Symposium on cotton by-products
Challenges, Opportunities, Realities, and Prospects for Sustainable Economic Transformation

Prof Charles Kwesiga
Uganda Industrial Research Institute
March, 2018
Africa’s emancipation

Africa’s Dark Continent

Africa Rising

Economist Magazine on Africa

2000: The Hopeless Continent
2013: The Hopeful Continent
2014: The Rising Continent
Challenges and opportunities as we follow “big brother”

- Uganda is a microcosm of the larger continent
- 1st world is miles ahead

First World

Africa
Selected quotes

• “‘It is no use saying, ‘we are doing our best’, instead you have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.”

• Churchill’s brand of democracy: a ‘whatsup’ joke

• “For a generation, we have been talking about the importance of democracy. I still embrace the rise of democracy. But democracy is nurtured in the fertile grounds of economic prosperity” says Kituyi

• “No problem can withstand the assault of sustained thinking..”, says Voltaire
Implementing ideas (and policies) requires perseverance.

“Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous patience.”

*Hyman Rickover (1900-1986)*

“For a generation, we have been talking about the importance of democracy. I still embrace the rise of democracy. But democracy is nurtured in the fertile grounds of economic prosperity” says Kituyi.
Value Systems need to change

Current "value" systems
- Dependency
- Laziness
- Profligacy
- Indiscipline

Desired value systems
- Hard work
- Professionalism
- Fiscal responsibility
- Improved work ethic

Change of societal mind-set

Enhanced institutional collaboration
MACHINING, MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIAL SKILLS TRAINING CENTER (launched 25th Jan 2018)
Ground-breaking for MMISTC

Hon. Dr Tumwesigye  Prof. Kwesiga  Rt. Hon. Prime Minister  Hon. E Anite
Pillars of industrialization

- Market
- Industry (e.g. textile)
- Human Capital
- Appropriate Technology
- Affordable Financing

Entrepreneurship
Projects/Products under development

- Bioethanol from molasses; waste to energy projects (e.g. briquettes)
- MUTIMA electronic diagnostic tool for pneumonia; Aflatoxin Bio-sensor
- Essential oils project; Biotech products; Food product
- Revitalisation of Uganda’s Textile Sector (working with CDO; VIA University College; DTI; etc.)
UIRI, as a Centre of Excellence in EAC in R&D, is uniquely placed to host the STI hub
Signing MoU with CSIR (Jan 2011): a good example of institutional collaboration
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Closing remarks

• Institutions should embrace the four C’s: collaborate; cooperate; corroborate; and co-ordinate.

• Governments must increase resources for R&D. Overdependence on foreign funding can be counterproductive. Remember the adage, “He who pays the piper calls the tune.”

• Governments/Agencies must allocate resources in accordance with the priorities, needs, and aspirations of a well-thought out agenda for socio-economic transformation.

• RTOs: Be prudent in your Tech Transfer practices by developing competences in assessing Africa’s technological needs.
THANK YOU!!

From:
Uganda Industrial Research Institute
42 Mukabya Rd., Nakawa Industrial Area
P.O.Box 7086, Kampala

Prof Charles Kwesiga
Tel: +256792701070; email: kwesiga@msn.com