PRESS STATEMENT
20TH JUNE 2024

GLOBAL AWARD TO HONOUR THE HEAD OF STATE AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCES.

HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL YOWERI KAGUTA MUSENVENI – PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

AT THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL POST COVID-19 GLOBAL CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD AT TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE FROM JULY11TH TO 13TH 2024 – CANADA

Theme is: "'***EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19, ON HUMANITY BUILDING SYNERGIES AND RESILIENCE FOR FUTURE GLOBAL SHOCKS***"

PREAMBLE

A Team of international organizers; Livelihood Development Initiatives International (LDII) – Canada, in partnership with the Canadian government, The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union 6thRegion, Global Affairs Canada, World Health Organization (WHO), Continental Investments Llc-Vietnam, United Nations agency working to promote health; have organized the First International post Covid-19 Conference scheduled to take place on 11th-13th July in Toronto Canada. The Office of the Ambassador / Senior Advisor on Diaspora Affairs – Office of the President, has been responsible to organize and coordinate the local events, which included; putting in place a Local organizing Committee, Volunteers, Delegates, Awardees, Exhibitors, and general Co-hosting Conference.

This Global event, which among things will recognize role models for the Pandemic containment in Africa and the whole world. The Head of State of The Republic of Uganda, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni will be honored with

a Global Award at International Platform. In addition, other Ugandans who played a pivotal role during the pandemic outbreak are to be recognized too.

1. THE FOUNTAIN OF HONOR WILL BE AWARDED AT AGLOBAL PLATFORM

a) To acknowledge his Distinguished Leadership, Dedication in the fight against the COVID-19Pandemicand

b) To recognize the Significant Role he played to lead Ugandans that required high level visionary and decision.

c) to the Recognize Uganda as a Role Model for Pandemic Containment in Africa;

d) to be commended over his successful fight and management of COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged the rest of the world, causing untold deaths;

e) To encourage scientists, His Excellency, President Museveni setup the Presidential Scientific Initiative on Epidemics (PRESIDE) to work with partners to strengthen Uganda's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to public health threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event will also reorganize other Ugandans who played a central role during the fight of the Covid-19, Pandemic. This selection has been widely and carefully consulted to cover nominees from the academia, innovators, frontline healthcare, private sector, and Government.

2.HE.DR.SPECIOSA NAIGAGA WANDIRA KAZIBWE `
Former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda.

For the significant contributions and roles, you played during the pandemic; the dedication and commitment to advancing public health, particularly in challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic, deserve acknowledgment and appreciation.

3.HONDR.MONICAMUSENEROMASANZA

Minister for Science Technology and Innovation,

- *Dr. Musenero served as a senior presidential advisor on epidemics, providing expertise to the government of Uganda;*

- *Consultant Epidemiologist: She worked as a consultant epidemiologist to the government of Uganda, playing a key role in shaping the country's response to the pandemic*

- *As a Member of the National COVID-19 Taskforce: Dr. Musenero contributed to the development of strategies to combat the virus*

- *Public Education and Awareness: She engaged in public education and awareness efforts, speaking to the media and the public about COVID-19, and addressing myths and misconceptions about the virus, this guidance saved many lives;*

- *Leadership in Epidemic Control: With her experience in epidemic control, Dr. Musenero played a crucial role in guiding Uganda's response to COVID-19, building on her previous work in controlling Ebola outbreaks in the region*

4.HON.DR.JANE RUTH ACENG

Minister of Health-Uganda

- *For the committed engagement throughout the COVID19 battle and building resilient healthcare system*

- *Support to Health Journalists: she provided training and support to health journalists, enabling them to accurately report on the pandemic and provide critical information to the public*

5.DR.DIANA KANZIRA ATWINE

Permanent Secretary of the Uganda Ministry of Health.

- *For her pivotal role in health communication and management during the crisis. Key players in Uganda's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*

6. PROF.PONTIANOKALEEBU *and the* ***UGANDA VIRUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE***

The scientists at Uganda Virus Research Institute, for their ground breaking research in COVID-19 treatments and vaccine development.

- *Scientists at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) with its well-equipped laboratories and trained staff with the capacity to conduct relevant research tosupportCOVID-19 treatment and engage in vaccine development*

7.HON.MARY BUSINGYE KARORO OKURUT

Former Cabinet Minister in Charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister; currently, Senior Presidential Advisor on Public Relations

- *She headed HE's Fundraising initiative; She headed the Covid-19Taskforce committee that was responsible for receiving all donations towards the fighting of Corona virus. Resource mobilization was so critical as the the healthcare system had been run down by the extent of the pandemic in all sectors.*

8.HON.ESTHERMBULAKUBUZAMBAYO,

Minister emeritus for Presidency

For her pivotal role in health communication and management during the crisis. For leading all the Regional and District, task forces to combat COVID-19. At the grass roots.

9. DR. EMMANUAL KATONGOLE*.*

- *Co-founder and Chairman of Quality Chemicals Limited: Dr. Emmanuel Katongole played a crucial in mobilizing the private sector, to finance both in cash and in kind the government resource mobilization drive. This brought confidence and team spirit to all stakeholders that was very important in the fight against the virus.*

10.PROF DR. PATRICK OGWANG

- A pharmacist, educationalist and a developer of Covidex, Prof. Ogwang developed Covidex, a herbal treatment for COVID-19, which was later approved by the National Drug Authority (NDA). This innovation saved lives and gave confidence in local herbs, that where easily be accessed by Ugandans since there was no confirmed medical treatment at the time the pandemic was at the climax

UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCES (UPDF)

Apart from the role played by H E and the entire Ugandan forces, these two officers came out uniquely.

- ***LT.COL.DR HENRY KYOBE***

Senior Consultant Epidemiologist was the COVID-19incident commander.

- ***OKELLO FRANCIS;***

The army's commercial arm, the National Enterprise Corporation who started producing oxygen to alleviate shortages that arose from the high demand due to the corona virus pandemic. The oxygen was produced by Luwero Industries. The industries are part of National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), which is a commercial arm of the UPDF.

- *Uganda experienced an oversized military role, ranging from law-and-order and lock down enforcement, to managing food-relief supplies, medical operations, to boost he capacity of civilian institutions.*

- *In recent months before COVID 19, Uganda's army had shown professionalism and discipline in dealing with a number of crises, including a desert locust invasion and a national electricity outage.*

- *In Uganda, the army's support was recognized as fundamental to the successful treatment of COVID-19 patients at the country's national referral hospital. The UPDF setup a 100-bed field mobile Covid-19 hospital with intensive care facilities, deployed military medical specialists at Mulago hospital, and dispatched teams*

- *Military officers distributed maize flour in Kampala, Uganda, where the urban poor were affected by the lockdown. Under special procurement from the OPM, Operation Wealth Creation sourced food supplies from their existent network of about 2 million small house hold farmers.*

Expected outcome from the conference;

- Toronto Declaration, where all participating countries will come up with a position of public health preparedness to address global pandemics.

- This multi-sectoral conference aims to bring together governments, development partners, private sector, scientists, researchers, academics, and policymakers from different expertise in economics, social sciences, medicine, technology, humanities, agro ecology among others to reflect, review, discuss, debate and apply best-evidence to support a unified global response to pandemic and global environment crises. The conference in Toronto Canada is expected to draw about 5000 guests.

- As country, we expect to sign bi-lateral collaborations from the B2B and identify export opportunities, secure healthcare partnerships and medical supplies, explore tourism opportunities, education exchange programs, and enhance our National brand Image.

  Among the confirmed delegation include; Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Liberia, Sierra Leone, IGAD member states, Sengal, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, etc

- **Conclusion;**
  It's all our responsibility to contribute to public health and individual safety. I wish to thank all Ugandans for having respected the guidance from our President during and after the pandemic. I call upon all Ugandans here in Uganda and those in the Diaspora, to turn up in large numbers to benchmark with global experts and also bring back home the knowledge for implementation.

  I wish to thank and reorganize the local organizing committee for the great work.

  1. Hon. Kataike Sarah Ndoboli.
  2. Hon Kabakumba Labwoni Masiko
  3. Hon Sarah Lanyero Ochieng
  4. Hon Mbabazi Betty Ahimbisibwe
  5. Mr. Okware Robert
  6. Ms. Naigaga Barbra
  7. Hon. Ntabazi Harriet
  8. Ms. Namukose Susan Lubogo
  9. Mr. Mawanda Derrick Geoffrey

10. Hon. Timbigambwa Lindah
11. Mr. Lubwama Jax

Amb. Abbey Walusimbi
SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ON DIASPORA AFFAIRS
For GOD AND MY COUNTRY

END