

## STATEMENT ON ALLEGATIONS OF BAN OF VISA ISSUANCE TO UGANDA NATIONALS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Issued by: Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in the United Arab Emirates

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It has come to our attention about the recent media publications alleging the denial and/ or ban of visa issuance to Ugandans.

We wish to clarify the following:

There has been no official statement from the Government of the United Arab Emirates communicating restrictions or a ban on visa issuance to Ugandan nationals and neither has Uganda been blacklisted by the UAE as alleged by various sources in the media.

We wish to remind the Ugandans that visa applications are processed in accordance with the immigration laws and regulations of the host country, and each application is assessed individually based on the completeness of documentation and eligibility. Where denials might occur, these are entirely based on individual circumstances and not on nationality.

I wish to state that the allegations of visa ban are unfounded. As a Mission we continue to engage with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cases where concerns have been raised by the diaspora or Ugandans on matters related to visa issuance and remain committed to creating awareness to the diaspora on the importance of adhering to the laws of the host country and in particular the immigration laws.

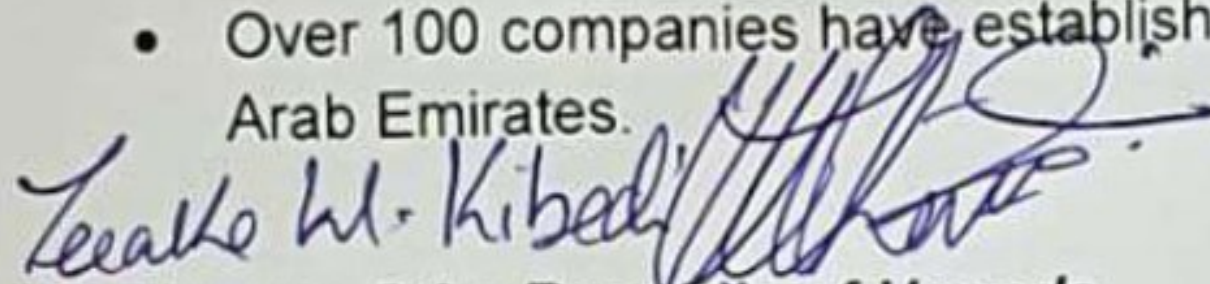
Ugandans in the UAE are encouraged to;

- a) Avoid reliance on unofficial sources of information, and monitor updates from the official websites of the competent authorities
- b) Submit complete applications for visas with requisite sufficient supporting documentation
- c) Be aware of third-parties promising expedited visa processing
- d) Act promptly to renew, extend or regularise their stay where their visa is set to expire to avoid overstay penalties.

There is a case of human trafficking and action has been taken by the authorities of the United Arab Emirates and investigations are ongoing but to avoid jeopardising the process we shall revert with detailed information at an appropriate time.

I strongly appeal to all those circulating unfounded information to desist from doing so in order to avoid denting the apparent vibrant and strong bilateral relations between our two countries which has facilitated increased economic and commercial gains for both Uganda and the United Arab Emirates:

- Currently there are 160,000 Ugandans living and working in the United Arab Emirates as of now from 40,000 in 2018. This has facilitated the increase of remittances from US \$ 50 million in 2018 to US \$ 350million in 2024.
- United Arab Emirates has become the leading market destination for Uganda exports globally since October 2024. The trade portfolio between Uganda and United Arab Emirates is now at US \$ 2.85 billion.
- FDI from the United Arab Emirates has grown from US \$ 300 million in 2018 to over US \$ 3 billion in 2024.
- Over 100 companies have established business and enterprises in the United Arab Emirates.

  
**Embassy of the Republic of Uganda**  
**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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