

Uganda assures Japan over N. Korea

By John Agaba

Foreign affairs minister Sam Kutesa has said Uganda fully complied with the United Nations (UN) Security Council resolution on North Korea, assuring the Japanese of the country's stand on the issue.

Kutesa's words come in the wake of Japan's implicit displeasure with Uganda after President Yoweri Museveni asked the UN and the US to "leave North Korea alone" when he addressed the UN General Assembly in New York in September this year.

Kutesa said Uganda was committed to the UN Security Council resolution as a member of the UN and promised the country would adhere to treaties preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, while at the same time promoting progress in nuclear disarmament.

Sanctions bite hard

As a result, the country has accelerated termination of any economic and security ties it still had with Pyongyang.

Kutesa was speaking at a reception at the residence of the ambassador of Japan to Uganda at Nakasero in Kampala hosted to commemorate Japanese

Emperor Akihito's 84th birthday.

Late this year, Uganda expelled 46 North Korea military trainers, doctors and teachers.

The UN Security Council in August passed a resolution imposing new sanctions on North Korea for its continued intercontinental ballistic missile testing and violations of UN resolutions.

Ambassador Kazuaki Kameda commended Uganda for her exemplary approach to refugees and the host communities at the frontline of the refugee response, "generously receiving refugee arrivals, sharing land, available public services despite their own scarce financial and social resources".

During the reception, Kameda also conferred on Sam Kutesa, on behalf of the Emperor of Japan, one of the highest regularly awarded honours: "the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun" for his "important role" as President of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (September 2014 - September 2015), as well as his contribution to improving relations with Japan, through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process.



Kutesa receives an award from Kameda at the ambassador's residence in Nakasero, Kampala on Wednesday. Photo by Kennedy Oryema