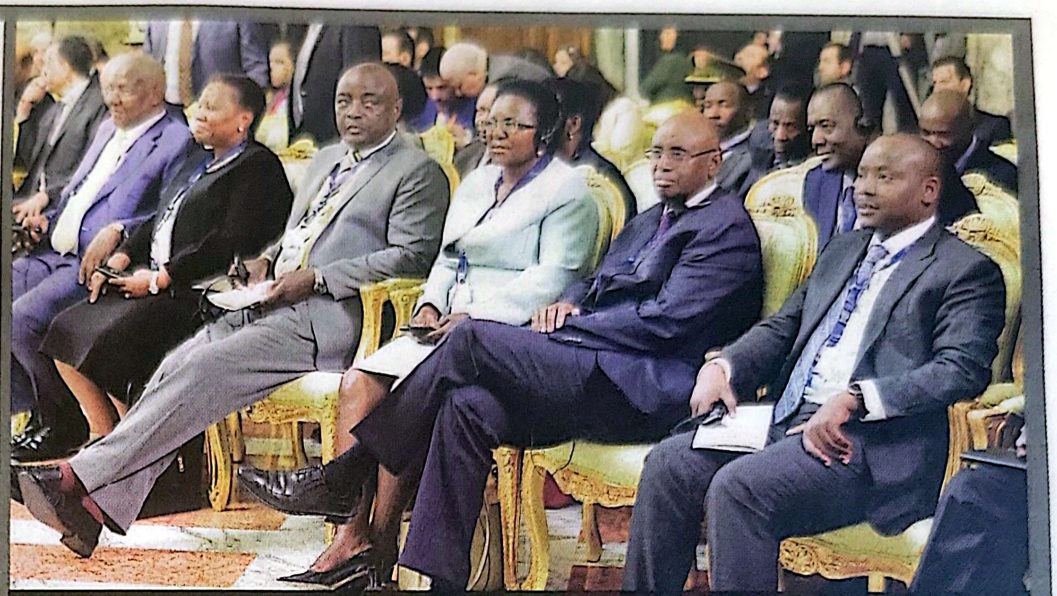
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The agreement also involved establishment of a 4 MW solar power project in Busia to boost electricity access in the region

By Apollo Mubiru



(Left to right) ministers Sam Kutesa, Irene Muloni, Vincent Ssempijja, Ntege Azuba, Bright Rwamirama and Ronald Kibuule at Itahedaya Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt on Tuesday. PPU photo

Uganda, Egypt sign trade, agriculture deal

Uganda and Egypt have signed bilateral agreements where the two countries will co-operate in agriculture, energy and trade. The pact also involves the establishment of a four-megawatt solar power project in Busia.

President Yoweri Museveni and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi witnessed the signing at Itahedaya Palace. Museveni who was in Egypt on a three-day state visit at the invitation of Fattah el-Sisi returned yesterday.

The solar project in Busia is expected to increase access to electricity in the eastern region, improve livelihoods and boost growth.

In the trade sector, it was agreed that Uganda Investment Authority and Egyptian Industrial Development Authority co-operate in establishing industrial parks and participating in each other's trade fairs.

The two leaders also said the signing of an agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area was a significant milestone

The Egypt Export Development Authority and Uganda Export Promotion Board will work together to support the bilateral trade.

Egyptian companies in Uganda

Egyptian investments in Uganda include Cairo International Bank, Egypt Air, Mantrac Uganda Limited, Arab Contractors, El Nasser Export and Import Company as well as African Development Incorporation Uganda Limited.

The two leaders underscored the need to fast-track infrastructure development especially energy, railways, roads and waterways so as to improve connectivity across the continent.

They also reiterated their commitment to the achievement of the objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and in particular the economic integration of Africa to accelerate economic transformation, industrialisation and improvement of the livelihoods of citizens.

The two presidents also agreed to strengthen co-operation in key sectors such as energy, trade and investment, tourism, agriculture, security, transport, health, information and technology as well as the environment.

President Museveni also congratulated his Egyptian host on his resounding victory in the March 2018 presidential elections.

Freedom fighter

The President described Fattah el-Sisi as "a freedom fighter like his predecessor Abdel Nasser, who rescued Egypt from being taken over by extremists who would have caused problems for Egypt and Africa".

Museveni commended the Egyptian Agency for Co-operation for their operations in Uganda that included flood control, dealing with weeds on our lakes and River Nile and the provision of solar energy in the country.

The President also invited Fattah el-Sisi to visit Uganda and become the first Egyptian president to tour the Source of River Nile.

A joint communiqué issued after the talks between the two leaders said the two countries' respective ministers of foreign affairs, Sam Kutesa and Sameh Shoukry, signed the pres release while deals for establishing the power plant in Busia were endorsed by the countries' respective ministers of energy and mineral development.

Agriculture agreements

The agriculture minister, Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja and his Egyptian counterpart signed a Memorandum of Understanding covering different fields of agricultural co-operation.

Fattah el-Sisi was in Uganda in December 2016 when he paid a one-day state visit at the invitation of President Museveni.

Uganda's delegation accompanying President Museveni included works and transport Eng. Monica Azuba Ntege, state minister for defence Lt Col Bright Rwamirama, state minister for water, Ronald Kibuule, managing director of National Enterprise Corporation Maj. Gen. James Mugira and the foreign affairs permanent secretary, Ambassador Patrick Mugoya.

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