



# UGANDA INVESTMENT GUIDE

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## INTRODUCTION

Uganda is located in Eastern Africa. A youthful population, open markets, and abundant natural resources highlight the numerous opportunities investors can find in Uganda. While the country maintains a liberal trade and foreign exchange regime, and largely adheres to IMF/World Bank programs to fight poverty, the

Government has prioritized building and improving infrastructure, including boosting energy production, lowered tariffs and trade barriers for regional trade, and generally welcomes foreign direct investment.

## GOVERNANCE AND THE JUDICATURE IN UGANDA

The 1995 Constitution of Uganda as amended is the Supreme law of the country and all laws governing the State must be read and construed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

To effectively serve its people, Uganda's governance structure is structured into two administrative units; the Central Government and the Local Government. These two administrative units have ensured that the vast population of Uganda of 34.6 Million people is adequately catered for.

Uganda's Judicial system is comprehensively developed with the Supreme Court as the highest court in the country, followed by the Court of Appeal and lastly the High Court. These courts are assisted by subordinate courts like Magistrates court to effectively administer justice in the country.<sup>1</sup>

## FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS IN UGANDA

Uganda's economy has remained resilient amidst a volatile global environment. Total national economic output is estimated to have expanded by 4.6% in the financial year ending 2015/2016, supported by robust growth in the services and construction activities. Although this is lower than the growth target of 5.0%, it is significantly higher than the projected growth for sub-Saharan Africa of 3% projected the same period.

Currently Uganda's estimated GDP 2017 stands at USD 27.6 Billion<sup>2</sup> with contributions from the Agricultural sector 3

24.5%, Industrial sector 21% and the Services sector 54.4%. This composition marks a change in Uganda's economy where reliance and investment is shifting from the Agricultural sector to other sectors as well.

<sup>1</sup> [www.ubos.org](http://www.ubos.org)

<sup>2</sup> IMF World Economic Outlook 2016 and [www.gfmag.com/global-data/uganda-gdp-country-report](http://www.gfmag.com/global-data/uganda-gdp-country-report)

<sup>3</sup> CIA World Factbook/ GDP Composition by Sector

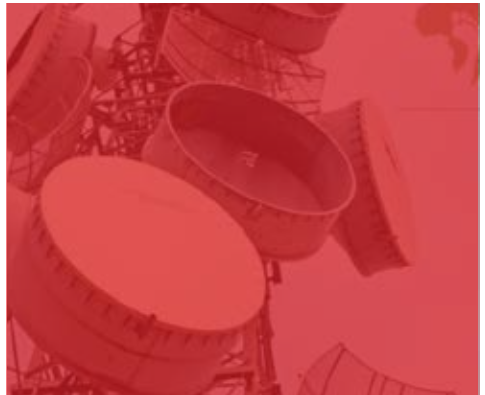


Investment in Uganda is driven and spearheaded by the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) which has opened a "dedicated one-stop center" that aims to help investors:

- Apply and receive the investment license online
- Choose an investment area of interest
- Pay all the assessed fees
- Supply details of business registration to Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)
- Apply for tax identification number (TIN) • Apply for land titles online

Uganda is open to foreign investment and provides tax incentives for medium and long-term foreign investors. Based on ease of doing business, trade freedom, property rights, and fiscal and monetary policy, Uganda continued to slide in the Heritage Foundation's 2015 Index of Economic Freedom, falling to 92 out of 178 countries, with an overall score of 59.7, its second lowest economic freedom score ever. Uganda ranks as the ninth freest among the 46 sub-Saharan African countries on the index.

The main areas of foreign investment are in manufacturing, telecommunications, financial services and real estate, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Other areas of significant investment are in power, oil, construction and mining. In response to growing perceptions that foreign workers without work permits were taking local jobs, the Government began more strictly enforcing its foreign labor laws.



#### TOOLS OF INVESTMENT

There are various tools of investment like companies, partnerships, sole proprietorships, joint venture and many others that can be used to drive investment in Uganda. Business registration and company formation in Uganda is done by the Uganda Registration Services Bureau.

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau recently computerized its company registry, reducing the time and number of steps required to start a business. Investment can be wheeled through registering a foreign company or incorporation of a local company in Uganda. Among the country's achievements over the year was the introduction of a new computerized property registration system that made it easier to certify documents subject to a Stamp Duty



## BUSINESS REGISTRATION PROCESS IN SUMMARY

	DETAILS	TIMEFRAME
1. Company Registration		
	Reservation of company name	1 hour, valid for 30 days (subject to extension)
	Assessment of fees*	10 minutes
	Payment at Bank within	10 minutes
	Presentation of form for registration of a company articles and memorandum of association for assessment as well as forms A1 and A2	2 hours
	Payment of fees at Bank within	10 minutes
	Stamping and signing of documents	1 Day
	Issuing of certificate of incorporation	5 minutes
2. Registration of other company forms		
	Assessment of fees payable	10 minutes
	Payment at bank within	10 minutes
	Stamping of documents and entry	3 Hours
3. Search of Records	Assessment of fees	10 minutes
	Payment at bank within	10 minutes
	Search and retrieval of documents	20 minutes
	Search report	1 hour
4. Registration of Business Names		
	Name search	4 hours
	Assessment of fees	10 minutes
	Payment of fees at bank within	10 minutes
	Certificate of registration	4 hours
5. Change of particulars		
	Assessment of fees	10 minutes
	Payment of fees at Bank within	N/A
	Registration	4 working hours

## FEES SCHEDULE

SERVICE	DETAIL	COSTS (UGX & USD)
1. Document Registration	Registration of Documents	10,000/=
	Registration on duplicate copy	10,000/=
	Registration on certified copy	5,000/=
	Stamp duty	5000/= per copy
	Search fees	2000/= per record
	Certification of a particular document	5000/= per first 100 words and 2000/= for any other folio after first 100 words
2. BUSINESS NAMES REGISTRATION		
	Registration fees	20,000/=
	Change of particulars	10,000/=
	Search	2,000/=
	Filing fees	1000/= per copy
	Cancellation of Entry	5000/= per copy
	Change of Address	5000/=per copy
	Ratification of register	10,000/= per copy
	Notice of cessation	10,000/= per set
	Certification	5000/=
3. Incorporation of companies with share capital		
	Name Reservation	20,000/=
	Registration fees of nominal capital 1Million – 5 Million	50,000/=
	Registration fees of Nominal Capital exceeding 5 Million	1% of Share Capital
	Annual Returns	50,000/=
	Company Resolutions	20,000/=
	Company forms	20,000/= per form
	Stamp Duty	0.5% of share capital

4. Incorporation of a company without share capital		
	Registration fees of a company limited by guarantee includes reservation fees, filling and registration fees	80,000/=
	Stamp Duty of company limited by Guarantee	35,000/=
	Registration of annual returns of a company including a copy of balance sheet	30,000/=
5. Foreign Companies		
	Registration of certified copy of memorandum or equivalent	USD 250
	Any other document (forms)	USD 55
	Certification, per copy	USD 10
6. Registration of Charges		
	Registration of mortgage/ charge	50,000/=
	Registration of series of debentures	50,000/=
	Inspection of Register	20,000/=
	Registration of receiver or manager of property	25,000/=

## TAXATION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Tax administration and collection in Uganda is manned by the Uganda Revenue Authority that administers all tax statutes; Income tax Act cap 340, Value Added Tax Act cap 349, Excise Duty Act, East African Customs Management Act 2004 among others.

In recent years, the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has improved its efficiency, boosted transparency, and increased tax compliance. Uganda uses the Self Assessment Return system (SAR) and an e-tax platform.

Individuals are taxed at rates between zero and 40 percent, Corporation Income tax (CIT) is 30 percent for both subsidiaries and branches, the Value Added Tax (VAT) is 18 percent, and Capital Gains Tax (CGT) rate is 30 percent. Withholding Tax rate is 6% for payments to resident contractors and 15% to non resident contractor (unless the rate is reduced by a Double Taxation Treaty Agreement (DTA).) Uganda has DTAs with the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Norway, Zambia, India, South Africa, Mauritius, Denmark and Italy.

Company Losses can be carried forward indefinitely.

Uganda has thin capitalization and transfer pricing rules.

Investors in key sectors of the economy may be granted Income tax exemptions at the discretion of the Government.

## EXCHANGE CONTROLS

Uganda does not have foreign exchange control rules.

However, one needs to take into consideration, the Anti Money Laundering and Anti Terrorism Financing Rules in Uganda when exporting or importing capital.

## KEY SECTORS

### AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing one third of the work force. Products include coffee, tea, cotton, tobacco, cassava (manioc, tapioca), potatoes, corn, millet, pulses, cut flowers; beef, goat meat, milk, poultry, and fish.

Agricultural products supply nearly all of Uganda's foreign exchange earnings, with coffee alone (of which Uganda is Africa's second largest producer - after Ethiopia accounting for about 27% of the country's exports in 2002. Exports of apparel, hides, skins, vanilla, vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, and fish are growing, and cotton, tea, and tobacco continue to be mainstays.

10 <http://www.gov.ug/about-uganda/sector/economy>

11 <http://businessfocus.co.ug/index.php/2017/03/08/why-you-should-go-slow-investing-in-ugandas-real-estate-sector/>



Coffee accounts for the bulk of export revenues and the Uganda Coffee Development Authority oversees the country's coffee industry. Sugar is by far Uganda's most profitable crop with factories such as Kakira Sugar Works, Lugazi sugar works, Kinyara Sugar Works Limited, Mayuge Sugar Industries Limited, etc

Most industry is related to agriculture and the Agricultural sector includes Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairy, and Crop sub-sectors. It is also the most important sector of the economy, employing one third of the work force.

The country's natural environment provides good grazing for cattle, sheep, and goats, with indigenous breeds dominating most livestock in Uganda. Uganda's dairy farmers have worked to achieve self-sufficiency in the industry but have been hampered by a number of problems. Low producer prices for milk, high costs for animal medicines, and transportation problems were especially severe obstacles to dairy development. The World Food Programme (WFP) undertook an effort to rehabilitate the dairy industry, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other UN agencies also helped subsidize powdered milk imports, most of it from the United States and Denmark.

## REAL ESTATE

Many local and foreign investors are increasingly investing their hard earned money in Uganda's real estate sector. Many have described it as being lucrative, something that has seen many rush to take a nibble into the much touted profitable sector. Despite being dubbed 'high end', the concept of real estate is also growing particularly among young professionals attracted by the prestige that comes with it. More property agents and companies are springing up every other day in response to the growing demand at hand. It is true Uganda's real estate sector is promising with a lot of opportunities to exploit, but a money savvy investor should slow about it because of the figures revealed below.

Uganda is currently estimated to have 7.8m households, each with an average size of 4.7 people. The country however faces a housing deficit of 1.6 million units; 1.29m is in rural areas and 211,000 in urban centres, according to UNHP. Additionally, approximately 900,000 of existing units are sub-standard and need replacement/upgrading. Annual requirement for new housing is estimated at 200,000 units of which 135,000 in rural areas and 65,000 in urban areas. What is worrying though is that only 4% of all the households in Uganda earn more than US\$12,000 (Shs42m) annually, while average annual urban household income in 2015 was US\$ 3,502 (Shs12.2m). Furthermore, over 5m households (60%) earn less than US\$1,600 (Shs5.6m) annually, of this, approximately 4.5m households are in rural areas and 800,000 in urban areas. Most importantly, the average annual income needed to buy the cheapest newly built house is US\$20,000 (Shs70m). Only 2.4% (190,000) of the households earn about 2.3m that can enable them buy a mortgage. Currently, only 3.5 (255,000) of existing households can afford the cheapest



which is not conducive for developers to put up massive housing schemes of about 5000 units and the economic downturn which has slowed down demand in real estate.

## TOURISM

Tourism is a vibrant and competitive industry that necessitates the ability to constantly adapt to customer changing needs and requirements to ensure clients safety, satisfaction and enjoyment to the maximum.

It's estimated to have generated the US \$1.5 trillion in export earnings in the 2015 and it forecasted to have a growth of between 3.5% and 4.5% in the year 2016.

There are different types of Tourism in Uganda according to interest of tourist and this include sport, space, social, experiential, dark, creative, educational, medical, recession, pro-poor, ecotourism and sustainable tourism.

Uganda has a very diverse culture, landscape, flora, and fauna.

Game viewing is the most popular tourist activity in Uganda. Uganda is one of only three countries where it is possible to visit the endangered mountain gorillas. The others are Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo so Mountain gorillas are Uganda's prime tourist attraction.

Meanwhile, Queen Elizabeth National Park is home to the tree climbing lions. Lions do not normally climb trees, except when chased by another lion group or wild buffalo.



White water rafting and kayaking are popular activities on the rapids near the source of the Nile (one of the longest rivers in the world) at Jinja.

Uganda has many opportunities for mountain climbing, hiking and nature walks. The Rwenzori Mountains, which are found at the border with the DRC, include the snowcapped Margherita Peak (5109 m), the highest Mountain Range in Africa and also one of the highest peaks.

Mount Elgon, located in Eastern Uganda, can be used for hiking and climbing, and also has one of the largest calderas in the world.

In October 2014 the Ugandan government's Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities released the 2014-2024 Tourism Development Master Plan with support from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme. Among other strategies, the Plan divides the country up into several geographical "Tourism Development Areas. There has been increased investment in tourism, particularly in travel accommodation and related facilities; this has enhanced tourists' experience in the country. The Uganda Tourism Board has also come up with new ideas especially in marketing, product

development, research and quality assurance with a main of promoting the country's tourism sector both internationally and domestically for example organizing the Second Africa Birding Expo to showcase over 1000 species of birds seen in Uganda, an accolade which makes Uganda the only African country with most bird species. Other marketing strategies which the tourism promotions agency intends to rely on include continued use of International Public Relations firms, foreign mission to market the country's Tourism potential and

attending International expos. On domestic Tourism, Marketing Uganda Tourism Board will engage in school outreach programmes where they expect to reach out to very many schools and educational institutions to create and maintain tourism clubs while creating more. Uganda Wildlife Authority officials, Uganda's top conservation body, said they have also put in place infrastructures that support the development of tourism industry in 2017.

Tourism in Uganda has led to increased developments making it a key driver in social, economic and cultural progress of the host country and enhanced international relations. Payment of goods and services by tourists leads to a large income value in the local economy of the area community and creates employment opportunities in service sector associated with tourism.

## FINANCE

Uganda's economy has grown at a slower pace recently thus reducing its impact on poverty. Average annual growth was 4.5% in the five years to FY16, compared to the 7 %achieved during the 1990s and early 2000s. The economy has since faced headwinds, including adverse weather, the civil unrest in South Sudan, global economic uncertainties, and private sector credit constraints. The country's economic growth faces a number of risks: delayed completion of the massive public infrastructure program; regional instability; global uncertainty; and credit market constraints.

The currency is Ugandan shilling, GDP Growth is estimated to be 4.8%, GDP per Capita: \$700, Trade Balance/GDP: -8.7%, Population: 38.3M, Public Debt/GDP: 30% as well as Inflation: 5.5%

While the Industrial sector includes Manufacturing, Construction, and Electricity Supply sub-sectors; the Services sector is made up of Wholesale and Retail trade,



Telecommunications, Hotels and Restaurants, Transport and Communications and Tourism sub sectors. Uganda has sustained economic growth at an average rate of 7% per annum.

Commercial banks in Uganda include ABC Bank, Bank of Africa Uganda Limited, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Barclays Bank of Uganda, Cairo International Bank, Centenary Bank, Citibank Uganda,

Commercial Bank of Africa, Crane Bank, DFCU Bank, Diamond Trust Bank, Ecobank Uganda, Equity Bank Uganda Limited, Exim Bank (Uganda), Finance Trust Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank, Housing Finance Bank, KCB Bank Uganda Limited, NC Bank Uganda, Orient Bank, Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited, Standard Chartered Uganda, Tropical Bank, United Bank for Africa, etc

There are also Tier 4 Micro finance institutions like SACCOs.

Uganda is also a member of the World Trade Organization.

The main means of transportation are road transport, and the railway transport is being revived. Uganda's important link to the port of Mombasa is now mainly by road, which serves its transport needs and also those of neighboring Rwanda, Burundi, parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. An international airport is at Entebbe on the shore of Lake Victoria, about 32 kilometres south of Kampala.

## EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is a very big issue in Uganda. Over 90% of those above 25 years are unemployed and majority of those unemployed are women with 65.2%, over 11 million. In comparison, 47% of Ugandan males between the age group of 14 and 64 are unemployed.

The last census results indicate that 58% of Ugandans are not working for reasons other than pursuing studies. The census report indicates that Uganda's population between the productive age of 14 and 64 is slightly over 18m. The age category 20 to 24 has 65% of its 'members' unemployed. This means that 11.8m youths, most of them straight from university and other tertiary institutions have a problem getting employment. For those above 25 years, the situation is worse, with over 90% of them unemployed. Uganda has one of the youngest and fastest growing population rates in the world with its fertility rate of 3% one of the highest in Sub Saharan Africa. Many youths have therefore recently channeled their energies into 'sports betting' and other forms of gambling.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Uganda has substantial natural resources, including fertile soils, regular rainfall, small deposits of copper, gold, and other minerals, and recently discovered oil.

Uganda is endowed with over 50 different types of minerals and it ranks among the countries in Africa with the biggest number of minerals although the potential for viable exploitation has not yet been established for most of the minerals. The country's list of minerals resources include; Copper, Cobalt, Tin, Phosphates, Vermiculite, Diamond, Gold, Petroleum, Chronite, Magnetite, Uranium, Iron ore among others.

Uganda's predominant mineral occurrences are gold, tungsten, tin, beryl, and tantalite in the south; tungsten, clay, and granite between latitude zero and two degrees north; and gold, mica, copper, limestone, and iron in the north.

Uganda also has significant oil reserves - an estimated 6.5 billion barrels, including 1.4 billion that are recoverable. With only 40 percent of the oil-rich area explored, additional discoveries could boost Uganda's oil reserves and the Ministry of Energy plans to award exploration licenses in six new blocks in 2015. In February 2015, the Ministry of Energy also provisionally awarded a multi-billion-dollar contract to construct a refinery to Russian firm RT Global, subject to final negotiations. In spite of these developments, two of the three oils companies' active in Uganda are downsizing their operations as delays in issuing production licenses mount. Moreover, details of an export pipeline from western Uganda to the Kenyan coast are yet to be finalized. Although Uganda hopes to begin active production in 2018, it is unlikely that any production could realistically begin before 2020.

Oil revenues and taxes are expected to become a larger source of government funding as production starts in the next five to 10 years.

High energy costs, inadequate transportation and energy infrastructure, insufficient budgetary discipline, and corruption inhibit economic development and investor confidence.

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

Euromonitor International identifies Uganda as one of the 20 Markets of the Future that will offer the most opportunities for consumer goods companies globally. The country is one of the fastest growing and most promising economies in Sub-Saharan Africa. With an anticipated real GDP CAGR of 7%, Uganda should be one of the fastest growing African economies over 2013-2020. Due to recent oil discoveries, growth will be fueled by investments into the energy industry and finally by actual oil extraction, which is anticipated to commence in 2017.

<sup>19</sup> <http://fortuneofafrica.com/ug/minerals-in-uganda/>

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Department of State 2015 Investment Climate Statement

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/places/uganda/>



Purchasing power is strongest in Kampala as there are around two million residents in, with these earning on average two to three times higher incomes in comparison to residents of the country's northern and eastern regions. Therefore, the country's capital offers the best sales opportunities for consumer goods providers.

The Ugandan population is among the world's youngest and fastest growing. Over half of Ugandans are under 18-years-old. When entering adulthood, these individuals will offer huge potential for housing, automotive, durable goods and alcohol sales. Growing income levels and the modernisation of local houses will drive sales of home care products, consumer appliances and consumer electronics over the forecast period.

The majority of consumer transactions in the country take place in informal channels. However, the number of modern retail stores is expanding, gradually increasing the penetration of official trade. This is expected to prove very positive for nearly all consumer goods categories, sales of which are hindered by unofficial trade.

One of the challenges of this industry is corruption. In 2013, Transparency International indicated Uganda as the country with the highest bribery incidence in East Africa. Bribery is sometimes the only way to access required services without excessive delay.

The other challenge is that the country's railway, road, water and electricity infrastructure is poor. The majority of roads are unpaved and most rail tracks are worn out.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology in Uganda is at a turning point with tremendous opportunities emerging and has been named among the fastest growing industries in the country. The ICT sector in Uganda has been vibrant and dynamic and has now turned into an inevitable tool of socio-economic development. The Uganda Communications Commission regulates communications, primarily delivered through an enabled private sector and Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is the Government Ministry providing strategic and technical leadership on all matters of information and communications technologies. The Ministry has a number of affiliated institutions for support to achieve its mission. The institutions include; Uganda Communications Commission (UCC); National Information Technology Authority (NITA-U); Posta Uganda; and Uganda Telecommunication Limited.

The communications infrastructure network put in place by the major operators (MTN Uganda, Uganda Telecom, Africell, Airtel) today covers almost all the districts in the country with more than 90% of all the PSTN switching systems digital. Other networks include Vodafone, smart, K2 and smile.

<sup>19</sup> <http://fortuneofafrica.com/ug/minerals-in-uganda/>

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Department of State 2015 Investment Climate Statement

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/places/uganda/>

Lately, there has been increased access to ICT services by citizens locally, regionally and internationally and the ICT sector employs over one million people.

The Ugandan mobile market grew by 3% year-over-year by the end of H116, with total subscribers reaching 22.7mn at the end of Q317 and a penetration rate of 56%. The number of mobile money accounts in Uganda increased to 18.93mn in March 2016. The accounts were down 56,000 from 18.99mn in March 2015.

Most Public schools and majority of Private schools have Computer laboratories where ICT related courses are introduced to pupils and students and at an early stage.

There is also wide use of Mobile Money, increased use of e-commerce, e-tax, e-visa, e-registration, the Virtual One-Stop-Center at Uganda Investment Authority and a tremendous increase in the number of internet users.

The Government has developed a National ICT Policy and Master Plan. The ICT policy strategies are to have a good National ICT Policy and associated Legal Framework, Develop Uganda's ICT Master plan, create a robust and sustainable ICT sector, increase the use of ICT as an enabler for socio-economic development and poverty eradication, increase the ICT skilled workforce, develop a world-class culture of ICT innovations, create a good environment for the development of ICTs, create a knowledge Society and improve the National Services Deliveries through ICT.

When it comes to internet, the top-level domain for Uganda is ".ug". Mobile network operators have now joined the bandwagon of providing internet services to Ugandans as did fixed-line internet providers did. Fixed-line internet providers have also increased in Uganda. These mainly offer premium dedicated internet services to business customers. Some of the notable Internet Service Providers for business include Roke Telecom,

Onesolution, Smile Communication, Datanet, Liquid Telecom/ Infocom, Africa Online among others.

As regards postal service, Uganda Post Limited was the only postal service licensed by the Uganda Communications Commission in Uganda in 2004. As of 2010, Uganda Post Limited had changed its name to Posta Uganda.

The Uganda Broadcasting Corporation is the public broadcasting station but there are many private television stations and radio stations like NBS, NTV Uganda, Spark Tv among others.

Newspapers in Uganda include The New Vision, Sunday Vision, The Daily Monitor, The Sunday Monitor, The Red Pepper, The Sunday Pepper, The Uganda Observer, The East African and others.

Blogs are increasingly being used as a medium of communication in Uganda. Affordable data rates, increasing internet penetration and free blogging platforms such as Wordpress and blogger are making internet users turn to blogging platforms to creatively express themselves, comment on current affairs, inform the public among other reasons.

22 <http://www.euromonitor.com/markets-of-the-future-in-uganda/report>

23 <http://www.gou.go.ug/ministry/ministry-information-and-communications-technology>

24 <http://www.budde.com.au/Research/Uganda-Telecoms-Infrastructure-Operators-Regulations-Statistics-and-Analyses>

25 <file:///D:/Signum/investment%20guide/executiveSummary-Uganda-Telecommunications-Report-592727.pdf>

26 <http://www.ugandainvest.go.ug/ict-sector-profile-2/>

27 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry\\_of\\_Science,\\_Technology\\_and\\_Innovation\\_\(Uganda\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ministry_of_Science,_Technology_and_Innovation_(Uganda))

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Main Intellectual Property Laws enacted by the Legislature in Uganda include the Industrial Property Act, 2014 (2014), The Geographical Indications Act, 2013 (2013), The Trademarks Act, 2010 (2010), The Trade Secrets Protection Act, 2009 (2009), The Trademarks Regulations, 2012 (2012), The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Regulations, 2010 (2010) and The Copyright and Neighboring Rights Act, 2006 (2006).

The Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and the Uganda Police Force (UPF) are responsible for enforcing the existing laws.

People get protection for their intellectual property through protection of Patents, Industrial designs and Utility Models.

In order to be patentable, an invention must meet the following three criteria: It must be novel (new), It must involve an inventive step (not obvious to a person skilled in the relevant field of technology), It must be capable of industrial application (useful) and the subject matter must be accepted as patentable under the Uganda's Industrial Property Act, 2014.

A Utility Model just like a patent also provides exclusive rights to inventors and innovators for their new products and processes. The requirements for granting a Utility Model are less stringent compared to those of patent protection. For the Utility Model, the requirement of a product or process having an inventive step is not considered. Utility Model protection is for shorter period of time normally 10 years. An industrial design is the aesthetic aspect of a useful object. Industrial designs protect the appearance of a useful object. An industrial design may consist of three dimensional features, such as the shape of an article, or two dimensional features, such as patterns, lines or color. For example; a mineral water bottle, a pattern or a cloth like a kitenge, the shape of a car etc.

Uganda is the first country that is known to afford rights to what they define as a technovation. Technovation is defined by the Act as "a solution to a specific problem in the field of technology, proposed by an employee of an enterprise in Uganda for use by that enterprise, and which relates to the activities of the enterprise but which, on the date of proposal, has not been used or actively considered for use by that enterprise".

28 <http://www.adamsadams.com/uganda-industrial-property-regulations-passed/>

29 <http://ursb.go.ug/services/intellectual-property/patents/>

30 <https://www.export.gov/article?id=Uganda-Protection-of-Property-Rights>



There are Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) which are designed to provide innovators with access to locally based, high quality technology information services and other related services.

Uganda's Commercial Court is hearing an increasing number of intellectual property and trademark cases, especially by artists and musicians in Uganda's Performing Arts Rights Society. Another challenge is Counterfeit CDs, DVDs, and computer software that are openly sold in Uganda's market places, and counterfeit pharmaceuticals and agricultural inputs that are becoming an increasing problem.

As regards trademarks, patents and copyright, Uganda is a member of the Paris Convention, the ARIPO (Banjul Protocol), and the WTO/TRIPS but Uganda is not a member of the Berne Convention. The law provides for copyright in respect of literary, scientific and artistic works.

## ENERGY

The energy sector is one of the key sectors of Uganda's economy. Uganda is richly endowed with abundant energy resources, which are fairly distributed throughout the country. These include hydropower, biomass, solar, geothermal, peat and fossil fuels. Biomass is still the most important source of energy for the majority of the Ugandan population and the level of solar energy utilization in Uganda is still very low.

The sector provides a major contribution to the treasury resources from fuel taxes, VAT on electricity, levy on transmission bulk purchases of electricity, license fees and royalties and foreign exchange earnings from power exports.

The Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) was established to license and regulate operations of all electricity operators, and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) was put in place to ensure that rural electrification, which in most cases is not commercially viable, is accelerated to achieve set targets. The Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd. (UETCL) is the bulk supplier and single buyer of power for the national grid in Uganda. It purchases all independently generated power in the country and it also imports electricity from neighboring countries.

Uganda generates its own electric power from Nalubaale, Bujagali, Kilembe, Mpanga, Nyangaki, Bugoye hydropower stations, and thermal stations.

Wood fuels are largely used for cooking in rural areas while charcoal mostly provides for the cooking needs of the urban population. High demand for wood fuels used inefficiently results in overuse and depletion of forests. The challenges faced by the energy sector include the following; Biomass energy source remains dominant for cooking and other household uses, There is an urgent need of developing adequate local expertise to management the energy sector, The high costs of transports of imported oil products for the production of power, The challenge of ensuring efficient and safe use of oil products especially in the transport sector, There is insufficient standardization and quality control of petroleum products and inadequate enforcement and uncoordinated safety measures, Low generation capacity to meet the increasing demand and low access to electricity, Lack of sufficient institutional, legal & regulatory framework and human capacity and the fact that energy supply is unequally distributed across the country and the provision of electricity has been limited to mainly urban and semi-urban areas.

Energy is also an integral part of the Ugandan Government's Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) which includes frequent references to the link between energy and poverty alleviation.

the 2017 World Fact Book of the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/agriculture\\_in\\_Uganda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/agriculture_in_Uganda)

<http://www.ugandacoffee.org/>

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<http://businessfocus.co.ug/index->

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