

REMARKS BY HON. MATIA KASAIJA

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TO MARK UGX1 TRILLION IN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT (AUM) BY COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEME MANAGERS.

18TH MAY 2022, UGANDA MEDIA CENTER, KAMPALA

- The CEO of the Capital Markets Authority, Mr. Keith Kalyegira
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly, I would like to extend congratulations to stakeholders in Uganda's capital markets industry for attaining **UGX 1.15 trillion** in Assets Under Management held by Collective Investment Scheme (CIS) Managers on behalf of Ugandans, three years ahead of the National Development Plan III target.

I have heard today, that this is also referred to as "Okusiga Sente Okwawamu", so I must also congratulate all Ugandans that have opened accounts and invested their savings through this investment vehicle.

The Government of Uganda of Uganda is keen on encouraging more Ugandan to save. Deferring consumption today, developing a savings culture is critical in securing your financial future.

I am reliably informed that there are **32,998** Ugandans who have already decided to save through Collective Investment Schemes by opening accounts with the five licensed Collective Investment Scheme managers, an improvement of **22.5%** from **26,936** in a space of three months; however, we can do a lot better.

If we started with the over **11 million bank account holders**, I would urge all of them to consider also having an investment account alongside their bank accounts, to benefit from the services of professionals that are licensed by the Capital Markets Authority to grow their savings.

As most of us are aware, as a nation we have set ourselves an ambitious goal of transforming our society from a predominately peasant society to a modern and prosperous one by 2040.

While this is the main goal; we have also launched several initiatives to improve the level of savings and the general livelihood of all Ugandans. These include the “emyooga” program and the Parish Development Model which will bring planning, budgeting, reporting and delivery of interventions to bring and deliver services closer to the Ugandan people. The Collective Investment Schemes, which we are talking about today, fall within the 12 minimum services under the Parish Development Model, principally service number 12 (Financial Services).

While the government is doing all it can to ensure that there is an enabling environment for all Ugandans to attain middle income status and for private sector growth and development,

we are yet to fully exploit the vast investment and business opportunities in Uganda.

The capital markets are one of those opportunities we are yet to fully exploit. I am reliably informed that the capital markets have been operational for the last **26 years** and yet we have only **ten (10) domestic companies** listed on the Uganda Securities Exchange.

Like has been said today and many times before, the capital markets are a critical source of long-term finance. I do not know of a country that has transformed from a predominantly peasant society to an industrialized nation without the private sector raising long-term patient capital from the capital markets. I therefore speak out directly to the business captains of Uganda; let us embrace the capital markets as an alternative source of non-bank financing.

Let us do what it takes to access the capital markets. If it means transforming our corporate governance structures, so be it so

that we can tap into the long-term capital resources we need to compete favorably domestically, regionally and internationally.

The sooner we embrace the capital markets as a country, the better for Uganda's private sector.

Government is committed to support you in whichever way we can to make sure that the private sector in Uganda fully maximizes the opportunities in Uganda's capital markets.

Once more, I would like to congratulate the stakeholders in Uganda's Capital Markets and the investing public on attaining an important milestone within the National Development Plan III, three years ahead of schedule.

With these few remarks, I would like to reiterate that the capital markets are a critical component of Uganda's development strategy and as such the government is committed to their continuous growth and development.

For God and My Country

Hon. Matia Kasaija

Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development