



President Museveni with ambassadors from European Union countries after a meeting at State House Entebbe. During the meeting, Uganda was hailed for its leading role in peace-keeping missions

MUSEVENI ASSURES INVESTORS ON REVIVAL OF NATIONAL AIRLINE

BY UMARU KASHAKA

President Yoweri Museveni has assured Chinese investors that the Government will revive the Uganda national airline. A statement from State House on Friday said Museveni made the remarks on Thursday at State House in Entebbe when he received the Chinese investors' delegation led by Zhu Weilin, the manager of the Beijing Sino-Aero Construction Engineering Company. Sino-Aero Construction is a Chinese government company that specialises in the construction of airports and supply of foreign-made aircrafts to the Chinese domestic market. "We are going to revive the airline. It is important because of tourism and cargo. It will serve us in the transport of cargo linking us with China, Dubai and other destinations. It will also serve well Ugandans in the diaspora," he told the delegation.

COLLAPSED IN 2001
Uganda Airline closed in 2001, after becoming heavily indebted, 24 years after it started operations. Museveni said during last year's independence celebrations at Kololo that the Government allowed the airline to close because it was making losses at the time, and Ugandans were not travelling as much as they are now.

The President also told the delegation that Ugandans need glass for building, as well as packaging glass containers and bottles. He encouraged them to invest in the processing of building materials in Uganda such as marble, granite and cement. He observed that cement is on high demand in Uganda.

EXPRESS INTEREST
Weilin expressed interest in the company partnering with the Government in the establishment of a national airline. He was impressed with the investment climate that the ruling party government has created



President Museveni meeting with officials from Beijing Sino-Aero Construction Engineering Company at State House Entebbe on Thursday

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in Uganda, adding that they are interested in the manufacture of glass, marble and pharmaceuticals.

MEETS UK MINISTER
Meanwhile, President Museveni has received and held a meeting with the UK minister for Africa, Rory Stewart, who was in the country on a two-day visit.

During the meeting that took place on Thursday at State House, Entebbe, Museveni hailed the UK government for the grant that has enabled the revival and expansion of the electricity generation capacity of Owen Falls Dam from 60 megawatts in 1986 to 180 megawatts today.

"I thank the British government for supporting us; leading to Uganda's recovery. Baroness Linda Chalker facilitated and enabled us to receive a grant, which led to the upgrade of Owen Falls Dam," he said. Museveni also

thanked the UK for facilitating the construction of the road that links Uganda to Rwanda.

Regarding regional issues, Museveni expressed optimism that a solution would soon be found to the prevailing conflict in South Sudan. He revealed that the task at hand is to unite the ruling Sudanese People's Liberation Movement and noted that there has been progress in the war-torn country.

According to the State House statement, the President added that there is strong optimism that an agreement would soon be reached.

Stewart saluted Museveni for his leading role in finding a solution for the conflicts in Somalia and South Sudan. He said the UK "is very proud" of the achievements recorded in Uganda, noting that the country has made impressive strides in socio-economic development.

Stewart was accompanied by the British High Commissioner to Uganda, Peter West.