



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

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**MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
COOPERATIVES**

**BRIEFING ON MEASURES BY GOVERNMENT TO  
ADDRESS TRADING BY NON CITIZENS (FOREIGNERS)  
IN UGANDA**

**MEDIA CENTER**

**17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

## **Introduction**

The Ministry has received and noted the concerns of different stakeholders involved in domestic trade in the country. These concerns include “unfair” trade practices which marginalise the small and medium size Ugandan traders.

There has been an influx of foreign traders in Uganda dealing in wholesale, retail including hawking in Kampala City, towns including trading centres in contravention to our laws. Some foreign traders are slowly but steadily monopolizing the entire distribution chains through taking over transportation and distribution agencies for the main manufacturers of consumables, construction materials etc and involvement of unlicensed foreign traders in retail and hawking businesses.

## **Government Interventions**

I have led teams of officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies for fact finding missions into the Central Business District of Kampala to meet the traders and listen to their complaints; we have held consultative meetings with Associations of Traders and Agencies which permit entry and licensing of foreign traders. These include; Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), Bank of Uganda (BOU), Internal Affairs (Immigration) and Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA).

The meeting agreed on the following measures to be undertaken:

- 1) All foreign traders shall validate their documents with the relevant institutions that allow them to trade in the country latest by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 and the Minister of Trade , Industry and Cooperatives to issue a notice to this effect.
- 2) Review of all laws, regulations and policies to address the existing loopholes affecting domestic trade.
- 3) Instruct all local authorities delegated to issue trading licences to strictly follow guidelines for the grading framework for categories of trade.
- 4) The Immigration Directorate shall continue to closely monitor and ensure that only foreigners with legally granted work permits are engaged in trade.
- 5) The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives shall engage with representatives of foreign trade stakeholders to ensure harmony and conducive trade environment to promote the development of trade in Uganda.
- 6) The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives shall encourage and promote investments in value addition to shift emphasis from only trading in imported products but also exporting value added products.

**END**