



## **Remarks at Courtesy Visit to the King of Bunyoro**

By Ms. Rosa Malango

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UNDP Resident Representative

9<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Hoima District

Your Highness, the King of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom

The UNAIDS Executive Director

The Minister of Health

UNAIDS Regional Director

UNHCR Representative

Board Chairperson for Uganda AIDS Commission

Chairperson, Parliamentary Committee for HIV

Chief Executive Officer, Star Times Television

Director General, Uganda AIDS Commission

On behalf of the United Nations in Uganda, I would like to thank Your Highness for the warm welcome to the Palace and the Kingdom. The United Nations in Uganda values the cordial relationship that exists between the cultural institutions and the UN. We recognize the cultural institutions as key partners in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Today we accompany the UNAIDS Executive Director, we are 18 UN agencies including our ambassador in the fight against AIDS, wellbeing, dignity in development = shared objectives.

Cultural institutions offer an excellent platform to mobilize and engage around development priorities that contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in Uganda. The UN in Uganda is appreciative of Your Highness' role as the Chair of the Uganda Kings and Cultural Forum, through your leadership we have seen increased involvement of cultural leaders and institutions in efforts to develop Uganda. Kingdoms such as the members of the Forum are critical if our shared values are to inform our aspiration.

The Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom is a key partner of the United Nations and the Government in the refugee response. I would

like to thank the King of Bunyoro – Kitara for opening up the kingdom to our brothers and sisters from South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo. The generosity of the Bunyoro – Kitara Kingdom is a clear demonstration of the Government of Uganda’s open policy for refugees. I would like to encourage other kingdoms in Uganda and beyond to emulate the example of Your Highness the King of Bunyoro in welcoming and taking care of people in need.

The UN recognizes the need for increased service provision to cater for the needs of both the refugees and the host communities. We will stand by and work with the Government of Uganda and the Kingdom of Bunyoro to mobilize service providers and resources to support the delivery of key services including HIV services given that the kingdom is now considered

an HIV hotspot due to the increased economic activity following the discovery of oil in Hoima.

I thank you