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Write to: PO Box 12141 Kampala Email: [letters@ug.nationmedia.com](mailto:letters@ug.nationmedia.com)

# Letters

## Reviving Uganda Airlines isn't an investment plan

Who said the revival of Uganda Airlines is an investment plan? It is a service, like roads and railways.

When Uganda Airlines was still alive and kicking, travel to places like South Africa and Nairobi was convenient for Ugandans. Travelling to South Africa on SAA now requires waking up at 3am, and there are some Nairobi flights on Kenya Airways that leave at 5am, which means you have to wake up at 2am if you stay in Kampala.

Uganda Airlines was also very important for travel between places like Arua, Kasese, Pakuba and Entebbe. Expansion of national routes to places like Kisoro, Bwindi, Paraa, and Kidepo can only be through a national airline. The private airlines are predatory, and I remember we used to pay in dollars to go to Arua, and the cost was the same as a flight to Nairobi.

The tarmacking of the roads saved us from private airlines that never had any social contract with Arua even though that route was its cash cow.

We already throw money around for lots of useless ventures. What is one more, if it came to that?

Geoffrey Buga

## Stop personalising public institutions

I write in regard to an article in *Daily Monitor* of October 5 titled, "Revitalising our chamber of commerce is a patriotic duty."

This article is spot on, the Uganda National Chamber of commerce is like a father whose children do not know his face value. We must stop the personalisation of institutions and build them to outlive our stewardship.

Freddie K. Kiapi,  
Online reader

## LETTER OF THE DAY

# EAC should promote intra-African trade

On the June 23, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. This sent shockwaves across the world and of course the East African Community was not spared. The Economic Partnership Agreement that has been under negotiation between the EU and the EAC for more than five years has taken a hit. The trade deal that was supposed to be signed by the whole EAC bloc has produced its own version of a "coalition of the willing" in Rwanda and Kenya. The two countries decided to go ahead and sign the agreement after Uganda and Tanzania developed cold feet at the last hour with Tanzania giving Brexit as an excuse.

This has encouraged cynics, alarmists and naysayers to come out all guns blazing, predicting doom and gloom for other regional blocs like the EAC since the mother of all regional blocs has not stood the test of time.

They forget that we have been through worse in the past but because of our resilience, we got back on our feet. I vehemently contend that the EAC can only learn positive lessons from Brexit. Our leaders must make economic integration more people-centered and discard some of their political delusions of



grandeur. What concerns the people the most is their welfare that comes with a healthy economy. Therefore, economic integration characterised by free trade on a wide scale must take precedence over political integration.

The actualisation of the Continental Free Trade Area should be fast tracked with the other economic blocs that have been reluctant to join like ECOWAS coming on board.

Colonial constructs like the divide between Anglo-phone and Franco-phone that create unnecessary rivalries are not tenable. This zero-sum mindset that makes Africans distrust each other more

than they do foreigners needs to be ditched once and for all.

It leads us to sign trade agreements with the West other than with each other which unfortunately, more often than not turn out raw deals for us.

Intra-African trade still stands at an embarrassing 11 per cent, the world's lowest. Intra-African trade is our only buffer against the shocks of Brexit and sure way of achieving both the EAC's Vision 2050 and the African Union's Vision 2063. It is our salvation from within and is a true example of an African solution to an African problem.

Ivan A. Ojokol

## UPC needs a higher ideology to operate in post colonial situation

In my article (Obote is not the Alpha and Mega of UPC ideology in *Daily Monitor* of October 14), I am not dismissive of Milton Obote at all. Far from it. All I am saying is that nationalism as an ideology cannot run a nationalist movement after independence. UPC requires a higher ideology after independence.

To say that Obote did not write on imperialism is a fact. And here I am not being dismissive of Obote.

I do hold Obote in very high esteem; however, that should not let me ascribe to him what he did not do or an ideology he did not embrace.

It should also not prevent me from pointing out that the ideology he embraced has run out of steam and UPC needs to embrace a higher ideology to operate in the post-colonial situation.

My point here is that nationalism as an ideology has limitations and UPC should get to know that and embrace a

higher ideology for the party to face the new challenges beyond the attainment of independence.

Let me emphasise the subject of the essay is nationalism, not Obote. If I am to be accused of being dismissive of anything, I should be accused of being dismissive of nationalism as an ideology. I would gladly and willingly plead guilty to that charge.

Yoga Adhola

## alarm bells

Got a problem in your area?

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**UNEMPLOYMENT.** Walugembe Ziribassente says: Unemployment is one of the major challenges facing our country. Many people, including the educated, are struggling to put food on the table because of unemployment. The unemployment rate is so rife that some people resort to crime and prostitution as their ultimate solution. I urge all young people to take their studies seriously and find a way to survive without resorting to criminal activities. I applaud all the fruits vendors, newspaper vendors, small business owners and everyone who is fighting poverty without resorting to crime."

**SOUTH SUDAN.** A reader writes: "In July 1938, Neville Chamberlain said; "In war, whichever side may call itself victor. There are no winners. But all are losers." Isn't it sad that 78 years later someone can't figure it out? Our neighbours to the southwest take off a month to remember and say never again to the sad and unfortunate events that took place 22 years back, and yet somehow someone thinks we should stand back and watch a young nation that has witnessed unfortunate events like the Nuer massacre, the Bor massacre and discoveries of a number of mass graves decide a winner through war. What we need is clear early warning and early response mechanisms to prevent war at all costs."

**POLICE.** Jenkins Noah Kiwanuka says: "I read in *Daily Monitor* of October 16 that Gen Kale Kayihura has told police commanders to beg for fuel as crisis hits hard. If my memory serves me well, Gen Katumba was criticised when, during his tenure as inspector general of police, he solicited and got some pickup trucks for the Force from companies and people of goodwill. Gen Kayihura's advice to police commanders to beg for fuel might face the same fate especially at this time when the communities and the institutions are corrupt and are likely to use Kayihura's appeal to enrich themselves

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With Stephen Otago

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SOLOMON RACKARA,  
BBA MARKETING NDEJJE UNIVERSITY



I have learnt how to deal with people, manage them and how to make them behave the way they are required to.  
PHIONA NIRASAFARI,  
BBA HUMAN RESOURCE



'As a church worker, I work with people and this is going to help me a lot because you need to know how to deal with people and this will help me serve them in the islands.'  
REV EDWARD  
WALAKIRA, SWASA KALANGALA DISTRICT



'Together with my team, we developed software for a client who wanted to separate his revenue from rent and other businesses, now I can handle such assignments.'  
CHRISTINE AMPAIRE, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY