



2021-2026

# MANIFESTO

NATIONAL UNITY PLATFORM

**A NEW  
UGANDA**





A vote for the **National Unity Platform** is a vote for:

- I. People-Centred Governance
- II. Equal Access to Quality Education and Health Services
- III. Inclusive Economic Development
- IV. Land, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection
- V. National Security and International Relations

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## Introduction

The National Unity Platform grew out of the People Power movement. The movement was formed to spearhead the first ever inclusive, non-violent transition of political power in Uganda. Our vision of Uganda is a dignified people thriving under an inclusive constitutional democracy.

We seek a transition from the 35-year long dictatorial regime to a people's choice government through free and fair elections. We are compelled by Article 1 of the Constitution of Uganda 1995, which grants all power to the people of Uganda.

Our aim is to guarantee respect for the constitution. Our accountable leadership has been built from the grassroots to the national level. We shall continue to be strictly governed by the rule of law and universal standards of social justice, in order to ensure individual human dignity, national unity, and true equal opportunity for every Ugandan.

We call on all Ugandans to embrace peaceful transition by uniting and delivering resounding change through the power of the ballot for the first time in our history.

The National Unity Platform believes economic and social services are a right and are enforceable, we are all entitled to dignity and government should work for everyone. We believe these goals are achievable because we have the numbers to vote in a new government. We are the change we want to see in our country Uganda.

We understand that our ability to reach the higher ground where there is an education system that delivers quality education and skills training, a healthcare system that minimises the disease burden, infrastructure that works for the poor, laws that are applied justly, assurance of human rights, or protection of the environment depends on your vote.

It is only through People-centred Governance that Ugandans can be guaranteed Equal Access to Quality Education and Health Services, Inclusive Economic Development, Land, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection and National Security and International Relations.

In our manifesto we show the deficits in these areas and outline our policy alternatives in the five areas. The catalogue of Failed Government Programmes should convince you that that there is an urgent need for change. To allow NRM misrule to continue is to prolong the struggle to recover. We shall lose more natural resources with no benefits to show, and our youth will continue to leave school early and to seek menial work abroad. The disease burden shall increase as investment in health continues to shrink. Poor international relations will lead us further in to debt and our economy will be dominated by those we owe money that we cannot repay.

# People-centred Governance

1. Our primary goal in government is to establish people-centred governance to reverse growing poverty, inequality and economic and physical instability.
2. A government can only facilitate the development of a nation by upholding individual rights to education, health, food security, clean water and health care and the access to justice that guarantees those rights.
3. There have been many transformative developments over the past three and a half decades. The government reinstated multi-party elections and created oversight institutions like the Auditor General and the Inspectorate of Government (IGG). The judiciary has been broadened by the addition of the Constitutional and Commercial Courts.
4. Every sector has been studied by experts and investments have been made to provide infrastructure for health (health centres), education (schools), water and energy (hydroelectric dams). Agricultural output grew and coffee exports doubled in the last seven years, rising from 3.58 million bags in 2012/13 to seven million in 2019/20. This was short of the 20 million bags expected but impressive nonetheless). Unemployment has been addressed by providing easy credit to the youth.
5. However, progress and projects have been undermined by poor governance. Corruption and incompetence are pervasive. As a result, after thirty-five years Uganda still struggles to provide basic capabilities like access to primary education and primary health. Enhanced capabilities like specialised medical treatment, and secondary and tertiary education are beyond the reach of the majority.
6. Inequality is growing. While the size of the economy doubled from Shs. 64Tr in 2010/11 to Shs. 128Tr in 2018/19 BUT poverty has risen from 19% in 2018 to 21%.
7. Indicators show declining development in key sectors meaning gains made in the last three decades are being lost.
8. We plan to eliminate the nepotism, patronage and cronyism that are characteristic of public administration in Uganda and are the causes of poor service delivery and limited human development. Inclusive economic growth is only possible by elimination of rampant corruption and gross mismanagement.
9. To restore trust and confidence in our economy, we shall stabilise our business environment and render it more predictable by good governance that empowers the private sector to create jobs and stimulate growth.

10. Rights become meaningless without a system of justice upholds those rights.
11. The primary barrier is a lack of awareness of basic rights and/or how violations of rights might be redressed by the court system. Over 90% of citizens are unaware of the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and the Human Rights Commission. 74% say they are unaware of how courts work (UBOS 2019).
12. There are physical and financial barriers to justice which affect mainly vulnerable and marginalized groups like children, women, Persons with disabilities, the poor and those living in rural or hard to reach areas.
13. Only twenty-six percent of magistrates' courts offer legal aid to complainants.
14. The National Unity Platform still believes in this nation's potential and this manifesto is a contract between the people of Uganda and their leaders. It is an agenda for Uganda's socio-economic quantum leap.

### Current situation

15. There are now over 100 ministries and autonomous agencies. Plans to merge some and abolish others have been shelved
16. Recruitment to these agencies is used by the ruling elite to maintain a system of political patronage. NRM cadres are favoured and they receive exponentially higher pay than their traditional public service counterparts. The outcome is poor or absent service delivery.
17. The number of Town Councils. In the last five years 583 Town Councils have been created (217 last year) but only 228 were included in the budget<sup>i</sup>. These Town Councils are unable to generate enough money to finance all their planned activities.
18. Parliament has increased to an unaffordable and impractical size.

### National Unity Platform Policy

19. Restoration of Presidential term limits. Attempts to remove term limits shall be a treasonable offence.
20. NUP will establish a government that is deeply rooted in the rule of law.
21. The citizens of Uganda will enjoy a governance user interface that is marked by respect for human rights and dignity, promotion of justice and fairness, and transparent and accountable state institutions.
22. Restoration of trust and confidence in our economy, our business environment will require the stability and predictability of good governance that empowers the private sector to create jobs and stimulate growth.



## Women in Political Decision-making

23. Guided by the Women's Manifesto 2016-2021, NUP shall increase the proportion of women in political leadership at all levels to at least fifty percent, in line with the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and Affordable Government

## Affordable Government

### For a smaller effective government NUP shall;

- Merge Central Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs),
- Reduce the size of cabinet. The maximum shall be determined by a ministerial review,
- Reduce the size of parliament to a maximum agreed upon after a national dialogue,
- Eliminate Wasteful Political Appointments,
- Enforce Performance contracts between senior officials and the government.

## Zero-Tolerance for Corruption

- Measures will be taken to promote public oversight of public expenditure. In addition to the right to request the Auditor General for a special investigation, legislation will be passed to permit members of the public and civil society to carry out public audits where they suspect corruption and incompetence in service delivery.
- Protection of Whistle-blowers.
- Recovery of stolen resources from convicted corrupt individuals.

## Elimination of Incompetence and Nugatory (Wasteful) Expenditure

24. Wasteful expenditure happens when government pays fines, penalties or court awards for incompetence. The result of waste is that there is less money for service delivery.
25. The total amount wasted in this manner between 2014/2015 and 2018/2019 is an average of 24,909,253,883 per year. It is fifteen times the amount needed to supply all girls in public institutions from upper primary to tertiary vocational with sanitary towels for one year to enable them not to miss school.
26. The NUP administration will make public servants personally liable for wasting public funds. Funds saved from eliminating waste of this kind would be available for service delivery.

## Increasing access to justice

27. The NUP administration will ensure justice for all by cooperating with stakeholders in developing a roadmap for removing barriers to justice. We aim to:

- Speed up disposal of cases
- Lower and eventually remove barriers to justice
- Make court buildings accessible to Persons with disabilities
- Register convicted sex offenders to enable schools and other places where there are vulnerable children to avoid employing them.
- It shall be an offence for parents to negotiate out-of-court settlements with offenders. Children's rights to protection are not negotiable.
- Enforce the law prohibiting child marriage shall be enforced. The penalties for parents and guardians forcing girls in to 'marriage' have not stopped the practice, they shall be reviewed with a view to making them stiffer and more of a deterrent.
- Prevent Village and other local councils shall be prohibited from brokering out-of-court settlements in cases of child abuse and sexual assault. Penalties for depriving victims of justice shall be appropriate and effective.

## Stop Loss

28. We shall fund our programme using the following four stop loss interventions:

- All wasteful, nugatory and unnecessary expenditure shall be halted. So far we have identified several trillions that can be recovered. The process of identifying wasteful expenditure shall be ongoing.
- Creation of a smaller effective government by merging overlapping functions in Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
- Elimination of wasteful political appointments
- Recovery of public funds lost through corruption and incompetence from the pensions and gratuities of the officials responsible for the losses.

29. We shall begin the process of elimination of corruption by passing laws allowing public oversight of public expenditure. Civil society shall have the authority to audit public expenditure where corruption is suspected.

## Debt Audit

30. We shall identify loan interest payments for projects that failed owing either to the lender's negligence or the borrower's corruption and incompetence. Such nugatory payments shall be suspended and the savings used to implement the failed interventions.



31. We shall also lay the ground for our plans to address the structural barriers to democratic governance, equal access to quality and education and health services, inclusivity of economic development, protection of land rights, natural resources and the environment, and national security and international relations. Our plans are laid out in this manifesto.

### Review of tax waivers

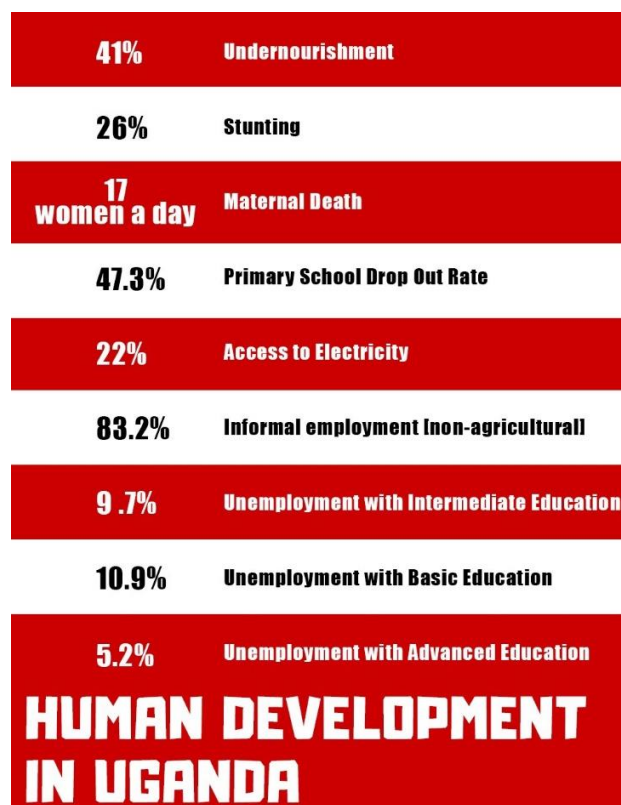
32. A number of established companies have illicit tax-waivers. The National Unity Platform shall review all tax waivers with a view to increasing tax collections.

### Recovery of Stolen Funds

33. The NUP shall make every effort to recover public funds lost through embezzlement or incompetence as guided by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE). We expect Uganda's development partners to assist in the recovery of such funds banked in their jurisdictions.

# Human Development: Equal Access to Quality Education and Health Services

34. Human development services are those a person needs to maintain good health and to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for survival. The level of access to human services is human development. Human services therefore are mainly health and education services. Strong health and nutrition lead to better school performance, greater creativity and eventually better employment greater prospects for employment.
35. Children whose parents were able to complete their education and earn decent wages are the ones most likely to survive. For this reason, good health requires good education.
36. Human services also include social protection for the vulnerable to prevent people falling in to or remaining stuck in vulnerability.
37. Our manifesto is a human development manifesto.



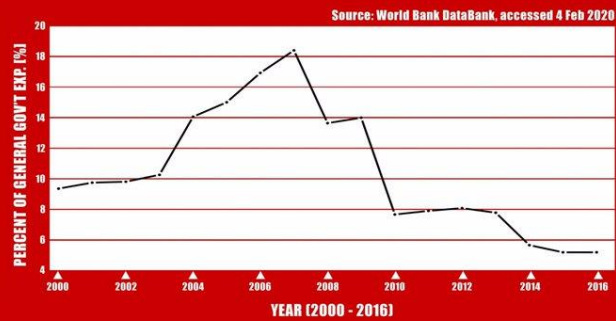
## Quality Health Services for All

38. The National Unity Platform believes that access to health care is a right. Government has a duty to make effective health care accessible to its citizens.
39. We are committed to health sector reform for two reasons, the lack of adequate health facilities causes unnecessary suffering. Secondly, if we are to achieve our economic aspirations, we must invest in the health of tomorrow's workforce. Investment in health is an investment in human development for a thriving workforce and economy.
40. There have been major developments in health care in the last thirty-five years. National Referral Hospitals were refurbished. Health Centres were built or rehabilitated in most sub counties.
41. National Medical Stores were established to ensure essential drugs are available while the National Drug authority controls the quality of drugs supplied.
42. In terms of services; immunisation for DPT and measles leapt from 60 percent in 1996 to over 90 percent coverage today. New specialised services such as open-heart surgery and fertility treatments are now available.

## Current Health Care Situation

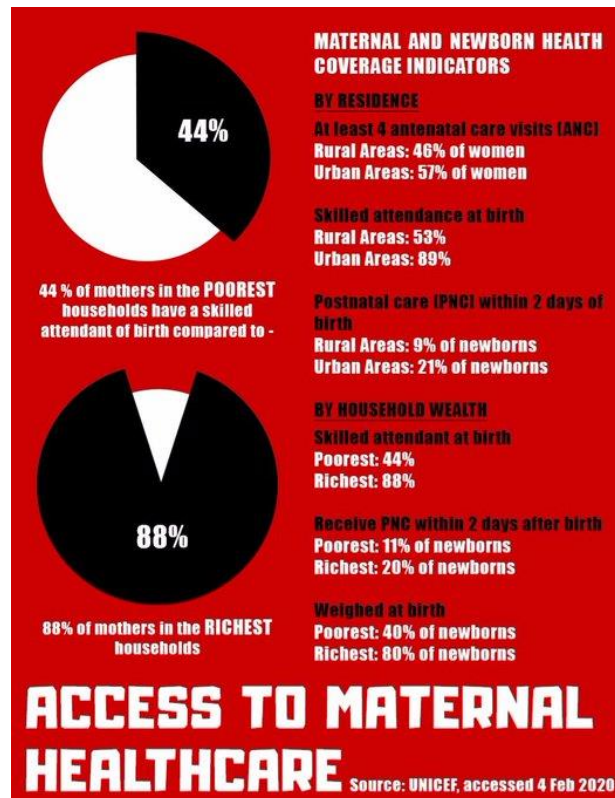
43. However, government has been investing steadily less in healthcare since 2008. In 2020/21 the health sector was allocated 7.9 percent of the budget, down from 9.6 percent in 2009/2010.
44. The result is a health service described in a government Health Services Sector Review service as "characterised by morbidity (sickness) and avoidable death."
45. Public health facilities are short of drugs, equipment and staff.
46. Health services are not affordable to the majority. 29% said they found them unaffordable.
47. Health infrastructure too is insufficient, there are sub counties without a single public health facility e.g. the seven in Kibaale District home to 8,000 people. 30% of people cannot reach a health facility without difficulty.

## DOMESTIC GENERAL GOV'T HEALTH EXPENDITURE [% OF GENERAL GOV'T EXPENDITURE]



## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA

48. Ugandan families cover 37 percent of healthcare costs. Donors contribute 45 percent and government meets the remaining 15 percent. Nearly all ARVs and vaccines are supplied by donors. 81 percent of mosquito nets are paid for by development partners.
49. As a result, there is inequality in access to healthcare. In maternal health only 44 percent of the poorest women have access to a qualified birth attendant while 88 percent of the richest get access to a qualified birth attendant.
50. Specialised services such as surgery are out of reach for the majority, 75% of the population would be bankrupted if they had to pay for surgery.



51. The National Development Plan III claims that there are significant increases in use of health services. Yet statistics show that Government health services are being abandoned as they deteriorate and those who can afford it, opt for private health care.

### Primary Health

52. Existing primary health and nutrition services have delivered poor results:
- 41 percent of the population is undernourished.
  - 28 percent of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) are anaemic.
  - 28 percent of pregnant women are anaemic
  - 26 percent of children are underweight and below the average height for their age (stunted) which means they suffer from malnutrition and potential learning disabilities.
  - 51 percent of children under five are anaemic.
  - 33 children die of diarrhoeal diseases every day.

## **National Unity Platform Access to Quality Health & Education Policy**

### Health Policy

53. Access to health (and education) services is often limited by prohibitive fees. We shall scrap prohibitive fees where public institutions are already funded by the taxpayers such as birth certificate fees (and school examination fees).
54. 68. We shall commit resources to implementing the Abuja Declaration on health, Campaign on the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) and the National Roadmap on Maternal Health.

### Health Financing

55. The National Unity Platform will implement a health financing policy that guarantees sustainable universal access to quality health care while keeping the cost of care in control. The primary intervention will be the implementation of health insurance.
56. The National Unity Platform administration will negotiate with the World Bank to cancel payment of debts that added no value. The money saved will be used to form a National Health Insurance Scheme. An example is the District Health Project for which government borrowed US\$45 million which failed to deliver a National Minimum Healthcare Package.
57. Further savings made by reforming the public service will be invested in social protection.

### Health infrastructure

58. National Unity Platform pledges to take measures radically to transform our hospitals and health centres into 21st century facilities. Our target is to have a maternal health facility in every sub-county. We shall conduct a review of the healthcare infrastructure with a view to completing unfinished structures, rehabilitating sub-standard and decrepit facilities and building health facilities in communities deprived of them. Procurement for the works will be digitised to make it transparent and to minimise corruption.

### Staffing

59. National Unity Platform shall review staffing deficits and work with healthcare professionals to devise means of filling the gaps. We shall retain them in the service by offering competitive salaries financed by the elimination of corruption and nugatory expenditure.



## Community-Based Healthcare Systems

60. The Covid-19 crisis revealed the extent to which community-based healthcare influences the success of health programmes and the efficiency with which resources are used. The pandemic has also revealed the extent to which faith-based groups contribute to health services. The first two fatalities in Uganda occurred in faith-based institutions – there is a reason they did not opt for nearby designated government treatment centres.
61. Ongoing public health messaging regarding nutrition and hygiene, risk communication, community surveillance and distribution of relief and equipment e.g. masks, are vital to healthcare. The costs could be greatly reduced if Faith-Based Healthcare systems were in place and allowed to participate alongside public health services.
62. We shall invite faith-based communities that are already the back-bone of healthcare to submit proposals for the ongoing management of the Covid Response in the communities in which they operate. They shall also be invited to work with government on a disaster-preparedness plan for future epidemics and pandemics.
63. Social protection shall be in-built to disaster-management. In the future, epidemic and pandemic responses will involve communities. As an economic stimulus, relief supplies, awareness raising and other interventions shall be built on the principle of channelling funds in to communities. Therefore, instead of expenditure on billboards, community approaches will be used for awareness-raising. Beneficiaries of relief supplies shall be able to buy them themselves, in their communities with funds transferred to them by eVouchers. Big business will no longer capitalise on humanitarian disasters.

## Access to Water for Consumption and Hygiene

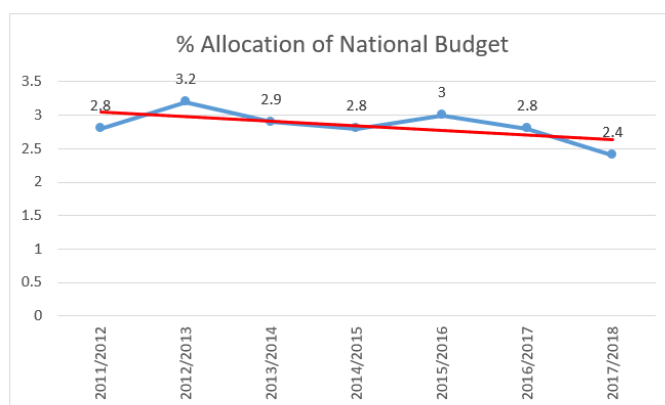
64. Access to water is a right. The National Unity Platform believes one hundred percent of the population of Uganda should have access to safe drinking water within a few minutes of their homes. We believe that fifty-nine years after Independence Uganda as a country should be aiming beyond access to basic services to access to enhanced services: piped water for all.
65. There are fourteen water sector loans amounting to \$ 1,321.8 million. The loans finance nine ongoing projects. The latest four were signed in July 2019 when it was already clear government of Uganda is unable to pay. Projects are under-funded when government is unable to raise its share of the funding under the agreements. The Sector Report for 2018/2019 says by, “Signing of loan agreement before all the required processes are concluded has been one of the leading causes of low disbursement.

### Current situation

- The supply of safe water is very far below demand and access to water is unequal. Demand for safe water services for hygiene and consumption increases with the population growth of 3.3 percent a year.
  - 17 districts have less than 55% coverage of water services
  - 60% of children collect water from a source 30 minutes away.
  - 49% of the whole population has access to basic drinking water services. This includes both people using basic water services (springs, wells etc.) as well as those using safely managed water services. Basic drinking water services is defined as drinking water from an improved source, provided collection time is not more than 30 minutes for a round trip. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes or tubewells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water).
  - Use of basic sanitation in rural areas was 16.6% and in urban areas 37.4%.
  - Use of safely managed sanitation in rural areas was 7.1% and in urban areas was 42.8%.
  - 22.9% of the rural population were practising open defecation and urban areas 12.1% [Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2019, GOU].
66. The urban population has increased from 4.6% in 1994 to 6.9% in 2018 yet supply of urban sanitation services has been stagnant and is beginning to drop.
  67. The main factors affecting access to water are underfunding of the sector, poor maintenance of existing infrastructure and environmental degradation.

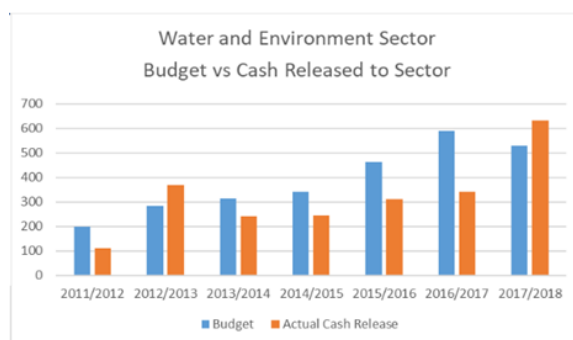
## Underfunding

68. The budget share for the Water and Environment Sector (WES) was 3.0 percent for this year (2019/20).<sup>ii</sup> Yet the share for ‘security’ was 7.7 percent. Interest payments on the ever increasing number of loans took 11.4 percent of the budget.
69. The budget allocation to the water sector has been falling since 2013 and only rose again to 3.7% this financial year.



Source: Approved Estimates of Revenue & Expenditure (FY 2011/12 to FY 2017/18)

70. Budgeted funds are not always released in full. This happens when State House and the security sector are given supplementary budgets during the year.
71. Donors fund fifty-four percent of the water and environment sector budget, that is Shs.825.52 billion while government provides 448 billion. 29 percent or Shs560.12 billion came from user and other fees (NWSC, NEMA, NFA and UNMA) while CSOs provided 105.45 under various activities (Total Shs. 1,939.12 billion). We believe with increased competence and less corruption Uganda can afford to meet her obligations towards her people.
72. The funding shortage for water development between 2020 and 2030 is estimated to be Shs.7.856 Trillion.



Source data: BMAU BRIEFING PAPER (19/19) May 2019

## Maintenance

73. Funds are not available to fully maintain water infrastructure. In 2016/2017 66 percent of the amount needed to repair the rural water supply was lacking (rising from 16 percent in 2014/2015).

## Environmental Degradation

74. The quality of water is affected by factories, fishermen and urban residents dumping twenty-five tons of biodegradable waste in to water sources. Underfunding limits the sector's capacity to keep water sources free of pollution.
75. Degradation of the wetlands is covered in the Land, Natural Resources & Environment Section of this manifesto.

## National Unity Platform Access to Water Policy

76. Water and Sanitation services require an overhaul which only the National Unity Platform has the political will to do. The gaps between the sanitation services available in the old established local governments and the newly formed ones needs to be closed. This will be done by subsidizing those least able to improve their sanitation on their own.
77. We shall ensure the sanitation subsidies are not captured by the elite in the way rural electrification and NAADS farm inputs were.
78. We shall extend the water to more areas. The National Unity Platform will radically reduce expenditure on non-essential and wasteful budget items and increase the budget share of the Water and Environment Sector in order to extend the service to those who do not yet enjoy it.
79. NUP shall take strong measures against industrialists who cause environmental damage.
80. Under the National Unity Platform Administration, investors will be required to put the environmental interests of the public at front and centre of their plans. Laws that protect the environment will no longer be waived in favour of investors. Environmental destruction in the name of development will no longer be tolerated.

## Quality Education for All

*Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world.* ~ Nelson Mandela.

81. The next generation will face a complex, technologically advanced and ever-changing world. The main challenges will be rapidly changing technology, the effects of climate change and the recurrent threat of global pandemics.
82. Beyond academic excellence it must nurture innovation, creativity, adaptability and team work.
83. Without a quality education for all, Uganda will not be able to harness the benefits of having the youngest population in the world (its potential demographic dividend) for much needed socio-economic transformation.
84. Universal primary and secondary education is arguably the current government's main achievement. After UPE was introduced enrolment of eligible children rose from 3.1 million children in 1996 to 7.6 million in 2003. The futures of millions were potentially changed for the better.
85. Public Early Childhood Education has not been introduced. However, a promising development is the Home Learning Centres developed under the Literacy and Adult Basic Education Project. The community-based system involves parents in their children's education, empowers them to create literate homes and respects their linguistic and cultural diversity. It also allows children to be educated in their neighbourhoods without the need for long travelling times.
86. Early reports are that children from HLCs are confident, informed and ready to join Primary school.
87. Special Needs education has also received some attention although it is not widespread.
88. Government also chartered new universities and Uganda now has eight public universities including Makerere and two degree-awarding institutions. These take in 5% of eligible school leavers.

### Current Situation: Primary and Secondary Education

89. Investment in education has fallen. This year's budget share for the sector is 7.97% percent, down from 10.4 percent last year.
90. Enrollment is falling. The percentage of children at Primary One age registering for Primary one is falling [the population is increasing but the proportion of eligible pupils *not* registering is also growing].
  - 2004 sixty-six percent of P1-aged children enrolled (67 percent of girls and 65.8 percent of boys).

- 2017, enrolment had fallen to 58.7 percent (59.9 girls and 57.5 boys).
  - 60 percent of those enrolled drop out before the Primary Leaving Examination.
91. Many parents cannot afford to keep their children in school; they cannot afford the transport, the school meals or scholastic materials. Many need their children to earn a living. Primary school illiteracy is on the increase. Girls have the additional challenge of lack of menstrual hygiene support services at school.
  92. Hunger at school is a major factor in discouraging attendance and learning. Where school meals and scholastic materials have been provided by NGOs, the children perform well in their primary leaving as in some schools in Bududa.
  93. Other barriers to learning are the language barrier, distance to schools (70% of children live over 1Km from school) poor school infrastructure, the low ratio of books to pupil (5:2) and lack of teachers' accommodation.

### Secondary Education

- Only 60 percent of primary leavers go on to secondary school.
- Only about 30 percent of those complete their lower secondary education.
- Only 24 percent of secondary school-age youth are enrolled in institutions (compared to 44 percent in very high human development countries).
- Among Uganda's upper secondary school-aged youth, 74 percent were not in school and not employed in 2008.
- These outcomes have placed Uganda at 159 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index. The National Unity Platform intends to dedicate the next decade to improving human development.

### Social Protection in Education

94. In order to maintain good health and send children to school, parents need incomes to begin with. Children, young people and their parents also need water for hygiene, good nutrition, lighting by which to study, and a host of other life-sustaining elements. Children need schools within reasonable walking distance and security on the way to and at school.
95. However, the lack of these essentials has contributed to the high drop-out rate. Girls and boys drop out because of poverty, the need to work. Investment in Primary Education
96. Government commitment to developing the education sector is questionable. In 2019 there were forty-six development projects in the education sector. Only nineteen were found to be performing well by the Budget Monitoring and



Accountability Unit. Projects were found to lack clear targets or were underfunded.

97. School inspections were last included in the national budget in 2015/16. It is no surprise that the Ministry of Education was unable to verify the locations of pupils in order to send them teaching materials during the Covid-19 lockdown.

## **National Unity Platform Education Policy**

### **Early Childhood Development, Primary and Secondary Education: Building strong foundations for a 21st century education**

98. The National Unity Platform will radically transform Uganda's education. We shall pursue an ambitious rehabilitation plan of making sure that every school in Uganda is adequately equipped and staffed as follows;

#### **Early Child Development: Giving every child the best start in life.**

99. Establish standard guidelines and norms for ECD to ensure that every ECD Centre is decent, safe and managed by qualified professional staff.
100. The National Unity Platform will endeavour to increase the number of Home Learning Centres. The community-based system involves parents in their children's education, empowers them to create literate homes and respects their linguistic and cultural diversity. It also allows children to be educated in their neighbourhoods without the need for long travelling times.

#### **Infrastructure: Quality and Standards**

##### **School Inventory**

101. The National Unity Platform will establish a centralized database of all school buildings and associated structures—both government and private— so that deficiencies are easily identifiable. The aim will be to complete unfinished structures, rehabilitate decrepit structures and build facilities where none exist.
102. Where delays in schools building projects are caused by corruption the National Unity Platform will take radical action to identify those responsible, recover from them embezzled funds and complete the projects.

##### **Libraries and eLearning**

103. The National Unity Platform shall put special emphasis on making libraries and eLearning available to schools. The necessary legislation will be passed to ensure all government entities use government's internet service and the savings used to extend the service to schools.

## Social Protection in School

104. Emphasis will be put on social protection to;
105. Raise awareness about the value of special needs education, increase training in SN education, roll out SNE to schools and enable parents to access special needs facilities
106. Support the transition to Mother Tongue Instruction by promoting the production of books and other learning materials in Ugandan languages by Ugandan writers and other creatives.
107. Make schools a place where girls are safe and comfortable even during their menstrual cycle.
108. Ensure schools have enough toilet facilities.
109. Eradicate violence in schools.
110. Provide school meals for vulnerable children with produce sourced from the areas in which the schools are. This can be done by digital cash transfer and has the advantages of avoiding the issue of lack of cooking facilities and storage space and providing an economic stimulus for growers in the area.
111. Cooking and dining facilities will be added to schools.
112. Open a dialogue with parents to encourage them to play their role in equipping the children with scholastic materials.

## Staffing: Empowering a modern teaching service

113. Standards for recruitment and registration as a Ugandan teacher will be reviewed. Once recruited, the National Unity Platform pledges to enhance the salary of qualified teachers.
114. Teachers posted to hard-to-reach areas will receive an accommodation allowance. As savings are made elsewhere, housing will be built for teachers in hard-to-reach areas.
115. School inspections will be revived so that at any one time our government knows how many learners we have and where they are distributed in the country.
116. We in turn would ensure parents, school management committees and sub-counties all play an active role in school oversight to ensure each individual professional in the education sector is a high performer.

## Vocational and Skills Training: Strengthening the Pillars of Industrial Growth

### Skills Training

117. The National Unity Platform intends to review all ongoing educational interventions to ensure:
- the percentage of youths joining skills training increases.
  - funds are being used, and for the intended purposes.
  - recovery of misspent loan funds and reinvestment of those funds in the projects.
  - the outcomes benefit Ugandan youth.

### Transforming Co-Curricular Activities in to Taught Subjects

118. A National Unity Platform recognises the value of talent in the areas of sports, music, dance, drama and related disciplines. We would endeavour to add them to the main curriculum by training the required teaching staff and providing the equipment.

### Sports

119. Review the structure of major sports in consultation with key stakeholders we shall develop a comprehensive plan of action to revitalize the recreation and sports sector.
120. We shall make sports accessible to all by gazetting play areas from the village level up to the regional level. National facilities such as Teryet High Altitude Training Centre and Akii Bua Stadium shall be completed and maintained.
121. NUP shall give incentives to schools, faith-based institutions (e.g. churches) and other organisations with sports facilities to make them available to a national sports promotion programme.
122. NUP shall cooperate with traditional institutions to develop programmes of events to promote sports and the creative arts.
123. The disciplines shall be added to entrepreneurship programmes to better equip sportspeople and performance artists to manage their careers as viable businesses.

### Entrepreneurs

124. For young entrepreneurs, there shall be affordable facilities to enable them to develop their products with design space and high-speed internet access to serve as low-cost incubators for new creative industries and artists.

### Combatting Dropping Out

125. In addition to our school meals intervention, the National Unity Platform intends to support women and girl learners by providing free menstrual hygiene products for those in public institutions in upper primary school, secondary school, and post-secondary school vocational and technical courses.

### University Education

126. Revise the government scholarship scheme, and restructure the student loan scheme to increase access to university education.
127. Increase sponsorship for female students to bring female enrolment up to par with male enrolment.
128. Enable more female students to study science subjects by providing bursaries/scholarships for women.
129. Increase funding for research and development.

### Adult Education

130. The National Unity Platform will give a second chance to those who had to leave school early. Within our first two years we shall recruit tertiary students to teach reading and writing to previously disadvantaged Ugandans.
131. We shall ensure the Non Formal Adult Education Policy is rolled out country-wide by allocating sufficient resources to it.

# Inclusive Economic Development

132. The National Unity Platform seeks to approach economic development by focusing on inclusiveness and integration with the ultimate aim of improving the well-being of citizens and sharing wealth equitably.
133. While the size of economy has doubled from Shs. 64 trillion in 2010/11 to Shs 128 trillion in 2018/19 poverty has risen by two points since 2018 and now twenty-one percent of the population are poor.
134. Regional inequality is stark, with poverty ranging from 6 percent to 60 percent.
135. Exports grew in the last ten years (from \$3.83 billion to \$ 5.3 billion in 2018). The area of tarmacked roads doubled. But in the same period, undernourishment shot up by 9.2 percentage points.
136. There must be a determined approach that deals with consistent bottlenecks including limited finances; inadequate infrastructure (particularly low energy for production and bad feeder roads); inadequate skills commensurate with manufacturing needs; unfair competition from low cost producer countries of poor-quality products.

## Access to Electricity

137. Under the Rural Electrification Programme, Uganda is supposed to achieve one hundred percent electricity coverage by 2040. In the next five years the government plans to increase national access to electricity to sixty percent. The plans do not show how this will be done after the failure to reach the 240,000 rural connection target in the last ten years.
138. Under the policies of the 1990s the Uganda Electricity Board was privatised. Currently electricity is supplied by two entities. There is some overlap between Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited and Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited.
139. With further hydroelectric power dams built at Bujagali Falls, Isimba and Karuma, we now generate more power than can be transmitted (in the case of Karuma) and consumed. Only twenty-eight percent of the population receives the unreliable service.
140. The majority of schools have no power supply. SMEs are unable to afford the high tariffs.

## Access to the Internet

141. Access to the internet is almost as important to economic development as access to electricity. Internet usage is very price-sensitive and user numbers fell by five million with the introduction of the social media tax.
142. The National Unity Platform intends to increase internet usage by removing the OTT.

## Access to Water for Agricultural Production

143. Climate change makes it necessary to migrate from rain-fed farming to irrigation. Droughts occur more frequently than in the past (three in the sixty years between 1910 - 1970 and eight in the forty years between 1970 and 2010). The costs involved in developing large irrigation schemes are beyond smallholder farmers.

## Feeder Roads

144. Rural Uganda is poorly served by feeder roads to transport produce.
145. Of the Shs. 800 billion required to maintain these roads annually, government releases Shs. 477 billion every year for feeder road maintenance by local government.

## Access to Farm Inputs and Extension Support

146. For twenty years, government policy has been to provide planting material to farmers. The expectation was that production and household incomes would increase. Tea seedlings, rice and coffee have been distributed. The results have been poor, largely because of a lack of agricultural extension workers to guide farmers, especially those planting a particular crop for the first time.
  - Coffee: the germination rate was recently 42 percent,
  - Tea: only 20 percent of free government seedlings were planted in the correct topography (Auditor General)
  - Rice: production fell by 72 percent – all after government intervention (Auditor General)
  - Hybrid maize: 53 percent of seeds were found to be counterfeit by (EPRC).
147. The National Agricultural Advisory Service began life as an extension service. It later began to distribute planting material and equipment. NAADS' performance was reviewed and it was found that although knowledge about modern farming techniques had enlarged, access to the free inputs was captured by elite farmers. More importantly, there was no difference in yield per acre between NAADS-assisted farmers and the general population.



148. After privatisation of the property belonging to the cooperative movement, farmers had to rely on the State and the private sector for farm inputs, mechanization, storage, post-harvest technologies and information. The Agricultural Credit Facility, a fund for low-cost loans to farmers on a revolving basis was started in 2009/10.
149. It was supposed to be capitalized with over Shs. 270 billion invested by the Bank of Uganda and Participating Financial Institutions. After four years less than half that amount had been invested.
150. Resources were captured by the elite straight away with loans being approved by a powerful non-authorised official. Some Participating Financial Institutions (local banks) began to charge double the agreed interest on government loan funds.
151. By 2015/16 less than half the funds available had been lent out. In the same year over two billion shillings was improperly written off. The end of the ACF is probably near as participating banks wrote off loans worth nine billion in 2019.

## **National Unity Platform Agricultural Policy**

### **Revival of the Cooperative Movement**

152. Both the government and private sector have failed to fill the gap left by the cooperative movement. The National Unity Platform will study the possibility of reviving the cooperative movement in order to secure markets, negotiate prices, provide post-harvest technology, and to disseminate information.
153. Cooperatives shall again have warehouse facilities in Mombasa, and shared farm equipment, and the seed research facilities.

### **Local Production of Farm Inputs**

154. We shall increase capacity for local production of farm inputs such as seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. Investigations in to vermiculture and other eco-friendly substitutes shall be encouraged and use of eco-friendly substitutes shall be promoted.
155. This will reduce reliance on imports, a large percentage of which have been found to be fake goods.

### **Increased Seed Production Capacity**

156. Uganda shall move towards self-reliance on common seed varieties. The feasibility of seed production for both the domestic and export markets will be studied and if viable, capacity will be built for domestic seed production.

157. Phytosanitary Laboratories
158. We shall rehabilitate the National Seed Testing Laboratory, the post-entry quarantine pest & disease diagnostic laboratory at Namalere in order to avoid the importation of pests and diseases like the arm worm.

### Beach Management Units (BMUs) shall be revived.

159. BMUs are legal bodies of all stakeholders in fisheries to allow them to participate in decision-making regarding fishing.
160. In recent years they have become defunct and the fisheries sector is managed by the army. The outcome has been frequent clashes between the army and fishermen in which fishermen are the casualties.
161. Fishing rights shall be upheld under the National Unity Platform.

### Scaling Up Agricultural Extension Services

162. The National Unity Platform Administration will root out the incompetence that is the major barrier to agricultural development. We shall increase the availability of agricultural extension services to support farmers.

### Access to Agricultural Credit

163. Access to credit shall be assured by addressing the legal deficits existing in the Agricultural Credit Facility. We shall review the performance of the and Participating Financial Institutions. We shall ensure close to one hundred percent of the available funds are lent out. Although the fund is underperforming, the World Bank has published a policy paper to make more funds available (on loan). The National Unity Platform shall not take unnecessary loans.

### Completion of Stalled Irrigation Schemes

164. Special audits of ongoing irrigation schemes shall be carried out by Office of the Auditor General in order to remove barriers to completion. Where there is a lack of financing, we shall reallocate the funds from savings from waste, nugatory and non-priority expenditure.

### Exports

165. The National Unity Platform administration shall seek to review trade agreements with international trade blocs. Currently trade terms bar Ugandan agricultural products under phytosanitary rules and other non-tariff barriers.

## **Small and Medium Enterprises**

166. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the informal sector were largely ignored in Covid-19 economic recovery plans. These include the agricultural informal sector and the urban informal which forms eighty-three percent of informal sector working people.
167. In 2014/15, Government addressed youth unemployment by providing soft loans under The Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and the Women Enterprise Programme. YLP was a revolving fund launched in 2013/2014. Shs. 38 billion was disbursed to over five thousand youth groups nation-wide. By 2018 sixty-nine percent of the projects were non-existent (representing 71 percent of the funds) and only about a quarter of the loans were being recovered. Reasons include a lack of assistance with business planning, a lack of ongoing advisory support as well as embezzlement.
168. The Women's Enterprise Programme (WEP) performed better than the YLP, although it too met sustainability challenges.
169. Currently the police and Internal Security Organisation are pursuing defaulters in many districts. As a result, young people who were once not in school and not in employment are now also fugitives from law enforcement.
170. Youth were drawn in to the boda boda industry, one of the largest youth employment sectors, by the availability of loans to buy motorcycles through micro-finance, SACCOS and personal loans and savings. That industry has been all but decimated by i. the extended lockdown without debt-relief or social security ii. in Kampala a large section of the city has been closed off to public motorcycle transport.

## **National Unity Platform Policy for Youth SMEs**

### **Access to Capital**

171. While district authorities attempt to recover YLP and WEP funds, we shall work with them and with youth groups to devise a better model for managing start-up capital.
172. To protect the investment, and to protect the borrower, the new scheme will emphasise advisory support for new SMEs throughout the first two years of their existence. The institutions in which they are trained and existing NGOs shall be facilitated to assist in devising viable business plans to ensure the entities survive the critical three years during which most new SMEs collapse.
173. We intend to increase the ease of doing business in order to encourage SMEs to formalise their operations. After consultations with entrepreneurial bodies

such as we shall reduce the number of fees payable for start-up and continuation of business.

### Investment Trust Funds

174. To increase access to capital, the National Unity Platform shall begin the process of facilitating the setting up of trust funds. Beneficiaries who can be secondary school students, early school leavers, and others shall contribute to trust funds, owned by them and outside government control. Investment trust funds can be banked and invested domestically or overseas.
175. Government's role would be to offer innovation projects started by the beneficiaries the same kind of support given to foreign investors; a package of business accommodation for a limited period, tax waivers and energy subsidies.
176. In this way the National Unity Platform will promote a savings culture and promote entrepreneurship.

### The Entertainment Industry

177. The entertainment industry is largely made up of SMES. A large section of entertainment SMEs are in the informal sector. In addition to including Barriers to the development of the sector shall be addressed by:
178. **Enforcement of Copyright law:** Creators of copyright material will be protected by the enforcement of copyright laws.
179. **Skilling and certification:** The availability of training in skills related to film and music production will be reviewed. Training in these disciplines shall be added to the skills offered under skills training programmes.
180. Start-ups in the entertainment industry shall have the same access to Youth Livelihood funds as agricultural and other start-ups.

### Science and Technology, Innovation and Start-ups

181. There have been a number of potentially ground-breaking innovations by Ugandan scientists. Notably in the field of biotechnology, they have developed a digital incubator for multiple infants, and digital diagnostics for pneumonia and malaria.
182. While Ugandan innovators are recognized internationally, there have been reports of a lack of support generally for innovations, with MDAs preferring to source products from overseas.
183. An Innovation Fund was set up in 2017/18 under the Ministry of Science and Technology. It distributes funds for innovation through the Uganda Institute for

Industrial Research, the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and the Presidential Initiative on Banana Industrial Development.

184. When audited it was not clear how innovators are selected for support grants. There was very little information on how funded projects had been used, and the Ministry retained over six hundred million intended for innovators.

### Current Situation

185. Independent developers report a lack of support in innovation.
186. ICT developers who have developed applications independently of government have had to shelve them because government prefers to procure foreign products rather than local output. The Ministry of Justice procured a case management system from a foreign supplier for \$2.5 million. A Ugandan package with similar features was not considered.
187. Other examples of innovations by Ugandans either not supported by or taken up by the government are:
- NICU incubators in use by government hospital.
  - Solar powered irrigation units designed for smallholders. Shareable among groups of farmers. Built from scrap metal and affordable.
  - A caseload management system for use by the judiciary.

### National Unity Platform Domestic Investment Policy

188. Under the National Unity Platform administration there shall be a deliberate effort aimed at supporting domestic investment in the ICT sector, innovation and SMEs. Our main role will be to facilitate entrepreneurs by providing the investment framework Ugandans need to grow their businesses. The framework shall include investment incentives such as energy rebates, tax-holidays and rent rebates in industrial parks.
189. The National Unity Platform plans to arrange a conference at which innovators and other stakeholders will be able to dialogue with government in order to identify bottlenecks to funding. The output shall be a policy for supporting local innovation.

### Preference for local content in procurement

190. We would require that government sources ICT applications and other products initially from the local market. The process shall be digitised for transparency. The identities and profiles of both domestic and foreign bidders shall be made public. Domestic bids shall be weighted.

191. In the absence of purely domestic solutions, we shall require foreign suppliers to present joint proposals with Ugandan developers.

### Access to Innovation Funds

192. The manner in which Innovation Funds and the National ICT Innovations Support Programme identify projects to support shall be a streamlined transparent procedure under which innovators have an equal chance of getting public support.

### Protection of Intellectual Property

193. The National Unity Platform shall pass legislation to protect and uphold the rights of innovators. University students and other scientists shall be credited for and profit from their innovative work.

## National Unity Platform Gender Equality Policy

194. Guided by the Women's Manifesto, the NUP shall promote women's rights with the following interventions:

- We shall domesticate the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and allocation of resources for its implementation
- In order to achieve the above, the Ministry of Gender shall be restructured. The Ministry will no longer be under-budgeted and ministry budgets shall be released in full.
- Implement policies that provide for child care in workplaces both formal and informal
- In line with our social protection policy we shall draft a policy to protect women from sexual harassment and abuse at work.
- To increase women's access to employment, tax incentives will be offered to employers with a minimum of 30% female employment.
- The rights of women with special needs shall be mainstreamed in all laws, policies and programs as well as adequate funding to address these needs.

### Persons with Disabilities and Special Learning Needs

195. Women and men with disabilities are potentially productive members of society. To reach their full potential they require; improved access to education, relevant training and non-discriminatory society.

- NUP shall invest in high-tech equipment and skills training to enhance the productivity of Persons with Disabilities.
- NUP shall provide for the use of sign language and braille in public institutions and at national public functions.

# Land, Natural Resources & Environmental Protection

## Mineral Rights

196. Government shares mineral rights with the districts in which they are found (government 80 percent; local government 17 percent and the community 3 percent). Reports from Moroto are that Licences are agreed between government and foreign investors.
197. Once licences are granted, the rights of the community are abused by investors stopping customary usage such as firewood collection and grazing; default on payments of royalties, using child labour, lack of protective gear for workers and excluding artisanal (small-scale, local) miners.

## National Unity Platform Land Policy

198. NUP shall make land transactions transparent by completing and operationalizing the digital mapping of the entire country & computerization of the national lands registry.
199. Errors and fraudulent changes made during the digital mapping shall be corrected.
200. NUP shall table the Marriage and Divorce Bill so that both men and women's property rights are protected by agreements.
201. In the light of the findings of the Bamugemereire Report being invalidated by court, we shall begin a national dialogue to probe and resolve land issues.
202. We shall regulate the mining sector to empower mineral-owning communities like Rupa in protecting their rights. In future investors shall be required to negotiate with them before commencing operations.
203. Regionally, a percentage of the income from natural resource exploitation shall be allocated to the health and education sectors.
204. We shall work with the Mineral Watch Platform to ensure the rights of mining communities are upheld.
205. We shall work with Mineral Watch to ensure child labour is not employed in mines.
206. There shall be transparency in licencing, investors' names shall be published and they shall be held accountable for their actions.

## Environmental Protection

*The generation that destroys the environment is not the generation that pays the price. That is the problem.* ~ Wangari Maathai

207. The National Unity Platform believes the environment belongs to all of us equally, and that the current occupiers of the environment hold it in trust for future generations. One third of Uganda's wealth comes from its natural resources.<sup>iii</sup> Therefore the loss of forests and wetlands at the current rate impoverishes the country.
208. Under the current government, Uganda was the second country in the world (after Canada) to enact a wetlands policy. The Constitution makes it the responsibility of government to protect our natural resources.

## Current situation

209. In the sixteen years between 1990 and 2016 Uganda lost over half of her forest cover (59.3 percent). Forest coverage fell from 23.8 percent of the land area to 9.7 percent (Human Development Report 2019).
210. Wetland coverage has also been reduced to 8 percent from 24 percent in the same period.
211. Under NDPIII government pledges to increase wetland coverage from '10.9 percent' to 12 percent. This is unlikely given that coverage is actually 8 percent (Ministry of Water and Environment) and that government has neither demarcated nor gazetted the wetlands. Only 0.3 percent of the targeted restorations had been implemented by 2018. Shs.662,841,802 was spent on boundary markers that remained unused<sup>iv</sup>.
212. Factories have been built and continue to be built with impunity in the wetlands.
213. As a result, Uganda has recently experienced several extreme weather and related events caused by climate change. There has been drought (2017); flooding in Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kabale, Ntungamo, Isingiro and Kasese Districts (Rivers Nyamwamba, Mubuku and Nyamugasani in Kasese 2020, 2013), Panyimur Sub-county, Pakwach District (Lake Albert 2020, 2019); landslides (Bududa District, 2019, 2010) and prolonged unseasonal rain followed by country-wide floods destroying roads and bridges and cutting off parts of the country. The locust invasions of 2020 were also related to weather which cause them to breed in larger than usual numbers.
214. Because wetlands have been destroyed, Uganda spends Shs.38 billion (over \$900,000) to chemically treat water from contaminated water resources.



## **National Unity Platform Environmental Policy**

215. The National Unity Platform pledges to restore ownership of the environment and biodiversity to the people of Uganda and actively begin to protect it. Wetlands, forests, lakes, rivers and other public goods
216. Communities shall be empowered and encouraged with rewards to blow the whistle on encroachers and officials responsible will be held personally to account.
217. NEMA shall be disbanded and its functions returned to the Ministry of Water for wetlands management.
218. NFA shall be audited and institutional reforms carried out to eliminate corruption.
219. Every District shall have a fully constituted, fully functioning and fully funded District Environment Committee (DEC). Appointment to the DECs shall require approval of a public oversight committee. Members of the DECs shall be personally liable for any environmental destruction they sanction.
220. Wetlands shall be demarcated and gazetted.
221. Title in forests shall be registered with districts to hold in trust for their communities. This will give districts the legal authority to protect natural resources from encroachers licensed by central government MDAs. We shall enact a law prohibiting the sale or assignment of natural resources to investors as is currently the case.
222. The environmental protection function shall be decentralized to DECs. Central planning and legal functions previously carried out by NEMA shall be returned to the Ministry of Lands and the Ministry of Water & Environment.
223. Each District will have a District Environmental Action Plan to reclaim and restore its natural resources.
224. Recruitment of staff responsible for ensuring compliance with wetlands and forest user permits will be filled.
225. Planting material will be provided to re-plant deforested areas earmarked for re-planting. It shall be paid for from fines levied against encroachers as required by law.
226. Factories built and being built in wetlands will pay a fine for every year they remain there. The fund will be used for wetland demarcation and restoration.
227. The practice of de-gazetting encroached areas will be discouraged as it only invites further encroachment.

228. To enhance respect for the environment by including it in the schools' curriculum. To run environmental awareness programmes nationally to increase public vigilance and cooperation in protecting the environment.
229. UNMA will be equipped to monitor weather all over the country.

# National Security and International Relations

230. The National Unity Platform believes security takes many forms. It is not confined to protection from potential external enemies or internal physical threats. Recent experience has taught us that national security includes protection from disease like Ebola and Covid-19. It includes protection from pests like the locust and army worm invasions, and extreme weather conditions like the annual floods and periodic drought that may threaten our livelihoods and eventually our lives.
231. For the past thirty years we have been free of external threats (except for instances of international terrorism). At the same time threats to internal security have been constant; land-grabbing, the unsolved spates of murders of women, the rise of kidnapping, and social unrest caused by poverty and met with state brutality.
232. National security also requires that we protect society from internal threats such as large-scale unemployment, widespread poverty and undernourishment and the social instability they create.
233. National security cannot be maintained without roads, fuel and food reserves, cash reserves and the good will of the people.
234. We can only be secure as a nation if we are economically free. Economic freedom includes freedom from unsustainable debt.
235. So the first step in maintaining national security is to ensure public resources are invested in human development.

## Current Situation

236. Threats to security are mainly of the internal kind. Violence among Ugandans and against Ugandans by the State has increased in recent years.

## Degradation of the Police

237. The core responsibility of the Uganda Police Force (UPF) is to maintain law and order which is the bedrock of a strong democracy and rule of law. However, The Police has been put in a position where it is dominated by the ruling party and made to further the interests of that party.
238. A further abuse is the conditions of service of middle and lower ranks are appalling. The accommodation of ordinary constables is a national scandal.

239. Resources available to the UPF are further eroded by the creation of parallel policing units whose members are answerable to a chain of command outside the UPF but whose maintenance is charged to the police budget.
240. This environment creates fierce competition for better accommodation, rations, health care as well as recognition and promotion. It results in intolerance of political dissent, and brutality against students and the general public that we witness today.
241. All our post-independence rulers have maintained almost the same system and structure of policing. They exercise total control over the police in furtherance of partisan interests. Under the NRM government UPF has been reduced to a violent, inhuman and corrupt party organ.
242. We must restore the credibility of the UPF as a modern professional non-partisan civilian service.

### State Brutality and the Military

243. Uganda's army has been a focus of extremely negative publicity at home and abroad. Electoral and other politically-inspired violence has become the norm. In this regard soldiers are as much victims as the police. Both pay a price for the poor image of the forces in that they are feared but not respected. The psychological impact of brutality on the perpetrators has not been studied in Uganda but it is bound to be damaging to young men and women who were joined the military merely looking for careers.
244. The abuse and misuse of the army extends to recruitment and remuneration. Favouritism in promotion has been clear for some time as all branches of the military are led by officers hailing from one region. Opportunities for further training, advancement and improving facilities are therefore limited to the rest.

## **National Unity Platform National Security Policy and International Relations**

### **Reform of the Armed Services**

245. The National Unity Platform aims to transform Uganda Police Force (UPF) in to an autonomous, modern, professional, and people-centric police service
246. The Uganda Police Service (UPS), shall be a public service in which the most junior employees can enjoy the benefits available to other civil servants; home ownership, family life and access to good schools and medical facilities for their families. The police service too needs protection from political abuse.
247. Review the Police Act to strengthen the functional autonomy of the police. To preserve the independence of the police from the Executive arm of government, we shall institute an independent police authority to manage police affairs. The Inspector General of Police shall serve on contract which will be renewable depending on performance.
248. This buffer between the UPS and Executive shall be further strengthened by enhancing security of tenure of all officers and streamlining appointment and transfer processes. To promote the dignity, integrity and credibility of the UPS we shall ensure recruits meet required education and personal standards. Under our administration these standards will no longer be side-stepped by the recruitment of parallel policing units which are responsible for human rights abuses and tarnishing the image of the police.
249. The National Unity Platform will promote community policing under which the UPS will be able to interact with the public as respected members of the communities in which they serve.

### **Pay Reform**

250. We shall radically transform the working conditions and welfare of the men and women in uniform through; a salary review aimed at providing competitive compensation and remuneration of trained and qualified men and women in uniform. Health insurance will be provided for the police.
251. The police were omitted from the salary increases announced by government for the coming financial year. Judges, lecturers, health workers and teachers shall receive between sixty percent of their long-term targets and 100 percent (for judges).
252. We shall radically transform the working conditions and welfare of the men and women in uniform through; a salary review aimed at providing competitive

compensation and remuneration of our men and women in uniform. Health insurance will be provided for all men and women in uniform.

253. Our contract with a demilitarized, disciplined police service will be that there will be zero-tolerance of corruption. Government shall not continue to pay the cost of abuse of police powers. Officers will be personally liable for financial loss to government caused by compensation claims by members of the public which will be deducted from their terminal benefits and pensions.

## **Military Reform**

254. As with the police, NUP shall transform the army in to a people-centred and trusted public service, first by respecting the institution and the individuals serving in it.
255. Under NUP's administration, the UPDF will not be expected to preserve the regime but to preserve the integrity of the State. The army will not be put under pressure to repress the citizens.
256. Young people joining up should expect a decent salary and accommodation. There would be opportunities for further training in technical professions through serving in the army.
257. Our contract with the UPDF would require them to uphold the human and political rights of Ugandans.

## **Disaster Preparedness Policy**

258. Not all disasters can be foreseen, disaster-preparedness is necessary for national security. We aim to form an active disaster response network across the country. This will mean establishing routines for early responses to physical threats be they climate-related, medical or other. To ensure early detection of threats we shall;
- Ensure the Meteorological Department has up-to-date functional equipment at all times.
  - Identify Quarantine Centres to serve during epidemics before the next outbreak. The Centres will serve as places of refuge when extreme weather events cause people to be displaced.
  - Employ epidemiologists to carry out disease monitoring in all districts. This function is currently under-staffed.
  - Importantly our administration would follow the Public Finance Act and maintain a contingency fund, something the current government neglects to do.
  - Train and equip the military to support other arms of government (agricultural and health sectors) in responding to pest invasions and epidemics.

## **International Relations Policy**

259. We aspire to relations that engender global respect for human freedoms and rights, peace, economic prosperity, and responsible global environmental protection. We shall pursue policies that aim for regional and global democratic peace, and the security of our people as well as their socio-economic progress

### **Peace and Security**

260. We aim for a peaceful world founded upon democratic principles. We shall partake in the formulation and promulgation of international treaties and agreements that seek to ensure democracy, and democratic governance including pertinent values like respect for human rights and freedoms of all people. Our bilateral and multilateral focus in this regard shall aim for peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts.
261. It is in our interests as a leading host country to refugees ceaselessly to work for permanent solutions to international disputes, including regional conflicts. We shall uphold the rights of refugees while working transparently with all international stakeholders for durable solutions.

## **East African and African Relations**

262. The National Unity Platform Administration shall work towards a more politically and economically united Africa. Integration shall be people-led and a product of dialogue. It shall not be merely a coalition of Heads of State and civil servants. Integration shall be based on shared values.
263. Our cooperation will focus on disaster management and regional transport.

### **Disaster-management**

264. Co-operation will be sought with our East African Community partners in developing an East African response to health and pest threats. The recent pest invasions could have been better handled by cooperation. Our response to Covid-19 would have been more successful had there been agreement on testing, quarantine, and alternative cargo routes.

### **Regional Transport**

265. Transport is central to security as has been seen from Uganda's weak Covid Response. Had a railway been in place via which cargo could have been transported to Uganda, we could have avoided the 628 cases that entered the country between 14th April when counting of truck drivers began and 21<sup>st</sup> May when foreign drivers were banned from entry. Over 130 Ugandan truck drivers

would have been under lockdown with the rest of the population while cargo was handled by a much smaller number of railway workers.

266. This vital resource has been mismanaged since 1986. The railway was privatised to Rift Valley Railways in 2005. That company failed to rehabilitate, and used only the Kasese line to transport goods out of Western Uganda to the Kenyan border. It was re-nationalised in 2017 for the planned revival of the East African Railway (EAR).
267. In the short term NUP will consider shelving the SGR and rebuilding the Uganda Railway in order to transport goods to Naivasha in Kenya, to Tanzania and to the borders with Rwanda, DRC and S. Sudan.
268. We shall study the feasibility of water transport which remains the cheapest and most eco-friendly mode of transport for imports and exports transiting through Kisumu, Kenya and Mwanza, Tanzania. If found to be viable, internal ports such as Port Bell Luzira, Jinja, Bukakata and others would be upgraded for the purpose so as to drastically cut the cost of transport, reduce road accidents, preserve the roads for longer and reduce traffic congestion

## **Protection of Ugandans in the Diaspora**

269. As the world becomes more connected, there is increased movement of our people. We aim for the promotion of unrestricted such movement, plus protection of the rights and freedoms of our people wherever they shall be, using our good bilateral and multilateral offices and links.
270. Uganda receives remittances of Shs1.3 billion a year are equal to our income from tourism.
271. Even though they contribute so much to the functioning of the State, citizen's in the Diaspora are currently unable to vote. NUP shall begin the process of enabling Ugandan's abroad to safely vote in general elections.
272. Our government failed the Diaspora when they required diplomatic protection when they were evicted on racial grounds during this pandemic. Government failed them again when it rejected an offer of a free airlift for all those wishing to return.
273. The NUP pledges will never be abandoned again. Early in our administration we shall seek reciprocity in our relations with foreign countries. Ugandans abroad must be accorded the same human rights, dignity and respect foreign nationals enjoy in our country.
274. In line with our principle of affordable government, we shall seek joint consular representation with our EAC partners abroad rather than costly



embassies. Government of Uganda currently has unpaid foreign bills dating back a number of years.

### Prevention of International Bribery of Officials and other Crimes

275. In recent years there have been significant revelations of international crime involving government officials and foreign investors. The ‘tuna bonds’ affair which cost Mozambique \$2 billion, Namibia’s ‘fishrot’ affair in which investors bribed government officials for fishing rights, to our own Patrick Ho case in which top officials received bribes for a range of favours including free land and tax breaks, have shown us that we cannot develop until international rackets to steal our assets are detected and stopped.
276. NUP intends to work with the international community to halt this trend. For our part, we shall encourage and protect whistle-blowers.
277. We expect our development partners to take appropriate steps to apprehend and charge corrupt officials to enable us to recover lost funds banked and invested in their jurisdictions.

### International Trade

278. The NUP Administration will pursue commercial diplomacy to promote her national interests. We shall negotiate with EAC, European Union and other partners to ensure greater access for Ugandan goods in those markets.




## Appendix

	Shs	US\$
Power III Project (Bujagali Hydro-electric Dam)	569,710,800,000	153,000,000.00
UPE	1,158,039,600,000	311,000,000.00
District Health Project	167,562,000,000	45,000,000.00
Economic & Financial Management Project II	287,424,684,000	77,190,000.00
Public Service Performance Enhancement Program	75,589,080,000	20,300,000.00
NAADS	199,212,600,000	53,500,000.00
Transport Sector Development Project	655,353,600,000	176,000,000.00
Sub-total	3,112,892,364,000	835,990,000.00
Abolition of 10-year Tax Holidays		
Un-billed revenue from the assets leased to UMEME by UEDCL	129,075,000	
Recovery of Stolen Funds	Shs	
Missing from Lubowa Hospital loan account	139,000,000,000	

Annual savings from Abolition of VAT waivers for multi-national companies.



Annual Savings from Merged and Abolished Agencies & Abolished Political Appointments

	Shs
Advisor's Salaries	53,000,000,000
RDC Salaries	15,000,000,000
Deputy RDC Salaries	10,000,000,000
Prime Minister	300,000,000
First Deputy Prime Minister	208,800,000
Second Deputy Prime Minister	208,800,000
Third Deputy Prime Minister	208,800,000
Office of the Prime Minister, payroll	4,423,980,732
Merged and Abolished Agencies	1,000,000,000,000
Rent	
Electricity	
Water	
Sub-total	<u>1,083,350,380,732</u>

Annual savings from liquidating Lear Jet



Annual savings from reducing  
convoy



Shs

Estimated Annual Nugatory  
Expenditure

30,000,000,000

Shs

Workshops and Seminars

214,815,958,210

Welfare and Entertainment

78,000,000,000

Medical Treatment abroad

3,730,000,000

Advertising and PR

78,860,000,000

Books, periodicals and  
newspapers

621,730,000,000

Loan interest

544,650,000,000

Sub-total

1,591,785,958,210

note:

Grey rectangle denotes estimates  
ongoing



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<sup>i</sup> KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 2019

<sup>ii</sup> THE NATIONAL BUDGET FRAMEWORK FY 2019/20 BUDGET BRIEF NO. 2019/4 (Source: National BFP FY 2019/20 - 2023/24).

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<sup>iii</sup> The Changing Wealth of Nations, World Bank, 2018.

<sup>iv</sup> Auditor General, 2018