



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES

Proposed Welcome Remarks during the 1st Annual Tourism Development Programme Review Conference at Hotel Africana on 20th September 2023

by

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities

Chief Guest the Rt. Honourable Deputy Speaker of Parliament,

Honourable Ministers,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Development Partners,

Permanent Secretaries present,

Executive Directors and CEOs present,

Colleagues from the Private Sector and Civil Society,

The Academia,

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all. It is a pleasure to welcome you to the first Annual Tourism Development Programme Review Conference

1. The tourism industry continues to be a pillar for this country's economy. Even with the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, which heavily impacted the tourism industry, as of 2022, we are firmly in the recovery stage of this inclination.
2. The past year witnessed a significant upturn in the performance of Uganda's tourism where over 800,000 tourist arrivals were recorded. We also registered noticeable increase in contribution to GDP, foreign exchange earnings, employment, and occupancy rates in the accommodation facilities. This reflects the economic activity generated by industries such as hotels, travel airlines, activities of restaurants and leisure industries, as well as the wider effects from investments, the supply chain and induced income.

3. The Tourism industry saw a sizeable increase from 2021, which was the first post-pandemic recovery year for the sector. This shows the positive progress in the sector's comeback. However, this performance is still below the highest recorded performance of 2019. The outlook for Uganda's tourism sector in 2023 appears optimistic, thanks to the full reopening of key tourism source markets, including Europe, North America, Asia, China, Japan, and Africa.
4. Additionally, the recovery of the Tourism industry has been fuelled by the undertakings of the Government of Uganda, the exuberant Private Sector, the development partners and Civil Society Organisations, who continue the collaborative effort to develop and promote the industry.
5. Today, we are here to review the performance of the Tourism Development Programme for the Financial Year 2022/23.
6. This annual Review is the first we have conducted under the Government of Uganda's programme-based approach to implementation of national strategies that was adopted in the NDP III period.
7. The performance review conference is a much-needed exercise that will provide an opportunity to showcase the performance of the program for the past one year and really highlight to our stakeholders the progress we are making on recovering the industry. We will also solicit input from you, our stakeholders, in formulating achievable plans for the final two years of the NDP III period.
8. As a Ministry and the Agencies, we fondly recognize the contribution of all the different players in achieving the goal of 'Increasing Uganda's attractiveness as a preferred tourism destination' and as such, we hope for your participation and active involvement in today's conference.
9. We will hear from the Ministry, the Private sector, the CSOs and our development partners. We will also have interactive panel discussions to discuss our past performance, and the vision for the future of tourism in this nation.
10. I would like to once again welcome all of you, our esteemed guests, and I look forward to our continued cooperation as we embark on today's event

Thank you all very much

May God bless you.