



Es gilt das gesprochene Wort!

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Speech

by the
Bavarian State Minister
of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology

Martin Zeil

On the occasion of the
German-Ugandan Business-Day

on 8. September 2010
Munich

Your Excellencies,

Ambassador Butagira,

**Members of the Diplomatic and Consular
Corps,**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Welcome

For me too, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to the **German-Ugandan Business Day** at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce for Munich and Upper Bavaria.

I am especially pleased that

- you, Minister Rukundo, and
- you, Minister Nsambu, [*sprich: Sambu*]

have both made the long trip to Bavaria to be with us today.

I would like to pass on the best wishes of the whole **Bavarian State Government** to you and all your delegation.

Welcome to Munich!

The Bavarian capital can of course boast **many premieres**, but today we have a special one:

from my perspective, it was high time that a **German-Ugandan Business Day** was held in Munich.

Uganda

Because Uganda is the focus of great interest and understanding in our country. The “Pearl of Africa” belongs to the cradle of humankind.

With its untouched nature, pleasant climate, rich cultural treasures and the friendliness and warm-heartedness of its people, the country has much to offer. This makes Uganda a very popular destination for many Germans.

Economic successes

And its **economic development** has also been impressive. We have just heard about some of the remarkable successes scored in the past few years:

- Annual economic growth between 5 and 9 per cent is **remarkable**.
- When such growth figures have been reached regularly for the past 20 years, then it is **exceptional**.

Education policy

In this sector, your country's **ambitious education policy** is paying off: from free

primary school education all the way to development of school and university infrastructure. **Makerere University in Kampala** has earned itself a particularly good reputation. With more than 30,000 students, it is also one of the biggest universities in East and Central Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Partnership with Africa

Africa is a fascinating continent, a continent on the move. It is time people over here realise this. We can all learn from each other. But to do so, we must overcome prejudices and embark on new experiences.

The German-Ugandan Business Day will make a big contribution here. Today we are not concerned with well-meaning and often misunderstood development aid. Here in Munich, we are talking about a **partnership on equal terms**. We must be prepared to recognise new opportunities and to jointly implement them.

This will bring benefits for both sides. Because there is still a lot for us to do, if we want to increase our bilateral trade and step up cooperation among companies from our two countries.

Free global trade

I am an energetic supporter of open markets and free trade relations and I call on all of you to stand up for free global trade.

It is not isolationism and trade barriers that will carry us forward, but **trade, cooperation and economic collaboration**. German-Ugandan business relations should and must build on this.

Closing words

After all, business development always involves **the mind and being open to new developments**. This is a global task. If we want to shape globalisation for the benefit of all parties, then we will have to become a real **learning community**.

In this spirit, I wish you some stimulating presentations and lively discussions.

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May the German-Ugandan Business Day bear rich fruits.

Thank you very much!