**ADDRESS BY CPA DAVID TIMOTHY EDIOMU, THE PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS OF UGANDA, AT THE 14TH CPA ECONOMIC FORUM, ON 15 JULY 2026 AT THE IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL, ENTEBBE.**

Our Keynote Speaker, Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and Secretary to the Treasury of the Republic of Uganda,

Members of the ICPAU Council,

Members of Committees of the ICPAU Council,

Forum Speakers,

Past Presidents and Past Secretaries of the Institute,

Fellow CPAs and all participants attending in person and virtually,

Our Esteemed Partners and Sponsors,

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is my great pleasure to welcome each one of us to the 14th CPA Economic Forum. Thank you for taking the time to join us for what has become one of

Uganda's most important platforms for meaningful dialogue on the country's economic future.

The CPA Economic Forum has, over the years, evolved into much more than an annual event. It is a platform where policymakers, business leaders and accounting professionals come together to exchange ideas, challenge assumptions and collectively shape practical solutions for Uganda's economic transformation. We are proud that the conversations held here continue to influence national discourse and contribute to evidence-based policymaking.

Allow me to honour our Past Presidents who are here with us today, CPA Josephine Ossiya, CPA Joseph Baliddawa, CPA Protazio Begumisa, CPA George William Egaddu, CPA Ben Patrick Kagoro, CPA David Geoffrey Opiokello, and CPA Constant Mayende. Your leadership and commitment laid the foundation upon which this profession continues to grow.

## Appreciation to the Government

Dr Ggoobi, it is always great to have you at the CPA Economic Forum, and we thank you for honouring our invitations always. Congratulations on the completion of doctoral studies in Economics, sir (*pause briefly for audience applause*), and well done on the 2026/27 national budget. The emphasis on domestic revenue mobilisation, with domestic revenue financing over 50% of the expenditure is welcome, especially as we embark on the 10-fold growth

strategy through the ATMS — agro-industrialisation, tourism development, minerals and science and technology.

Dr PS/ST, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Uganda for its continued openness to engage with us. As the national professional accountancy body, we remain committed to providing technical expertise that supports sound public financial management, fiscal sustainability and inclusive economic growth.

## Congratulating the Newly Appointed Minister of MoFPED

Today also offers us another opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, our own, Hon. CPA Henry Musasizi. His appointment is a testament to the trust placed in the accountancy profession to provide leadership at the highest levels of public resources management. We wish him success as he serves our country.

## Resolutions from the 13th CPA Economic Forum

PS/ST, one of the greatest strengths of this Forum is that all its recommendations continue to find expression in national policy. We are particularly pleased that the recommendations put forward by ICPAU through the 13th CPA Economic Forum have been reflected in the FY 2026/27 National Budget. It is encouraging to see greater investment in science, technology and innovation, continued

expansion of digital infrastructure and e-government services, and renewed emphasis on agricultural innovation and commercialisation.

We also welcome the government's focus on strengthening domestic revenue mobilisation, increasing support for the creative economy, and investing in climate resilience.

This is a demonstration of the value of constructive engagement between the profession and the government, and it reinforces our commitment to providing practical recommendations that support Uganda's socio-economic transformation.

## Theme for the 14th CPA Economic Forum

That brings me to our theme this year, **'Powering Uganda's US$500 Billion Future,'** which could not be more timely. According to the National Development Plan IV, Uganda has set itself an ambitious but achievable target of expanding its economy to US$500 billion by 2040.

Achieving this vision will require more than aspiration. It will demand sound economic policies, strategic investment, fiscal discipline, innovation, strong institutions and, above all, strong accountability in the management of public and private resources.

This transformation will not be dependent on economists and policy makers alone. It will critically need professional accountants, auditors and other finance professionals who safe guard public resources, strengthen governance, promote

accountability and most importantly provide reliable information critical to decision making across all sectors of the economy.

## An Appeal

Dr PS/ST, a bright future for Ugandans is being crafted, but it can only be realised and enjoyed with a healthy population. It is high time that the country's health management is reset for all.

I add my voice to the many to appeal to the government to craft and adopt a Health Insurance Scheme that encompasses all Ugandans, contributed to by all Ugandans and not only those in employment. It should be crafted as a social public health matter and not a private sector issue that may be hijacked by those seeking profit.

Dr PS/ST, you have heard slogans like every Ugandan family is just one disease away from poverty. We need to turn that narrative into a Health Insurance Scheme that works for all. Universal Health coverage will impact not only the health sector but rather become a catalyst for the economic growth we so desire.

## Appreciation to Partners

I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our event partners that have made this forum possible. We value this partnership and look forward to achieving even greater impact together.

Mr PS/ST, ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to recognise National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), The

Electoral Commission, The Micro Finance Support Centre, PKF Uganda, Ernst & Young, National Water & Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA), Centenary Bank, Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) and Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA). Thank you very much, and we hope to have you again and again.

I also wish to thank the participants who attended in person and online. This is a gesture of your commitment towards the transformation of the economic future of our country, and your ideas during this forum will be an important contribution towards pushing for systems that shape the services received by every Ugandan.

## Introducing the Keynote Speaker

As I leave the podium, ladies and Gentlemen, I take this opportunity to introduce to you our Keynote Speaker, Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and Secretary to the Treasury of the Republic of Uganda..

As he makes his way to the stage, I invite the production team to play the PS/ST's video profile.

*<Profile video is played as he walks to the stage>*

Ladies and gentlemen, please put your hands together for Dr Ramathan Ggoobi.

Thank you, and I wish you a productive Forum.

**-END-**