



Uganda Cooperative Alliance LTD



May 20, 2022

The Board, MD and the HFB family,

The UCA team,

The MD and team from CIC

The media fraternity

Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocols observed

Today is a special and memorable day in the history of Cooperatives in Uganda where Uganda Cooperative Alliance Ltd, the apex body for all cooperatives in Uganda and Housing Finance Bank are signing a memorandum of understanding that is aimed at providing quality and affordable financial services to the cooperative movement in the country.

Cooperatives in Uganda are in excess of 31,000 in number serving over 10 million Ugandans majority of whom are engaged in different Agricultural value chains. Globally, Cooperatives serve all categories of people most especially the vulnerable category including women, youth and people with disabilities. Empirical research suggests that access to formal financial services by the population greatly contributes to inclusive economic growth.

This MOU between UCA and the HFB focuses on a broader perspective in line with Uganda's National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) 2017-2022, a holistic strategy for promoting financial inclusion with emphasis on five pillars:

1. Reduce exclusion and barriers to access financial services
2. Develop the Credit Infrastructure
3. Build the digital Infrastructure
4. Deepen and broaden formal savings, investment and Insurance usage
5. Protect and empower individuals with enhanced financial capability

The MOU is also in line with the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), Uganda's National Development Plan III, the Parish Development Model (PDM-Pillar No. 3 on Financial inclusion), Uganda's vision 2040, the International Cooperative Alliance Global Strategy and the UCA strategic plan 2020/21-2024/25. Under our arrangement, the Cooperative Insurance Company (CIC) Will provide competitive insurance package to Cooperators through HFB.

The actual implementation of this MOU is therefore a last mile strategy for service delivery by UCA, CIC and HFB for improving incomes and welfare of many Ugandans at the household level working through Cooperatives.

On behalf of the Cooperative fraternity in Uganda, the Board and Management of Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) Ltd, I wish to extend our profound appreciation to the Board and Management Staff of Housing Finance Bank (HFB) for their continued support to Cooperatives in Uganda and most importantly for this moment where we are formalizing our long time and future collaboration through an MOU.

I am gratified to note that the Housing Finance Bank is one of the strongest banks in both capital and assets base in Uganda and in the region. Partnering with such a big Bank is indeed an important historical Milestone.

To achieve this, Uganda Cooperative Alliance Ltd. has agreed jointly with Housing Finance Bank to offer quality and affordable financial products like loan facilities to eligible cooperatives subject to the friendly terms and conditions. UCA is committed to ensuring that the Cooperatives and their

conditions. UCA is committed to ensuring that the Cooperatives and their members access these financial services from the bank for their growth and prosperity.

Under this partnership, UCA working with the HFB will mobilize Cooperatives, provide them with capacity building to ensure that they are bankable and then recommend them to the bank for financial products for the benefit of their members. CIC will provide competitive insurance package to the beneficiaries. This excellent model will translate into steady growth and development of Cooperatives and their members.

I call upon all Cooperatives in Uganda to embrace this initiative, open accounts and access a wider range of financial products that are offered by the Bank, acquire shares and do their business with CIC, their Insurance Company for their growth and sustainability as they offer quality services and products to their members.

Once again, I thank the HFB team, UCA and CIC teams present, the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the media fraternity and all cooperators for this wonderful moment.

For God and my country.



Aslimwe Ivan (CPA)

General Secretary-UCA.