



SPEAKING NOTES

FOR

HON. AMOS LUGOLOBI

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE, PLANNING, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING)**

AT

THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND SEMINAR

AT

GOLDEN TULIP HOTEL, KAMPALA

ON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Hon. Members of Parliament,

The Chairperson National Population Council, Prof. Fred Wabwire-Mangen

The Director General, National Population Council, Dr. Jotham Musinguzi

The UNFPA Representative in Uganda, Dr. Mary Otieno

Development Partners Represented

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take this opportunity to thank you all for being part of this very important one-day seminar. I thank the Members of Parliament present, Development Partners, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, and the religious and cultural institutions. The enthusiasm you have expressed and the ideas shared during the seminar will propel Uganda from the current development level to the aspired one.

Allow me to appreciate all the facilitators. In an extraordinary way, the team that traveled from Switzerland to impart the knowledge that will help Uganda proceed smoothly and successfully in the quest to harness the Demographic Dividend.

As you have discussed during the course of the day, we can confidently say that the demographics of any country, including our own, have a significant bearing on the level of development that our nation enjoys in the present and its future.

As you may be aware, the population of Uganda has been growing very rapidly – almost doubling every 20 years. This can only be good if we make adequate investments in the young population, health, and education, and above all, if we equip them with skills and make jobs available to contribute to economic growth. I believe that we now appreciate the centrality of harnessing the demographic dividend in achieving our development aspirations.

Therefore, we must learn from the best practices adopted by our forefathers – the Asian tigers and Europe- in their first demographic dividend journey but, most importantly, work towards addressing the challenges/ failures that may beset us if we continue operating with the *business-as-usual* mentality.

The Government has made progress in the following areas:

1. Ugandans are now healthier and living longer. Life expectancy in Uganda has increased by 20 years in one generation, from 43 years in 1991 to 63.3 years in 2016. Resulting from this, Uganda's population increased from 14 million in 1986 to 45 million people. This population is projected to reach 50 million people by 2025 and 102 million by 2050.
2. As a result of increased immunization against the killer diseases, fewer children are now dying from preventable diseases. The infant mortality rate has reduced from 122 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2016. This is one of the development goals where Uganda has performed very well.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. The number of women dying in childbirth and pregnancy-related concerns reduced from 506 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1991 to 336 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016. We do acknowledge that this indicator is still way above the acceptable range.
4. The population living in poverty fell dramatically from 56 percent in 1992 to 20.3 percent in 2020.
5. Uganda's GDP per capita increased to US Dollars 1,046, equivalent to Uganda Shs. 3.7 million per person per year. We have therefore passed the threshold for becoming a lower middle-income country. The entry point to the lower middle-income status is USD 1,036. This is a significant achievement.

Honourable MPs, Ladies and Gentlemen;

As we move out of this seminar, which is the first of its kind, the exchanges among all participants to put in place practical steps on how harnessing the demographic dividend can be better taken forward; I would like to emphasize the following key messages;

a) Human Capital Development

The Government of Uganda in the NDP III recognizes the fundamental role human capital plays in the development process and is one of the priority areas that can be leveraged to attain socio-economic transformation. Human capital development is hinged on four aspects: education, health, water and environment, and social development. The four sectors epitomize the country's focal areas of strategic investment by ensuring a healthy,

educated, and adequately skilled population to drive the planned growth and transformation.

b) Population Data

Investment in research and data collection is critical for monitoring population trends. Achieving the demographic dividend does not only require investments in education, health, water and environment, and social development but also embarking on research for cross-sector programs like nutrition, climate change, and information technology.

Uganda is currently conducting the Demographic and Health Survey.

We expect the results at the end of this year. The **Uganda Demographic and Health Survey** seeks to update and establish basic demographic and health indicators such as mortality, life expectancy, and fertility rates.

Next year, in August, **Uganda will conduct the National Housing and Population Census**. The Population and Housing Census will help in several ways. First, it will give us the total number of persons and housing types and their characteristics in every Ugandan town or village. Secondly, the information will significantly help the Central and Local Governments in planning various educational, health, housing, and other social services. Thirdly, since the last census in 2014, there have been many changes in the structure of the population. In this regard, there is a need for a census to update the socio-demographic and economic data in the country and ascertain changes that have occurred in the population structure since 2014.

c) Uganda Demographic Index Survey 2022

Uganda conducted a Demographic Dividend Effort Index (DDEI) survey in 2021/22. The survey aimed to measure Uganda's efforts to cultivate, nurture and harness its Demographic Dividend from different sectors, programs, and local governments. The survey covered the six sectors of Family Planning (FP), Maternal and Child Health (MCH), Education, Women Empowerment (WE), Labor Markets (LM), and Governance and Economic Institutions (GEI). The overall DDEI score of Uganda is 6.0, demonstrating a moderate level of effort devoted to creating an enabling environment that would allow Uganda to harness the benefits of the DD. The report formulated recommendations and policy options for streamlining efforts to harness the Demographic Dividend in Uganda.

Finally, I encourage all of you to continue the excellent collaboration that will help you take the necessary steps to implement the recommendations.

As I conclude, I pay tribute to the representatives of Embassies, Development Partners, the UNFPA in particular, and the Netherlands Embassy for all the support extended to this seminar. I also thank the National Population Council for organizing this seminar.

To the distinguished facilitators from the World Demographic and Aging Forum, I have been informed that you are exploring the possibility of supporting Makerere University in training demographers. This is a timely and welcome gesture. I wish you a pleasant time in this partnership and safe

return home. Your coming to collaborate with us is the beginning of a long journey towards the development of Uganda.

I look forward to hearing more about the implementation of the outcomes of this seminar during the next engagement, and my Ministry will keenly follow up and fully support the strengthening of the partnership with Makerere University.

I now have the pleasure of declaring this engagement officially closed.

For God and My Country.