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Bill No. 14 *Uganda Development Corporation Bill* **2014****THE UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL, 2014****MEMORANDUM****OBJECT**

The object of this Bill is to establish the Uganda Development Corporation as a statutory body to be an investment agency on behalf of the Government of Uganda in partnership with the private sector; to promote and facilitate the industrial and economic development of Uganda; and for related matters.

DEFECTS IN THE EXISTING LAW

At present the Public Enterprises Reform and Divestiture (Vesting the Undertakings of Uganda Development Corporation) Instrument, 2011, (S.I. No 43 of 2011) by virtue of section 35(1) of the Public Enterprises Reform and Divestiture Act, Cap 98 repealed the Uganda Development Corporation Act, Cap 326. By this Instrument, the undertakings of Uganda Development Corporation were vested in Uganda Development Company Limited instead of a statutory corporation.

REMEDIES

The Bill therefore seeks to revive the Uganda Development Corporation as a statutory corporation by adopting the repealed Act, (Cap 326) with a few modifications. The Bill consists of five parts and three schedules.

PART 1 - PRELIMINARY

This Part deals with the interpretation of key words and expressions used within the meaning of the Bill

PART II –UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Part II of the bill establishes the Uganda Development Corporation as body corporate, the objects of the corporation to include promotion and facilitation of industry and economic development of Uganda, functions of the corporation and the establishment of the Board of the Corporation.

PART III –MANAGEMENT OF THE CORPORATION

This Part deals with all matters relating to the staff of the Corporation. The Part provides for an Executive Director who shall be responsible for the day to day operations and administration of the Authority (clauses 13, 14) and Board secretary to be appointed by the Board.

PART IV- FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

According to clause 17 of the Bill, the capital of the Corporation is three hundred billion shillings and the minister may, with the approval of Cabinet, by statutory Instrument, increase the capital of the Corporation. Clause 18 provides that the funds of the Corporation include the following: money appropriated by parliament for the purposes of the Corporation; grants, gifts or donations from government and other sources; loans obtained with the approval of the Minister. Clause 28 establishes an industrial and economic development fund.

PART V- MISCELLANEOUS

This Part deals with miscellaneous matters including official seal of the Corporation, Annual and other reports, confidentiality, conflict of interest, Vesting of assets and liabilities, employees of the Corporation, amendment of Schedules and power of the Minister to make regulations.

AMELIA KYAMBADDE, (MP)
Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives.

THE UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL, 2014.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

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A Bill for an Act

ENTITLED

THE UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACT, 2014.

An Act to establish the Uganda Development Corporation; to promote and facilitate the industrial and economic development of Uganda; and for related matters.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows:

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Interpretation.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Board” means the board established under section 2;

“chairperson” means the chairperson of the board;

“currency point” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1;

“Corporation” means the Uganda Development Corporation;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for industrial development;

“undertaking” means an enterprise carrying on any commercial, industrial, mining or agricultural operations.

PART II—UGANDA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

2. Establishment of Uganda Development Corporation.

(1) There is established the Uganda Development Corporation.

(2) The Corporation is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may for the purposes of discharging its functions under this Act—

- (a) acquire, hold or dispose of movable and immovable property;
- (b) sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- (c) do all acts and things that a body corporate may lawfully do.

3. Objects of the Corporation.

(1) The object of the Corporation is to promote and facilitate the industrial and economic development of Uganda.

(2) For the purposes of attaining its object under subsection (1) the Corporation—

- (a) shall establish subsidiary and associated companies;
- (b) may enter into public private partnerships with any commercial, industrial or agricultural undertaking or enterprise;
- (c) may, through public private partnerships, assist in the financing and management of undertakings promoting industrial or economic development;
- (d) shall promote and facilitate research into industrial development.

4. Functions of the Corporation.

(1) The functions of the Corporation are—

- (a) to implement the object of the Corporation;
- (b) to facilitate Government investment in strategic sectors of the economy for the purposes of industrial and economic development;
- (c) to promote, facilitate and implement public private partnerships in areas related to the object of the Corporation;
- (d) to enter into joint ventures or other arrangements with any domestic or foreign entity for the purposes of fulfilling the object of the Corporation;
- (e) to take over the interest of government in the entities specified in Schedule 2 and to manage, promote and facilitate the interest of the Government in those entities;
- (f) to be one of implementing agencies of public private partnerships on behalf of Government;
- (g) to advise the Minister on the industrial and economic development of Uganda;
- (h) to promote, finance or guarantee the financing of any undertaking in Uganda or outside Uganda;
- (i) to procure the registration of the Corporation in any country or territory;
- (j) to acquire an interest in, provide or by underwriting or otherwise assist in the subscription of, capital for any undertaking engaged in, or proposing to establish, or expand or modernise, any business or enterprise;
- (k) to appoint any person to act on behalf of the Corporation as director of or in any other capacity in relation to any enterprise or undertaking in which the Corporation has an interest;

- (l) to cooperate with research organisations in furtherance of the object of the Corporation; and
- (m) to carry out any other function that is related, connected or conducive to the functions of the Corporation.

(2) This section shall not be construed as authorising the compulsory acquisition by the Corporation of any undertaking or any interest in any undertaking.

5. Corporation to follow Government policy.

(1) In the performance of its functions, the Corporation shall follow the government policy on industrial and economic development.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) the Minister may, in writing, give policy directives to the Corporation regarding the attainment of its object.

6. Board of the Corporation.

(1) The Corporation shall be governed by a Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of the following—

- (a) one person with experience and knowledge in corporate governance, industrial or economic development, who shall be the chairperson;
- (b) the permanent secretary of the ministry responsible for industry or his or her representative;
- (c) the permanent secretary of the ministry responsible for finance or his or her representative;
- (d) the Governor of the Bank of Uganda or his or her representative;
- (e) three eminent persons of good repute and proven integrity representing the private sector, who are knowledgeable in business, administration, industrial or economic development;

(f) the Executive Director, who shall not have the right to vote.

(3) The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Minister with the approval of Cabinet.

(4) A person shall not be appointed a member of the Board under subsection (2) (a) and (e) if that person holds an elective office or is a public officer or he or she holds a controlling interest in any venture likely to conflict with the business interests of the Corporation.

(5) A member of the Board shall hold office on the terms and conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.

(6) A member of the Board shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for reappointment only once.

(7) In appointing members of the board under subsection 2(a) and (e), the Minister shall take into consideration gender equity.

7. Vacating office of member of the Board

(1) A person appointed by the Minister shall cease to be a member of the Board if that person—

- (a) resigns;
- (b) is declared insolvent;
- (c) is convicted of a criminal offence in respect of which a penalty of imprisonment of six months or more is imposed without the option of a fine;
- (d) is elected to Parliament or a local government council;
- (e) is removed from office by the Minister for—
 - (i) continuously and persistently being unable to discharge the functions member of the Board;
 - (ii) inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind;

- (iii) failing to disclose to the Corporation any interest in a contract or proposed contract with the Corporation;
- (iv) misconduct or abuse of office.

(2) A person appointed a member of the Board may resign from office in writing to the Minister.

(3) Where a member appointed by the Minister resigns or is removed from office under this section, the Minister may in accordance with section 6 appoint another person to replace the member, and to hold office for the remainder of the term of that member.

8. Meetings of the Board.

(1) The Board shall ordinarily meet at least once in every two months for the purposes of discharging its functions.

(2) The Board shall also meet at the written request of not less than three members of the Board.

(3) The meetings of the Board shall be conducted in accordance with Schedule 3.

9. Remuneration of members of the Board.

A member of the board, except the Executive Director, shall be paid remuneration or allowances approved by the Minister in consultation with the Ministers responsible for public service and finance.

10. Committees of the Board.

(1) The Board may appoint committees—

- (a) to inquire into and advise the Board on any matter concerning the functions of the Corporation;
- (b) to exercise the powers or perform a function of the Board.

(2) A committee appointed under subsection (1) shall consist of a chairperson and other members of the Board, as the Board may determine.

(3) A committee may invite any person to attend any of its meetings and may co-opt any person to the committee but that person shall not vote on any matter before the committee.

(4) Members of a committee appointed under this section may be paid allowances as the Board may, with the written approval of the Minister, determine.

(5) Subject to Schedule 3, a committee appointed under this section may regulate its own procedure.

11. Cooperation with other agencies.

(1) The Corporation shall cooperate with other government ministries, departments and agencies in the implementation of this Act.

(2) For the purpose subsection (1) all ministries, departments and agencies of government shall accord to the Corporation such assistance as may be necessary to ensure the proper discharge of the objects of the Corporation.

PART III—MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE CORPORATION

12. Executive Director.

(1) The Corporation shall have a full time Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Board.

(2) A person shall not be appointed Executive Director unless that person has considerable knowledge and experience in management or administration.

(3) The Executive Director shall hold office for five years and shall be eligible for one more term only.

(4) A person shall cease to hold the office of Executive Director if that person—

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- (a) resigns;
- (b) is declared insolvent;
- (c) is convicted of a criminal offence in respect of which a penalty of imprisonment of six months or more is imposed without the option of a fine;
- (d) is removed from office by the Minister on the recommendation of the Board for—
 - (i) continuously and persistently being unable to discharge the functions of Executive Director;
 - (ii) failing to disclose to the Corporation any interest in a contract or proposed contract with the Corporation;
 - (iii) misconduct or abuse of office.

13. Duties of the Executive Director.

(1) Subject to this Act and to the general supervision of the Board, the Executive Director is the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall—

- (a) implement the policies and programmes agreed upon by the Board;
- (b) manage the funds and property of the Corporation;
- (c) administer, organise, supervise and generally control the staff of the Corporation;
- (d) keep the Board informed of the activities of the Corporation;
- (e) keep a record of all the transactions of the Corporation.

(2) In the performance of his or her duties, the Executive Director is answerable to the Board.

14. Board Secretary.

(1) There shall be a secretary to the Board who shall be an officer of the Corporation.

(2) The secretary to the Board shall be appointed by the Board.

(3) The secretary to the Board shall hold office on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.

(4) The secretary to the Board is responsible to the Executive Director for the performance of his or her functions.

15. Other officers and staff of the Corporation.

(1) The Corporation shall have such number of staff as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions.

(2) The staff of the Corporation shall be appointed by the Board on such terms and conditions as the Board shall determine.

(3) The Board may delegate the power to appoint certain categories of staff of the Corporation to the Executive Director.

16. Protection of members of the Board and officers of the Corporation.

A member of the Board or an officer of the Corporation or a person acting on the directions of the Board or of an officer of the Corporation is not personally liable for any act or omission done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise of functions under this Act.

PART IV—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

17. Capital of the Corporation.

(1) Subject to this section, the capital of the Corporation is three hundred billion shillings.

(2) Subject to this Act, the Minister may with the approval of Cabinet by statutory instrument, increase the capital of the Corporation.

18. Funds of the Corporation.

The funds of the Corporation shall consist of—

- (a) money appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Corporation;
- (b) grants, gifts or donations from Government and other sources;
- (c) loans obtained with the approval of Cabinet and Parliament.

19. Borrowing powers of Corporation.

The Corporation may, with the prior written approval of the Minister responsible for finance, obtain loans and other credit facilities required for meeting its obligations and for carrying out its objects and functions under this Act.

20. Power to open and operate bank accounts.

(1) Subject to sub section (2), the Corporation shall open and maintain bank accounts as are necessary for the performance of the functions of the Corporation.

(2) The bank accounts shall be opened and operated in the manner determined by the Board.

21. Estimates of income and expenditure.

(1) The Board shall, not less than two months before the beginning of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Minister for approval, a budget containing the estimates of income and expenditure of the Corporation for the next financial year.

(2) The Corporation shall not incur any expenditure exceeding the budget without the approval of the Minister.

22. Application of Corporation funds.

The funds of the Corporation may be applied to the payment or discharge of expenses, obligations, including international obligations, or liabilities incurred in connection with the performance of the functions of the Corporation or the payment of any remuneration or allowances payable under this Act.

23. Declaration of earnings.

(1) The Corporation shall within one month after the end of each financial year declare to the Minister the earnings from the undertakings, joint ventures or public private partnerships entered into by the Corporation.

(2) The earnings of the Corporation may, with the prior approval of the responsible Minister, be applied to the business of the Corporation.

24. Investment of surplus funds.

(1) The Board shall declare to the Minister any surplus funds that the Corporation may have at the end of the financial year.

(2) Any funds of the Corporation not immediately required for any purpose under this Act, may with the approval of the Board be invested—

- (a) on a fixed deposit account with a bank approved by the Board;
- (b) in treasury bills and securities of the Government;
- (c) in any other manner determined by the Board with the approval of the Minister.

25. Financial year of Corporation.

The financial year of the Corporation shall be same as the financial year of Government.

26. Accounts.

The Corporation shall keep proper books of accounts and all records relating to the transactions and affairs of the Corporation.

27. Audit.

(1) The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General shall, in each financial year, audit the accounts of the Corporation.

(2) The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General shall, within three months after receipt of the accounts, submit to the Minister and Parliament a report on the audited accounts of the Corporation.

28. Industrial and Economic Development Fund.

(1) There is established a fund to be known as the Industrial and Economic Development Fund.

(2) Subject to this section, the Industrial and Economic Development Fund shall be managed by the Corporation.

(3) The monies to form part of the Industrial and Economic Development Fund shall be derived from the following sources—

- (a) monies appropriated by Parliament;
- (b) loans obtained by the Government;
- (c) grants from any donors;
- (d) any monies paid into the fund under this Act;
- (e) any other source approved by the Minister in writing in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance.

(4) The Minister shall, by statutory instrument with the approval of Cabinet—

- (a) prescribe the objectives of the Industrial and Economic Development Fund; and
- (b) provide for the control and management of the fund.

PART V—MISCELLANEOUS

29. Official seal of Corporation.

(1) The common seal of the Corporation shall be determined by the Board and shall be kept in the custody of the Executive Director.

(2) The common seal shall, when affixed to any document, be authenticated by the signatures of the Executive Director and the secretary to the Board.

(3) In the absence of the Executive Director or secretary to the Board, two other members of the Board appointed for that purpose shall sign in the place of the Executive Director.

(4) A contract or instrument which if entered into or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal may be entered into or executed without a seal on behalf of the Corporation by the Executive Director or any other person authorised for the purpose by the Board.

(5) Every document purporting to be—

- (a) an instrument issued by the Corporation and sealed with the common seal of the Corporation and authenticated in accordance with this section; or
- (b) a contract or instrument entered into or executed under this section,

shall be received in evidence as such without further proof unless the contrary is proved.

30. Annual and other reports.

(1) The Board shall, not later than six months after the end of each financial year, make and submit to the Minister a report on the activities of the Corporation during that financial year.

(2) The Authority shall submit to the Minister, together with the report referred to in subsection (1), the audited financial statements of the Corporation, and the auditor's report on those statements.

(3) The Board shall also submit to the Minister, such other reports on its activities or on any other matter as the Minister may, from time to time, require.

(4) The Minister shall, not later than six months after receipt of the report submitted to him or her under subsection (1), table the report before Parliament.

31. Confidentiality.

(1) Except for the purpose of this Act or for any prosecution for an offence under any written law or under an order of court, a person acting under powers granted under this Act shall not disclose any information obtained by virtue of those powers to any other person.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred twenty currency points or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

32. Conflict of interest

A person who has an interest in any matter considered by the Board and who fails to disclose his or her interest in accordance with this Act may be prosecuted and punished under the Anti-Corruption Act for conflict of interest.

33. Vesting of assets and liabilities.

(1) All property, rights, asset, liabilities and obligations of Uganda Development Company Limited existing immediately before the commencement of this Act are transferred to the Corporation.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) the Minister shall, by statutory order, list the property, rights, assets, liabilities and obligations of Uganda Development Company Limited, which by virtue of this Act are transferred to the Corporation under this section.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, the assets and liabilities of the Uganda Development Corporation existing under the repealed Uganda Development Corporation Act shall not be taken to be transferred to the Corporation under this section.

34. Employees.

(1) The Corporation may, on the commencement of this Act, accept into its employment any person who immediately before that date is employed by Uganda Development Company Limited and who has been given an option by the Corporation and has opted to serve as an employee of the Corporation.

(2) A person who opts to serve as an employee of the Corporation under subsection (1) shall only be accepted as an employee of the Corporation on a competitive interview basis and shall be employed on terms and conditions of service not less favourable than the terms and conditions of service to which the person is entitled immediately before the coming into force of this Act.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, a person who is not accepted under subsection (1) as an employee of the Corporation is entitled to terminal benefits and pension and the Government shall be responsible for the payment of all retirement benefits and severance pay payable as appropriate, to the employees referred to in subsection (1).

35. Amendment of Schedules.

The Minister may, with the approval of Cabinet, by statutory instrument, amend the Schedules to this Act.

36. Regulations.

(1) The Minister may, in consultation with the Board, by statutory instrument, make regulations for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without limiting the general effect of subsection (1), regulations under that subsection may—

- (a) prescribe penalties in respect of the contravention of the regulations not exceeding a fine of two hundred currency points or five years imprisonment or both;
- (b) prescribe penalties for continuing and repeated offences;
- (c) direct that the court shall order the forfeiture of anything used for the commission of an offence;
- (d) may prescribe fees for anything done under the Act;
- (e) prescribe forms for the purposes of the Act.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1

CURRENCY POINT

One currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 4

Undertakings in which the Corporation acquires the interest of the Government.

1. Amber House Limited
2. Embassy House
3. Development House
4. Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort
5. Nile Hotel Limited
6. Phenix Logistics
7. Tri-Star Apparels Limited

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SCHEDULE 3

Section 8

Meetings of the Board.

1. Meetings of the Board.

(1) The Board shall meet at least once every two months at such places and at such times as may be decided upon by the Board.

(2) The chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Board and in his or her absence, the members present shall elect from among their number, an acting chairperson other than a member to whom section 7(2), (b), (c) and (d) applies.

(3) The meetings of the Board shall be convened by the secretary to the Board upon the direction of the Executive Director.

2. Quorum.

(1) The quorum for a meeting of the Board is five members.

(2) Where a member declares an interest in an agenda item or in a matter before the Board, the member shall not be counted for purposes of forming a quorum in relation to that item or matter in question.

3. Decisions of the Board.

(1) Except for the decisions on the matters specified in paragraph 4, all decisions at a meeting of the Board shall be by simple majority of the votes of the members present and where there is an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote.

(2) A decision may be made by the Board without a meeting, by the circulation of information electronically or using hard copies, among members of the Board and by the expression of the views of the majority of the members in writing, but any member shall be entitled to require that the decision be deferred and the matter on which a decision is sought be considered at a meeting of the Board.

(3) The validity of any proceedings of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy amongst the members or any defect in the appointment of a member.

(4) The decision reached by the Board shall be binding on all members.

4. Decisions of the Board on certain matters

The following matters shall require the unanimous approval of the members of the Board and approval of the Minister—

- (a) the increase or reduction in the capital of the Corporation;
- (b) any investment decision in excess of fifty percent of the capital of the Corporation;
- (c) the sale of profitable ventures, subsidiaries or affiliates of the Corporation;
- (d) the partial public divestiture of the Corporation;
- (e) the approval of loans by the Corporation;
- (f) the private or public placement of Corporation debt or notes.

5. Disclosure of interest.

(1) A member of the Board who has a direct or indirect personal interest in a matter being considered or which is about to be considered by the Board shall, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to his or her knowledge, disclose the nature of the interest to the Board.

(2) A disclosure of interest under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Board and the member who makes the disclosure shall not, unless the Board otherwise determines in respect of that matter—

- (a) be present during any deliberation on the matter by the Board;
- (b) take part in the decisions of the Board.

(3) For the purpose of making a decision by the Board under subparagraph (2), in relation to a member who makes a disclosure under subparagraph (1), the member who makes the disclosure shall not—

- (a) be present during the deliberations of the Board for making the determination;
- (b) influence any other member or participate in the making by the Board of the determination.

(4) Where there is no quorum for the continuation of a meeting only because of the exclusion of a member from the deliberations on a matter in which he or she disclosed a personal interest, the other members present may—

- (a) postpone the consideration of that matter until a quorum, without that member is realised; or
- (b) proceed to consider and decide the matter at a subsequent meeting.

6. Minutes of proceedings.

(1) The Board shall cause the minutes of all proceedings of its meetings to be recorded and kept, and the minutes of each meeting shall be confirmed by the Board at the next meeting and signed by the Executive and secretary to the Board.

(2) The Chairperson shall submit to the Minister a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Board as soon as the minutes are confirmed.

7. Residual power of Board to regulate its proceedings.

Subject to this Schedule, the Board shall regulate its proceedings and may make rules regarding the holding of meetings, notice to be given, the keeping of minutes or any other matter relating to its meetings.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2014 No. 93.

The Stamps (Exemption from Stamp Duty) (Transfer of Land In Wakiso District described as Block 234, Plot No. 1334 and Block 234, LRV 419, Plot 3391, Folio 25 by the Uganda Land Commission To Mandela National Stadium Limited) Instrument, 2014.

(Under section 10 of the Stamps Act, Cap 342).

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred on the Minister responsible for finance by section 10 of the Stamps Act, this instrument is made this 30th day of June 2014.

1. Title.

This Instrument may be cited as the Stamps (Exemption from Stamp Duty) (Transfer of Land in Wakiso District described as Block 234, Plot No. 1334 and Block 234, LRV 419, Plot 3391, Folio 25 by the Uganda Land Commission to Mandela National Stadium Limited) Instrument, 2014.

2. Exemption from stamp duty.

The stamp duty chargeable under the provisions of section 2 of the Act arising from the transfer of land in Wakiso District described as Block 234, Plot No. 1334 and Plot No. Block 234, LRV 419, Plot 3391, Folio 25 by the Uganda Land Commission to Mandela National Stadium Limited is exempted.

GABRIEL AJEDRA ARIDRU,
*Minister of State for Finance in charge of Investment
also holding the Portfolio of
Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.*