

UKRAINE OPENS CONSULATE IN KAMPALA

By Vision Reporter

Ukraine has opened an honorary consulate in Kampala in a move aimed at deepening diplomatic and commercial ties with Uganda even as the eastern European nation continues to battle Russia in a protracted war.

The consulate, inaugurated at Four Points by Sheraton Kampala, will support trade, investment and industry partnerships between the two countries, with a particular focus on agriculture and agro-processing.

The ceremony was officiated by the Minister for the Presidency, Milly Babalanda, who described Uganda-Ukraine relations as “anchored on the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect and adherence to international law.”

She said the new consulate provides a platform to unlock economic opportunities, particularly in large-scale agriculture, grain production, farm mechanisation and irrigation systems. These, the minister said, are areas where Ukraine has significant expertise and which align with Uganda’s drive for agricultural modernisation and value addition.

Ukraine’s diplomatic expansion comes against the backdrop of its ongoing



L-R: Trade (industry) state minister David Bahati, Jay Patel, the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Uganda; Minister for the Presidency Milly Babalanda and Ukraine’s Ambassador to Kenya, Yurii Tokar, toasting during the inauguration of the honorary consulate in Kampala at Four Points by Sheraton Kampala

war with Russia. The conflict escalated dramatically in February 2022 when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, following years of tensions that began with the annexation of Crimea in 2014.

The war has caused tens of thousands of casualties, displaced millions of Ukrainians and disrupted global supply chains, particularly in grain and energy markets. As one of

COMMERCIAL BRIDGES

The newly appointed Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Uganda, Jay Patel, said the consulate will prioritise building commercial bridges between the two countries.

“Uganda and Ukraine share a common vision for growth,” Patel said. “We see vast potential in agricultural value addition, moving beyond raw exports to processing, and in technology exchange – whether it is Ukrainian machinery

helping Ugandan farmers increase yields or seeing world-class Ugandan coffee and tea reaching Ukrainian homes.”

The honorary consulate in Kampala will work in co-ordination with the Embassy of Ukraine in Nairobi, which handles primary diplomatic matters for Uganda.

The event attracted diplomats and Ugandan ministry officials including trade state minister (industry) David Bahati.

the world’s major wheat and maize exporters, Ukraine’s agricultural output plays a critical role in global food security, including in African countries that rely on grain imports.

Speaking at the inauguration of the consulate, Ukraine’s Ambassador to Kenya, Yurii Tokar, acknowledged the gravity of the situation back home.

“Ukraine today faces one of the most serious challenges in its modern history,” he said.

“We are defending our sovereignty and territorial integrity and we are currently facing a full-scale war of aggression. This war has tested our resilience as a state, institutions and as a society. Yet our country continues to function, our economy adapts, our diplomacy remains active and our international partnerships expand.”

Babalanda reiterated Uganda’s call for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

“I wish to add Uganda’s voice to the need to end this conflict because it has caused untold suffering to the country and has had devastating effects across the globe,” the minister for the presidency said.

She also highlighted potential co-operation in Uganda’s industrial parks and pharmaceuticals.