



SPEECH BY

H. E. MAJOR (RTD) JESSICA ALUPO, THE VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT

THE NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE WORLD
ENGINEERING DAY, 2022

HELD AT

HOTEL AFRICANA, KAMPALA

ON

4 MARCH 2022

- The Hon. Minister of Works and Transport
- Honorable Ministers present
- Hon. Members of Parliament
- Representatives of Development Partners
- Permanent Secretaries
- Engineer-in-Chief, Ministry of Works and Transport
- Heads of Government Agencies and Departments
- Chairman and Members of the Engineers Registration Board
- President and Council Members of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers
- Foreign Delegates from Engineering Institutions of other Countries
- All Members of the Engineering Fraternity
- Representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

We are all gathered here as we join the rest of the World to celebrate the World Engineering Day, 2022 and specifically to recognize the contribution of engineers and engineering to the development of our country.

First of all, let me take this opportunity to thank the organizers and sponsors of this three day celebrations, who have been working under the able stewardship of the Hon. Gen. Katumba - Wamala, the Minister of Works and Transport.

The three day physical and virtual events that have brought together participants from within and outside our country include exhibitions, virtual presentations by eminent professionals on topical issues, enrollment of newly registered engineers and are to climax today with high level statements, discussions and commitments from the engineering professionals and Government on the way forward towards engineering the future for Uganda.

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me in a special way to recognize the presence of the foreign delegates who have traveled from other countries to celebrate with us and wish them a happy and enjoyable stay in Uganda. I encourage them to tour the country side and be able to appreciate the natural beauty, parks, forests, rivers, lakes, animals, rift valley, mountains etc that our country is endowed with and explain why the country is referred to as the “Pearl of Africa”.

Dear Participants, as we are all aware, the NRM Government’s vision is to transform Uganda from a Peasantry to a Modern and Prosperous Country by 2040. Several positive strides have been made in this direction most notably in the areas of improved peace and security, maintenance of macroeconomic

stability, development of social and economic infrastructure and expansion of access to social services. On behalf of the NRM Government and on my own behalf, let me take this opportunity to appreciate the tremendous contribution of the engineers, technologists, technicians, artisans and craftsmen towards the development and transformation of our Country.

It has always been the role of engineers, technologists, technicians, artisans and craftsmen to plan, design, develop, operate and maintain the physical infrastructure, the technology and the systems that are required for our country to achieve the aspirations of Vision 2040. I wish to salute the engineering professionals for their contribution particularly towards the Country's transformation of physical infrastructure, technology and systems. These notably include the increase of total paved roads network to over 5000km, increase of electricity generation capacity from 600MW to 1800MW, increase in access to safe water supply to 70% in rural and 74% in urban areas, increased of telephone subscriptions from 20.5 million in 2015 to 23.2 million in 2017 resulting in a tele density of 66.9 percent, increase in the number of internet users from 6.2 million users in 2015 to 9.8 million users in 2017. All these achievements would not have been possible for Government without the much engineering work done by engineering professionals behind the scenes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the NRM Government recognizes the challenges faced by the engineering professionals in Uganda. These include among others the low registration rate of engineering professionals with only 1,800 registered engineers for a population of 45 million Ugandans; too many

informal sector and unprofessional practices; shoddy and poor quality of engineering goods, works and services; emerging engineering disciplines; alignment of engineering education and training to prevailing market needs; promotion of local content in the delivery of engineering goods, services and works; outdated engineering standards, among others. To address some these challenges, the policy and regulatory framework needs to be improved with the repeal of outdated laws and enactment of new legislation where the laws may be lacking.

The Government will continue working with other stakeholders including the Engineer's Registration Board and the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers to review the Engineers Registration Act, 1969 for legislative action to be undertaken. Other related bills and policies such the National Construction Industry Policy and Bill will be reviewed and updated.

Government will continuously improve the education and training of engineering professionals right from universities and tertiary institutions with emphasis on practical training, through graduate internship and pupilage, continuous professional development so as to ensure that we have well trained and experienced engineering professionals that are capable of contributing to improvement of the quality of life of Ugandans and facilitate Uganda's sustainable development;

The Government through the line Ministries will undertake the regular update of engineering standards for design and construction of roads, buildings, water works, sewerage treatment, power dams, power lines, railways and other public infrastructure in order to ensure that engineering in Uganda is practised using up-to-date design codes, specifications, guidelines, manuals etc.

I therefore pledge Governments full support and action towards ensuring a better policy and regulatory framework for the engineering professionals in our country.

Dear Participants, in line with the theme of this year's World Engineering Day, 2022 of "Build Back Wiser-Engineering the Future", Government has lined up programs and projects for implementation under the National Development Program-NDP-3. The programs include agro-industrialisation; Sustainable Development of Petroleum Resources; Climate Change, Natural Resources, Environment, and Water Management; Manufacturing; Integrated Transport Infrastructure and Services; Energy development; Digital Transformation; Sustainable Urbanisation and Housing; and Innovation, Technology Development and Transfer, among others.

Engineering professionals are therefore expected to identify aspects of the professional practices that have hindered their professional work and require improvement. The improvements identified will then be applied towards

better implementation of the NDP-3 programs and projects to ensure that they address both the present and future needs of our people, for sustainable development.

I therefore call upon all of engineering professionals to engineer the future of Uganda through the provision of better and adequate engineering solutions in addition to application of best engineering practices to the various NDP-3 projects.

I wish you good deliberations and pledge, on behalf of Government, to give the resolutions made at these celebrations due attention and action in the interest of promoting good engineering practice and sustainable development in the country.

I thank you all for participating and attending the celebrations. Further, I thank you for the opportunity to interact with the engineering fraternity.

For God and My Country.