

NRM manifesto



President Museveni (centre) commissions Kaliro Sugar Works factory recently. In order to have many investors in the country, President Museveni has come up with different interventions of attracting investors. FILE PHOTO

Govt committed to industrialisation

Plan. NRM set out to develop the country's industrial sector through exploitation and development of natural resources, agro-processing and knowledge.

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On several occasions, President Museveni has been emphasising the transformation of Uganda from a peasant to an industrialised modern society.

The strategy to achieve this involves reducing costs of production through construction of infrastructure and human capital development.

It also encompasses adding value by processing and increasing exports of higher value, especially from agricultural and mineral resources.

According to the NRM manifesto, there is a high multiplication effect which will not only create jobs but also result in product diversification, greater efficiency, and technical skills for modernisation and higher productivity.

Significant growth has been registered in industrial development averaging more than 5 per cent per annum and 6 per cent contribution to GDP. In particular, this has been in the areas of manufacturing, mining, quarrying and construction.

NRM set out to develop the country's industrial sector through exploitation and development of natural resources, agro-processing and knowledge.

With the electricity supply constraints eliminated, the government focus over the next five years will be put on establishing industries to produce the basic needs in order to reduce on the country's import bill. According to Mr Willis Bashaasha,

the director of the Manifesto Implementation Unit in the Office of the President, the government has embarked on setting up the heavy iron, steel and petrochemical industries. Development of these industries will spur industrialisation and increase production and productivity in the agricultural sector as well.

The Minister of Trade and Industry Amelia Kyambadde, says several achievements have been noticed for example in order to reduce the cost of doing business while ensuring balanced regional development, NRM introduced the policy of having industrial parks in all regions.

She says through the Uganda Industrial Research Institute's research and development programmes, government has set up model processing facilities in various parts of the country. This is aimed at facilitating adaption and commercialisation of technologies that enhance income generation at community and household levels.

The minister also notes that Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) was strengthened through acquisition of modern laboratory testing equipment and establishment of pre verification mechanisms to avoid sub-standard imports.

UNBS has been strengthened through additional resourcing to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate of providing technical guidance and inspection of industries in the country.

LIBERALISATION

The government has maintained a highly liberalised economy in which all sectors are open for investment and there is a free movement of capital to and from the country.

The agency will increase its surveillance to ensure that there is no dumping of poor quality goods in Uganda as this is not only harmful to the health of Ugandans, but also affects local industries producing similar products.

This will be coupled with increased surveillance by URA to ensure that no goods come in untaxed or under-declared in value.

The ministry of Trade and Industry has focused and will continue in the next years on mineral (processing), promote establishment of mini-industries at zonal or sub-county level.

Establish the cement, iron and steel industries. National resistance movement Continue investment in infrastructure such as roads, railways, power generation and transmission will bring down the cost of doing business in Uganda.

Seven zonal agro-processing facilities are already being established in Arua, Soroti, Luwero, Kayunga, Ntungamo, Masaka and Kasere to provide access to quick processing of agricultural products and ease marketing.

According to the report by the Ministry of Trade, they will continue working with sister states in the EAC to eliminate bottlenecks that affect free movement of goods and services within the Community.

Overall, the investment in transformation of agriculture from subsistence to commercial agriculture will create a market for industrial or manufactured goods, hence attracting more investors both local and foreign.

According to Mr Bashaasha as far as investment is concerned, Uganda enjoys a unique location at the heart of Sub-Saharan Africa within the East African region.