

# A note to President Museveni on wealth creation, and industrialisation

I write to you in the spirit of patriotism, national unity, and constructive engagement, guided by the National Resistance Movement's long-standing commitment to wealth creation, industrialisation, and inclusive growth.

I am a former candidate in the recently concluded parliamentary elections, having wished to represent Ndorwa County East in the next parliament. While I am currently taking a rest from the hectic campaign trail, I have seen some facts that have disturbed my mind, and I am making this effort to trigger your mind as we look forward to the next government.

Uganda today presents a sobering but instructive economic reality. While citizens of Indian origin constitute less than one percent of our population, data from the Uganda Revenue Authority and related agencies consistently indicate that enterprises associated with this community contribute over 60 percent of industrial output, formal private-sector GDP, and tax revenue. Since this reality should not divide us, it should compel us, as leaders, to reflect deeply on the structure of our economy and the effectiveness of our policies.

The NRM has always correctly diagnosed Uganda's central challenge as being one of production rather than consumption. As you have repeatedly emphasised, prosperity is built by producing goods and services, adding value, and participating meaningfully in the market economy.

The disparity we observe today is there-

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**Alexander Kyokwijuka**  
Development

fore not ethnic in nature; it is structural. Those who control value-addition, manufacturing, logistics, and large-scale agro-processing inevitably contribute more to GDP than those confined to subsistence agriculture, informal trade, and raw commodity exports.

Mr President, the lesson before us is clear. Uganda must accelerate the transition of indigenous Ugandans from survival-based economic activities into organised, capital-intensive, and productive enterprises.

This is entirely consistent with the NRM's pillars of socio-economic transformation, particularly industrialisation, commercial agriculture, and private-sector-led growth.

Our Parliament, for instance, has a historic responsibility to align legislation, incentives, and oversight with this mission. First, we must deliberately shift incentives from trade in finished imports to local produc-

tion and value addition. Tax policy, public procurement, and export incentives should reward manufacturers and agro-processors, while discouraging the export of raw materials that deny our people jobs and income.

Second, access to affordable capital for production must be strengthened. Wealth creation cannot occur where interest rates remain prohibitive for manufacturers and agro-processors. Production-focused financing, cooperative banking, and stronger Sacco frameworks are essential to empower indigenous entrepreneurs to scale.

Third, government should continue to rigorously promote business formalisation, succession planning, and skills transfer. Sustainable enterprises are institutions, not personalities. Incentivizing record-keeping, governance, and inter-generational continuity will ensure that Ugandan businesses survive beyond their founders.

Finally, youth empowerment programmes must move decisively away from micro-trading toward production clusters, shared industrial facilities, and value-chain participation. Empowerment must be measured by enterprises built and jobs created, not by funds disbursed.

I trust that under your new leadership, our nation will continue to steer clear from a consumption economy to a productive, industrial, and inclusive one.

**Mr Alexander Kyokwijuka, former MP**  
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