



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)**

**REMARKS**

**BY**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**DR. TOM O. OKURUT**

**AT THE**

**OPENING OF SWITCH AFRICA GREEN REGIONAL MEETING**

**SPEKE RESORT MUNYONYO, KAMPALA**

**24<sup>th</sup> TO 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRAUARY, 2020**

The Right Honourable, Prime Minister,

The Honourable, Minister of State for Environment,

Development Partners especially the United Nations and the European Union,

Government Officials,

Switch Africa Green Focal Points, Grantees, Beneficiaries and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I take this opportunity to welcome you all to this Switch Africa Green Regional Meeting, whose theme “**Advancing Green Business and Circular Economy in Africa**”.

I express my gratitude towards our Development Partners, the European Union, UN Environment, United Nations Development Program for the financial and technical support towards Switching Uganda Green.

My appreciation goes out to my colleagues in NEMA, Ministries, Departments, Agencies and the Civil Society Organisations that constitute the National Technical Coordination Committee (NTCC), Grantees, Beneficiaries and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who have strategically implemented the Green practices and patterns in Uganda.

SWITCH Africa Green programme supports 7 countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda) in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy, based on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns. It's anchored on three components of policy support, green business and networking.

In Uganda, SWITCH Africa Green has built a pool of resources, knowledge base and expertise within the three priority sectors: agriculture, manufacturing and tourism sectors. The transition to an inclusive green economy requires replication and scaling up on the cooperation and collaborations among sectors as well as creating synergies with emerging trends to achieve the Vision 2040 and NDP III objectives.

Tackling the emerging environmental challenges, may require seizing opportunities like an inclusive green economy that are core to sustainable development and have multiple benefits i.e. environmental protection, notably create growth and jobs creation. Key enablers for the transition, include access to green financing, enabling policies and standards, awareness, networking and green businesses with innovative solutions.

Positive initiatives are being undertaken by Governments, regional platforms (African roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production -ARSCP), Private sector, Civil Society and individuals to replicate and scale up the SWITCH Africa Green Interventions contributing to the Sustainable Development Goal 12.

Based on the above, the Government of Uganda is very keen on the greening all sectors. Today Uganda has developed Uganda Green Growth

Strategy, Green Manufacturing Strategy, Green Procurement Policy, through sustainable consumption and production.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is need to complement the financing of greening initiatives to strengthen the scaling up and replication of these interventions. SWITCH Africa Green has actively promoted networking and discussions among such as policy makers, business associations, private sector, financial institutions, regional economic communities, international development organizations and partners, civil society with an interest in promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production practices.

I take this opportunity to applaud the many efforts being carried out by the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the Centres for Cleaner Production.

My appeal is that each of us should champion the greening process of our policies, strategies, laws and regulation in a bid to ensure sustainable development. This will increase on the wise use of resources and boost the economies in Uganda and beyond.

I therefore wish you successful deliberations during this Switch Africa Green Regional Meeting. I now welcome the Minister to give her key note address.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**