

EL-SISI CONGRATULATED MUSEVENI ON HIS ELECTION VICTORY

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni yesterday held bilateral talks with the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, at State House, Entebbe.

The two leaders agreed to deepen co-operation in trade, industrialisation, renewable energy, fish farming and sustainable management of the River Nile.

President El-Sisi, on an official visit, was accompanied by Egypt's minister of foreign affairs, emigration and Egyptian expatriates, Dr Badr Abdelatty and the minister of water resources and irrigation, Prof. Hani Sewilam.

The discussions also focused on strengthening the long-standing relations between Uganda and Egypt, regional peace and security, economic transformation and water resource management.

Museveni called for practical cooperation aimed at addressing poverty and accelerating socio-economic transformation.

The President highlighted environmental degradation, particularly the encroachment on wetlands, as one of the challenges affecting the Nile Basin, saying many people invade wetlands in search of land for agriculture due to population pressure and limited economic opportunities.

He proposed large-scale fish farming projects as part of the solution, saying aquaculture would create jobs, protect wetlands and increase export earnings.

"The biggest help I want from you is fish farming. Fish is in high demand globally and this project can help our people move out of subsistence agriculture while also protecting the wetlands," Museveni said.

MUSEVENI, EGYPT'S EL-SISI AGREE ON STRONGER TIES

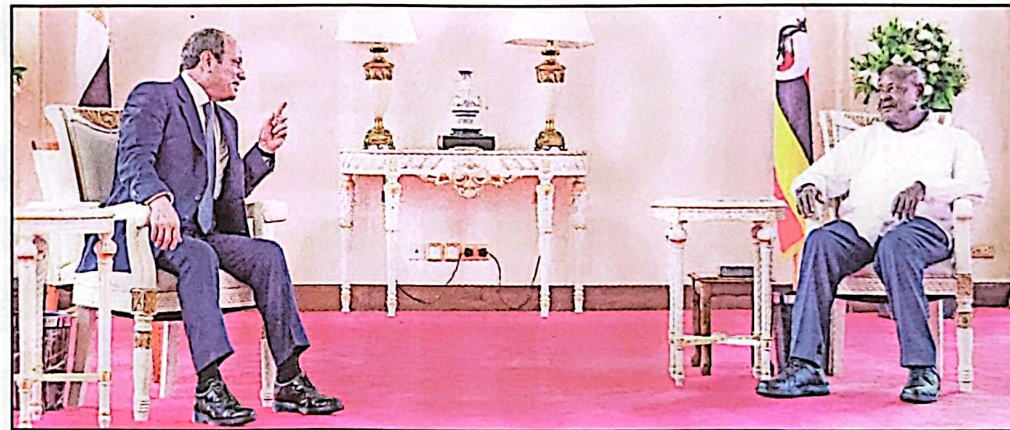


PHOTO BY MUSA KABOGGOZA

Museveni (right) interacting with El-Sisi at State House, Entebbe, yesterday

The President further noted that one of the major characteristics of underdevelopment in Africa is the over-dependence on agriculture, with a large percentage of the population engaged in low-productivity farming.

He said Uganda's strategy is to transition more people into manufacturing and services to reduce pressure on land and increase household incomes.

Museveni also emphasised the importance of electricity and renewable energy in driving

industrialisation and economic growth. On regional and international affairs, Museveni expressed concern over the prolonged instability in Libya, the conflict in Palestine and tensions involving Iran, saying Africa should continue advocating for dialogue and peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The President reflected on the role played by African liberation movements under leaders such as Gamal Abdel Nasser, Kwame Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere in supporting independence struggles

across the continent through the Organisation of African Unity Liberation Committee.

El-Sisi congratulated Museveni upon his recent election victory and commended him for what he described as balanced and visionary leadership.

"The world today is often driven by interests rather than justice and values, but Your Excellency continues to demonstrate wisdom and balance in leadership," he said.

The Egyptian leader reaffirmed

Egypt's commitment to supporting Uganda's development agenda, particularly in fish farming, renewable energy, industrialisation and value addition.

He said Egypt would work with Uganda to establish modern fish farming projects and mobilise Egyptian investors to invest in Uganda's aquaculture sector.

He also pledged support in renewable energy development, saying Egyptian expertise and private investors would be encouraged to invest in Uganda's energy sector.

On industrialisation, the Egyptian president urged African countries to focus on value addition instead of exporting raw materials.

He cited sectors such as iron ore, copper, leather, meat processing and fruit processing as areas with enormous potential for industrial growth and export earnings.

The two leaders discussed peace and security in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, eastern DR Congo and the Horn of Africa, reaffirming support for dialogue.

In the Nile Basin, El-Sisi noted that Egypt faces severe water scarcity, with per capita water availability having dropped below 500 cubic metres annually.

The communiqué further stated that Egypt reaffirmed its readiness to finance and mobilise funding for water-related infrastructure projects in Uganda through the Nile Development Fund.

The two leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation under regional and continental frameworks, including the African Union, the African Continental Free Trade Area and COMESA, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.