

REMARKS

BY

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

**DURING THE BILATERAL MEETING WITH
H.E. SALVADOR ANTONIO VALDÉS THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF
CUBA
KAMPALA – UGANDA**

18TH JANUARY 2024

Your Excellency H.E. Salvador Antonio Valdés the First Vice President Of Cuba, Hon. Bruno Edwardo Rodriguez Parrilla the Foreign Affairs Minister of Cuba and your entire delegation to Uganda

Your visit today reflects the excellent bilateral relations existing between our two countries and the commitment of the Cuban government to further strengthen our strategic partnership and promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

I recall with great satisfaction my visit to Havana when I came for a two-day meeting of Heads of State of the Group of 77 plus China on Science, Technology and Innovations Summit, from 15-16 September 2023 and I met you personally when you joined me in officially re-opening the Uganda Embassy in Havana on 14th September 2023.

During my stay in Havana two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed between our two countries namely;

- i) **The Collaboration Agreement in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovations between the National Secretariat of Science, Innovation and Technology of the Republic of Uganda and the**

- ii) **Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment of the Republic of Cuba** on 14th September 2023; and
- iii) The MOU on **Regular Diplomatic Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba** on 15th September 2023, where your Minister of Foreign Affairs Honourable Bruno Rodriguez Parilla signed on behalf of the Republic of Cuba.

I am glad Hon. Bruno is here to sign yet another important MOU on Trade cooperation. We look forward to effective implementation of all the signed MoUs to boost our economic and political cooperation to higher levels.

Your Excellency may recall that the MOU that our two ministers are signing today also focuses on barter trade between Uganda and Cuba. It is my expectation that during your stay in Uganda your team and the experts on the Uganda side will initiate discussions on the modalities for implementation of the barter trade arrangements.

Your Excellency

I am particularly pleased that you are leading your country's delegation and chose to have a bilateral meeting with me. Your visit provides us an opportunity to continue our discussions and exchange views on bilateral and other important international issues. This meeting also enables us to explore new areas of cooperation, further deepen our relations and take them to higher levels.

Excellency, Uganda wishes to thank the Republic of Cuba for its effective Presidency of the Group of G77 and China since 12 January 2023, and wish to thank you for skillfully guiding the work of the Group of 77 and China over the past 12 months.

My special thanks go to Hon. Bruno for the great efforts in supporting the work of the Group of G 77 and as Uganda takes over the Chairmanship of the Group. We look forward to your continued support and guidance during our tenure and as we work towards implementation of the Kampala Declaration.

We are also grateful to Cuba having hosted **Science, Technology and Innovations Summit, from 15-16 September 2023** which I have already mentioned above. The Summit achieved high level of success and has a large bearing on the proposed Outcome Document to be adopted in Kampala during this 3rd South Summit in Kampala. I am told Cuba worked hard with Uganda to ensure the draft text was

reached. Uganda looks forward to working with you during our Chairmanship this year 2024.

Uganda is ready to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Cuba on all issues and would wish to see trade issues taken up seriously to match our political cooperation.

Excellency I thank you for our meeting today on the side-lines of the two Summits of both NAM and G77. I hope your visit to Uganda will be successful, and that you find opportunity in the future to come back for a longer stay and see more of this beautiful country.

I Thank You.