

**REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF STATE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS HON. ORYEM HENRY OKELLO  
(MP) AT PARLIAMENT 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2019**

**The Rt. Hon Speaker,**

**Hon. Members of Parliament,**

I am pleased to be here as invited to address the House on the status of Uganda's ratification of the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union, relating to the Pan African Parliament, also known as the Malabo Protocol.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker.**

At the onset, I wish to give a brief background on the Pan African Parliament. The Pan-African Parliament is one of the nine organs of the African Union provided for in Article 5 of the Constitutive Act of the AU, adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lomé, Togo.

The composition, powers, functions and organisation of the PAP are defined in Article 2 of the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Related to the Pan-African Parliament, adopted in Sirte, Libya, on 2 March 2001.

The Pan-African Parliament represents all the peoples of Africa. It is at present composed of 229 Members of Parliament representing 52 African countries. The membership of the Pan-African Parliament comprises five members elected by each Member State, of which at least two are women. They are elected or designated by their respective National Parliaments or any other legislative organ of the

Member States. Uganda has five Members of Parliament actively participating in the Parliament that sits in Midrand South Africa. We commend them for their active participation and for flying the Ugandan flag high.

**Rt. Hon. Speaker,**

The African Union, in a bid to further strengthen the Pan African Parliament, adopted the Protocol to the Constitutive Act of the African Union relating to the Pan African Parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The Protocol among others expands the powers and functions of the Pan African Parliament in line with the spirit and common vision of a united, integrated and strong Africa.

Uganda as a Member State of the African Union, is bound to abide by the shared values and common vision that we collectively, as the African Union, have set out to achieve. As such, we are aware of the need to sign, ratify and domesticate our continental legal instruments.

**Rt. Hon Speaker,**

My Ministry has made effort to not only sign and ratify a number of these instruments, but also periodically report on the implementation of the provisions of these instruments.

However, it is important to note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is usually at the tail end of the ratification process. Under the

Ratification of Treaties Act, the process of ratification of any instruments falls within the ambit and mandate of the Ministry in charge of the subject matter of the treaty.

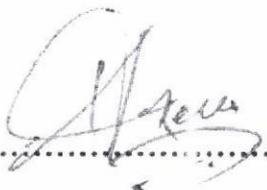
There has been and continues to be a misunderstanding on the role of line Ministries in the ratification process. My Ministry has drawn this to the attention of the Ministries concerned.

With regard to the Malabo Protocol, my Ministry has written to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on this matter, reminding them to undertake the necessary consultations and present the matter to Cabinet for approval.

**Rt. Hon Speaker,**

I hope that the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs will take this important matter up urgently and undertake the necessary steps that are required for its ratification. Once that is done, my Ministry, once authorized, will prepare, sign and deposit the instrument of ratification with the African Union.

We look forward to the ratification of not just this Protocol but also the other African Union legal instruments as we aim to abide by the shared values of the African Union so as to achieve Agenda 2063 in a satisfactory manner. **I thank you.**



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