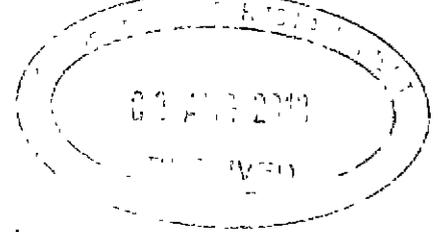


Telegrams EXTERIOR, KAMPALA
Telephone 233922
Fax: 341981
Website: www.mofa.go.ug
E-mail mfa@mofa.go.ug



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Office of the Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
P.O. Box 7048 Kampala
UGANDA



In any correspondence on
this subject please quote No.

Rt Hon Speaker of Parliament
Rt Hon Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business
Hon Leader of Opposition
Cabinet Ministers
Members of Parliament

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE PERCEIVED STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND UGANDA

I wish to make a statement on a number of recent reports made both within this House and the media regarding a perceived strain in relations between Uganda and the People's Republic of China.

I should make it clear from the start that the government of the Republic of Uganda and that of the People's Republic of China enjoy very cordial and mutually beneficial relations. I should add that at no other time in recent Ugandan history have both our countries enjoyed such strong mutual support and engagement on many issues at the bilateral and multilateral level.

These good relations are evidenced by the many high-level interactions between our leaders including the recent bilateral meeting between H E President Museveni and President Xi Jinping at the BRICs Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In June Uganda hosted the Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the Governor of Hunan Province. These visits culminated into the signing of cooperation agreements in a number of fields, including the commissioning of the Entebbe-Kampala Express Highway. We have had many other subsequent engagements at various levels of our two governments.

Next month, H E the President will be traveling to Beijing to participate in the forthcoming Summit of the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

Madam Speaker: China has remained a valuable partner in many fields and particularly, in supporting infrastructure development in Uganda in the areas of road construction, electricity generation, building of health facilities and agricultural production. On the other hand, Ugandan businessmen have also found a trading hub for many years now in China and particularly in Guangzhou itself.

In this regard Madam Speaker, I wish to again reaffirm that our relations with the People's Republic of China are excellent and that my Ministry will do our best to deepen and strengthen them further for the mutual benefit of our two people.

Regarding the recent incidents in Guangzhou which have raised perceptions of strained relations between our two countries, I wish to inform that since the reports were made, action has been taken by our Consulate in Guangzhou, the Embassy in Beijing and here at the Ministry.

- On 20th of July 2018 our Consulate in Guangzhou began receiving complaints from Ugandan traders that they had been denied access to accommodation particularly in four hotels which are frequented by Ugandan businessmen because of their convenient location in the central business district and for their affordability.
- The traders indicated that the hotel management claimed to have received a local police order to effect these accommodation denials.
- The Consulate visited three of the named hotels where they were informed of no available rooms because of being fully booked. This explanation could not however be verified.
- On 23rd of July 2018 the Consulate met with the Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Office in Guangdong Province over this issue. The Deputy Director informed them that his office was not aware of any government order to that effect. In fact suspected some misinformation that was causing the hotels to commit these

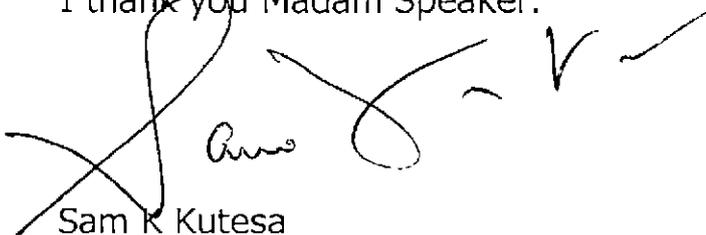
unacceptable acts. He promised a prompt investigation and feedback to the Consulate.

- Later on the same day the Deputy Director called to inform that the source of the problem had been identified and quickly resolved.
- On the 25th of July 2018 the Consulate met with the Vice Governor of Guangdong Province who acknowledged that the hotel action was a result of misinformation that led to the implicated hotels to engage in discriminatory acts against some Africans. He made it clear that this was not the position of the government of China.
- He added that the said hotels had been directed to stop these acts forthwith given that they were tarnishing China's relations with friendly African countries. He additionally gave assurance that these unfortunate incidences would not recur.
- The Foreign Affairs office in Guangdong Province has gone ahead to schedule a meeting on the 16th of August 2018 between all the relevant Chinese authorities and the African Consul Generals in Guangzhou to clarify on this and other issues of their concern.
- The Uganda Consulate in Guangzhou has since reported that no more cases of discrimination of Africans at hotels have been received.
- In addition, on 26 of July 2018, our Ambassador in China Dr Crispus Kiyonga met with the Deputy Director General of the Department of African Affairs who acknowledged that the authorities had received the disturbing news of some hotels in Guangzhou having engaged in wrongful acts of denying accommodation to nationals of some African countries including Uganda.
- He explained that these actions were a result of misinformation. He accordingly expressed profound regret for the resultant discriminatory acts which were harming the sentiments of Ugandans. He informed the Ambassador that the Chinese Government had issued strict instructions to the local authorities and hotels to put an end to this.

He then made it clear that more comprehensive measures would be taken to ensure that such actions do not recur.

- The Ambassador in turn urged the Chinese authorities to get to the bottom of these unfortunate actions and take very firm action against those involved.
- On Monday 31st July 2018, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs met with the Chinese Ambassador in Kampala who explained that some hotel and restaurant owners in Guangzhou had misinterpreted a police instruction to tighten their security and gone ahead to commit these unacceptable acts. He added that government in Beijing had since cautioned them and guided on how exactly they should improve the security of their clients.
- Madam Speaker, my Ministry working through our Embassy in Beijing and the Consulate in Guangzhou shall keep this situation under close watch and remain actively engaged with the Chinese authorities to prevent these unfortunate actions from re-occurrence.
- It is important however that we should continue to caution our citizens to be law abiding and to distance themselves from any illegal acts as they travel abroad.

I thank you Madam Speaker.



Sam K Kutesa

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1st August 2018