

PRESS STATEMENT For Immediate Release

Uganda Bankers' Association unveils the theme for the 9th Annual Bankers' Conference 2026 with a focus on *mobilizing financial institutions to drive Uganda's Tenfold GDP Growth Agenda under the ATMS Framework.*

Kampala, Uganda- September 1st, 2026: **The Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA) in collaboration with the Bank of Uganda, title sponsor Mastercard and other esteemed collaborators, has officially announced the 9th edition of the Annual Bankers Conference (ABC 2026). The premier financial sector event is scheduled for Friday, 18th September 2026, at the Kampala Marriott Hotel.**

This year's conference will be held under the theme, “The Role of Uganda's Financial Institutions in Facilitating Tenfold GDP Growth.” The event will convene key policymakers, regulators, industry executives, development partners, private sector leaders, academia, and civil society to establish practical pathways for the banking and capital markets sectors to power national economic transformation.

The 2026 conference coincides with a transformative moment in national policy as the Government of Uganda rolls out its Tenfold Economic Growth Strategy under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) framework. The strategy targets expanding Uganda's GDP from USD 50 billion to USD 500 billion by 2040 through high-impact investments across four primary pillars: Agro-Industrialization, Tourism Development, Mineral-Based Industrial Development (including Oil and Gas), and Advancements in Science, Technology, and Innovation (ATMS)

To support this agenda, the banking sector has designed a comprehensive response strategy aimed at mobilizing long-term funding and significantly expanding private sector credit. Recognizing that commercial banks alone cannot meet the full capital requirements, the conference will also focus on leveraging capital markets to provide patient, structured financing for both the private and public sectors.

Speaking on the collaboration and vision for the event, Mr. Michael Mugabi, Chairman of the Uganda Bankers' Association, stated:

“Uganda stands at a defining moment in its economic journey. The financial sector must evolve from traditional lending to becoming a deliberate, proactive engine for national growth. This year's conference is designed to align capital, policy, and market infrastructure so that Uganda's financial institutions directly power the tenfold growth ambition. We look forward to actionable commitments from all ecosystem partners.”

Mr. Wilbrod Owor, Executive Director of the Uganda Bankers' Association, added:

“The Annual Bankers Conference remains the primary platform where strategic industry ideas transition into execution. In 2026, our focus is squarely on how to de-risk extension of much more credit to the key ATMS sectors, and related enabler sectors, as well as support the required machinery for attracting patient capital. Getting the financing model right for ATMS unlocks jobs, boosts export revenues, and delivers sustainable prosperity across the country.”

Highlighting the critical role of digital technology and inclusion, Shehryar Ali, Senior Vice President and Country Manager for East Africa and Indian Ocean Islands at Mastercard, title sponsor for ABC 2026, noted:

“Mastercard is proud to collaborate with the Uganda Bankers' Association and the Bank of Uganda as the title sponsor of the Annual Bankers Conference for the ninth consecutive year. This longstanding collaboration reflects our shared commitment to advancing Uganda's financial sector and supporting the country's economic growth. As Uganda pursues its tenfold growth ambition, secure, inclusive and scalable digital financial infrastructure will be critical. By combining innovative technology with strong industry collaboration, we can help build a more connected and resilient financial ecosystem that delivers sustainable and inclusive growth.”

Key Program Focus Areas and Structure

ABC 2026 will feature an opening ceremony and keynote address, followed by four dedicated panel discussions and a closing ceremony:

- 1. The Role of Uganda's Financial and Capital Markets in supporting the Tenfold GDP Growth Strategy.**
- 2. Patient Capital for the Minerals Sector (including oil & gas): Moving beyond traditional commercial loans to long-term structured finance.**
- 3. Science, Technology & Innovation Financing: Driving Innovation-Led Growth.**
- 4. De-risking & Financing Tourism Development, Agro-Industrialization & Export Development: Unlocking the brown, green and blue economy.**

The conference is expected to attract a diverse mix of local and international stakeholders as Uganda positions its financial sector as a key enabler of the country's Tenfold Growth Strategy.

Registration details and the finalized conference agenda will be published on UBA's official communication channels in the coming days.

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About Uganda Bankers' Association: www.ugandabankers.org

Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA) is an umbrella organization for financial institutions licensed and supervised by Bank of Uganda. UBA was established in 1981 and is currently made up of 34 members comprising 22 commercial banks, 3 development banks (Uganda Development Bank, East African Development Bank & Afreximbank and 9 Tier 2 & Tier 3 (MDIs and MFIs)

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