



# UBA responding to the needs and expectations of the banking Industry



UBA's ED Mr. Wilbrod H. Owor receives the Award from URA's CG Ms. Doris Akol

**O**n 1st October 2016, Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA) received the Commissioner General's (CG) award, during Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)'s 12th Annual Tax Payers' Appreciation Awards, for its outstanding support towards the authority's tax administration role.

We applaud URA for the strong partnership with the membership of UBA and look forward to growing this from strength to strength. We further congratulate URA for the achievements it has registered over the last 25 years.

UBA is the umbrella body of commercial banks in Uganda and was founded in 1981. Today, 25 commercial banks and one development bank comprise the UBA membership.

The Association was formed to promote, protect, represent and develop the professional and business interests of its member banks. This also includes; fostering orderly conditions within the Banking industry subject to the laws prevailing at any time in Uganda.

**Initiatives:** Working closely with Bank of Uganda, Policy makers and regulators, UBA has made a tremendous contribution to formulation of policies and laws governing the financial services overtime; thereby supporting investment in the financial sector, which is the fuel of an economy.

**Credit Monitoring:** With the introduction of the Credit Reference Bureau, there has been improvement on assessment and due diligence checks on borrowers and this is meant to encourage good behavioral changes in as far as credit is concerned.

The UBA member banks are already working closely with the regulator and the credit reference bureaus to strengthen creditworthiness information sharing which greatly informs the pricing matrix for loans.

**Financial Literacy:** The sector continues to invest more in financial literacy together with BOU & development agencies, to empower Ugandans to make appropriate financial decisions.

**Strengthening the sector:** In an effort to address the issue of high operational costs in the sector, UBA member banks are undertaking collaboration projects that involve shared technology platforms to bring down the cost delivery of services while increasing outreach/foot. More technologically driven banking services will be extended to the previously unserved or underserved population. Through collaborating with several other stakeholders & players like; telecoms, fintech companies, thousands of agents across the country, more products including; loan products will be extended to the huge chain of agents to enable them run their own businesses as well as reach the wider population..

The Association is also partnering with the insurance industry to mitigate risk and bring in more sectors that would typically be considered unattractive to banks to make them more attractive, agriculture being one such area.

Furthermore, we are spearheading the formation of the Assets Reconstruction Company (ARC) to assist banks in management of toxic debt through restructure/reconstruction/turnaround of such companies especially those with systemic ramifications.

We have also embarked on a series of consultative meetings with various stakeholders; a strategy UBA believes will generate mutual solutions to the challenges around the financial sector and wider economy.

**UBA will continue to innovate, grow and diversify financial products and services to facilitate financial inclusion and increase penetration.**