



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**Remarks by**

**HON. MARIA KIWANUKA,**

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**At**

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Joseph Mubiru Memorial Lecture**

***“UNLOCKING AFRICA’S GROWTH POTENTIAL: Aligning  
decision-making to Implementation and Delivery”***

Kampala Serena Hotel International Conference Centre

Kampala

**Friday August 2, 2013**

Our Guest Speaker, Hon Trevor Manuel, Minister for the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission of the Republic of South Africa

Hon. Ministers

Hon. Members of Parliament

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Our Host, the Governor, Bank of Uganda

The Main Discussant, Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana

Mrs. Mary Theo Mubiru

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 21<sup>st</sup> Joseph Mubiru Memorial Lecture. In a special way, I welcome Hon. Trevor Manuel, Minister for the Presidency in charge of the National Planning Commission of the Republic of South Africa who kindly accepted to deliver this Lecture. Hon. Manuel's illustrious career and achievements have already been read to you in the citation. You will agree with me that we could not find a better person to present this Topic, which is so critical for Uganda and the world today.

I thank Professor Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile the Governor of the Bank of Uganda and his team for continuously organising these series, and specifically for selecting this important topic on: **“UNLOCKING AFRICA’S GROWTH POTENTIAL: *Aligning decision-making to Implementation and Delivery*”**. The potential for Africa's growth is visible in all aspects including: natural resources, central position of either side of the Americas, Europe and Asia, the large internal market of a billion people, flora and

fauna, and a young and industrious population. In view of these, ‘Unlocking Africa’s Growth Potential is indeed a matter of “Aligning decision-making to Implementation and Delivery”.

Uganda continues to make significant progress in laying the foundation for growth in terms of building infrastructure, provision and reorienting of skills, in addition to investing in the harnessing of the vast potential in natural resources, tourism and agriculture. However, the resolution of implementation challenges towards removal of supply side constraints will be critical to realization of Vision 2040. This clearly underlies the importance of today’s topic, which could not have come at a better time.

As Minister of Finance, I am sure Hon. Manuel spent more time financing implementation for service delivery but now has to deal with the alignment of plans and decision-making for better implementation and service delivery. Planning, Financing implementation, and service delivery are crucial challenges for development in today’s world.

Therefore, I am personally privileged and very keen to listen in given my responsibility as Minister responsible for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which are under one portfolio in Uganda. However, this gives us the challenge of ensuring alignment of plans to implementation with a firm pursuit of value for money for ultimate service delivery, and positive welfare impacts.

I am eager just like all of you are, to listen and learn from a distinguished personality in economic and development policy management on how we can design and implement cost-effective interventions to create growth that is sustainable inclusive. The topic today rightly speaks to bridging the gap between the decision

making process and eventual implementation of various developmental projects critical to the growth of Uganda. Coming from a country with vast resources, Hon Manuel's insight into South Africa's successes and challenges in the development of a diversified economy is very much anticipated.

Before inviting Hon Trevor Manuel to present his paper, let me recognize two special ladies at this function.

First, Dr. Sarah Ssewanyana, the main discussant, is the Executive Director of the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) - Makerere University. The EPRC is central to the think-tank process in Uganda and has contributed greatly to the knowledge and evidence-based decision-making in the country. We look forward to benefiting from her insight and vast expertise in analysis of impacts of service delivery on welfare.

Second, on a special note, I recognise Mrs Theo Mubiru and thank her for her continued dedication to honour and grace all these series of lectures since inception in 1988. Mrs. Mubiru's continued solidarity is consistent with the firm foundation Governor Joseph Mubiru built for the Bank of Uganda, which has stood the test of time for almost 50 years today. Thank you very much Mrs Theo Mubiru and your family.

Your Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen

It is now my honour and pleasure to invite Hon. Trevor Manuel, to deliver his much awaited lecture.

Honourable Manuel, please.