





## **MESSAGE FROM H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

I am very happy to be, again, reconnected with Lord Hurd, Chairman of FIRST's Advisory Council, with whom I had worked closely when he was Foreign Secretary of the UK. The important role of FIRST comes in most handy for promoting enhanced economic linkages between Uganda and international investors (entrepreneurs), buyers, tour operators and exporters.

FIRST also underlines the close UK-Uganda relationship. Apart from the historical linkages between our two countries, there are the four areas where our relationship can be intensified. In order to emphasise the point, the areas of potential mutually beneficial relations are as follows:

- (i) UK entrepreneurs investing in Uganda;
- (ii) UK companies buying from Uganda;
- (iii) Uganda companies buying from the UK; and
- (iv) tourists from the UK being encouraged to visit Uganda.

In the areas of investment, we have urgent needs in the areas of: milling maize to produce maize flour and animal feeds; processing bananas to produce banana flour, juice and baby foods; roasting and milling coffee; textiles; fruit processing (oranges, pineapples and mangoes); cement production and steel industry from our very high-grade iron-ore deposits (obutare) that are 680/0 pure, so as to have high-quality steel to use in building hydro-power dams and standard gauge railways instead of using imported steel which is more expensive on account of being freighted from so far away; adding value to our cotton; a gold refinery (probably shared by the region); investing in petroleum exploration; energy (hydropower, solar, wind in the Karamoja area, gas and HFO (heavy fuel oil) using our hydro-carbons, etc); tourism (wild-life, mountaineering, nature tourism, fresh water tourism on Lake Victoria and the Nile, etc.); high-quality education (private) and health-care to be patronised by the growing Ugandan middle-class; etc.

Uganda is only one of the three places on the globe that I know where, on account of latitude and altitude, you neither need to warm the air nor to cool it. You just enjoy it as it is. I never use air-conditioning, never mind that the uninformed architects invariably install those irritating fixtures in all public buildings. In my own private houses, you never find a single unit of air-conditioning. In Uganda, you do not need those irritants.

The birds of the World, long ago, realised that, right from the dawn of creation, in winter, they all migrate to the tropics from the temperate lands and in summer, they go back. It has taken humanity four million years to know that. However, it is never too late to rectify mistakes.

**Yoweri Kaguta Museveni (Gen. rtd)  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**