

Doing Business in Uganda 2026/27

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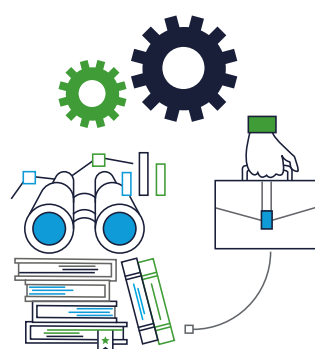
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FOREWORD

Whereas the implementation of the FY 2026/27 budget is part of the early stages of the NDP IV, the key macroeconomic objectives that are guiding the plan in the medium term, based on the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development publication on the background to the budget, are as follows:

- Reducing poverty from the current 16.1% to 14% by FY 2029/30;
- Attaining double-digit growth to facilitate doubling the country's GDP by FY 2029/30;
- Maintaining price stability and keeping core inflation within the target of 5%;
- Enhancing management of the minerals to enhance economic diversification and expand the revenue base;
- Fast-tracking full monetisation of the economy and accelerating economic inclusion;
- Achieving an average of 884,962 stock of new jobs annually over the NDP IV period;
- Maintaining a prudent fiscal stance to safeguard macroeconomic stability, in line with regional monetary union convergence requirements and domestic fiscal rules. This includes keeping the debt-to-GDP ratio below 50% in present value terms and steadily lowering the fiscal deficit to 3% by FY 2029/30; and
- Aggressively implementing strategies to increase the revenue-to-GDP ratio to the target of about 20% over the NDP IV period.

The theme of the FY 2026/27 is maintained from the prior year and 2024/25 as "Full Monetisation of the Ugandan Economy through Commercial Agriculture, Industrialisation, Expanding and Broadening Services, Digital Transformation, and Market Access."

Caveat

RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Limited has prepared this publication for use by its clients, business associates, partners and staff. The guide provides a comprehensive coverage on the key aspects of setting up and running businesses in Uganda including types of business entities, taxation, employment laws, accounting, listing rules and investing in Uganda.

This document is designed to provide general information to those contemplating investing in Uganda. We therefore advise you to consult RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Limited offices listed on the last page before taking further action.

The data provided reflects current information which is subject to change. Whilst every care has been exercised in ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the information, RSM (Eastern Africa) Consulting Limited, RSM International and staff involved in the preparation and review of this booklet will not accept any liability for any errors or omissions contained herein whether caused by negligence or otherwise; or for any loss however caused or sustained by anyone who acts or refrains from acting as a result of placing reliance on the contents of this booklet. The booklet and the information therein is intended for information purposes only, and should not be used as a basis of decision making without seeking current and independent legal and professional advice.



ABOUT RSM – YOUR GLOBAL NETWORK

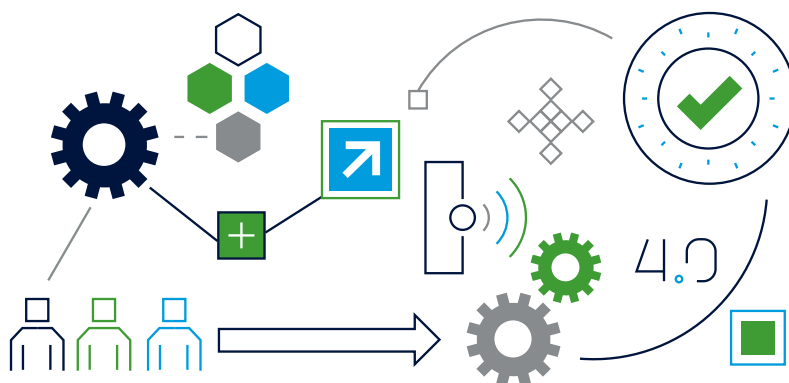
At RSM, we help clients navigate change, unlock opportunities and build confidence in an increasingly complex business environment. By combining deep local knowledge, global insights, industry expertise and innovative technology, we deliver tailored solutions that enable businesses to adapt, grow and succeed. We strive to instill confidence in a world of change for our clients, our people and the communities in which we operate.

RSM is one of the world's leading networks of independent assurance, tax and consulting firms, comprising over 56,000 professionals in more than 500 offices across 120 countries. As an integrated global network, we share knowledge, experience and resources while maintaining a client-centric approach founded on a deep understanding of each client's business. This enables us to deliver consistent, high-quality services and practical solutions across jurisdictions.

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RSM INTERNATIONAL



120

COUNTRIES



500

OFFICES



56,000

PEOPLE

RSM IN EASTERN AFRICA



6 Partners/
Directors



200+ minds



Gender equality

Male – 53%
Female – 47%



3 Offices



20+ years



ISO Certified

WHAT DOES RSM STAND FOR?

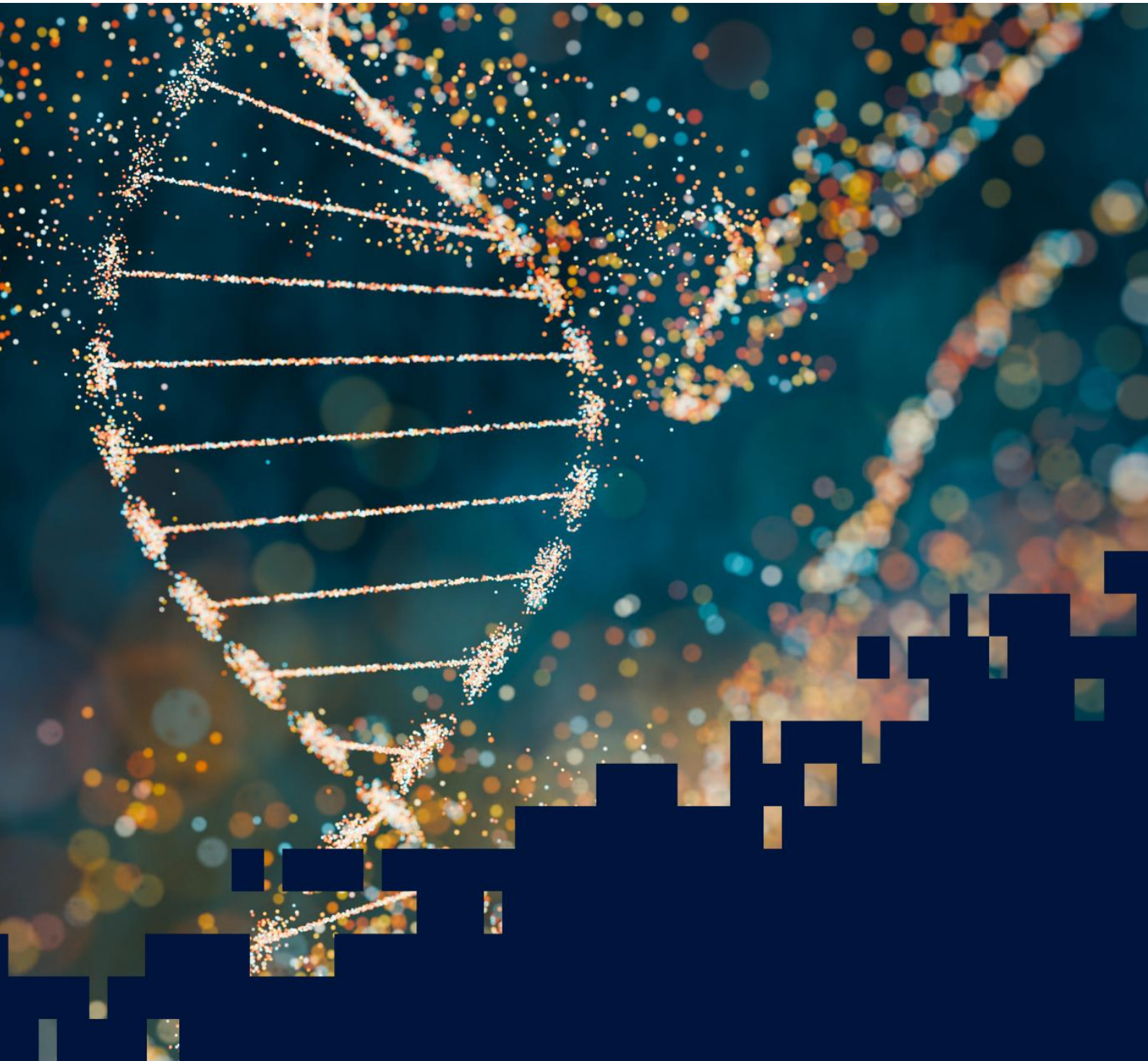
- In 1964, an association, what we now know as RSM International, was born
- Three companies form an alliance LHBD – Lasser, Harmood Banner and Dunwoody
- In 1993, the network was renamed RSM International in a meeting between Lawrence Robson (Robson Rhodes), Edouard Salustro (Salustro Reydel) and Ira McGladrey (McGladrey)
- October 2015 – Unified global name, brand and network under the name RSM

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1. GENERAL



INTRODUCTION

Uganda is located along the equator and borders Kenya to the East, Tanzania and Rwanda in the South, Democratic Republic of Congo to the West and South Sudan in the North. Its young and rapidly growing population, extremely productive agricultural lands, nascent oil sector, and strategic location in the heart of East and Central Africa, provide it with great opportunities and leverage to participate as a strategic partner in the regional and international economic and political engagements.

Uganda's location provides it with an opportunity to be a member of several regional trade blocs such as East African Community, COMESA, SADC and African Union providing it with a wider market and associated membership benefits. Similarly, Uganda's location makes it a regional hub for industrial production, trade and transit, and air transport particularly for the eastern DRC, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and Central African Republic.

As of June 2026, Uganda had 146 districts and cities for electoral administration purposes, a figure that appears to include Kampala City rather than treating Kampala as an additional administrative unit. These districts and cities are grouped into four administrative regions. Districts are further subdivided into counties, sub-counties and parishes, whose local governments are responsible for implementing and monitoring government programmes at their respective levels. Over time, administrative units have been subdivided to ease administration and improve service delivery, while urban areas have increasingly been recognised as special administrative units.

In May 2019, the Cabinet of Uganda approved the creation of 15 cities through a phased programme aimed at strengthening urban development and easing pressure on Kampala. The first phase commenced on 1 July 2020 with the elevation of Arua, Fort Portal, Gulu, Jinja, Mbarara, Mbale and Masaka to city status. Hoima followed in July 2021, while Lira and Entebbe attained city status in July 2022. The remaining cities—Soroti, Moroto, Nakasongola, Kabale and Wakiso—were subsequently planned for elevation under the later phases of the programme. The creation of these cities forms part of the Government's broader efforts to promote balanced urban development, improve access to urban services and infrastructure, and reduce the concentration of economic activity in Kampala.

Uganda is sunny most of the year with temperatures rarely rising above 29 degrees (84 degrees Fahrenheit). The average annual temperature is about 26 degrees Celsius (78° Fahrenheit). The rainy season is from March to May and September to November. Light rain season falls in November and December. Dry seasons are from December to February and June to August.

The country has loamy soils with varying proportions of sand and clay. In addition, it has varying vegetation with tropical rain forest vegetation in the South and savannah woodlands and semi-arid vegetation in the North.

Uganda has a diverse culture. It encompasses religion, tribe, traditions and beliefs, value systems and language among others. Uganda's population is made up of different ethnic groups with unique customs and norms. These play a major role in shaping the behaviour and ways of life of the people in the country. Lately, some of the traditional values have changed due to the integration of the people as a result of migration and/or intermarriages. Some cultural groupings are headed by traditional kings or chiefs who are not politically elected but have an indirect role in community governance and moral build up.

Language is one of the uniting factors in any society. In Uganda, while English is the official language, there are a number of other languages spoken. However, Swahili is being promoted in the spirit of regional integration within the East African Community (EAC).

Uganda's constitution allows freedom of worship. There are various religious groupings in the country.

The education system follows a four-tier system. The first tier comprises seven (7) years of primary education, followed by four (4) years of Ordinary Level secondary education, two (2) years of Advanced Level secondary education and the final tier is three (3) to five (5) years of University and Tertiary education.

Each level is nationally examined, and certificates awarded. The Government introduced Universal Primary Education (UPE) in 1997 to offer free education at the primary level and later, in 2007, Universal Secondary Education (USE) was introduced. University and Tertiary education are offered by both public and private institutions. There also exists informal education in Uganda that aims to serve those persons who did not receive or only partially received formal education. Under the informal system, a range of practical/hands-on skills are imparted. The Informal system includes the Functional Adult Literacy (FAL) programme in the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development and Adult Basic Education for Karamoja (ABEK) among others.



POPULATION AND LANGUAGE

The total population of Uganda is currently estimated at 47.2 million. The most recent National Population and Housing Census was carried out in 2024 in which the population was determined to be approximately 45.9 million.

The age distribution reflects the past fertility and mortality behaviour of the population. In the absence of high migration or drastic changes in births and deaths, the young population is expected to be more than the older population. Over 75% of Uganda's population is said to be under 45 years old.

Religion is a system of thought, feeling, and action that is shared by a group of individuals. Uganda is characterized by a diversity of religious beliefs and practices. According to the 2024 National Population and Housing Census, Roman Catholics constitute the largest religious group at 36% of the population, followed by Anglicans/Church of Uganda at 29%, Pentecostal/Evangelical Christians at 14%, and Muslims at 13%. Together, these four groups account for approximately 92% of Uganda's population.

Ugandans constitute 98.5 percent of the total population. Most of the non-Ugandan population are citizens of neighbouring countries, who collectively constitute 88.7 percent of the non-Ugandan population.

BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

Uganda's business infrastructure is made up of the following sectors:

- The Agricultural sector – includes Fisheries, Animal husbandry, Dairy, and Crop sub-sectors.
- The Industrial sector – includes Manufacturing, Mining, Construction, and Electricity supply sub-sectors.
- The Services sector – made up of Wholesale and retail trade, Telecommunications, Hotels and restaurants, Transport and communications, and Tourism sub sectors.

AGRICULTURE

Uganda is among the leading producers of coffee, bananas, and oil seed crops (sesame/simsim, soybean, sunflower, etc.). It is also a major producer of other crops like tea, sugar cane, organic cotton, tobacco, cereals, fresh fruit & vegetables, nuts, edible oils, flowers, poultry, and freshwater fish.

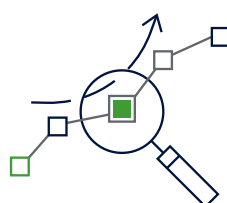
Below are the opportunities for investment:

- i. Commercial farming in both crops and animal industries, as well as aquaculture.
- ii. Value addition (Agro-industries – Agro-food industries).
- iii. Manufacturing of inputs (fertilizers, pesticides etc.).
- iv. Cold storage facilities and logistics.
- v. Farm machinery, manufacturing, and assembly.
- vi. Packaging; and
- vii. Irrigation schemes.

TOURISM

The distinctive attraction of Uganda as a tourist destination arises from the variety of its game stock (including the rare tree climbing lions of Ishasha, White Rhinoceros, Gorillas, elephants and its unspoiled scenic beauty including forests, hills and mountain rivers and lakes. 51% of the world's population of mountain gorillas lives in Uganda.

Uganda offers a wide range of bird species, being home to 11% of the world's bird's species (a total of 1,060 bird species). The opportunities in tourism range from constructing high-quality accommodation facilities, operating tours and travel circuits (bicycle tours, air balloon travel, marine – Lake Victoria and river rafting on the River Nile) to the development of specialized eco and community tourism systems, as well as faith-based tourism (pilgrimage to Namugongo – Uganda Martyrs, Mahatma Gandhi Statue and Bishop Hannington landing site on the Nile River).



MINING

Over 80% of the country has been surveyed for mineral quantities and locations. New geo-data shows that Uganda has large under-exploited mineral deposits of gold, oil, high grade tin, tungsten/wolfram, salt, beryllium, cobalt, kaolin, iron-ore, glass sand, vermiculite, phosphates (agricultural fertilizer), uranium and rare earth elements.

There are also significant quantities of clay and gypsum. Gold occurs in many areas of the country, including Busia in the east, Buhweju and Kigezi in the west, Mubende – Kiboga in the central region and significant occurrences in Karamoja in the northeast.

Investment opportunities exist in mining and mineral processing. Uganda provides special incentives to the mining sector with some capital expenditures being tax-deductible in full.

The Uganda Mining Act of 2003 and Mining Regulation 2004 grant five types of mining rights, these include.

- i. Prospecting Licence.
- ii. Exploration Licence.
- iii. Retention Licence
- iv. Mining Lease.
- v. Location Licence.
- vi. Mineral dealers Licence.

OIL AND GAS

The discovery of commercially viable oil and gas resources in Uganda's Albertine Graben has significantly expanded the country's petroleum sector and accelerated investment in related infrastructure. According to the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), 21 oil and/or gas discoveries have been made in the Albertine Graben, with approximately 6.5 billion barrels of oil in place, of which about 1.4 billion barrels are estimated to be recoverable. Uganda has established a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework governing petroleum activities, including the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act, 2013 and the Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, Transmission and Midstream Storage) Act, 2013, supported by implementing regulations.

The sector is currently progressing through the development phase, centred on the Tilenga and Kingfisher projects and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). As of 2025, substantial development and infrastructure works were underway across the Albertine Graben, with overall progress on the upstream projects approaching 60% by March 2025. Uganda is progressing towards first oil, with commercial production targeted for 2026.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Uganda is richly endowed with abundant energy resources, which are fairly distributed throughout the country. These include hydropower, biomass, solar, geothermal, peat and fossil fuels. The energy resource potential of the country includes an estimated 2,000 MW of hydropower, 450 MW of geothermal, 1,650 MW of biomass cogeneration, 460 million tons of biomass standing stock with a sustainable annual yield of 50 million tons, an average of 5.1 kWh/m² of solar energy, and about 250 Mtoe of peat (800 MW).

The overall renewable energy power generation potential is estimated to be 5,300 MW.

The goal of the Uganda Renewable Energy policy is to increase the use of modern renewable energy.

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Uganda's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector is one of the most vibrant within the region and the fastest growing sector in the economy. This vibrancy hinges largely on the good legal and regulatory framework. The supportive investment climate therein has exposed numerous opportunities in ICT innovation services leading to maximum utilization of the existing youthful human resource base as quite suitable for the ICT work.

The newly developed and highly qualitative ICT infrastructure is also ready to accommodate future investments. Uganda is now connected to three marine fibre optic cables running around the African eastern coast in the Indian Ocean.

Industry opportunities are within Agriculture, Health, Tourism, Banks insurance and public administration.

- Domestic opportunities have been identified in the areas of:
- Digitalization of services.
- Healthcare services for the ageing.
- Productivity solutions.
- Web applications.
- Software development.
- Warehousing.
- Network integrations.



There has been significant growth in e-business transactions amongst Ugandans and between Ugandan companies and overseas companies. The increased use of ICTs is playing a big role in economic development. Efforts by government towards e-government, e-education, the rural transformation policy, financing frameworks and distance learning (global and local) are paving the way for more IT innovation to improve service delivery and commercial activities.

According to the Uganda Communications Commission's list of telecommunications operators as of 31 January 2026, Uganda had 41 listed telecommunications operators and service providers. The wider UCC licensing list contained 58 entries, including telecommunications operators, equipment vending and installation licensees, and private-network authorisations.

- The number of licensed radio stations, television stations and postal/courier operators should be stated by reference to the relevant UCC licensing lists and their respective publication dates, as these figures may change periodically.

MANUFACTURING

Uganda's manufacturing sector presents various opportunities in virtually all areas ranging from beverages, leather, tobacco-based processing, paper, textiles and garments, pharmaceuticals, fabrication, ceramics, glass, fertilizers, plastic / PVC, assembly of electronic goods, Hi-tech and medical products.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Although significant efforts have been made to develop and rehabilitate the existing physical and non-physical infrastructure, potential investment opportunities exist in all national grids.

VISION 2040

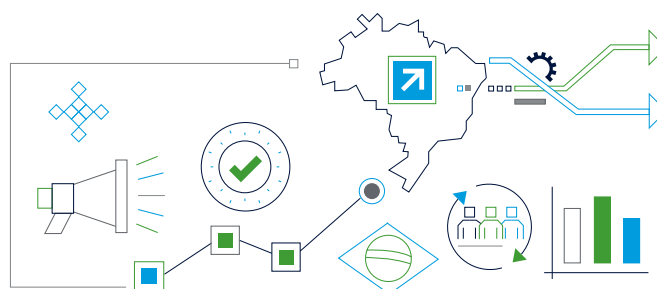
Uganda Vision 2040 provides development paths and strategies to operationalize Uganda's Vision statement which is "A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years" as approved by Cabinet in 2007. It aims at transforming Uganda from a predominantly peasant and low-income country to a competitive upper middle-income country.

The Vision 2040 is conceptualized around strengthening the fundamentals of the economy to harness the abundant opportunities around the country. The identified opportunities include oil and gas, tourism, minerals, ICT business, abundant labour force, geographical location and trade, water resources, industrialisation, and agriculture among others that are to date considerably under-exploited.

The Vision implementation will be spearheaded by H.E. The President but remains a responsibility of every citizen in government, private sector, civil society, political organisations, and any other institutions. As already noted, it will be implemented in line with the comprehensive National Development Planning Framework. Interventions will be sequenced and detailed in the 5-year national development plans and annual budgets.

The financing of this Vision will be mainly by the government, CSOs, development partners and the private sector. The government will mobilise resources using conventional and innovative non-conventional means of financing. These will include tax and non-tax revenues, revenue from oil and gas, Public Private Partnerships, concessional loans, and grants, and borrowing from domestic and international markets.

The revenue from oil and gas will be used to kick start major infrastructure development projects to enhance the country's competitiveness. The domestic and international borrowing shall include domestic and sovereign infrastructure bonds, and venture and investment funds.



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

The Government of Uganda proposed to undertake several initiatives to create an enabling business environment and minimize the cost of doing business in order to attract more domestic and international investments. This move reflected the commitment to improve the country's performance in the global Doing Business (DB) Report and the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness. Thus, current, and potential investors may rely on the global competitiveness and Doing Business reports as an indication of the country's receptivity to business and such reports can influence investment decisions.

To make it easy to start a business and acquire a business licence from a single point, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) was tasked by the government to coordinate with all licensing regulatory agencies in the implementation of business licensing reforms, in this case implementation of the e-licensing portal.

Sure, licensing regulatory agencies are tasked with designating a focal person to work with the URSB and making sure that online licensing information is up to date; and assisting the URSB to respond to inquiries from users concerning their licences.

The e-licensing portal, which is housed at the URSB is a central repository for all business licences in the country which makes it possible for potential investors anywhere around the globe to easily get information on any licence they would need to operate from whichever part of Uganda in any sector. The e-registry would delineate legally required licences in all sectors of the economy thus increasing transparency/ease of access to licensing information and the likelihood of compliance by the private sector. Subsequently, it would be enhanced to serve as a virtual transactional platform for all business licences through which a licence shall be issued and renewed.

Some achievements have so far been realized and more continue to be done to have a fully functional licensing portal and a licensing reform embraced by each and every one for the better of doing business in the country.

URSB has managed to strengthen synergies with licensing regulatory agencies thus making it easy to obtain business licensing information and laws governing the different licensing regimes. Key among the implementing partner agencies is Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Capital Markets Authority (CMA), Ministry of Trade Industry and Cooperatives, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Uganda Investment Authority, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Directorate of Citizenship, and Immigration Authority, to mention but a few.

The electronic licensing portal has also registered a steady growth in number of people viewing the licences across the globe. These numbers have been growing since google analytics was installed on the portal on 1st July 2014. Under the World Bank-supported Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP), the current informational e-licensing portal will be transformed into a fully transactional e-licensing portal that will facilitate online applications and payments with support for back-office processing from all the regulators.

Some of the other reforms to be implemented include the establishment of a one stop centre that will aid in streamlining business registration and licensing procedures and the establishment of a Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) framework to ensure that regulations are efficient and effective in a changing and complex world.

JUDICIARY

The mandate of the Judiciary as enshrined in Article 126(1) of the constitution of the Republic of Uganda states that "Judicial power is derived from the people and shall be exercised by the courts established under this constitution in the name of the people and in conformity with law and with the values, norms and aspiration of the people". In addition, Article 128(1) states that; "In the exercise of judicial power, the courts shall be independent and shall not be subject to the control or direction of any person or authority".

Headed by the Chief Justice, the Judiciary is administered under a two-tier system; judicial; headed by the Chief Registrar and assisted by Registrars and Chief Magistrates in their respective Jurisdictions; and the Finance and Administration; headed by the Secretary to the Judiciary and assisted by the Under Secretary.

The current court structure consists of the Supreme Court at the top, a Court of Appeal/ Constitutional Court, the High Court, and the Magistrates Court. There are also Local Council Courts.

Overall, the Management Structure of the Judiciary is continuously evolving to better mechanisms for administering Justice in Uganda.





We deliver understanding that is unmatched
and confidence that builds.

2. BUSINESS ENTITIES



TYPES OF BUSINESS ENTITIES AND THEIR FORMATION PROCEDURES

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), working with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, has continued to digitise business registration services. The Online Business Registration System (OBRS), launched to streamline online registration, has since been superseded by URSB's integrated e-Registry platform, which consolidates business registration, intellectual property, copyright and neighbouring rights, insolvency, security interest registration, and related non-individual registry services in one portal. Through the e-Registry, applicants can reserve names, incorporate or register entities, submit statutory filings, make payments, and receive feedback online.

The principal forms of business and not-for-profit entities commonly registered or recognised in Uganda include:

- Public limited companies;
- Private limited companies, including companies limited by shares or by guarantee;
- Single-member companies (SMCs);
- Foreign companies and branches registered to carry on business in Uganda;
- Partnerships, including limited liability partnerships where applicable;
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which are subject to separate registration and regulatory requirements under the NGO framework.

Companies are required to maintain and file beneficial ownership information with URSB in line with the Companies Act, Cap. 106, as amended by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2022, and the Companies (Beneficial Owners) Regulations, 2023. Limited liability partnerships are subject to corresponding beneficial ownership obligations under the partnership framework.

REGISTERED COMPANIES (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC)

URSB is mandated under the Uganda Registration Services Bureau Act, Cap. 210, and the Companies Act, Cap. 106, to register and administer companies and other business entities required by law to be registered in Uganda.

1. Access the URSB e-Registry portal through the official URSB website or the e-Registry platform.
2. Create a user account or log in to an existing account on the e-Registry portal.
3. Select your nationality.

If the applicant is Ugandan

4. Select "Ugandan" as the nationality.
5. Enter your National Identification Number (NIN).
6. Enter your contact details, including your email address and telephone number.
7. Check the box agreeing to the Terms and Conditions.
8. Click the "Register" button.
9. An email containing a verification link will be sent to the email address provided. Follow the instructions to verify the account and, where applicable, the telephone number.

If the applicant is non-Ugandan

10. Select the applicable nationality other than "Ugandan."
11. Select the relevant identification document type, either "Passport" or "Alien ID."
12. Enter the relevant identification number:
 - a. Passport Number, where "Passport" is selected; or
 - b. Alien Identification Number, where "Alien ID" is selected.
13. Enter your name.
14. Select your gender.
15. Enter your contact details, including your email address and telephone number.
16. Attach a scanned copy of the relevant identity document.
17. Check the box agreeing to the Terms and Conditions.
18. Click the "Register" button.
19. An email containing a verification link will be sent to the email address provided. Follow the instructions to verify the account and, where applicable, the telephone number.

For all Ugandan local Business owners, the system validates the NIN and the NIN returns Name, Date of Birth and Gender while for Non-citizens Business owners the system requires an attachment of the passport or an alien ID number.



BENEFICIAL OWNERS' INFORMATION

The Companies Act, Cap. 106, as amended by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2022, requires every company registered in Uganda to keep a register of its beneficial owners. A beneficial owner is a natural person who has final ownership or control of a company, a natural person on whose behalf a transaction is conducted, or a natural person who exercises ultimate control over the company. Limited liability partnerships are subject to equivalent requirements under the Partnership Act framework, as amended.

The beneficial owners' register should disclose the prescribed personal particulars of each beneficial owner, the nature of ownership or control, and the dates on which the person became or ceased to be a beneficial owner. The Registrar must be notified within the prescribed timelines, including notification of where the register is kept and any subsequent changes required under the Regulations.

The form, content and procedure for filing beneficial ownership information are set out in the Companies (Beneficial Owners) Regulations, 2023, as read together with the Companies Act, Cap. 106, and any subsequent amendments or directions issued by the Registrar.

Competent authorities and sector regulators may require companies and other regulated entities to comply with beneficial ownership reporting requirements as part of customer due diligence, licensing, tax administration, anti-money laundering, and related regulatory obligations.

Name reservation

1. Log into your account;
2. Click "Start" from the left side menu;
3. Click "Reserve Name";
4. Select "Entity Type" for the entity under consideration for registration (Business Name, Company, or Building Society);
5. Select the "Entity Category" if applicable for the selected entity type above
6. Enter the preferred Entity Name under consideration for registration;
7. Add alternative name options for the entity under consideration proposed to be registered.
8. Select "Nature of Business";
9. Click "Save and Continue";
10. Preview captured "Entity Type" and "Sub Type";
11. Preview the "Name Options"; and
12. Click 'Generate PRN' to generate PRN.

Registration of a Private company limited by shares

To register a company, log on to URSB's e-Registry platform using your individual account, reserve or identify the approved name, select the relevant incorporation option, and follow the prompts to complete the mandatory forms, upload required documents, make payment, and submit the application for processing.

The e-Registry business registration process and steps are generally as follows:

1. Log into your account;
2. Click "Start" from the left side menu;
3. Click "Incorporate Company";
4. Identify a reserved name to be incorporated as a company from the pop-up window;
5. Click the "Register" button alongside the identified reserved name;
6. Check box against optional forms to be submitted together with the mandatory forms in the application
7. Click the "Continue" button to proceed to the next page;
8. Enter particulars of Form S18 (company physical address, proposed share capital and subscribers of the company);
9. Enter particulars of Form A1 (total number of shares, share classification and respective value);
10. Enter particulars of the Memorandum and Articles of Association;
11. Enter particulars of any other selected option form;
12. Enter particulars of directors in Form 20;
13. Enter "Official Company Contact Details";
14. Preview the details captured in the forms included in the application;
15. Download, Sign and Upload forms included in the application;
16. Add other required attachments;
17. Make "Payment" and "Submit" application for processing by URSB; and
18. Submit Form 18 which is the Notice of situation of Registered office and postal address within 14 days (about 2 weeks).



Registration of a foreign company

A foreign company is a company which establishes a place of business within Uganda. If such a Company wishes to carry out business in Uganda, it must be registered.

To register a foreign company, the applicant should reserve or identify the approved name on URSB's e-Registry platform, select the foreign company registration option, and follow the prompts to complete the required forms and upload supporting documents in accordance with the Companies Act, Cap. 106, and the Companies Regulations, 2023.

Certified copies of Memorandum and Articles/ Charter/ Constitution and Certificate from the country of origin duly witnessed.

The e-Registry foreign company registration process and steps are generally as follows:

1. Click "Start" from the left side menu;
2. Click "Register/Apply Foreign Company";
3. Enter particulars of Form 24 (Name of Company, Company Number, Date of Incorporation, Address in Country of Incorporation, Director's Particulars for the Secretary);
4. Enter particulars of Form 25 (Representatives);
5. Enter particulars of Form 26 (Physical Address of the company and Country the company was incorporated in);
6. Add particulars of Form 13 (charges of the company);
7. Enter the "Official Company Contact Details" (email and phone number);
8. Preview the details captured in the forms included in the application;
9. Download, Sign and Upload forms included in the application;
10. Add other required attachments; and
11. Make "Payment" and "Submit" the application to register foreign company.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGO)

The National Bureau for NGOs (NGO Bureau) is a semi-autonomous body under the Ministry of Internal Affairs established by the NGO Act 2016. The Act mandates it to register, regulate, coordinate, inspect, Monitor, and oversee all NGO operation in the Country. (www.mia.go.ug)

Where an NGO is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee or another recognised corporate form, the incorporation process is handled through URSB's e-Registry platform under the Companies Act, Cap. 106, and the Companies Regulations, 2023. Registration and regulation as an NGO are handled separately by the National Bureau for NGOs under the NGO Act framework.

Registration of NGOs

Registration of indigenous, regional, continental, foreign and international NGOs.

Registration of NGOs incorporated within Uganda

1. The National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO Bureau) registers NGOs under five categories:
2. Indigenous NGOs;
3. Regional NGOs;
4. Continental NGOs;
5. Foreign NGOs; and
6. International NGOs.
7. A new NGO must obtain both a Certificate of Registration and a Permit of Operation from the NGO Bureau before commencing operations in Uganda. The specific requirements depend on the category of NGO.

Registration of an Indigenous NGO Incorporated in Uganda

An indigenous NGO is an NGO wholly controlled by Ugandan citizens. Before applying to the NGO Bureau, the organisation should first be incorporated with the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).

A. Incorporation with URSB

1. The incorporation process generally requires the relevant company or organisation-registration documents, including:
 2. The prescribed URSB application or registration form;
 3. The Memorandum and Articles of Association, constitution or other governing documents, as applicable;
 4. A statement of nominal capital, where applicable;
 5. Identification and particulars of the founders, directors, subscribers or trustees, as applicable; and
 6. Any other documents or forms prescribed by URSB for the relevant legal structure.
- The exact URSB requirements depend on whether the NGO is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, a company limited by shares, a trust or another permitted legal structure. The applicable legal structure should therefore be confirmed before filing.



B. Registration with the NGO Bureau and Application for a Permit of Operation

Following incorporation, the applicant should submit the following to the NGO Bureau:

1. Duly completed Form A and Form D, signed by at least two founder members;
2. A letter addressed to the Executive Director of the NGO Bureau requesting registration and a Permit of Operation, stating:
 - a) the objectives of the organisation;
 - b) its intended geographical area of operation; and
 - c) the number of years for which the Permit of Operation is sought, not exceeding five years;
3. A certified or notarised copy of the Certificate of Incorporation issued by URSB;
4. An annual work plan and budget covering the period for which the Permit of Operation is sought;
5. A copy of the registered Memorandum and Articles of Association, constitution or other governing document, including provisions addressing:
 - a) the quorum required to pass a resolution for winding up; and
 - b) the manner in which the organisation's assets will be dealt with upon winding up;
6. A chart showing the governance structure of the organisation;
7. Proof of payment of the prescribed registration and permit fees;
8. A statement indicating the sources of funding for the organisation's activities;
9. Copies of valid identification documents and passport-size photographs of at least two founder members;
10. A copy of the minutes, signed attendance list and resolution registered with URSB authorising the organisation to register with the NGO Bureau;
11. A statement demonstrating compliance with section 45 of the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016, concerning staffing;
12. A recommendation from the District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee (DNMC) where the organisation's headquarters are located;
13. A recommendation from the responsible ministry, ministries, government department or agency; and

Within one month from the date of collecting the Permit of Operation, a copy of the certificate issued by the Personal Data Protection Office, where applicable.

The NGO Bureau's published requirements for an indigenous NGO expressly include Forms A and D, the URSB Certificate of Incorporation, the work plan and budget, governance structure, source-of-funding statement, identification documents, URSB-authorized resolution, DNMC recommendation and relevant government recommendation.

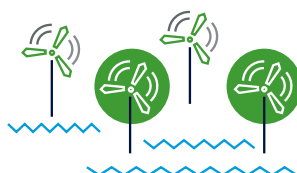
Registration of Regional, Continental, Foreign and International NGOs

Regional, continental, foreign and international NGOs are subject to additional or modified requirements depending on their place of incorporation and ownership or control. These may include:

1. Form N, where the organisation is incorporated outside Uganda, depending on its category;
2. a certified or notarised certificate of incorporation from the country of incorporation;
3. the organisation's constitution, charter, Memorandum and Articles of Association or equivalent governing document;
4. certificates of good conduct for relevant signatories or board members;
5. curricula vitae of at least two board members;
6. recommendations from the NGO Bureau's relevant district or government authorities;
7. a recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
8. a recommendation from the government or diplomatic mission accredited to Uganda; and
9. proof of payment of the applicable fees.
10. Specific requirements for continental and international NGOs include certificates of good conduct, board members' CVs, recommendations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, where applicable, a recommendation from the government or mission accredited to Uganda.

After the Company has been registered, the following form must be filed using the same account:

- Form 18: Notice of situation of Registered office and postal address within 14 days (about 2 weeks)



An application for registration of an NGO shall be in Form A and accompanied by:

Documents and information required for registration

1. An application for registration of an organisation should be accompanied by the following documents and information:
2. A certified copy of the organisation's Certificate of Incorporation.
3. A copy of the organisation's governing documents, including its constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association, charter or other applicable founding instrument.
4. A chart showing the governance structure of the organisation.
5. Proof of payment of the prescribed registration fee.
6. A statement indicating the sources of funding for the activities of the organisation.
7. Copies of valid identification documents for at least two founder members.
8. Minutes and resolutions of the members authorising the organisation to register with the Bureau.
9. A statement demonstrating compliance with section 45 of the Act relating to staffing.
10. Recommendations from:
 - a. The District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee (DNMC) where the organisation's headquarters are located; and
 - b. The relevant line ministry, government department or agency.

Additional statutory and procedural requirements

11. In addition to the documents and information listed above:
12. The application for registration of an organisation must be signed by at least two founder members.
13. Companies and limited liability partnerships must maintain and file beneficial ownership information in accordance with the Companies Act, Cap. 106, the Companies (Beneficial Owners) Regulations, 2023, and the applicable beneficial ownership requirements governing limited liability partnerships.

Registration of NGOs incorporated outside Uganda

An NGO incorporated outside Uganda that intends to operate in Uganda must comply with both the NGO Bureau requirements under the NGO Act framework and, where applicable, URSB incorporation or registration requirements under the Companies Act, Cap. 106. The application is made to the National Bureau for NGOs and must be accompanied by the prescribed documents, including:

1. Proof of payment of the prescribed fees for the certificate of registration and the permit of operation;
2. A certified or notarised copy of the certificate of incorporation or equivalent registration document from the country of origin;
3. A certified or notarised copy of the constitution, charter, memorandum and articles of association, or other governing document, including a dissolution clause where required;
4. A certified copy of the resolution authorising registration and operation in Uganda;
5. Certificates of good conduct or equivalent police clearance for at least two board members, promoters or signatories, where required by the NGO Bureau;
6. Curriculum vitae and valid identification documents for at least two board members, promoters or founder members;
7. A recommendation from the government of the country of origin or its mission accredited to Uganda, where applicable;
8. A recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Uganda, where required;
9. A governance or organisational structure chart consistent with the governing documents;
10. Passport-size photographs and copies of valid identification documents for at least two founder members, promoters or board members;
11. An annual work plan and budget for the period of the permit applied for, which may not exceed five years;
14. A statement indicating the source of funding and a statement complying with section 45 of the NGO Act, 2016 on staffing;
15. Recommendations from the District NGO Monitoring Committee where the headquarters will be located and from the responsible ministry, government department or agency.

URSB incorporation or registration step for NGOs incorporated outside Uganda

1. Access URSB's e-Registry platform through the official URSB website;
2. Log into your account;
3. Click "Start" from the left side menu;
4. Select the appropriate option for incorporation or registration, such as company limited by guarantee or foreign company, depending on the NGO's legal structure;
5. Identify a reserved name to be incorporated as a company from the pop-up window;
6. Click the "Register" button alongside the identified reserved name;



7. Check box against optional forms to be submitted together with the mandatory forms in the application.
8. Click the "Continue" button to proceed to the next page;
9. Complete the required registration particulars, including the registered office, postal address, members or subscribers, and official contact details;
10. Where the entity has no share capital, complete the applicable guarantee or non-share capital information instead of share capital particulars;
11. Upload the memorandum and articles of association or other governing documents required under the Companies Act, Cap. 106 and the Companies Regulations, 2023;
12. Provide beneficial ownership information where required under the Companies Act, Cap. 106 and the Companies (Beneficial Owners) Regulations, 2023;
13. Enter particulars of directors in Form 20;
14. Enter "Official Company Contact Details";
15. Preview the details captured in the forms included in the application;
16. Download, Sign and Upload forms included in the application;
17. Add other required attachments;
18. Make "Payment" and "Submit" applications for processing by URSB; and
19. File the notice of registered office and postal address within the prescribed statutory timelines after incorporation or registration.

Issuance of certificate of registration

Where an NGO has complied with the requirements for registration, the NGO Bureau issues a certificate of registration in the prescribed form and a permit of operation for the approved period. The certificate indicates the name, registration number and date of registration of the organisation. A new NGO should also comply with any post-registration requirements communicated by the NGO Bureau, including data protection registration where applicable.

SINGLE MEMBER COMPANY

A single-member company (SMC) under the Companies Act, Cap. 106 is a private company limited by shares or by guarantee that is incorporated with one member or whose membership is reduced to one person. An SMC is registered through URSB's e-Registry and must comply with the Companies Act, Cap. 106, the Companies Regulations, 2023, and any applicable single-member company requirements.

Single-Member Private Company Limited by Shares

As a private company limited by shares, a single-member company shall:

- a) not issue an invitation to the public to subscribe for any shares or debentures of the company;
- b) have its membership limited to one member; and
- c) restrict the right to transfer its shares, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, Cap. 106.

Change of status

An SMC may convert to an ordinary private company, or a private company may re-register as an SMC, in accordance with the Companies Act, Cap. 106 and the Companies Regulations, 2023, including filing the prescribed forms and obtaining the relevant certificate of re-registration from URSB.

Meetings

1. All meetings of the company shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Act.
2. The secretary, if any, shall attend all the meetings of the company but shall have no vote.
3. The single member may dispense with the requirement to hold a meeting where permitted under the Companies Act, Cap. 106, the Companies Regulations, 2023, and the company's articles.



REGISTRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships, including limited liability partnerships, are registered through URSB's e-Registry. An account holder generally follows the steps below, subject to the applicable partnership law, URSB forms and current e-Registry prompts:

1. Log into your account;
2. Click "Start" from the left side menu;
3. Click "Register / Apply Business Name";
4. Identify a reserved name to be registered from the pop-up window;
5. Click the "Register" button alongside the identified reserved name;
6. Enter the particulars of the business name (date of commencement, business address, official contacts, and partner details);
7. Check box to agree to the statutory declaration (Prepare a Partnership Deed, Present a partnership Deed together with a payment slip);
8. Click the "Save and Continue" button to proceed to the next step;
9. For a limited liability partnership, complete the statement for registration of a limited liability partnership and provide the prescribed particulars, including partners, registered office, nature of business and beneficial ownership information where required;
10. Preview the details captured in the forms included in the application;
11. Download, Sign and Upload forms included in the application;
12. Add other required attachments; and
13. Click "Save and Continue" to submit the application.

REGISTERING A BRANCH IN UGANDA

A branch in Uganda is registered as a foreign company under the Companies Act, Cap. 106 where a company incorporated outside Uganda establishes a place of business in Uganda. Registration is handled through URSB's e-Registry in accordance with the Companies Act, Cap. 106 and the Companies Regulations, 2023.

The main requirements and procedures are:

1. Submit certified or notarised constitutional documents of the foreign company, such as the charter, statutes, memorandum and articles of association or equivalent document, together with a certified English translation where applicable;
2. Complete the prescribed foreign company forms, including Form 24 for directors and secretary, Form 25 for persons resident in Uganda authorised to accept service, Form 26 for the registered or principal office, and Form 13 for subsisting charges where applicable;
3. Upload the required attachments through URSB's e-Registry and pay the prescribed fees;
4. Upon approval, URSB issues a certificate of registration for the foreign company or branch electronically through the e-Registry, subject to completion of all statutory requirements.

TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

The Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) is a unique number issued by:

1. The National Identification Registration Authority under the Registration of Persons Act, in the case of an individual.
2. The Uganda Registration Services Bureau, in the case of a person who is a non-individual.
3. A tax identification number issued by a foreign tax authority with whom Uganda has a tax treaty or agreement for the exchange of information.
4. Uganda Revenue Authority to a person who derives an amount subject to tax.

It is not optional. A person who derives an amount subject to tax must register and obtain a TIN from the URA or URSB. The TIN identifies the taxpayer in any transaction with the URA e.g. when it comes to paying government taxes, import and export taxes, Value Added Taxes (VAT), Company taxes, operational taxes, and many more.

Taxpayers apply to the Commissioner to have a TIN as per the provision of Section 4 of the Tax Procedures Code Act, 2014.

The TIN application is processed through the Uganda Revenue Authority web portal. (www.ura.go.ug).

Every employed person, and any person involved in any income generating activity where income tax, VAT or other taxes are due, must have a TIN.



A TIN is also a mandatory requirement in the registration/transfer of a motor vehicle or land.

It is a mandatory requirement for every form, notice, return or other document either from a taxpayer or from the Commissioner General to have a TIN.

HOW TO PAY AND HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

URA provides TINs in accordance with the Domestic Tax Departmental Performance Standards at no cost. But if one decides to use a third party, one should pay the tax agent.

HOW TO OBTAIN AN INVESTMENT LICENCE

1. **By law, all foreign investors** need to obtain an Investment Licence from [Uganda Investment Authority](#) (UIA). However, according to the current investment code, **domestic investors** are not obliged to do so.
2. One can apply for an Investment Licence online from [UIA](http://www.ugandainvest.go.ug/). (<http://www.ugandainvest.go.ug/>).
3. Foreign investors require a minimum of **USD 100,000** in planned investment in order to secure an Investment Licence from the Uganda Investment Authority, whereas for local investments, the minimum planned investment requirement is **USD 50,000**.
4. Local investors, however, may proceed with their investment without licensing with the Uganda Investment Authority. The licence is crucial to foreign investors as it is the instrument that legalizes their investment in Uganda. Traders do not require a licence from UIA but must demonstrate operating capital of US\$100,000 before trading licences and entry permits are issued by local authorities.

Required documents for an Investment Licence

1. Legal status (Copy of Certificate of Incorporation and Articles & Memorandum of Association from Uganda Registration Services Bureau).
2. A brief Business Proposal on the project (not more than 5 pages).
3. Evidence of availability of funds for the project, (which could be a Bank statement for the company/Directors).
4. Land status for the Project (*Attach a copy of the land title or a tenancy agreement to confirm location of the project*).
5. Passport photocopy of foreign directors.
6. Filled in Application Form for an Investment Licence (Form UIA).

HOW TO OBTAIN THE APPLICATION FORMS FOR THE TRADING LICENCE

Agency: Kampala Capital City Authority

1. The entrepreneur applies for a trade licence at the Municipal Authority/Council Authority where the company premises are located.
2. The trading licence is a general business licence required for all companies, including service companies.
3. Download and print the standard forms online through the [City Operator Identification Number \(COIN\) system](#). Once online, you complete the standard form A, and submit it to the Municipality or City Council, along with the relevant company documents, including the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the names of the directors, the Certificate of Incorporation, and the lease agreement. You will then be issued a payment slip to take to the Bank.
4. Receive inspection of the business premises by the licensing officer and obtain an assessment form.
5. The division of the city authority in the jurisdiction where the business premises are located carries out inspections after you have applied for the trading licence, then issues the Trading Licences. Upon inspection of the company premises, the city authority issues the assessment forms for the fees payable, which vary with the location of the office. These fees are regulated by the Trade Licensing (Amendment of Schedule) Instrument, 2017.



REGISTER WITH NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND (NSSF)

The [National Social Security Fund](#) (NSSF) is governed by the National Social Security Fund Act, Cap. 230, as amended. NSSF is a contributory social security scheme that covers employees in the private sector who are not covered by the Government pension scheme. Mandatory coverage applies to eligible employees between the ages of 16 and 55 years, and to employers irrespective of the number of employees, subject to applicable statutory exemptions.

Under the applicable legislation, employers are required to make monthly NSSF contributions equivalent to 15% of each employee's gross monthly wage. This comprises an employer contribution of 10% and an employee contribution of 5%, which is deducted from the employee's wages.

Employers are required to register with NSSF and remit the applicable contributions on a monthly basis. The registration timeframe should be confirmed with NSSF, as processing times may vary.

MAKE A COMPANY SEAL

Under the Companies Act, Cap. 106, a company may have a common seal, but execution of company documents should be considered together with the Act, the company's articles, and current URSB practice. Businesses should confirm whether a seal is required for the specific transaction or filing before procuring one.

AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Under the Companies Act, Cap. 106, companies are generally required to appoint an auditor in accordance with the Act and applicable regulations. The first auditor may be appointed by the directors before the first annual general meeting, and subsequent appointments are ordinarily made at annual general meetings, subject to any exemptions or special rules applicable to the company.

COMPANY SECRETARY

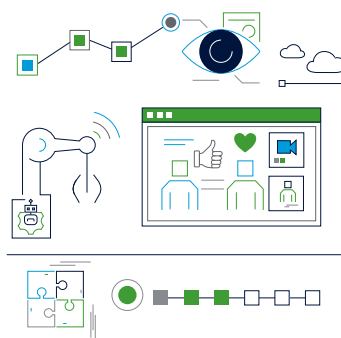
The Companies Act, Cap. 106, requires companies to comply with the statutory requirements relating to appointment of a company secretary. Public companies must appoint a suitably qualified secretary, while the requirements for private companies and single-member companies should be considered in light of the Act, the Companies Regulations, 2023, and the company's articles.

ANNUAL STATUTORY FILING

A company having a share capital is required to file an annual return at least once every year in accordance with the Companies Act, Cap. 106. The annual return must contain the prescribed information on the company's registered office, members, shares, debentures, directors, secretary and other statutory particulars, and must be submitted within the timelines prescribed by the Act and applicable regulations.

OTHER RETURNS

Companies incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap. 106, must file prescribed notices and returns with URSB where there are changes in directors, secretary, registered office, principal place of business, share capital, allotments, charges, beneficial ownership information, or other statutory particulars. The Companies Regulations, 2023, provide the current procedural framework for many of these filings, including electronic submission through URSB systems.





We look beyond the ordinary to
deliver the extraordinary.

3. TAXATION



OVERVIEW OF THE UGANDA TAX SYSTEM

Articles 152 (I) of the Uganda Constitution provides that "No tax shall be imposed except under the authority of an Act of Parliament". Therefore, the Uganda Revenue Authority Act was put in place to provide the administrative framework in which taxes under various Acts are collected.

The Uganda Revenue Authority administers the tax laws (Acts) on behalf of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development under the following legislation regulating taxes:

- i. East Africa Community Customs Union Common External Tariff, 2017
- ii. East African Customs Management Act
- iii. East Africa Crude Pipeline (Special Provisions) Act, 2021
- iv. Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters Act, 2023
- v. Excise Duty Act, 2014
- vi. Income Tax Act, 1997
- vii. Stamp Duty Act, 2014
- viii. Traffic and Road Safety Act, 1998
- ix. Value Added Tax Act, 1996
- x. The Finance Act, 2013
- xi. Local Government (Amendment) No.2 Act, 2008
- xii. Tax Procedures Code Act, 2014

INCOME TAX

This is imposed on a person's taxable income at specific rates. A person includes an individual, company, partnership, trustee, Government, and subdivisions of Government. Income tax is charged on every person who has a chargeable income for each year of income. Chargeable income is derived from three main types of income, namely, Business, Employment and Property.

Residency for tax purposes is defined in relation to individual, partnership and Company as follows:

- **A resident individual** is a person who has a permanent home in Uganda or is present in Uganda: for a period of 183 days or more in any twelve (12) month period that commences or ends during the year of income; or during the year of income and in each of the two preceding years of income, for periods averaging 122 days in each such year of income; or is an employee or official of the government of Uganda posted abroad during the year of income.
- **A resident company** is one which:
 - i. Is incorporated in Uganda under the laws of Uganda;
 - ii. Is managed or controlled in Uganda at any time during the year of income; or
 - iii. Undertakes a majority of its operations in Uganda during the year of income.
- **A resident partnership** is one where any of the partners was a resident person in Uganda during the year of income.
- **Year of Income** means the period of twelve months ending on **30th June** and includes a substituted year of income and a transitional year of income.
- **A substituted year of income** is a period of 12 months ending on a date other than 30th June.
- **A transitional year of income** is a period of less than 12 months that falls between the person's previous accounting date and a new accounting date. This results from a change in a person's accounting date

RATE OF TAX APPLICABLE TO COMPANIES

The current rate of income tax applicable to companies is 30% as prescribed under part 3 of the 4th Schedule of the Income Tax Act. The chargeable income for both resident and non-resident companies is taxed at this rate.

OBLIGATIONS OF COMPANIES

Companies have the following obligations to fulfil:

- **Provisional income tax return.** Companies are required to submit and pay provisional tax before or by the last day of the 6th and 12th months of the year.
- **Final income tax return.** Companies are required to submit their income tax returns before or by the last day of the sixth month after the end of the year of income.

NOTE: All companies are required to submit income tax returns as per the provisions of section 16 of the Tax Procedures Code Act, 2014.



RECORD KEEPING

Companies are required to keep records pertaining to their business transactions for at least five years after the end of the year of income for income tax purposes.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Business income

Business is defined in the Income Tax Act to include vocation or adventure in any trade, profession, vocation or adventure in the nature of trade. This does not include employment.

Employment income

According to Sec 19 of the Income Tax Act, Employment income includes: Wages, salary, leave pay, payment in lieu of leave, overtime pay, fees, commission, gratuity, bonus, the amount of any travelling, entertainment, utilities, cost of living, housing, medical or any other allowance, the value of any benefit etc. Tax on employment income is payable monthly in form of withholding under the respective PAYE regimes for both resident and non-resident individuals.

Collection of tax from employment income

This is collected monthly through a system known as Pay as You Earn (PAYE).

Current monthly PAYE tax rates

The Income Tax Act obliges employers while making payment of employment income in any month to withhold tax at the prescribed withholding PAYE tax rates and consequently remit it to the URA by the 15th day of the following month.

Below is the extract of the rates applicable to chargeable income of non-residents derived through employment:

Chargeable income	Rate of tax
Not exceeding US\$ 4,020,000 (335,000 pm)	10%
Exceeding US\$ 4,020,000 (335,000 pm) but not exceeding US\$ 4,920,000 (410,000 pm)	US\$ 402,000 (33,500 pm) plus 20% of the amount by which chargeable income exceeds US\$ 4,020,000 (335,000 pm)
Exceeding US\$ 4,920,000 (410,000 pm)	- US\$ 582,000 (48,500pm) plus 30% of the amount by which chargeable income exceeds US\$ 4,920,000 (410,000 pm); and - Where the chargeable income of an individual exceeds US\$ 120,000,000 (10,000,000 pm) an additional 10% charged on the amount by which chargeable income exceeds US\$ 120,000,000 (10,000,000 pm)

Below is the extract of the rates applicable to chargeable income of residents derived through employment:

Chargeable income	Rate of tax
Not exceeding US\$ 4,020,000 (335,000 pm)	Nil
Exceeding US\$ 4,020,000 (335,000 pm) but not exceeding US\$ 4,920,000 (410,000 pm)	20% of the amount by which chargeable income exceeds US\$ 4,020,000 (335,000 pm)
Exceeding US\$ 4,920,000 (410,000 pm)	- US\$ 405,000 (33,750pm) plus 30% of the amount by which chargeable income exceeds US\$ 5,820,000 (485,000 pm); and - Where the chargeable income of an individual exceeds US\$ 120,000,000 (10,000,000 pm) an additional 10% charged on the amount by which chargeable income exceeds US\$ 120,000,000 (10,000,000 pm)

Property income

Property income is defined in the Income Tax Act as:

- Any dividends, interest, natural resource payments, rents, royalties, and any other payments derived by a person from the provision, use or exploitation of property.
- The value of any gifts derived by a person in connection with the provision, use or exploitation of property.
- The total amount of any contribution made to a retirement fund during a year of income by a tax-exempt employer.
- Any other income derived by a person does not include an amount which is business, employment, or exempt income.

Exempt income

Certain incomes by law are not taxed and they are referred to as exempt income. Exempt income is listed in section 21 of the Income Tax Act.

Business with non-resident persons, transfer pricing and anti-tax avoidance provisions

Uganda has entered double tax treaties with Denmark, India, Italy, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, and United Kingdom.

Transfer pricing regulation took effect in July 2011, and in principle follows the OECD guidelines. In addition to transfer pricing documentation for cross-border transactions, Uganda also requires documentation for local (in-country) related party transactions exceeding US\$ 500,000,000 in aggregate.

Stiff penalties are imposed on taxpayers for failure to comply with the transfer pricing regulations.

Examples of the acceptable Transfer pricing methods are as below:

1. Comparable uncontrolled price method;
2. Cost plus method;
3. Resale price method;
4. Profit split method;
5. Transnational net margin method; and
6. Any other method prescribed by the Commissioner.

All the transfer pricing methods mentioned in the OECD Guidelines are acceptable, but there is no "best method" rule laid out by the regulations i.e., priority among the methods.

As URA carries out transfer pricing audits, taxpayers, tax officers and tax practitioners are expected to gain more insight on whether there is an implicit "best method" rule.

The period within which a taxpayer must submit his transfer pricing documentation when called for by URA is within 30 days.

In respect to the business with non-resident persons, the Income Tax Act provides the following:

- A withholding tax at 15% is imposed on every non-resident company carrying on business in Uganda through a branch which has repatriated income for the year of income;
- A tax is withheld at 15% on any payments made to a non-resident person who derives any dividend, interest, royalty, rent, natural resource payment, or management charge from sources in Uganda;
- A tax is withheld at 15% on payments made to a non-resident entertainer, sports person, or theatrical, musical, or other group of non-resident entertainers or sports persons who derive income from any performance in Uganda as provided under Section 84 of the Income Tax Act;
- A tax is withheld at 15% on any payment made to a non-resident person deriving income under a Ugandan-source services contract as provided under Section 85 of the Income Tax Act; and
- A tax is withheld at 2% on any payments made to a non-resident person carrying on the business of ship operator, charterer, or air transport operator who derives income from the carriage of passengers who embark, or cargo or mail which is embarked in Uganda and on a road transport operator who derives income from the carriage of cargo or mail which is embarked in Uganda.

TAX RETURNS

Who is required to file a Return of Income?

- Every person who has chargeable income, for the year of income;
- In the case of a resident company, a return should be filed for all its global income; and
- A partnership is also required to file a return of income in its own right as if it pays tax.

Who is not required to file a return of income?

- A non-resident person whose income is derived from sources in Uganda and is subjected to withholding tax as a final tax. Such as non-resident public entertainers, sports persons, contractors or professionals;
- A resident individual whose gross income consists exclusively of employment income derived from employment income derived from a single employer and from which tax has been withheld under the PAYE system; and
- A resident individual whose total chargeable income for the year of income is subject to zero rate of tax under part 1 of the 4th schedule to the Act.



Provisional return

- A provisional return is a form prescribed by the Commissioner on which an estimated tax (provisional tax) is declared. Estimated tax is payable by a person who derives or expects to derive any income during the year of income other than exempt income and which will not be subjected to withholding tax at source as a final tax.
- Estimated tax by a company is paid in two instalments on or before the last day of the sixth and twelfth months of the year of income.
- Estimated tax for an individual is payable in four instalments on or before the last day of the third, sixth, ninth and twelfth month.
- A provisional taxpayer is required to file a provisional return.

Due date for filing returns

Provisional return

A provisional return should be filed on or before the last day of the 6th and 12th month of the return of income i.e., final.

Return of income, i.e., final

The return of income for both individuals and non-individuals including rental income tax, must be lodged within six (6) months after the end of the taxpayer's year of income.

Extension of time to file a return of income.

A taxpayer may in writing apply to the Commissioner for an extension of time to file a return. This application must be made by the due date of filing. The taxpayer must give good reasons to justify the extension with reasonable cause such as absence from the Country. The extension if granted will not exceed 90 days and does not alter the due date for payment of the tax due. Interest will therefore accrue on any outstanding tax.

Tax clearance certificate

A Tax clearance certificate is a document issued by the Commissioner on request by the taxpayer certifying that the taxpayer is compliant with his tax obligations. It is required in some of the following circumstances:

- Providing transport services for passengers and goods;
- Tendering process with the Government; and
- Transferring funds abroad more than US\$50 million.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Taxation of individual Persons

The chargeable income of a person for a year of income is the gross income of the person for the year less total deductions allowed under the Income Tax Act for the year.

Valuation of Benefits

A benefit provided by an employer to an employee means a benefit that:

1. Is provided by an employer, or by a third party under an arrangement with the employer or an associate of the employer;
2. Is provided to an employee or to an associate of an employee; and
3. Is provided in respect of past, present, or prospective employment.

The valuation of benefits for the purposes of Section 19(3) of the income Tax Act is as follows:

- Where a benefit provided by an employer to an employee consists of the use, or availability for use, of a motor vehicle wholly or partly for the private purposes of the employee, the value of the benefit is calculated according to the following formula:

$$(20\% \times A \times B/C) - D$$

Where –

A is the market value of the motor vehicle at the time when it was first provided for the private use of the employee;

B is the number of days in the year of income during which the motor vehicle was used or available for use for private purposes by the employee for all or a part of the day;

C is the number of days in the year of income; and

D is any payment made by the employee for the benefit.

- b) Where a benefit provided by an employer to an employee consists of the provision of a housekeeper, chauffeur, gardener or other domestic assistant, the value of the benefit is the total employment income paid to the domestic assistant in respect of services rendered to the employee, reduced by any payment made by the employee for the benefit.
- c) The provision of any meal, refreshment or entertainment, the value of the benefit is the cost to the employer of providing the meal, refreshment, or entertainment, reduced by any consideration paid by the employee for the meal, refreshment, or entertainment.
- d) The provision of utilities in respect of the employee's place of residence, the value of the benefit is the cost to the employer of providing the utilities reduced by any consideration paid by the employee for the utilities.
- e) Provision of a loan or loans in total exceeding one million shillings at a rate of interest below the statutory rate, the value of the benefit is the difference between the interest paid during the year of income, if any, and the interest which would have been paid if the loan had been made at the statutory rate for the year of income.
- f) Provision of a waiver by an employer of an obligation of the employee to pay or repay an amount owing to the employer or to any other person, the value of the benefit is the amount waived.
- g) Where a benefit provided by an employer to an employee consists of the transfer or use of property or the provision of services, the value of the benefit is the market value of the property or services at the time the benefit is provided, reduced by any payment made by the employee for the benefit.
- h) Where a benefit provided by an employer to an employee consists of the provision of accommodation or housing, other than where Section 19(1)(a) or (c) applies, the value of the benefit is the lesser of – Substituted by IT (Am) Act 2002–
 - The market rent of the accommodation or housing reduced by any payment made by the employee for the benefit; or
 - 15% of the employment income, including the amount referred to in paragraph (a), paid by the employer to the employee for the year of income in which the accommodation or housing was provided.

WITHHOLDING TAX

The Income Tax Act specifies the persons who are required to withhold the tax as well as those upon whom the tax should be imposed, depending on the nature of the transaction. This tax is deducted at source by the person making a payment to another person.

A withholding agent is the person making payment and obliged to withhold tax from the recipient of the payment. In addition, withholding of tax is a system of collecting tax by a withholding agent on a specified range of payments. These include:

- i. Employment income
- ii. International payments, interest, dividends, royalty, rent, natural resource payments and management charges.
- iii. Payments to non-resident Contractors or professionals
- iv. Payments of dividends
- v. Payment for Goods and services by Government, Government institutions and designated withholding agents
- vi. Payments on professional fees
- vii. Payment made in respect of customs clearance of goods at importation

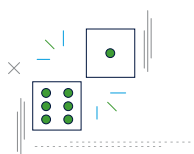
PENAL TAX

PENAL TAX FOR FAILURE TO FURNISH A RETURN OF INCOME

A person who fails to furnish a return of income for a year of income within the time required under this Act is liable to pay a penal tax equal to two per cent of the tax payable for that year before subtracting any credit allowed to the taxpayer on his or her chargeable income or ten currency points per month, whichever is the greater, for the period the return is outstanding.

PENAL TAX IN RELATION TO RECORDS

A person who knowingly and/or recklessly fails to maintain records as required under any tax law is liable to pay a penal tax equal to double the amount of tax payable by the person for the period to which the failure relates.



PENAL TAX FOR UNDERSTATING PROVISIONAL TAX ESTIMATES

A provisional taxpayer whose estimate or revised estimate of chargeable income for a year of income under Section 112 is less than ninety per cent of the taxpayer's actual chargeable income assessed for that year, is liable for penal tax equal to twenty per cent of the difference between the tax calculated in respect of the taxpayer's estimate, as revised, of chargeable income and the tax calculated in respect of ninety per cent of the taxpayer's actual chargeable income for the year of income.

This Section does not apply to a taxpayer who is in the business of agricultural, plantation or horticultural farming.

PLACE OF TRIAL

Any person charged with committing an offence under this Act may be proceeded against, tried, and punished in any place in Uganda in which the person may be in custody for the offence as if the offence had been committed in that place, and the offence shall, for all purpose's incidental to or consequential upon the prosecution, trial, or punishment of the offence, be deemed to have been committed in that place.

INCOME TAX OBJECTION AND APPEALS

A taxpayer who is dissatisfied with an assessment may lodge an objection to the assessment with the Commissioner within forty-five days after service of the notice of assessment for income tax.

Where an objection decision has not been made by the Commissioner within ninety days after the taxpayer lodged the objection with the Commissioner, the taxpayer may, by notice in writing to the Commissioner, elect to treat the Commissioner as having decided to allow the objection.

DOUBLE TAXATION AGREEMENTS/ TREATIES

Double taxation agreements, sometimes known as double taxation treaties, are designed to protect against the risk of double taxation i.e., where an individual or a corporate entity is taxed twice by virtue of the same income being taxable in two states. Uganda has double taxation agreements with Denmark, India, Norway, Mauritius, Netherlands, South Africa, United Kingdom, Italy, and Zambia, where lower rates apply. East African Community and Egypt treaties are awaiting ratification by parliament.

The main objective of a DTA is to provide certainty regarding when and how tax is to be imposed in the country where the income producing activity is conducted or payment is made.

The agreements are normally two pronged, namely –

- i. It normally requires that the country where the gain arises deducts taxation at source ("withholding tax") and the taxpayer receives a compensating foreign tax credit in the country of residence to reflect the fact that tax has already been paid; or in some cases, it is provided that the tax is to be paid in the country of residence and be exempt in the country in which it arises or partial relief is granted.
- ii. It requires the two countries to exchange information about such declarations and investigate any anomalies that might indicate tax evasion.

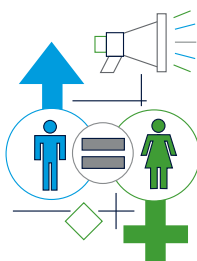
VALUE ADDED TAX

Value Added Tax (VAT) is an indirect tax that is paid by a person who consumes or imports goods and/or services in Uganda. The Tax is charged on the value added at different stages of production or supply of goods and services. VAT was introduced in Uganda in July 1996 to replace Sales Tax and Commercial Transactions Levy (CTL).

VAT is administered under the Value Added Tax (VAT) Act, Laws of Uganda.

Persons required or permitted to register

The annual registration threshold is UShs. 300 million worth of taxable supplies.



RECORDS, INVOICES, CREDIT AND DEBIT NOTES

TAX INVOICES

A tax invoice as required by Section 29 of the VAT Act should contain the following particulars –

- a) The words "tax invoice" are written in a prominent place.
- b) The commercial name, address, place of business, and the taxpayer identification and VAT registration numbers of the taxable person making the supply.
- c) The commercial name, address, place of business, and the taxpayer identification number and VAT registration number of the recipient of the taxable supply.
- d) The individualised serial number and the date on which the tax invoice is issued.
- e) A description of the goods or services supplied and the date on which the supply is made.
- f) The quantity or volume of the goods or services supplied.
- g) The rate of tax for each category of goods and services described in the invoice.

Effective 1st January 2021, persons making taxable supplies (VAT registered persons) are required to issue electronic receipts and invoices for sales made using the EFRIS platform. All invoices and receipts issued using the EFRIS platform bear a unique identification number referred to as the Fiscal Document Number (FDN).

Effective 1st July 2025, the following business sectors are required to issue e-receipts or e-invoices irrespective of their VAT registration status:

- Wholesale and Retail of Fuel
- Mining and Quarrying
- Manufacturing
- Electricity, gas, steam, and air conditioning supply
- Water supply; sewerage, waste management, and remediation activities
- Construction
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food service activities
- Information, Technology, and Communication
- Real estate activities
- Professional, scientific, and technical activities
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation

A taxpayer specified in the gazette, for whom it shall be mandatory to use Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution and:

- a) does not adopt the use of EFRIS is liable to pay a penal tax equivalent to the tax due on the goods or services, or four hundred currency points, whichever is higher; or
- b) does not issue an e-receipt or e-invoice or tampers with an EFD is liable to pay a penal tax equivalent to the tax due on the goods or services or three hundred currency points, whichever is higher;

attempts to acquire or acquire an EFD that is not authenticated by URA commits an offence and is liable on conviction, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three years or a fine not exceeding three hundred currency points, or both.

VAT RETURNS, DUE DATE OF PAYMENT OF VAT AND REFUND OF TAX

RETURNS

A taxable person shall lodge a tax return with the Commissioner General for each tax period within fifteen days after the end of the period.

DUE DATE FOR PAYMENT OF TAX

Tax payable under the Value Added Tax Act is due and payable in the case of a taxable supply by a taxable person in respect of a tax period, on the final date the return for the tax period must be lodged.

In the case of supplies to government, tax shall be payable when Government makes payment for the supplies.



REFUND OF TAX

If, for any tax period, a taxable person's input tax credit exceeds his or her liability for tax for that period, the Commissioner General shall refund him or her the excess within one month of the due date for the return for the tax period to which the excess relates, or within one month of the date when the return was made if the return was not made by the due date.

A person may claim a refund of any input tax paid in excess of the amount of output tax under this Act for a tax period.

A claim for a refund shall be made in a return within three years after the end of the tax period in which tax was overpaid.

No refund shall be made in relation to a taxable supply that has been made to a person who is not a taxable person unless the Commissioner General is satisfied that the amount of the excess tax has been repaid by the taxable person to the recipient, whether in cash or as a credit against an amount owing to the taxable person by the recipient.

A person who is allowed a tax credit on the purchase of goods and services from a supplier who is designated to use the e-invoicing system shall only claim a tax credit on expenses supported by e-invoices or e-receipts.

Effective 1st July 2021, there is a tax refund of 5% of the VAT amount to consumers who purchase goods or services from a taxable person and are issued with an electronic receipt or invoice worth UGX. 2 million within a consecutive period of 30 days.

VAT PENALTIES

A person who fails to apply for registration is liable to pay a penal tax equal to double the amount of tax payable during the period commencing on the last day of the application.

A person who fails to lodge a return within the required time is liable to pay a penal tax amounting to whichever is the greater of the following:

- a) Two hundred thousand shillings; or
- b) An interest charge of 2% per month compounded for the period the principal tax is outstanding.

VAT OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS

Objections to assessment

A person who is dissatisfied with an assessment may, within forty-five days after receipt of the notice of the assessment decision, lodge an objection to the Commissioner General.

Objections to the alternative dispute resolution

A person who is dissatisfied with a tax decision of the Commissioner may, within seven days after being served with the tax decision, apply in writing to the Commissioner for resolution of the dispute using the alternative dispute resolution procedure.

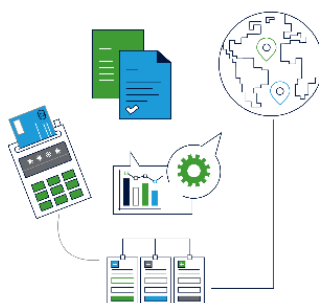
Appeals to tax appeals tribunal.

A person dissatisfied with an objection decision may, within thirty days after being served with notice of the objection decision, lodge an application with the Tax Appeals Tribunal for review of the objection decision and shall serve a copy of the application on the Commissioner General.

CUSTOMS DUTY

Uganda applies duties and tariffs of the East African Community (EAC) Common External Tariff.

Customs duty is levied at rates between 0% and 100%, with an average rate of 25%. Imports into Uganda are subject to a standard **VAT** rate of 18%, levied on the sum of the CIF value, duty, and other applicable taxes.



The background is an abstract composition of curved, flowing lines in shades of blue, teal, and white, creating a sense of motion and depth. A prominent bright blue line curves across the upper portion. In the bottom right corner, there is a solid blue shape composed of a grid of squares, some of which are missing, creating a pixelated or stepped effect.

Empowering you to face the
future with confidence.

4. EMPLOYMENT



Uganda's Employment Act, Cap 226 imposes certain obligations on employers, ranging from tax obligations, insurance obligations and obligations arising out of specific labour laws. The Employment Act also details regulations regarding employment of children, discrimination, disciplinary proceedings, contract termination, working hours, severance payment and leave.

EMPLOYING A LOCAL OR FOREIGNER IN UGANDA

A person who is not a citizen of Uganda intending to work in Uganda is required under the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act to obtain an entry permit, an intern pass, a certificate of residence or a special pass. A special pass may be issued while the entry permit is being processed. The work permits once issued is renewed depending on the expiry date.

Foreign employees/work permit process

Employment of expatriates

Before employing an expatriate, an employer must ensure that the expatriate has obtained the appropriate work authorisation. Where the work permit application is still being processed, the expatriate may apply for a special pass, where eligible, to regularise their stay and, subject to the terms of the pass, undertake short-term work pending the issuance of the work permit. A special pass should not be treated as a substitute for a work permit where a work permit is required.

Vacancies are required to be notified to the relevant district labour officer in accordance with section 35 of the Employment Act, 2006. Although this requirement remains in the legislation, its enforcement has reportedly been limited.

Foreign employees must have valid immigration status and the appropriate work authorisation to work in Uganda. Employers should monitor the expiry dates of work permits and ensure that renewals or extensions are applied for in good time.

Under the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act, entry permits are issued under different classes depending on the nature of the applicant's activities or employment in Uganda. These include classes covering diplomatic and government services, agriculture, mining, business and trade, manufacturing, professional activities, missionaries, volunteers and employees.

The classes may also contain subclasses. For example, Class G relates to employees, while Class G1 applies to missionaries and volunteers working in non-governmental organisations, Class G2 applies to foreign expatriates employed in Uganda, and Class G3 applies to certain expatriates with rare skills employed in agro-processing, manufacturing and mining of selected minerals.

Where the applicant is a foreign employee, the relevant application will generally be made under Class G2, depending on the nature of the employment and the applicable immigration requirements. The employer and prospective employee should confirm the appropriate class and subclass with the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control before submitting the application. Where an expatriate requires temporary authorisation while a work-permit application is pending, the applicant may apply for a special pass, subject to the applicable requirements and approval. The special pass is a temporary immigration authorisation and should be obtained together with, or while pursuing, the appropriate work-permit application where required. The official immigration portal identifies a special pass as a temporary pass that may allow a person to work on a short-term basis.

Work-permit application requirements

The requirements should be divided into employer-related conditions and supporting documents, as follows.

A. Employer-related conditions and supporting information

1. The employer must obtain an immigration organisation code, where required.
2. The employer should demonstrate the need to employ a foreign national and, where applicable, provide proof of failure to employ a suitably qualified Ugandan.
3. The employer should provide information on training or skills-transfer opportunities for Ugandan employees.
4. The employer must comply with the applicable immigration, tax, employment and regulatory requirements.
5. Where applicable, the employer should provide evidence of its investment, business operations and financial capacity.

B. Documents and attachments

The application may require the following documents, depending on the applicable work-permit class and the current requirements of the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control:

1. Duly completed work-permit application forms;
2. An official covering letter or letter of introduction from the employer addressed to the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control;
3. The applicant's curriculum vitae;
4. Two recent passport-size photographs;



5. A copy of the applicant's passport bio-data page;
6. A valid police clearance certificate or Interpol clearance from the applicant's home country;
7. Copies of the applicant's academic and professional qualifications, where applicable;
8. The applicant's appointment or employment letter;
9. Proof of failure to employ a suitably qualified Ugandan, where applicable;
10. Evidence of training or skills-transfer opportunities for Ugandans, where applicable;
11. An investment licence or investment-related documentation, where applicable;
12. A valid tax clearance certificate, where applicable;
13. The company's memorandum and articles of association, where applicable;
14. The company's trading licence, where applicable;
15. The company's bank statements for the preceding three to six months, where applicable;
16. The company's certificate of incorporation; and
17. The company's tax registration certificate.

There are official fees payable for a work permit and refundable security bond payable when the expatriate employee leaves Uganda permanently.

Applicants can only enter Uganda after grant and payment of their VISAS and work permits.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

The 1995 constitution as amended in 2005 allows both Ugandans and Non-Ugandans to acquire dual citizenship. The Act amended in 2009, (Article 15) by constitutional amendment Pursuant to which the Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act, Cap 313 was enacted providing for dual citizenship in Uganda. According to the Article, a Ugandan of 18 years and above who voluntarily applies for and gets citizenship for another country can retain their Ugandan citizenship and in the same way, a citizen of another country who meets all the requirements of registering for citizenship may retain their citizenship to the mother country as well. This law only allows for 2 citizenships.

UGANDAN CITIZENSHIP

The following persons are considered citizens:

- a) Every person born in Uganda, one of whose parents or grandparents is or was a member of any of the indigenous communities existing and residing within the borders of Uganda as at the first day of February 1926 and set out in the third schedule of the constitution (Article 10a of the constitution).
- b) Every person born in or outside Uganda, one of whose parents or grandparents was at the time of birth of that person, a citizen of Uganda by birth.
- c) A child of not more than five years of age found in Uganda whose parents are not known is presumed to be Ugandan.
- d) A child under the age of eighteen years neither of whose parents is a citizen of Uganda, who is adopted by a citizen of Uganda upon registration shall be a citizen of Uganda.
- e) A person who successfully applies for and is registered as a citizen of Uganda (Article 12 of the Constitution).
- f) A person who has resided in Uganda for an aggregate period of 20 years or has resided in Uganda throughout the period of 24 months immediately preceding the period of application.

LABOUR LAW

Two types of laws which govern employment.

Collective labour law-relates to the tripartite relationship between employee, employer and labour union. Employers need to allow employees to form unions, as provided for under the constitution (Constitution of Uganda especially Article 29 (1) (a).)

Individual labour law concerns individual employees' rights through the contract of employment, statutory provisions, common law etc. unlike in the past when trade unions were the custodians of workplace welfare, there has been a steady shift to give individuals more legal rights that they can enforce directly through courts, e.g. Right to fair treatment, hours of labour and holiday. These are of two further types, **contract of service**, and **contract for service**.

Contract for service, is the same as consultancies, whereas **contract of service** is the normal employment, with benefits such as NSSF payment, deduction of PAYE, and other issues.



EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS

Engaging under contract for service, or contract for employment

Here, the regulations are to make sure one is clear on the deduction of percentage of payment, for withholding tax to be paid to the revenue service, unless, of course, they prove that they are registered for URA, with a Taxpayer Identification Number. Under this arrangement, you are not vicariously responsible for the contractors, and you do not pay them for worker's compensation in case of injuries at work. You also cannot penalize them or impose any punitive measures.

Engaging under contract of employment, or contract of service

This is the situation where an employer employs a worker, either a foreigner or citizen, to work for a given time, with clear terms of reference. There are issues to consider, including that Employees are entitled to receive written contracts of employment within 12 weeks after the date of the commencement of the employment (refer to section 59(3)).

Written employment particulars

An employment contract is any agreement, whether oral or in writing, whether expressed or implied, where a person agrees to work for an employer in return for remuneration. It includes a contract of apprenticeship as well (Section 2 (b))

Ugandan Labour Law requires that contracts of employment should be in writing, and a written statement of particulars should be provided to a worker within twelve weeks of the commencement of employment.

Employment contracts must include the following:

1. Full name and addresses of the contracting parties.
2. Date of employment commencement.
3. Job title.
4. Workplace/duty station.
5. Wages including payment intervals and other deductions.
6. Rate of overtime pays.
7. Employee's normal hours of work and the shifts or days of week on which such work is to be performed.
8. The number of days for annual leave and wages during the period.
9. Length of notice.
10. Sick leave pays; terms relating to incapacity for work due to sickness or injury.

The employer is required to provide the above information in a language that a worker can reasonably be expected to understand. In case of any amendment in the employment contract, the employer must issue a written notice to the worker to inform him/her about the amendment and acquire consent to the said change.

The employer may also retain a copy of written particulars and the amendments in them and provide it to the labour officer on demand (S25 & 59 of the Employment Act, Cap 226).

WORKING HOURS AND OVERTIME

The maximum working hours are eight hours a day, six days a week totalling to 48hrs per week.

Where persons are employed in shifts, it shall be permissible to employ persons in excess of ten hours in any one day or forty-eight hours in any one week, where the average number of hours over a period of three weeks exceeds neither ten hours per day nor fifty-six hours per week (Section 53 (5) of the Employment Act, Cap 226).

LEAVE

Annual leave

The Employment Act provides annual leave for all workers on completion of at least six months of service.

A worker working weekly for sixteen or more hours is entitled to 21 working days paid annual leave at the rate of 7 days for each period of continuous 4 months of service on completion of 12 months of continuous service (S54 (4, b) of the Employment Act, Cap 226).

Where an employee who works on a public holiday receives, in respect of such work, pay at not less than double the rate payable for work on a day that is not a public holiday, that employee shall not be entitled to a day's holiday with full pay in lieu of the public holiday.



An employee is entitled to receive, upon termination of employment, a holiday with pay proportionate to the length of service for which he or she has not received such a holiday, or compensation in lieu of the holiday (S54 of the Employment Act, Cap 226).

A male employee, after the birth of a child or miscarriage of a wife, is entitled to fully paid 4 working days of paternity leave in a year (S57 of the Employment Act, Cap 226).

Sick leave

Under the Employment Act, an employee who has completed not less than one month's continuous service with an employer and is incapable of work due to sickness or injury is entitled to sick pay.

- For the first month of absence from work, the employee is entitled to full wages and every other benefit stipulated in the contract of service, whether for the employee or the employee's family.
- If, at the expiration of the second month, the employee's sickness continues, the employer is entitled to terminate the contract of service, subject to complying with all the terms of the contract of service up to the time of termination of employment.

To get this entitlement, the employee is expected to notify the employer of absence and reason for absence and produce a certificate of incapacity to work signed by a duly qualified medical practitioner (S55 of the employment Act Cap 226).

Maternity leave

Female employees are entitled to 60 working days of fully paid maternity leave of which at least four weeks shall follow the childbirth or miscarriage.

The worker must give a written notice of at least 7 days (or even shorter period under certain circumstances) prior to proceeding on maternity leave on a specific date and to return to work thereafter. The worker may also have to provide a certificate of her medical condition from a qualified medical practitioner or midwife if required by the employer.

Maternity leave may be extended in case of sickness arising out of pregnancy or confinement, affecting either the mother or the baby, and making the mother's return to work inadvisable.

The maternity leave is granted with full pay and the pay during leave period is financed by the employer (S56 of the Employment Act 2006).

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Workers are entitled to paid public and religious holidays. Public holidays are announced by the Ugandan Government at the beginning of each calendar year and are usually 14 in number.

Public holidays are regulated under the Public Holidays Act, 1965. These include:

1. New Year's Day — 1 January;
2. NRM Liberation Day — 26 January;
3. Archbishop Janani Luwum Day — 16 February;
4. International Women's Day — 8 March;
5. Good Friday — date varies from year to year;
6. Easter Monday — date varies from year to year;
7. Labour Day — 1 May;
8. Martyrs' Day — 3 June;
9. National Heroes' Day — 9 June;
10. Eid al-Fitr — date varies according to the Islamic calendar;
11. Eid al-Adha — date varies according to the Islamic calendar;
12. Independence Day — 9 October;
13. Christmas Day — 25 December; and
14. Boxing Day — 26 December.

In addition to these holidays, the President may declare any other day to be a public holiday and may limit the observation of any such public holiday to any area or place in Uganda.



STATUTORY DEDUCTIONS

NATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY FUND

The National Social Security Fund Act imposes an obligation on employers to pay a standard monthly contribution of 15% (10% being the employer's contribution and 5% being the employee's contribution) of the total wages of an employee to NSSF.

PAY AS YOU EARN

This is a statutory tax deduction for all employees. The rate of deduction varies for different income groups. This deduction is made from every monthly earning and remitted to the Uganda Revenue Authority by the 15th day of the next month.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDIT

STATUTORY FRAMEWORK GOVERNING FINANCIAL REPORTING IN UGANDA

In Uganda, the principal legislation governing companies, including incorporation, administration and financial reporting obligations, is the Companies Act, Cap. 106, as amended. The Accountants Act, 2013, and sector-specific laws also affect financial reporting and assurance requirements for regulated entities such as banks, insurers, retirement benefits schemes and listed companies.

The Companies Act, Cap. 106, requires companies to keep proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the company.

With respect to audits, companies should assess their statutory audit obligations under the Companies Act, Cap. 106, applicable regulations, and any sector-specific requirements. Where an audit is required, the auditor is appointed and holds office in accordance with the Act and the company's articles.

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU) is a national professional accountancy organization established in 1992 by an act of parliament to regulate and maintain the standard of accountancy in Uganda, and to prescribe and regulate the conduct of all professional accountants in Uganda. ICPAU is dedicated to serving the public interest by strengthening the profession and contributing to the growth and development of Uganda's economy. With more than 4,000 members, ICPAU's membership represents accountants in public practice, education, government service, industry, and commerce.





Make critical decisions with
confidence.

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS



Intellectual property refers to legal rights arising from creations of the mind in the industrial, scientific, literary, artistic and commercial fields. These rights protect creations such as inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, symbols, names, images, marks and other innovations used in commerce. Intellectual property rights give creators, innovators and businesses exclusive rights to use, commercialise, license, assign and enforce their protected creations, subject to the applicable Ugandan laws.

Intellectual property in Uganda is commonly divided into the following categories:

- Copyright and neighbouring rights, governed principally by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, Cap. 222, as amended by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Act, 2026. This category covers literary, scientific and artistic works, including books, poems, plays, films, musical works, photographs, architectural works, computer programs, applications, electronic databases, performances, sound recordings and broadcasts.
- Industrial property, governed mainly by the Industrial Property Act, Cap. 224, the Trademarks Act, Cap. 225, and related regulations. This category includes patents, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, trade names, geographical indications and technovations.

Uganda is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), and the World Trade Organization framework on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In 2026, Uganda also updated its copyright framework to domesticate and align with key international copyright and accessibility treaties, including the Beijing Treaty, the Marrakesh Treaty, the Berne Convention, the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

Why protect intellectual property?

- To provide an incentive to the innovators to be able to benefit from the result of their endeavour.
- The legal protection of innovations encourages the commitment of additional resources for further innovation.
- The promotion and protection of intellectual property spurs economic growth, creates jobs and enhances the quality and enjoyment of life.
- In 2026, URSB's integrated e-Registry replaced the former OBRS environment for several registry services and now provides a single online access point for business registration, intellectual property registration, copyright and neighbouring rights registration, insolvency services, security interest registration and the non-individual register.

PATENT

A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention under the Industrial Property Act, Cap. 224. An invention may be a product or process that provides a new way of doing something or offers a new technical solution to a problem. A patent gives the owner the right to prevent others from commercially making, using, selling, importing or otherwise exploiting the protected invention without consent. In Uganda, patent protection generally lasts for 20 years, subject to payment of annual maintenance fees.

Requirements for an invention to be patented

- Novel/new- The invention should not be described in any publication anywhere in the world.
- Inventive - The new product or process should not be obvious to a skilled person.
- Industrial application - the invention should be capable of being made or used in any kind of industry.
- Patentable subject matter - the invention must fall within subject matter that is protectable under the Industrial Property Act, Cap. 224. Discoveries, scientific theories, mathematical methods, business methods and other excluded subject matter are generally not patentable.

Patent application process

- The applicant files the patent application through URSB or ARIPO and attaches the prescribed patent documents and proof of payment;
- URSB accords a filing date and application number where the application meets the filing requirements;
- The application is examined as to form and, where applicable, subjected to substantive examination to determine whether the claimed invention meets the requirements for patentability;
- If the patent is granted, the applicant pays the prescribed grant fees;
- URSB issues the certificate of grant and the patent is published in accordance with the Act and applicable procedures.



A complete patent application at filing should generally include:

- A completed patent application form or request for patent protection;
- A patent specification containing the title, abstract, description, claims and drawings where applicable;
- Proof of payment of the prescribed fees and any other supporting documents required by URSB or ARIPO.

Patent applications may be filed directly with URSB or through ARIPO, which receives and processes applications on behalf of its member states. URSB's current online intellectual property services are accessed through the e-Registry platform.

Fees for Patent Registration

Application	US\$ 180,000
Grant	US\$ 300,000
Maintenance fees	US\$ 48,000 for 1 st annuity (Additional US\$ 12,000 for each subsequent year)
Conversion of patent application to utility model application	US\$ 12,000

Law governing patents in Uganda The governing law is the Industrial Property Act, Cap. 224, together with applicable regulations and ARIPO procedures where an ARIPO route is used.

TRADEMARKS

What is a Trademark?

A trademark is a distinctive sign used to identify and distinguish the goods or services of one person or business from those of another. In Uganda, trademarks are governed principally by the Trademarks Act, Cap. 225 and the applicable trademark regulations.

A trademark may consist of a word, name, signature, letter, numeral, device, brand, heading, label, ticket, aspect of packaging, shape, colour, sound, scent, slogan, logo or a combination of these, provided it is capable of distinguishing goods or services and can be represented in the required form.

The Trademark owner has the exclusive rights to prevent others from using the same or confusingly similar mark.

The two main characteristics of a trademark are that it must be distinctive (it must by its very nature be able to distinguish goods and services) and it should not be deceptive (misleading).

A trademark must also not be descriptive. It is descriptive if it describes the nature or identity of the goods or services for which it is used.

Why register a Trademark?

- Registration of a trademark gives the owner an exclusive right to use the registered mark on the goods and/or services for which it is registered.
- The owner of a registered mark can sue for infringement of his registration if someone else uses the same or a similar mark on the same or similar goods and/or services for which the mark is registered.
- Registration gives one's business the ability to distinguish itself from other providers in the market and prohibits others from capitalizing on an enterprise's marketing efforts and good will.

What are the steps for registering a trademark in Uganda?

1. **Search:** The applicant should conduct a trademark search through URSB to establish whether the proposed mark is available or conflicts with existing marks.
2. **Filing of application:** The applicant files the trademark application through URSB, indicating the mark, goods or services, applicant details, class information and supporting documents, and pays the prescribed fees. Where the applicant is foreign or is represented by an agent, a power of attorney or authorisation may be required. Applications are commonly filed through an advocate or authorised trademark agent.
3. **Examination:** URSB examines the application to determine whether the mark is distinctive, non-deceptive, not prohibited, and not confusingly similar to an earlier mark.
4. **Publication:** If accepted, the application is advertised in the Uganda Gazette for opposition.
5. **Registration:** If no opposition is filed, or any opposition is resolved in favour of the applicant, the Registrar enters the mark in the register and issues a certificate of registration upon payment of the prescribed fees.



How long is a trademark valid for?

A registered trademark is valid for seven years from the filing date and may be renewed indefinitely for successive ten-year periods upon payment of the prescribed renewal fees.

Who may apply for a trademark?

Any person or corporation who is the owner of a mark used, or proposed to be used, by him in Uganda, may make an application for the registration of a mark in this country.

Can I appoint someone to apply on my behalf?

Applications may be made either by the owners of marks or by agents in the names of and on behalf of the owners. The agent must be an Advocate of the High Court.

COPYRIGHTS

What is a Copyright?

Copyright protects authors, artists, performers and other creators in respect of literary, scientific and artistic works and neighbouring rights. In Uganda, copyright is governed principally by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, Cap. 222, as amended by the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Act, 2026.

Protected works include literary works, scientific works, artistic works, audiovisual works, films, musical works, sound recordings, broadcasts, performances, computer programs, applications, databases, architectural works, maps, technical drawings and other eligible works. The 2026 amendment modernises protection for digital exploitation, online use and technological means of accessing or using protected works.

Copyright gives the creator or copyright owner exclusive economic rights to authorise or prohibit reproduction, distribution, public performance, communication to the public, adaptation, translation and other exploitation of the work. Copyright and neighbouring rights may be licensed, assigned or otherwise transferred, but the 2026 amendments place stronger emphasis on written exploitation contracts and clearer rights management.

Authors also enjoy moral rights, including the right to be identified as the author and to object to distortion, mutilation or other prejudicial treatment of the work. The 2026 amendments strengthen protection and administration of copyright and neighbouring rights, including provisions relating to digital use, orphan works, collecting societies and accessibility for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.

How is Copyright Protected?

A creative work is automatically protected by copyright after creation. The work must be original and fixed into tangible form. Works are protected irrespective of their merit but must not infringe on another person's work.

What can be protected by the copyright law?

1. Literary works (e.g., articles, novels, pamphlets, books, plays, reference works, newspapers, films, musical compositions, paintings, drawings, photographs, advertisements, maps and technical drawings)
 2. Dramatic works (e.g., scripts for films and dramas)
 3. Musical works (e.g., melodies)
 4. Artistic works (e.g., paintings, photographs, drawings, architecture, sculpture)
 5. Sound recordings
 6. Films
 7. Television and radio broadcasts
 8. Cable programs
 9. Performances
 10. Computer programs, applications, and databases
- Copyright protection gives creators incentives in the form of recognition and fair economic rewards.

What is the procedure for registering a copyright?

1. An application for registration is made to the Registrar of Copyright and an application fee of UGX. 50,000 paid. A copy of the work for which protection is sought must be attached e.g. Books, CD, DVD.
2. The application is then published in the Uganda Gazette for 60 days.
3. If no objection is made to the registration of the said right, a certificate of registration will be issued to the applicant. No fee is charged for registration certificate.



How long does copyright protection last?

Copyright protection generally lasts for the life of the creator and 50 years after the creator's death. This means that it is not only the creators that benefit from their works, but also their heirs.

- For Natural persons, Copyright is protected for the lifetime of the author and 50 years after his death.
- For Corporations/ Companies, Copyrights is protected for 50 years after the date of the 1st publication.
- Anonymous work or works of unknown authors, 50 years after publication.
- Computer programs: 50 years after the program becomes available to the public.

Advantages of copyright protection

- Proof of ownership and easier protection from infringement.
- Maintenance of a Government record of copyright to assist the successors of the owner since copyright lasts 50 years after his death.
- Encourages creativity through easy access to authors by users who pay remuneration for use.
- Puts culture on record.





Combining world-class technology
and real world experience.

6. LISTING RULES



THE CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY

The Capital Markets Authority (CMA) is the statutory regulator of Uganda's capital markets. It is established under the Capital Markets Authority Act, Cap. 64, and is responsible for regulating and promoting the development of capital markets in Uganda, licensing and supervising market intermediaries, approving public offers and listings, enforcing compliance, protecting investors, and promoting market integrity and efficiency.

In 2026, CMA's framework should be read together with the Capital Markets Authority Act, Cap. 64, the Securities Central Depositories Act, Cap. 60, the Collective Investment Schemes Act, Cap. 65, the Uganda Securities Exchange Listing Rules 2025, and the latest CMA regulations and regulatory notices.

CMA's mandate and current regulatory focus include:

- Promoting confidence, transparency and fair dealing in the capital markets;
- Licensing and supervising securities exchanges, brokers, dealers, fund managers, investment advisers, trustees, central securities depositories and other market participants;
- Approving public offers, listings and other regulated securities transactions;
- Protecting investors through disclosure, enforcement, inspections, investigations and investor education; and
- Reducing systemic risk and supporting resilient, technology-enabled and sustainable capital markets.

Important 2026 updates include CMA regulatory notices issued in 2026, the Capital Markets Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Disclosures and Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, 2026, the Capital Markets Sukuk Guidelines, 2026, and the continued application of the 2025 CMA regulations on offers of securities, licensing and approval, conduct of business, collective investment schemes and corporate governance.

LISTED COMPANIES

As at 2026, there are eleven domestic companies listed on the Uganda Securities Exchange and eight cross-border listings.

The domestic listings include:

1. Uganda Clays Ltd, listed in January 2000;
2. British American Tobacco (BAT) Uganda Ltd, listed in October 2000;
3. Bank of Baroda (U) Ltd, listed in November 2002;
4. dfcu Ltd, listed in October 2004;
5. New Vision Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd, listed in December 2004;
6. Stanbic Bank Uganda Ltd, listed in January 2007;
7. National Insurance Corporation, listed in 2010;
8. UMEME Limited, listed in 2012;
9. Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Ltd, listed in 2018;
10. MTN Uganda, listed in 2021; and
11. Airtel Uganda Limited, listed in 2023.

The eight cross-border listings are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. East African Breweries Ltd, listed in March 2001 | 5. Kenya Commercial Bank Ltd, listed in November 2008 |
| 2. Kenya Airways, listed in March 2002 | 6. Nation Media Group, listed in 2010 |
| 3. Jubilee Holdings Ltd, listed in February 2006 | 7. Centum, listed in 2011 |
| 4. Equity Bank Ltd, listed in June 2009 | 8. UCHUMI listed in 2013 |

THE UGANDA SECURITIES EXCHANGE

The Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) was established in 1997 and licensed in 1998 by the Capital Markets Authority to operate as an approved securities exchange. In 2026, USE remains Uganda's principal securities exchange for equities, fixed income securities and other approved instruments.

The Exchange operates under the Capital Markets Authority Act, Cap. 64, the Securities Central Depositories Act, Cap. 60, the Companies Act, Cap. 106 where issuers are companies, the USE Listing Rules 2025 as amended, the USE Trading Participant Rules 2026, and other market rules approved by CMA.



The Exchange provides a regulated platform for raising capital through debt, equity and other approved instruments, and for secondary trading by licensed trading participants. Companies seeking listing must comply with the USE Listing Rules 2025, CMA approval requirements, continuing listing obligations, corporate governance requirements and applicable disclosure standards.

The USE Listing Rules 2025 provide for three main market segments:

- a) **Main Investment Market Segment:** This is the main market for established issuers that meet the applicable listing conditions, including minimum capital, profitability or track record requirements, public float, shareholder spread, disclosure, corporate governance and continuing obligations.

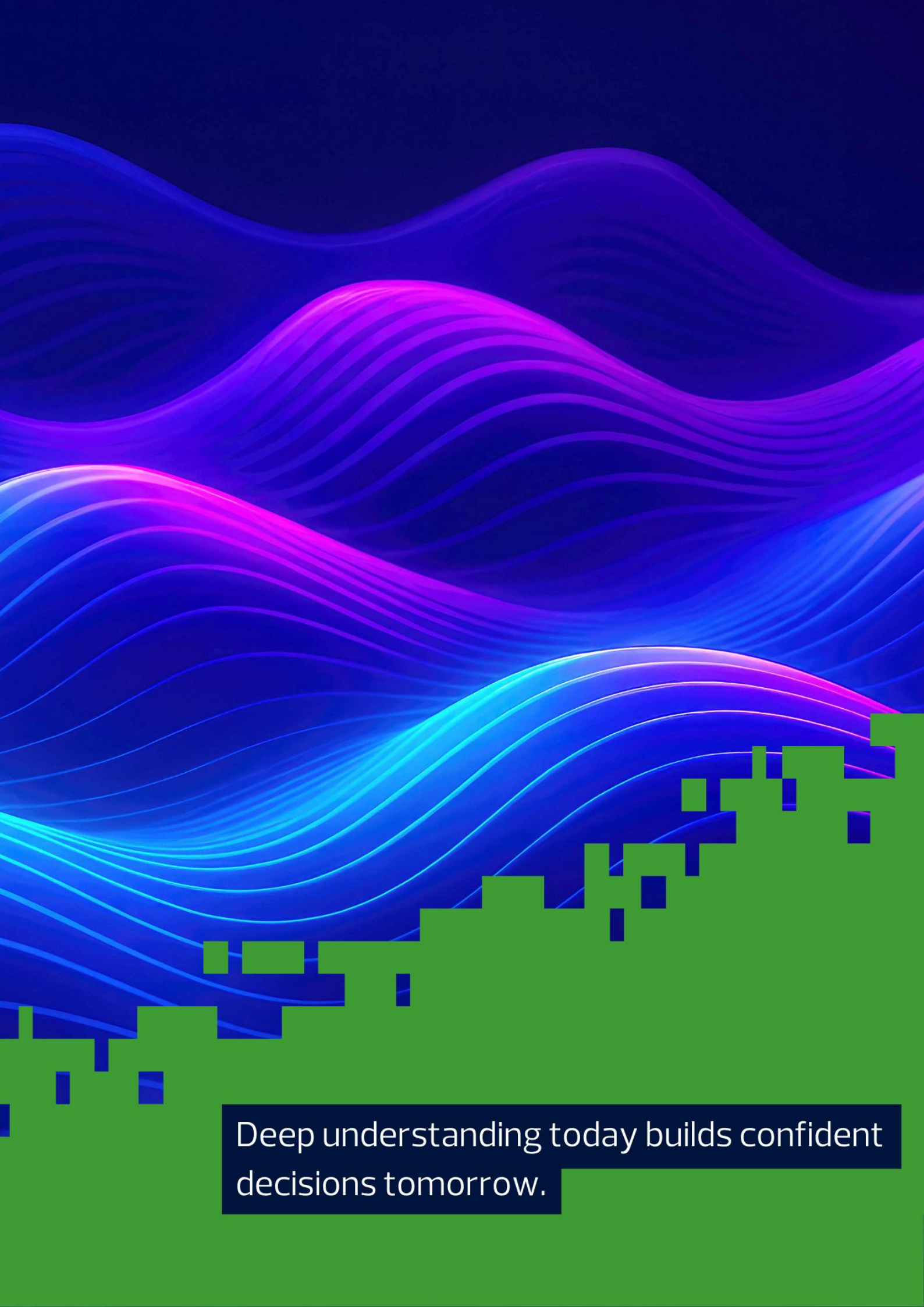
As at 2026, the domestic and cross-listed equities on the USE include eleven domestic listings and eight cross-border listings, subject to changes from new listings, suspensions or delistings.

- b) **The Fixed Income Securities Market Segment:** It was introduced as a platform for fixed income securities. It aims at providing a separate independent market for companies wishing to raise financing through issue and listing of fixed income securities such as treasury bonds, corporate bonds, preference shares and debenture stocks. It also provides the market for investors wishing to trade the above securities at the exchange. The segment also lists other short-term financial instruments such as treasury bills and commercial papers.

The Fixed Income Market Segment currently has 6 corporate bonds and 39 Government of Uganda Treasury Bonds listed.

- c) **The Growth Enterprises Market Segment:** The Uganda Securities Exchange launched the Growth Enterprise Market Segment (GEMS) in recognition of the fundamental role of "Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises" (SMEs) as a major driver of Uganda's economy and ultimately the overall financial system of Uganda. The GEMS platform enables SMEs to raise substantial initial and ongoing capital, while benefiting from increased profile and liquidity within a regulatory environment designed specifically to meet their needs. The eligibility criteria for raising financing through the GEMS are significantly less stringent compared to those on the main investment market segment above.





Deep understanding today builds confident decisions tomorrow.

7. INVESTING IN UGANDA



UGANDA'S INVESTMENT OUTLOOK

In FY 2025/26, Uganda's economy displayed resilient momentum, with preliminary annual GDP estimates showing real growth of 6.4%, compared to 6.3% in FY 2024/25. In nominal terms, the size of the economy increased to UGX 250.4 trillion in FY 2025/26, up from UGX 227.9 trillion in FY 2024/25. This growth was driven by continued performance across agriculture, industry and services, with oil and gas, infrastructure investment and broader private sector activity continuing to support investor interest. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remained strongly linked to developments in the oil and energy sectors.

Macroeconomic stability has further strengthened Uganda's appeal to investors. Inflation remained below the medium-term target of 5%, with annual headline and core inflation averaging 3.4% and 3.5%, respectively, over the 12 months to April 2026. The Bank of Uganda maintained the Central Bank Rate at 9.75% in May 2026, balancing price stability and support for economic activity. Economic growth is projected to accelerate in FY 2026/27, supported by the anticipated commencement of commercial oil production, continued infrastructure investment, and activity across the agriculture, industry and services sectors.

Looking ahead, Uganda remains one of East Africa's most promising investment destinations. Ongoing public investments in oil production infrastructure, energy generation, and transport corridors are expected to catalyse private sector participation, while the government's emphasis on industrialization and digital transformation continues to enhance competitiveness. With a young and growing workforce, stable macroeconomic fundamentals, and improving regulatory frameworks, Uganda offers a steadily strengthening environment for both domestic and foreign investors seeking long-term value.

UGANDA INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) set up under the [Investment Code](#) 1991 is a statutory agency mandated to initiate and support measures that enhance investment in Uganda and advise Government on appropriate policies conducive for investment promotion and growth. The changing investment environment and Government priorities have necessitated the modification of UIA's mandate.

Uganda Investment Authority is a semi-autonomous government agency which drives national economic growth and development in partnership with the private sector. As an Investment Promotion Agency, UIA mainly: markets investment opportunities; promotes packaged investment projects; ensures local and foreign investors have access to information, especially about the business environment so as to make more informed business decisions; and offers business support, advisory and advocacy services.

Investor One Stop Centre

The establishment of the One-Stop Centre by the Uganda Investment Authority through the amendment of the Investment Act, 2019 created a single access point for information and service transactions for investors. The purpose for the OSC was set-up an attractive business environment that gives investors the ease to register, set up and start operations in the shortest possible time, with the least amount of administrative and bureaucratic procedures. The physical OSC houses 14 agencies and an electronic One Stop Centre (eBiz) where investors can access services online.

Some of the major agencies include, among others:

1. Kampala City Council Authority
2. National Environmental Authority
3. National Water and Sewerage Corporation
4. Uganda Registration Services Bureau
5. Directorate of Immigration & Citizenship
6. Uganda National Bureau of Standards
7. Ministry of Lands, Housing & Urban Development
8. Uganda Revenue Authority
9. Uganda Free Zones Authority



INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Features of Uganda's investment climate include:

1. Uganda attained and has had political and social stability since 1986.
2. Effective macro-economic policies that maintained economic growth at an average of 6.5% and enabled the country to withstand external economic shocks during the global economic downturn from 2008 to 2011 during which the economy still grew by 3%.
3. Natural resource rich country (Human and Minerals).
4. Totally liberalized foreign exchange regime.
5. Consistently improving infrastructures.
6. Trainable and fast adaptable workforce from over 30 universities.
7. Welcoming population.
8. No labour tensions.
9. Dedicated commercial and industrial courts for quick resolution of business disputes.
10. A unique multi-climate environment, ranging from winter conditions on the snow-capped Rwenzori mountains in the west, to temperate highlands in the southwest and tropical forests in the central region as well as the semi-arid conditions in the north-east of Uganda.

MARKET ACCESS THROUGH TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

- The Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA), a region with a market of about 400 million people in 19 countries.
- The East African Community (EAC) population of over 140 million people.
- Uganda is part of the Free Trade Area of EAC, COMESA and SADC.
- Uganda has a population of 49 million people with a growing middle-income class with reasonable expendable income.

UGANDA IS A SIGNATORY TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS PROTOCOLS

- Multi-lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) of USA
- Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Award (CREFAA)
- Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)
- Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures (TRIMS)
- General Agreement of Trade in Services (GATS)
- Agreement on Trade related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)
- Duty and quota free access into China (quota free access for over 650 products)
- The USA African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)
- Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme with European Commission
- EU (Everything but Arms) markets

TAX-RELATED INCENTIVES FOR INVESTING IN UGANDA

Tax incentives and non-tax incentives are available to both foreign and local investors. The benefit for local investors are that they can access the tax incentives with a lower minimum capital requirement. Local and foreign investors can equally access non-tax incentives like land in the industrial parks, facilitation for infrastructure needs and policy advocacy for conducive environment.

A list of tax incentives under income tax, value added tax, stamp duty is available on the Uganda Revenue Authority website <https://www.ura.go.ug/>.



APPENDIX OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE BOOKLET

"ARIPO" –	African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation
"BOP" –	Balance of Payments
"CMA" –	Capital Markets Authority
"COMESA" –	Common Market for East and Southern Africa
"COIN" –	City Operator Identification Number
"CEDP" –	Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project
"DTA" –	Double Tax Agreements
"EAC" –	East African Community
"EFRIS" –	Electronic Fiscal Receipting and Invoicing Solution
"FISMS" –	Fixed Income Securities Market Segment
"GDP" –	Gross Domestic Product
"IBD" –	Industrial Building Deduction
"ICPAU" –	Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda
"ICT" –	Information Communication and Technology
"IFRS" –	International Financial Reporting Standards
"KCCA" –	Kampala Capital City Authority
"MIMS" –	Main Investments Market Segment
"NDPII" –	National Development Plan II "
"NSSF" –	National Social Security Fund
"PAYE" –	Pay as You Earn
"PSFU" –	Public Sector Foundation Uganda
"TIN" –	Taxpayer Identification Number
"SADC" –	Southern African Development Community
"URSB" –	Uganda Registration Services Bureau
"URA" –	Uganda Revenue Authority
"USE" –	Uganda Securities Exchange
"UShs." –	Uganda Shillings
"UIA" –	Uganda Investment Authority
"USD" –	United States Dollar
"VAT" –	Value Added Tax
"WIPO" –	World Intellectual Property Organisation

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