

Beautiful Netherlands

By Joshua Kato

The tickets are in their hands, thanks to KLM, the Royal Dutch Airlines. The Visas are in their passports, thanks to the embassy of the Netherlands. The send-off ceremony was held yesterday courtesy of d'cru Bank, so what is now left is the boarding hour. In total, 11 farmers are travelling.

"Our part as sponsors is to provide tickets to the travelling farmers and this was done," Lukia Otema, the KLM country manager, says.

The farmers will set off tomorrow at 11:45pm, aboard an Airbus A330-300.

According to the manufacturer's manual, the aircraft is serving everybody, everywhere; from the biggest mega cities to the smallest dream islands, this aircraft continues to please passengers and airlines alike.

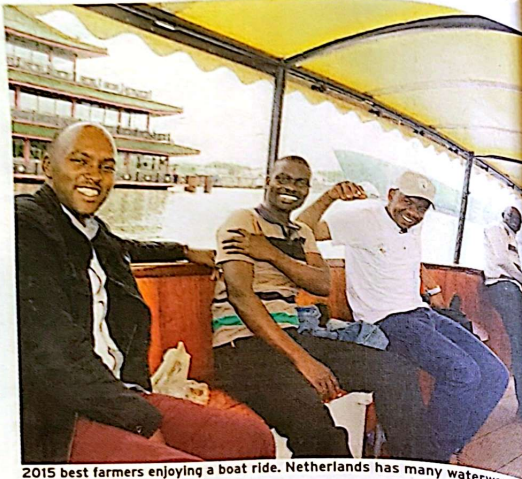
Inside the plane, the farmers will enjoy a lot of entertainment, from a selection of movies and music. The plane's cabin is also one of the quietest in the skies, creating a calm environment for the flight. Movies on-demand allow passengers to suit their own personal tastes, while satellite connectivity options can let passengers use mobile phones, Internet and email in the air — allowing them to stay up-to-date with social media, business emails or whatever is happening on the ground.

The farmers will be given meals and refreshments on board. Among these, include Jesa yoghurt that KLM serves in order to support Ugandan products.

Amsterdam Airport

After over eight hours in the air, the farmers will land at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

The airport lies about 8km from the



2015 best farmers enjoying a boat ride. Netherlands has many waterways

city centre. It connects to many notable European airports. It is the home base for many intercontinental airlines such as KLM, Arkefly, Transavia, Amsterdam Airlines and Martinair.

The name of the airport, Schiphol, was derived from a former fortification called Fort Schiphol which was part of the Sieling van Amsterdam defence works.

Before 1852, there was a large lake at the Haarlemmermeer polder where the

airport now lies. The shallow waters of the lake would often experience sudden violent storms which claimed many ships. Indeed this was the reason the lake was reclaimed. Schiphol translates to 'Ship grave' in English, referring to the many ships that were lost in the area.

According to the airport website, Amsterdam Airport started operating in 1916 and it was initially used as a local airbase for the military.

Facts about the Netherlands

1 Not all Dutch people are from Holland or from Europe; Holland is an area in the Netherlands that today is made up of the provinces of North Holland (Noord-Holland) and South Holland (Zuid-Holland). In addition, due to a history of colonialism, three Caribbean islands are still part

6 There are over 1,000 windmills still standing from 1850. Only a few still operate commercially.

7 Almost 80% of the world's flower bulbs come from the Netherlands making it the world's leading tulip exporter.

around 17 million people in 41,500 square kilometres.

11 It is the world's second biggest beer exporter.

12 The Netherlands is home to more bikes than people; there are around 12 million

awaits the 2017 best farmers

Today the airport has been built as one large terminal where all its facilities are located under one roof. This terminal has been split into three large departure halls. There are plans to expand the terminal further and to build other separate new terminals between the Zwanenburgbaan and Foldersbaan runways thus bringing to an end the one-terminal concept that the airport has long been known for.

Amsterdam airport has regularly appeared in Europe's top five airports in terms of traffic and number of flights as the airport serves almost 50 million passengers per year.

The Hague

During their stay in the Netherlands, the farmers will be based in The Hague. This city is not new to many Ugandans because this is where former Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commander Dominic Ongwen is being tried at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"I was amazed by the long sandy beaches in The Hague, when we visited it in 2016," says Dr Diana Nambatya, a winner from the 2015 group.

According to the city's information portal, in 1806, when the kingdom of Holland was a puppet state of the First French Empire, was the settlement granted city rights by Louis Bonaparte. After the Napoleonic Wars, modern-day Belgium and the Netherlands were added in the United Kingdom of the



Amsterdam Schiphol Airport is home base to KLM and other airlines

Netherlands to form a buffer against France.

As a compromise, Brussels and Amsterdam alternated as capitals every two years, with the government remaining in The Hague. After the separation of Belgium in 1830, Amsterdam remained the capital of the Netherlands, while the government was situated in The Hague.

When the government started to play a more prominent role in Dutch society after 1850, The Hague

quickly expanded. Many streets were specifically built for the large number of civil servants employed in the country's government and for the Dutchmen who were retiring from the administration of the Netherlands East Indies. The growing city annexed the rural municipality of Loosduinen partly in 1903 and completely in 1923.

The city sustained heavy damage during World War II. Additionally, the Atlantic Wall was built through the city, causing a large quarter to be

torn down by the Nazi occupants.

After the war, The Hague became at one time the largest building site in Europe. The city expanded massively to the south-west and the destroyed areas were quickly rebuilt.

The population peaked at 600,000 inhabitants around 1965. In the 1970s and 1980s, mostly white middle-class families moved to neighbouring towns like Voorburg, Leidschendam, Rijswijk and, most of all, Zoetermeer.

This led to the traditional

11
WINNERS The number of best farmers who are travelling to the Netherlands on Saturday

11:45pm

DEPARTURE The time the team will set off from Entebbe Airport aboard KLM

pattern of an impoverished inner city and more prosperous suburbs. Attempts to include parts of these municipalities in the city of The Hague were highly controversial. In the 1990s, with the consent of the Dutch Parliament, The Hague annexed fairly large areas from neighbouring towns as well as from not even bordering ones, on which the complete new residential areas were built and are still being built.

Lavish stay
For their week-long stay in Netherlands, the farmers will among other areas visit farmers, tour cities like Amsterdam and the Port of Rotterdam, taste the various Dutch Cuisine, visit sports facilities and enjoy the well-structured transport system.

expo 10

Bride & Groom

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