

SPEECH

BY

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AT

THE 60TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

JUBA – SOUTH SUDAN

The Guest of Honour

Hon. Ministers

Excellencies the Ambassadors/Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Members of Parliament

Senior Government and Security Officials

Religious Leaders

Heads of Institutions and Organizations

The Ugandan Community in South Sudan

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government, the Embassy staff and the Ugandan Community in South Sudan, I welcome you all, and thank you for joining us to celebrate our 60th Independence Anniversary – though belatedly. Uganda achieved Independence on 09th October 1962.

The Theme for the anniversary is **"A declaration of African Inter-Dependence and our shared destiny"**.

H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda Gen (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni gave a long address at Kololo Independence Grounds on the achievements and prospects in the Country and the region. His Speech is available on the Uganda Embassy Website, Juba: (<https://juba.mofa.go.ug>)

Therefore, I will not repeat what he said.

We thank the President of the Republic of South Sudan and other leaders and dignitaries for gracing the occasion in Kampala.

The Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Sudan have strong historical ties, vibrant diplomatic relations and trade between the two countries in flourishing. Uganda has made great strides in socio-economic transformation and is politically stable, since the NRM government took charge in 1986.

Today, I will use this occasion to address a serious matter of global concern – the current global conflicts and tensions which can be catastrophic if not terminated as quickly as possible.

Having studied Economics, Political Science, Military Science and Diplomacy, – I therefore hate violence, because violence leads to unnecessary death and destruction.

When you see what is happening in the Ukraine and Russia conflict:

- Causing a humanitarian crisis
- Creating thousands of widows and orphans on both sides

- Causing global energy crisis and food crisis i.e. worldwide - you realise that unprincipled wars which can be avoided are evil.

We have the Korean Peninsula tensions, (North Korea and South Korea threatening violence on each other), which can trigger a wider global conflict.

We have conflicts in Middle East, Central Africa, West Africa and Asia.

These sad and absurd developments do not add value to humanity and therefore, the global community should move fast to diagnose the root causes of these conflicts and treat them, not only treating the symptoms.

Let us de-escalate tensions, they are harmful to International Peace and Prosperity.

Global economic recession is likely to occur, if the global conflicts continue.

The projections for the growth rate of the global output (GDP) this year is 3.2%, down from 6% in 2021 and is forecast to reduce to 2.7% in 2023 and could drop further to 2% or even 1% if global violence persists.

Global inflation is approaching 10%, especially in the energy and food sector.

Therefore, the writing is on the wall – change course – terminate conflicts or pay a heavy price as the human race.

I have a different perspective on these endless global conflicts.

I want to stimulate a sincere conversation, putting ideological differences aside, - by asking ourselves/the global community - to honestly answer the question:-

WHO IS THE ENEMY OF THE HUMAN RACE? (How can we make planet earth; secure, peaceful, and prosperous?)

All of us – white, Black, Christian, Muslim etc belong to the human race, created by one God.

All these categories of people should not be enemy to each other, we should actually be complementary to each other.

Unfortunately, some individuals, groups and countries mis-define the enemy – thinking that the enemy are the fellow human beings! WRONG.

Therefore, we need to redefine the enemy of the human race; i.e. the strategic threats to humanity and then refocus, redirect our energies and resources to fight the real enemy whole - heartedly, not half-heartedly.

The real enemy of the human race are the TEN (10) strategic threats/dangers to humanity;

1. CLIMATE CHANGE

This is a silent killer which can lead to extinction of planet earth.

Environmental degradation which leads to climate change is a result of socio-economic, technological and institutional activities.

Degradation occurs when earth's natural resources are mismanaged.

This can lead to an ecological disaster.

Therefore, let us not be silent on this dangerous development. There must be harmony between man and nature.

Quote: "Never be a Spectator of Unfairness and stupidity. The grave will supply plenty of time for silence" – CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS.

The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, Chapter 3, Article 17, Clause 1 states "it is the duty of every citizen of Uganda to create and protect a clean and healthy environment".

2. VIOLENT EXTREMISM/TERRORISM

This is a belief and actions of people who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals. This includes terrorism and other forms of politically motivated violence e.g. communal violence or religious violence.

We have seen attacks in US, Europe, Middle East, East Africa and recently in West Africa where extremist forces are capturing and occupying territory.

In Uganda we are strongly and categorically opposed to religious fundamentalism of any faith that does not differentiate/draw a line between the SECULAR and the RELIGIOUS. Religion is a matter between you and your God – that is why we promote freedom of worship/freedom of religion. All faith based organizations should work for world peace.

Politics is about management of society – service delivery, wealth creation, job creation and security provision.

We need to promote inter-faith and inter – cultural dialogue, emphasizing mainly the concept of peaceful co – existence of all humanity irrespective of their differences.

However, if the fundamentalists especially in the Middle East Region have legitimate demands and concerns, they should be presented and addressed in the right forum, comprehensively and conclusively.

Therefore, we need an honest conversation involving the State and Non-State actors in the affected regions to examine;

- The genesis of violent extremism/terrorism.
- The grievances of the extremists.
- Alleged social injustices (poverty and marginalization).
- Alleged corruption of the leaders in the affected countries.

- Co – existence of Islamic Education/Civilization and Western Education/Civilization. There should be no supremacy, because it attracts envy and violence.

Both – military (coercive) and political (non-coercive) means be employed to degrade and dismantle terrorist networks – i.e. using the stick and carrot approach calmly but firmly.

3. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (Nuclear Weapons)

These are not toys. They can destroy the world in a moment. In the event of a slight miscalculation, misinformation or disinformation, - out of panic, an unstable leader or commander can take premature decision/hurried decision to fire the nuclear weapons and that would attract a chain of responses. This can lead to a global catastrophe.

4. DISEASES (Especially Pandemics e.g. Corona Virus, Ebola Virus etc).

These contagious diseases spread rapidly and kill hundreds or thousands of people in a country or multiple countries. They paralyse countries (where lockdowns are declared) and the economies are affected because of reduced – trade, tourism, investments, production, consumption and revenue collection. When the killer corona virus attacked in 2020/2021 the nuclear weapons where a lot of money is invested were silent – they did not help.

So, who is the Enemy?

5. HUNGER (Food insecurity)

Millions of people in various parts of the world are sleeping on empty stomach, dying of starvation and malnutrition because of conflicts or crop failure caused by drought or floods.

6. POVERTY

Low standard of living – leading to ill health and early death. The 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by all United Nations

Member States in 2015, as universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 should be fast tracked. There is laxity.

7. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

The youth are a huge percentage of the world population. Millions of them are idle. We have a saying – “An idle body/idle mind is the devil’s workshop”.

It is fertile ground for youth recruitment into conflicts and criminality.

8. CORRUPTION

This is another silent killer on daily basis in many countries. For example - it kills more people than terrorism, - through lack of medicine, absenteeism of health workers and poorly equipped health centres, because money is stolen or shoddy work done.

Corruption undermines – Democracy, Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance, and yet these are important factors in service delivery and poverty eradication.

Procurement corruption is rampant in many countries.

QUOTE: “The earth provides enough to satisfy everyman’s needs, but not everyman’s greed” MAHATMA GHANDHI.

As transformational leaders and cadres we must clearly demonstrate political will (demonstrable political will) in our countries to fight this monster called corruption, which has a huge negative impact on humanity.

QUOTE: “The tragedy is - not the brutality of the evil, but the silence of the good people/ the leaders”. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

9. UNPRINCIPLED CONFLICTS

(Inter – communal, intra – state, and inter – state wars).

Caused by tribalism and unhealthy competition over political power, resources, and supremacy. The conflicts lead to displacement of millions of people to internal camps and refugee camps and loss of lives and property.

One should only fight a principled war, after all avenues for peace have been honestly exhausted.

We must by all means avoid war – by controlling our emotions, anger and egos, but instead promote mutual respect. There is a lot of anger in the atmosphere. Let us all acquire anger management skills to subdue the unnecessary/non-essential anger. Never allow your anger degenerate into hatred.

Reaction is natural, but must be controlled.

Emotional reaction is the enemy of logic. You do not make good judgement and decisions when you are emotionally charged, because rational reasoning stops.

QUOTE: "Your opinion is your opinion, your perception is your perception, - do not confuse them with facts or truth.

Wars have been fought and millions have been killed because of the inability of men to understand the fact that everybody has a different view point". GEN. JOHN MOORE.

My appeal to the world leaders, – Be good listeners – with the spirit of compromise, for peace and justice to prevail.

Two wrongs do not make a right, actually they make matters worse!

We need to learn to listen to contrary views/divergent views – whether you agree with them or not. It is good manners, a sign of discipline and integrity.

Humanity promotes peace and harmony in society. It is the key to consensus building, as opposed to egocentrism and arrogance which are road block to consensus.

We need to build bridges of peace and work towards a CONFLICT FREE WORLD.

As a family of nations – we should avoid unhealthy competition and conflicts which impact negatively on humanity.

In my country we have a saying; - "AINE AMAANI NUWE AGWA IRARO" that; - "it is the one who has idle energy/extra energy who can afford to run mad or fight other people in the village".

But honestly, – instead of using that idle energy to fight senseless wars, when there are avenues for making peace, - why don't you spare that idle energy to fight the strategic threats/dangers I have mentioned that threaten mankind.

Use the idle energy to do good things that add value to humanity especially socio – economic transformation of our societies.

Therefore, I want to urge the national governments worldwide that in order to ensure survival of the human race, let us focus more on the threats to the well – being of our people, i.e. ensure human security, the way we are prioritising regime security and state security. The regime and the state could be secure but the citizens are not secure. Ensure that all the three are secure, (The State, The Regime and The Citizens).

I am aware, many politicians worldwide are selfish, and the greed for power and wealth does not allow them to see this logic of;- giving welfare of their people priority.

10. Last but not least;

UNNATURAL SEXUAL RELATIONS AND PRACTICES like Homosexuality and Lesbianism, – sometimes leading to same sex marriage!

Logically, this practice undermines reproduction of human beings and contributes to possible extinction of the human race.

But in the Bible, God commanded the first human beings to reproduce, multiply and fill the world. Adam and Eve gave birth to Abel and Cain. Even Jesus Christ was delivered by Mary.

Sometimes you wonder about the promoters of same sex marriage – how were they born? through what science? Even in Science, like poles repel and unlike poles attract.

Therefore, they need counselling to understand natural science and appreciate it.

Even animals understand natural science and they know where to go and multiply their numbers.

Unnatural sexual practices have now invaded schools targeting young girls and boys for recruitment into unnatural sexual orientation.

In the Bible; **QUOTE:** – Leviticus Chapter 20: vs 13 "If a man has sexual intercourse with a male, the two have committed an abomination. They must be put to death. Their blood will be on their own heads". *(These are not my words)!*

In Africa, - man marrying man and woman marrying woman is a taboo! – It is against African moral values. Committing unnatural offences by having sex or carnal knowledge with same sex or an animal – against the order of nature is contrary to section 145 of the Penal Code Act in Uganda. This law was put in place in 1950 during the colonial times, before Uganda attained Independence. Therefore, leaders should not be shy and apologetic to this abomination.

CONCLUSION

I think I have answered the Question;-

WHO IS THE ENEMY OF THE HUMAN RACE?

By identifying ten (10) strategic threats/dangers to humanity. The ten threats constitute the Enemy of the human race. There are other threats, but these are the major ones.

Therefore, we are all vulnerable – even the indomitable countries like the US, Russia, China and the EU.

We all need each other as countries and people on the whole globe for survival as a human race.

The unhealthy competition over – WEAPONRY, TRADE, RESOURCES and IDEOLOGY is misplaced and not adding value to humanity, actually it is diverting us from the fight against the real enemy/ strategic threats to the human race.

Let's use the God given resources well to overcome these dangers.

By enhancing diplomatic engagement and political dialogue globally, to address all grievances and concerns of all kind amicably – will ensure that social justice prevails.

In fact, we need this honest conversation yesterday, in order to save the human race from extinction, or we all perish together.

Happy Independence Celebrations

I thank you all



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Juba – **SOUTH SUDAN.**