



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



REMARKS BY NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD CHAIR

AT THE

COMMEMORATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
2022

IN LUWERO DISTRICT

5TH JUNE 2022



**Hon. Ministers present,
Hon. Members of Parliament present,
Members of the NEMA Board,
The Executive Director NEMA,
Development Partners,
District Leaders,
Religious Leaders,
Cultural and Community Leaders,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Allow me, to first thank God for today, and to thank Him for creation and entrusting us with the duty of protecting this wonderful environment we have here in Uganda.

It is my pleasure to be with you as the Chair of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) Board on this World Environment Day (WED) celebrations.

This year 2022, World Environment Day is being celebrated under the global theme: ***'Only one Earth'*** and the national theme is ***'Our Earth, Conserve for Life'***. **Only One Earth** reminds us that there is no other. **The earth** has all things that God created and blessed us so that we could use them and control them for our livelihood and wellbeing.



These things of the earth include the living and non-living things found in the environment, such as soils, water, plants, animals, and the air we breathe, among others. We are for example able to grow crops, keep livestock, get fuel/energy, obtain building materials, medicine, fibres, honey and handicraft materials from the environment. The quality and quantity of water, air quality and soils are regulated and supported by the natural systems we find on earth. So, these illustrate that the services provided by nature on earth make human life possible and worth living.

Our earth implies a sense of ownership, and because of this, we need to keep it well so that it can give us our needs and also provides for generations to come.

Uganda's economy is natural resource based. The natural resources play a significant part in our livelihood, wellbeing and socioeconomic development. It must therefore be emphasised that these supporting systems of natural services of the earth, comprising non-living and living (biodiversity) elements, should be conserved. We have only one Earth, the planet we live in, that is the source of all these vital services.

However, we have used the natural resources recklessly. We seem to no longer appreciate or value what mother earth has given us. The result is environmental degradation impacting wetlands, forests, lakes, rivers and land.

The water stress, loss of soil fertility and food insecurity that is being experienced in some parts of the country are evidence of the changing



environment that we are living in. This has partly been attributed to mismanagement of the environment by humans.

The communities who exclusively depend on natural resources for survival are among the first to suffer when the earth is threatened, whether by over-exploitation, climate change or pollution.

From the local to global level water insecurity, energy insecurity and food insecurity have caused unbearable human sufferings. These phenomena are mostly linked environmental degradation and climate change that have elements of human induced undesirable changes on the planet earth.

This year WED theme, therefore, gives the NEMA a huge task to accomplish in the implementation of its mandate and functions. This requires a fully committed and equipped staff to deliver timely interventions.

The Board is assuring you of its commitment to steer the NEMA for effective and efficient delivery of its mandate and functions.

I wish to applaud all the district leaders, political leaders, development partners, cultural leaders, community leaders, NGOs, CBOs and other stakeholders who in their different capacities have worked with NEMA and the entire environment sector for sustainable use of natural resources and the environment. This has enhanced environment management in various ways that supports sustainability.

I would like to re-echo the words of the Hon. Minister for Water and Environment that the earth is a central resource to our welfare, needs and



services, and that it will always be. The earth should, therefore, be protected and sustainably looked after for it to supply our needs and deliver services to humanity.

NEMA, in all its operations, is committed to environmental sustainability, through regulating, monitoring, supervising and coordinating all activities relating to the environment in our country Uganda. For success we must work as partners. So, we all as stakeholders should conserve the natural resources and use them wisely for continued availability, stability, security, stability and for sustainability that is provided by Earth, the only planet where we live.

I wish to thank on the Directors of NEMA Board, the Executive Director NEMA and the staff of NEMA for the efforts they have put in building public trust to improve NEMA's performance.

I again call upon all of us to own the earth and conserve it for life. Let us take personal responsibility to protect the earth for the present and future generations.

I THANK YOU ALL

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY