda and the UAE have been strengthened through high-level visits and institutional agreements.

In January 2025, the President of Uganda ***His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni*** visited the UAE and in ***May 2025 the UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister – His Highness Sheikh Adullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Uganda***, leading to the signing of six memoranda of understanding (MOU's) across various sectors, including protection of investment, works and transport, Diplomatic Training & Capacity building, Joint Development Agreement, Digital Transformation, and Energy.

Foreign Direct Investments from the UAE to Uganda have grown from **US \$ 300m in 2018 to US \$ 3.5B in 2024**. Trade between both countries has significantly increased with the UAE emerging as Uganda's leading export destination globally. Trade between both countries is valued at **US\$ 2.85 B as of September 2025**.

The great hospitality and kindness of the UAE people have facilitated the increase of Ugandans living and working in the UAE **from 40,000 in 2018 to over 160,000 in 2024.**

The Uganda - UAE relationship exemplifies a robust and evolving Partnership characterised by mutual respect, strategic investments, and collaborative efforts across various sectors.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you all for honouring our invitation.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Asante Sana!

Mwebale nyo!