

UDB SECURES SH169B FOR KEY INVESTMENTS

By Kasoma Aloysius

The Uganda Development Bank (UDB) has secured sh169b in fresh financing from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) to scale up funding for priority sectors critical to Uganda's economic transformation.

The financing agreement, signed on Wednesday at UDB Tower in Kampala, is complemented by an additional sh3.38b in technical assistance to strengthen project preparation, risk management and impact measurement.

The signing ceremony was presided over by the AFD country director, Marc Trouyet, and UDB managing director Patricia Ojangole. It was witnessed by the Ambassador of France to Uganda, Virginie Leroy.

UDB BOOST

The funding is expected to bolster UDB's capacity to provide long-term, patient capital to sectors aligned with Uganda's development agenda, including agriculture, manufacturing, infrastructure, small and medium enterprises

GOAL OF PARTNERSHIP

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) officials said the partnership with Uganda Development Bank (UDB) aims to generate measurable social, economic and climate impacts. These include increasing financial inclusion for women and youth-led enterprises, strengthening agricultural actors such as savings and credit co-operative societies, agribusinesses, and promoting climate-smart agriculture and resilient infrastructure investments.

With the sh169b boost, UDB is poised to deepen its role as a catalyst for sustainable development, positioning priority investments at the heart of Uganda's long-term economic transformation.

(SMEs), as well as green investments.

Speaking at the event, Ojangole said the credit line will enhance the bank's ability to catalyse inclusive and sustainable economic growth while expanding access to development finance.

"We are deeply grateful to our partner, AFD, for their trust, collaboration and shared vision. This funding will contribute to addressing Uganda's environmental and social challenges in a structured and measurable manner, including improving access to finance for traditionally underserved and excluded populations,

particularly youth and women," she said.

Ojangole said strengthening social inclusion and expanding economic participation are central to reducing structural inequalities in the economy.

The financing aligns with Uganda's National Development Plan IV, which prioritises expanding access to economic opportunities and strengthening enterprise growth and competitiveness.

The new facility comes as UDB implements its refreshed corporate strategy, which broadens its role beyond lending. Under the strategy, the bank is taking on a stronger



Ojangole (second-right) after signing a sh169b financing agreement with Agence Francaise de Development in Kampala on Wednesday

mandate in structuring complex transactions, offering advisory services, and crowding in additional capital from both local and international development partners.

ACCESS TO FUNDING

"For us as a development finance institution, access to concessional and strategic funding is not merely about liquidity. It is about leverage — leveraging the funds mobilised into measurable economic impact," Ojangole said.

She added that the credit line will expand UDB's ability to finance transformative projects that create jobs, deepen

industrialisation, support SMEs, advance infrastructure development and drive climate-resilient growth.

Ambassador Leroy described the partnership as a demonstration of France's continued commitment to supporting Uganda's economic ambitions.

FRENCH GOVT SUPPORT

"This partnership embodies the support the French government is providing to Uganda to develop its economy and successfully implement the Tenfold Growth Strategy, particularly in the ATMS sectors. France

supports Uganda's ambition to become a middle-income country by harnessing the full potential of its agriculture and agribusinesses," she said.

COLLABORATION

Ojangole also highlighted upcoming collaboration opportunities, including a business forum at the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi under the joint invitation of presidents Emmanuel Macron and William Ruto, which will showcase innovation across agriculture, green industrialisation, energy, logistics, the digital economy and health.