

# China offers sh109b grant for customs modernisation

By Andante Okanya

The Government of the People's Republic of China has accepted to support the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) customs modernisation project with a \$30m (sh109b) grant.

According to a press statement from the foreign affairs ministry, the grant agreement was signed in the Chinese capital, Beijing on Friday last week.

The finance minister, Matia Kasaija, signed the agreement on behalf of Uganda, while the vice-minister of

commerce, Dr Qian Keming, signed on behalf of China.

The grant agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 2nd session of the Joint Commission on Trade, Economic Investment and Technical Co-operation.

The ceremony was witnessed by Uganda's ambassador to China Dr Crispus Kiyonga and the URA commissioner for customs, Dicksons Kateshumbwa.

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## BETWEEN THE LINES:

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risk management and supervision. It is also intended to boost communication systems, customs service and enforcement support as well as border infrastructure improvement.

Keming stressed that the grant demonstrates the value China attaches to the relationship with Uganda.

During the signing ceremony, Kasaija relayed Uganda government's gratitude to the Chinese government. He observed that the grant will support the Government to mitigate revenue losses as well as facilitate trade and border management.

During the bilateral meeting, a review was conducted on the status of economic co-operation in the areas of trade, investment,

infrastructure and development co-operation.

The meeting agreed on strategies to support Uganda's competitive products access the market in China, promote the country's tourist attractions as well as boost investment and industrial capacity.

The Joint Commission on Trade, Economic Investment and Technical Co-operation is a bilateral mechanism that meets regularly to review the implementation of agreed decisions and prioritise areas that promote trade and economic co-operation.