

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. RUTH NANKABIRWA  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (MICRO FINANCE)  
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.**

**AT**

**THE CLOSING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
FAMILY PLANNING**

**Speke Resort Munyonyo Conference Center  
Kampala, Uganda**

**NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

**Prof. Robert Blum, Chair of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, at Johns Hopkins University**  
**Dr. Jotham Musinguzi, Regional Director, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office**  
**Mr. Bunmi Makinwa, Director, UNFPA Africa Region**  
**Dr. William Bazeyo, Dean of Makerere University School of Public Health**  
**Prof. Amy Tsui, Director, Gates Institute**  
**Distinguished Participants**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am delighted to be here and to close this International Conference on Family Planning taking place here in Munyonyo. I have been informed by the organizers that the focus of this conference is on the health and wealth of our families.

The theme that focuses on the health and wealth of our families resonates very well with Uganda's national priorities to invest in programmes and services that positively impacts on the welfare of our people. We in Uganda believe that investing in maternal and child health including emphasizing reproductive health and family planning is very crucial for the future of our nation.

I am particularly pleased to learn that so many Ugandan researchers especially from Makerere and other local universities, practitioners, programme managers, development partners, civil society and non-governmental organizations are all participating in this international conference and I have joined the international community to discuss family planning research and best practices.

I want to put it on record that Uganda, through research from our various universities, has contributed to the growing body of scientific knowledge regarding the linkages between the health of women and children, family planning, HIV/AIDS and fertility patterns. Particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS, Uganda has something to offer to the rest of the international community. There are concrete lessons learnt from our own community initiatives and I am hoping that our researchers have been able to share this with you. At the same time, I am hoping that all of you have benefitted tremendously from this international exchange and discourse. It is my sincere hope that the last four (4) days of your intense deliberations will lead to lasting solutions to the various challenges of human development.

I want to hail the efforts of the conference sponsors who have organized this international conference in such a way that you come out with the Re-Affirmation of Global Commitments to Family Planning which you have just presented. I understand that the need for this reaffirmation is because there have been more than 20 global meetings in the last 4 decades when the right to universal access to family planning and the right to women spacing their births has been recognized. It therefore makes a lot of sense for you, at this international conference, to reaffirm past commitments rather than coming out with a completely new declaration.

In this Kampala Conference on International Family Planning in 2009, you have pledged, I hope, to take the first steps to be sure that every birth is wanted, every pregnancy is healthy and every delivery is safe and that we have provided the means to enable this to happen.

This conference's sponsors know, as well as I do, that each generation builds on the ingenuity and resources of the preceding one and that family planning is one way to provide such opportunities to successive generations. They know, too, that Uganda is doing all it can to focus on the "family" in "family planning" and to bring a better life to its citizens. We still have challenges but we will get there. I am sure that your time in this remarkable learning environment will help provide lasting solutions for our countries and citizens as well as the populations and nations all over the world.

It is my hope that you have all had a pleasant stay here in Munyonyo at the shores of this great lake, Lake Victoria, which is also the source of mighty River Nile. We hope you have had time to visit some other parts of our country to appreciate the beauty of Uganda.

On behalf of the government of Uganda, it is now my pleasure to declare this Conference officially closed.