

PAKISTAN ENVOY HAILS PRESIDENT MUSEVENI

By Paul Kiwuwa
and Wilfred Sanya

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Uganda, Muhammad Hassan Wazir, praised President Yoweri Museveni for fostering a peaceful and highly conducive environment for both foreign and local investors.

Uganda has enjoyed good relations with investors toward industrialisation and the economic growth that over 10,000 Pakistanis have invested here and citizenship has been accorded to them due to the welcome accorded to the investors.

Wazir decorated Ifthikhar Sikandar Cheema, president of the Overseas Pakistan Global Foundation Africa (OPGFA), with a medal of excellence as the fourth honour in Pakistan's government from the president of Pakistan, Asif Ali Zardari, in Kololo, Kampala, on Friday.

Cheema has spearheaded the establishment of a Pakistani free eye care clinic. The hospital in Ntinda that has led many people to recover their eyesight.

The event attracted the Pakistani communities in Uganda. Led by the vice-president of the Overseas Pakistan Global Foundation Africa, Shahid Mahamood Alvi.

"For the last 35 years, over 10,000 people have been living with their families in Uganda," Shahid said.

BILATERAL TRADE

"On bilateral trade growth, the Pakistani people have supported growing bilateral commerce, such as the exchange of Ugandan agricultural products (legumes, cotton) and Pakistani exports (cement, rice that contribute 10-15% of Uganda's nominal Gross Domestic Product. Today, Pakistani businessmen have a 70% stake in the importation of new and reconditioned vehicles into Uganda," Wazir said.

The envoy expressed gratitude to the Ugandan Government for their ongoing hospitality and partnership. This praise echoes Uganda Investment Authority to continually attract value-addition and manufacturing investments.

Wazir said: "Our interactions



L-R: Ambassador Wazir, Minister of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives Francis Mwebesa and Third Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda Rukia Nakadema cutting a cake during the National Day at the residence of the Pakistan ambassador in Kololo, recently

with Uganda spanned across diverse sectors, including diplomacy, health, education, trade and co-operation within the United Nations system.

SIGHT-RESTORING SURGERIES

Wazir revealed they saved a patient regaining sight after 16 years and expressed a desire to see his wife.

In a similar way of saving sight, a teenager, who failed to get money, \$100 (sh378,000) for treatment from a private facility, trekked 200 kilometres in Katakwi district. We offered the father free cataract eye surgery in a medical camp organised in Katakwi. Currently, the teenager has become the representative of the Pakistan

MESSAGE TO INVESTORS

Pakistan's High Commissioner to Uganda, Muhammad Hassan Wazir, who has served for four years, bid farewell, saying: "President Museveni has created a conducive business climate, emphasising good governance, established peace, stability and policies that allow foreign and local entrepreneurs to thrive."

"I encourage investors to tap into strategic opportunities. I will continue wooing foreign investors to come and invest here because of the conducive environment for the investors," he explained.

"During the COVID-19 post-pandemic economic recovery, the country received a significant influx of foreign direct investment. The strategy pushed Kampala as a premier global conference hub. Hosting high-level meetings like Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and G77+China summits, which were successfully catalysed for infrastructure development and elevated the country's international pride," Wazir said.

Free Eye Hospital in the Katakwi district. Wazir recalls.

Cheema said they have helped over more than 81,000 patients and performed free, sight-restoring surgeries for more than 10,000 people.

Cheema said they will not stop their work, until Uganda is truly free from cataract blindness. "I have dedicated my whole life

towards serving humanity and I humbly ask all of you to join hands in this noble cause. I was not born in Africa, but Africa was born in me," he said.

He acknowledged the medal's dedication to all the patients who trusted them.

"It belongs to our hard-working staff in Uganda, Cheema said.