

LETTER OF THE DAY

Mother's Day: Appreciation should be translated into policy and action

As Uganda joins many countries around the world in observing Mother's Day this month, families across the country take time to honour the women whose enduring care and resilience shape both homes and communities.

The day offers a moment of reflection on the vital role mothers play within the broader group of women whose contributions remain central to society's growth and well-being.

We celebrate the mothers of the nation who carry us through life with unwavering love, sacrifice, and strength; those who nurture us, mentor us, and remain our first source of guidance and comfort. They are the quiet architects of our values, shaping character, instilling discipline, and building the foundation upon which families and communities stand.

To every mother, we say thank you. Thank you for your sacrifices, your endurance, and your unconditional love. You are the first teachers, the first protectors, and the first champions in our lives. Through your guidance, children learn compassion; through your discipline, they learn responsibility; and through your love, they learn hope.

The Celebration of Mother's Day also connects with the International Women's Day as both recognise the importance of women. While Mother's Day focuses on mothers and their unique role in nurturing life and shaping communities, International Women's Day honours all women.

As the country marks these days, the message should be clear: while gifts and celebrations are meaningful, the true



tribute lies in recognizing and supporting women not just for a day, but throughout the year.

Under the leadership of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the National Resistance Movement (NRM), several economic empowerment initiatives have been introduced.

Affirmative action policies have increased women's representation in leadership positions, while legal frameworks have been strengthened to promote gender equality and protect women's rights. These efforts reflect ongoing government commitment to improving the status of women, even as further work remains.

However, despite the ongoing efforts, several key challenges continue to affect women and require urgent and focused intervention. Many women, especially in rural areas, still struggle to access quality maternal healthcare due to inadequate facilities, long distances, and shortages of medical personnel.

Economic inequality, Gender-based violence, including domestic abuse and early marriages, remains widespread, often worsened by weak enforcement of laws and social stigma that prevents reporting, limited access to justice and in education, girls continue to face challenges such as poverty, early pregnancies, and cultural norms that favour boys' education, leading to school dropouts. Women carry a heavy burden of unpaid care work within households, which limits their time and opportunities for education, employment, and leadership.

These challenges are not new, but their persistence demands renewed urgency. Government must now move beyond policy formulation to stronger implementation. Increased investment in maternal healthcare, particularly in underserved areas, is essential. Economic empowerment programs must be expanded and made more ac-

cessible, ensuring women can own property, access credit, and participate meaningfully in the economy.

There is also a need for stricter enforcement of laws against gender-based violence, alongside strengthened support systems for survivors. Communities and institutions must work hand in hand with government to challenge harmful cultural norms and promote gender equality.

Days like these should not end as a moment of celebration alone. They should mark a renewed commitment a turning point where appreciation is translated into policy, and policy into action.

The true measure of honouring mothers lies not in words, but in creating a society where every woman is safe, empowered, and given the opportunity to thrive.

Mothers are the backbone of our families and the silent pillars of our nation. While we honour their love, sacrifice, and resilience, we must also commit ourselves to meaningful action that improves their daily lives.

True appreciation goes beyond words and celebrations it is reflected in the policies we strengthen, the systems we improve, and the protection we extend to every woman.

Let the day therefore not only be a tribute, but also a renewed national commitment to ensure that every mother in Uganda lives with dignity, safety, opportunity, and hope for a better future.

Martha Kabazaarwe,
Marthakabazarwe123@gmail.com
X: @kabazaarweM