

**STATEMENT BY HON. MATIA KASAIJA - MINISTER OF FINANCE,  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE OCCASION OF  
SIGNING THE FINANCING AGREEMENT OF THE EAC-EU MARKUP  
PROJECT AT MOFPED 7TH FLOOR BOARDROOM ON 14/12/2018.**

The Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to  
Uganda,

Honourable Ministers,

Permanent Secretaries and Government Officials present,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Your Excellency, I welcome you and your team to Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and to this Important occasion of the signing the Financing Agreement of the Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP).
2. Your Excellency, On behalf of the Republic of Uganda I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the beneficial and cordial bilateral cooperation between Uganda and the European Union not only in the sector for which we are signing today but also in other sector like roads, Health, and works among others.

Your Excellency, this Grant will support small and medium-sized enterprises in the Country to gain access to markets in the European Union, and

increase interregional trade by enhancing the competitiveness of the coffee and cocoa exports.

- 3.** With this grant, the Government of Uganda will be able implement a range of efficiency measures to reduce on trade barriers and provide quality assurance, enhancement of SME export competitiveness, and business promotion. This intervention will in return will help improve on the livelihood of the community and Businesses in the country and region at large.
- 4.** In addition, we have prioritized among others agro-industrial development through supporting agro-processing enterprises in line with Agricultural Zones to enable value-addition to priority commodities, and also planned to fund planting materials under NAADS and provision of coffee seedlings under Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA).
- 5.** Government will continue to fund interventions in key agricultural complementary sectors like Works and Transport, Water and Energy including provision of water for all year production, water powered solar irrigation.
- 6.** I want to affirm, Your Excellency, that we shall fulfill our obligations under the Agreement. We shall ensure that the Grant is properly and exclusively utilised for

the project and the purchases under which the Grant has been attained. We will furnish the Delegation of the European Union to Uganda with information and data concerning the progress of the implementation of the project; through regular consultation with your Team during project implementation period.

## **7. FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**