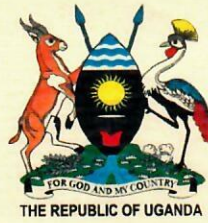


No. 3, Mandara Close,  
Off Mambilla Street,  
Aso Drive Maitama, Abuja - Nigeria.  
Phone: +234 813 266 6559, +234 814 244 3429  
Fax: +234(09) 4620600  
E-mail: highcomabuja@yahoo.co.uk  
abuja@mofa.go.ug



UGANDA HIGH COMMISSION  
P.M.B. 223 ABUJA.  
NIGERIA.

*Our Ref:*

ABPOL/1/08

17<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Ms Fun mi Folorunso  
Secretary General  
African Ship owners Association

**FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AFRICAN SHIP OWNERS ASSOCIATION (27<sup>TH</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019).**

Please kindly accept my gratitude for the invitation to the Annual General Meeting of the African Ship Owners Association.

The Republic of Uganda being a landlocked country but blessed with the largest inland lake in Africa (**Lake Victoria**) and the longest river in the world(**River Nile**) clearly knows the value and pivotal role played by the blue economy and ship owners in particular, in facilitating intra continental trade and movement of goods and services across continents. This has further created access to the Ocean for land locked countries and an increase in the economies of scale for our major exports.

By enabling African economies access to markets in Europe, America and Asia, governments have been able to realize their diverse potential in making African products globally competitive.

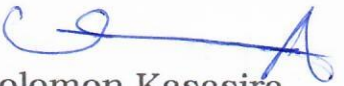


Indeed, the role played by ship owners of Africa cannot be underestimated with the transportation of equipment for manufacturing, large scale infrastructure projects and major exports that earn our economies foreign exchange mostly facilitated by the blue economy.

Ugandan products such as Coffee, Cotton, Tobacco, Phosphates, Cement, and, wheat, among many others, today are able to access global markets at the lowest transportation costs.

In line with the spirit of Pan Africanism and the African Union Charter and the African model of African solutions to African problems, Uganda has and will continue to reciprocate the role played by African ship Owners by supporting the candidature of African member countries to key positions at International Organizations such as the International Maritime Organization. This will enable African countries play a key role in formulating polies and frame works that indeed facilitate the smooth operation of African flagged ships.

Allow me conclude by inviting you to invest in Uganda's maritime sector and Lake Victoria in particular, which strides the three countries of East Africa (Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania).

  
Solomon Kasasira

**FOR: HIGH COMMISSIONER**