



Remarks by
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Deputy Governor

ONE MILLION MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING

Kickoff Ceremony

Uganda Golf Club

10 November 2022

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening to you all.

Our world has changed permanently.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit the world with "a crisis like no other".

The odds are that humanity may not contain global temperatures below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Families worldwide have lost loved ones, and frequent disasters imperil our lives and livelihoods.

The iconic Nelson Mandela, in one of his letters to his first wife, Winnie Mandela, said, "Disasters will always come and go, leaving their victims either completely broken or steeled and seasoned and better able to face the next crop of challenges that may occur."

We pause today to pay homage to all the lives lost to the Covid-19 pandemic, to empathise with all who are still deeply affected by the pandemic, and to embark on planting at least One Million Trees as a living memorial.

The monumental planting of at least a million trees signifies that while our flesh, souls, and hearts may bear scars, we are stronger, seasoned, and preparing against the evolving climate disaster looming over humanity.

Not a single life will have been lost in vain if we pick ourselves up and prepare to face the next challenges with resilience. We will honour the legacy of those we lost by successfully contending with the clear and present challenge of global warming.

I am proud to say that the Bank of Uganda is already playing its role in greening the planet. We are working at institutionalising environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles in our operations and across the regulated financial institutions for a sustainable financial sector.

BoU has planted trees in all the regions that host our branches across the country as an integral part of our corporate social responsibility initiatives. And so, we eagerly joined this noble cause of planting at least one million trees by the MyTreeInitiative by donating UGX 10,000,000 towards this campaign.

Having been struck by the terrible blow of the pandemic, the Bank of Uganda family, like all the other affected families, contributed a memorial message to the #RememberMeBook. Our message reads ...

**Our dearly departed gallant Governor, treasured colleagues,
cherished friends**

Our beloved fallen members of the Bank of Uganda family

Our hearts still ache, for missing you

In memorium, we vow to you

To stand by the ideals for which you lived

To honour your legacy

To always remember you

A million green shoots will sprout

A tree for every soul

that Covid-19 stole.

Rest In Peace!

As I conclude the BoU's tribute, let me thank the "My Tree Initiative" for championing this noble cause. Hearty thanks also to our hosts, the Uganda Golf Club, whose sprawling greenery provides the lungs that help our Kampala City to breathe.

I must also say that our departed gallant Governor, the Late Prof. Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, was a fully paid-up member of the Uganda Golf Club until his untimely death in January. Thinking about him reminds us that "Men and women of rare qualities are few and hard to come by. And when they depart, the sense of loss is made the more profound and the more difficult to manage", Nelson Mandela.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!

May all the souls of our dearly departed loved ones rest in eternal peace.

I thank you for listening to me.

God bless.