

AU DAY: LEADERS PUSH FOR UNITY, AGRO-INDUSTRIALISATION

By Vision Reporter

The senior presidential advisor on agri-business and value addition, Dr Hillary Emmanuel Musoke, has urged African leaders to end dependence on exporting raw materials, saying the continent's future prosperity lies in value addition, agro-industrialisation, and regional integration under the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063.

Speaking during the 2026 AU Day celebrations in Nairobi on Monday, Dr Musoke said Africa continues

to lose jobs, wealth and economic sovereignty through the export of raw agricultural commodities.

Addressing delegates at the Edge Convention Centre during a high-level panel discussion themed "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want," Musoke described Africa's export model as "economic haemorrhage."

"Africa is not poor in land, labour, or water. We are poor in value. In that gap, we are exporting both jobs and wealth in containers," he said.

Musoke noted that despite

Africa possessing 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land and vast freshwater resources, the continent still imports food worth over \$50b annually. He said Africa's largely organic farmland gives it a major competitive advantage in global premium markets, but this potential remains underutilised.

He argued that Africa's overreliance on exporting raw commodities such as coffee, cocoa, cotton, hides and skins allows foreign companies to capture the most profitable stages of production

through processing, branding, packaging and certification.

Using Uganda's coffee sector as an example, Musoke said African farmers produce high-quality coffee, but much of the value is realised abroad where the products are roasted, branded and sold at higher prices.

According to Musoke, Uganda alone loses more than \$1.5b annually through the export of unprocessed agricultural products, a trend he linked to unemployment and rising youth migration to the Middle East and elsewhere.

Musoke said President Yoweri Museveni's government is prioritising agro-industrialisation and commercialisation of agriculture through initiatives such as the Parish Development Model, which seeks to organise millions of Ugandans into savings and production co-operatives.

He added that Uganda is investing in agro-processing zones, organic certification systems, standards laboratories and youth-centred agricultural technologies to transform agriculture from subsistence farming into a modern, profitable industry.

The Ugandan delegation also emphasised the importance of the African Continental



From right: Musoke shares a light moment with Lumumba and another delegate during the 2026 AU Day Celebrations in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday

HUMANITARIAN CALL
Burundian President Évariste Ndayishimiye focused on the continent's humanitarian and security challenges, warning that conflicts, terrorism, climate disasters and lack of education threaten Africa's future. He urged African governments to strengthen co-operation against terrorism and prioritise education for refugees and displaced children.

if industrialisation and employment opportunities are not expanded quickly.

The chairperson of the AU Commission, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, and Burundian President, Évariste Ndayishimiye also called for stronger African unity, accelerated continental integration and reforms to global governance systems.

Marking 63 years since the founding of the Organisation of African Unity, the leaders urged African countries to speak with one voice on global issues.

Youssouf highlighted Africa's growing influence, including its permanent membership in the G20, and renewed calls for reforms at the United Nations Security Council to secure fair African representation.

The leaders also emphasised the importance of water security, sanitation, climate resilience and the AfCFTA in driving industrialisation and youth employment.

Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), saying African countries must trade more with one another instead of depending largely on external markets.

Kenyan scholar and lawyer Prof. PLO Lumumba warned that Africa's youthful population could either become a major economic asset or a source of instability



MASINDI DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCURING & DISPOSING ENTITY (PDE) P.O. BOX 67 MASINDI



PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.4 (FY 2025/26):

INVITATION TO BID & PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/27:

Masindi District Local Government (MDLG) Procuring & Disposing Entity intends to provide services using local, donor and Poverty Alleviation Funds. This is therefore to invite interested and competent registered associations and contracting firms who can provide goods, services and works wishing to be pre-qualified in the listed items and for other contracts to submit in their bid documents. Pre-qualification will be done in accordance with Open Domestic Bidding procedures as specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act CAP 205 as amended and Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Regulations, 2023.

1. Annual/Biannual Contracts:

A. Contracts for services:

- (i) Offering of cleaning services (Internal/Office and External Cleaning);
- Note: Reservation Schemes shall apply for Special Interest Groups; Registered Associations for Women, the People with Disabilities (PWD) and the Youth are encouraged to apply. (No Non-refundable fee payment)

B. Frame work Contracts:

- (i) Supply of Fuel, oils & Lubricants, and servicing of Motor vehicles and cycles,

- (iii) Supply, delivery & Installation of ICT Equipment (CCTV Cameras, projectors, Scanners etc)
- (iv) Supply of Science kits and chemical reagents for Laboratories,
- (v) Supply of Uniforms, protective wears, gum boots, curtains, carpets, table clothes, sanitary bins and other manufactured materials,
- (vi) Supply of computers, printers, photocopiers, IPADS, Laptops etc,
- (vii) Supply of Generators, Maize mills, Rice hullers/shellers and related equipment,
- (viii) Supply & Installation of Rain water tanks,
- (ix) Supply of Borehole spare parts, and consumables for water quality analysis,
- (x) Supply of assorted sports equipment for schools,
- (xi) Supply of Agriculture Inputs / Equipment
- (a) Livestock: Heifers (Local Mature or In-calf) Poultry, Oxen sets, Ox-carts, Animal drugs and other veterinary inputs,
- (xii) (b) Agricultural tools/equipment, seeds and seedlings: Hoes, Rakes, Machetes, Axes, Water containers, Grafted mangoes etc,
- (xiii) (c) Supply of Apiary in puts, Honey packing kits, Bee hives, Honey processors, other related accessories, fisheries inputs and feeds,