



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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HON MINISTER FOR PRESIDENCY'S PRESS STATEMENT FOR CELEBRATIONS MARKING THE 34TH NRM/A VICTORY DAY ANNIVERSARY, 22nd JANUARY 2020 – UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE, KAMPALA

Fellow Ugandans and the distinguished members of the press; Sunday, 26th January 2020 marks exactly 34 Years since our Country was liberated from bad leadership and commenced on an unstoppable journey to socio economic and political transformation. The day was a climax of an armed conflict that begun on 6th February 1981 at Kabamba Barracks, by the resilient National Resistance Army fighters under the leadership of Gen. Yoweri Museveni ending in the capture of Kampala and restoring peace and order in the country. Lasting five years, the NRA protracted people's war had been executed consciously by ordinary citizens who exhibited extra ordinary heroism, sacrifice and skill bearing in mind that it was not their fight but a fight for the masses, a fight for the people that is why it is called the people's war.

This year's celebrations will be held under the theme: **“Celebrating NRM/A's Patriotic struggle that ushered in national unity and socio economic transformation”**. The National celebrations will take place at Ibanda Core PTC Grounds, Ibanda District. President Yoweri Museveni will be the Guest of Honour and other very important Guests are expected to join H.E the President to celebrate this day.

The history of the NRM/A struggle dates back in the 1970s during the regime of President Idd Amin who had captured state power through a coup in 1971. President Yoweri Museveni who was a few years from the university began the protracted struggle during his exile life in Tanzania

to restore democracy and rule of law in Uganda. The end of Amin's regime in 1979 and the coming in of the Uganda National Liberation Army did not solve issues. On the contrary, mismanagement became the order of the day and a state of anarchy was unleashed onto Ugandans.

President Museveni once again retreated into the Luweero Triangle corridor in central Uganda in 1981 and launched an armed struggle after the rigged general election of 1980. On 26th January 1986, the NRM/A captured power and a new chapter in Uganda's story was written.

The 34th NRM/A Victory Day therefore is an emotional day for all children of the Mother Uganda, whether living at home or abroad. We remember with gratitude the countless freedom fighters that struggled, strived and made heroic sacrifices to win us our freedom from dictatorial regimes.

For Uganda, the realization of our most cherished goal; the liberation of our country and the freedom of our people, is fitting tribute to the heroism and tenacity with which our people fought for this freedom. We have been sustained in our struggle by the powerful force of conviction in the righteousness and justness of what we pursue. Our vision of a democratic state of Uganda has been translated into a reality.

The democratic milestones achieved since 1986 when the NRM/A came to power are something to pride in. Free, and fair and periodic elections are now a given in Uganda. The NRM government has an important role here, as a facilitator and an enabler. As such, it is critical for our key institutions and the policy makers to study and appreciate the message being sent by citizens and to be responsive to the thoughts and wishes of our people.

President Yoweri Museveni has traversed every corner of Uganda to our diverse regions and met people from all walks of life but who share similar dreams of accelerated development; of effective and transparent governance, democracy and above all of a Uganda that is secure for everybody to enjoy their God given rights.

inevitably has its part to play, it is incumbent upon the ^{41 Million} people to harness their skills, talent, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship to be able to live their dreams.

The NRM Government remains committed to ensuring a secure and peaceful Uganda, setting up social infrastructure such as roads, airports, health centers, educational institutions, extension of electricity and water to the remotest part of our country so as to enable each and every Ugandan feel a part of the nation among other services. These have been possible as a result of promoting and upholding patriotism, democracy and good governance as core values for national socio-economic transformation.

We continue to grow our industrial base increasing production and productivity leading to supply outstripping demand in the agricultural sector; investing in quality inputs, extension services, storage facilities, access to markets by improving standards and quality of agro-processing. Therefore, a firm foundation for industrialization and especially manufacturing has been laid.

Government has taken strategic decisions to prioritize the development of the energy infrastructure because it plays a crucial role as a major catalyst for social and economic development. 183MW from Isimba Hydropower project commissioned on 21st March, 2019. Karuma HPP (600MW) is at completion stage awaiting the launching ceremony. Other power generating projects have been brought on board and soon we shall hit 2000 MW. Other energy projects are lined up to further power Uganda into an industrial country.

Agriculture remains the main thrust of Uganda's economic growth. The sector contributes 25% of national GDP and employs over 70% of Uganda's population.

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Tourism has increasingly become important to Uganda's economy. It is a driving force in propelling economic growth and continues to be the leading foreign exchange earner for Uganda generating a lot of the much needed revenue for the country. In the year 2018/9, the sector registered increased performance as reflected in the visits to Uganda's National Parks and other sites.

On the side of human capital, government has continued with construction of classrooms in permanent materials for all levels; establishment of government aided secondary schools, Government Technical and Vocational Schools and Universities and at the same time providing an enabling environment for private investment in the education sector.

By immunizing against the 13 diseases, eliminated polio, measles etc. provision of mosquito nets with indoor spraying reduced the incidence of malaria and sleeping sickness. Provision of Clean water reduced the incidence of cholera, intestinal worms, bilharzia and the guinea worm among others. Government has set up Health Centres in most of the sub counties and funds have already been secured to upgrade some health Centre IIs to Health Centre III across the country.

Finally, the NRM/A embarked on the historic task of ending the political fragmentation of Africa which was created by both the colonizers and selfish post-colonial African leaders by actively advocating for the East African Community and the Unity of Africa in general to break the artificial barriers of the boundaries that have over time curtailed free movement of people and goods.

The journey that begun as a patriotic struggle of a few young men and women ushered in national unity and socio economic transformation worthy celebrating. Under the NRM, Uganda has walked the talk.

Wishing you happy celebrations.



Esther M. Mbayo (MP)

MINISTER INCHARGE OF THE PRESIDENCY