



JUSTICE FORUM (JEEMA)

PARTY MANIFESTO FOR 2016

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*OUR APPROACH TO THE SOCIO – ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
TRANSFORMATION OF UGANDA*

PRNINCIPLES AND FOUNDATIONS OF THE PARTY

The Justice Forum philosophy is summarized into the acronym JEEMA which is also recognized by the party constitution as the alternative formal way of identifying the Party. JEEMA stands for:

Justice for all

Economic revitalization

Education

Morals

African Unity

The acronym “JEEMA” is the embodiment of the philosophy which forms the foundation for the party policies/programmes and also underpins its aspirations.

Justice is the bedrock for realizing the Uganda, a Uganda healed of its historical conflicts and current socio – economic and political distortions. JEEMA believes in Justice, or fairness to all. God who created the universe and all there is in it requires it of us; Mankind requires it of us; and we even have a duty to deal justly with the environment around us.

Our Party believes that *economic systems* built on fairness will bring about the much needed economic revitalization of Uganda, and help to sustain its achievements. Justice Forum places a lot of value on *education* in its holistic form as a means for transforming society. We believe in *moral integrity* in all its forms, including but not limited to stressing personal morality for leaders and citizens, promoting positive cultural values as a basis for developing strong national values, accountability and good governance.

Lastly, our programs are premised on *African Unity*. We have a vision of a united African continent. This unity can grow from the current regional economic integration initiatives, to firmer political unity that will enable the African people to benefit from the globalization in the new world order.

FOREWORD BY THE PARTY PRESIDENT

Uganda is going to the polls again! Justice Forum continues to believe that elections should be an opportunity for constructive engagement by all the citizens on critical issues affecting the country.

In 1995, we broke into the political arena as an informal pressure group, and fielded a Presidential Candidate in the 1996 general elections. This was followed by the fielding of candidates at lower levels in the country's political hierarchy. By so doing, we have put our head above the pack and articulated alternative policies needed to move our country forward. We eventually registered as a political party and have continued our drive to make Uganda a better political home for all. Our Party has been the most consistent on issue-based politics. Amidst the political mudslinging and violence that has become characteristic of our body politic, the Justice Forum Party candidates at all levels have exhibited immense discipline and continue to engage a campaign based on issues.

In line with our established tradition, I am happy to unveil the Justice Forum Manifesto for 2016. Ours is not the usual rhetoric and short term pronouncements intended to hoodwink the citizenry. Our Manifesto presents issues that are at the heart of the livelihoods of the citizenry, the future of our country and re-positioning our country in the global discourse. In this Manifesto, we present practical and well researched proposals on moving forward our country in the next 5 years.

I would like to thank our party membership, leadership and policy teams for painstakingly engaging in a rigorous process that has culminated into this Manifesto. We wish to appreciate the support extended to us by NIMD, which enabled us to conduct methodical research that strengthened our proposals.

The 2016 Justice Forum Manifesto will guide our candidates on our policy positions and will form a binding contract with the citizens of Uganda, and with all stakeholders who wish to move our country forward. Uganda deserves and should be better!

BASALIRWA ASUMAN
PARTY PRESIDENT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BTVET	Business Technical Vocational Education and Training
DSN	Defense and National Security
EAC	East African Community
ECD	Early Childhood development
JEEMA	Justice for all,, Economic revitalization, Education, Morals, and African Unity
MOESTS	Ministry of Education Science Technology and Sports
NDP	National Development Plan
NIMD	Netherlands Institute for Multi Party Democracy
NRM	National Resistance Movement Party
PR	Proportional Representation (system)
PWDs	People with Disabilities
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UPE	Universal Primary Education
USD	United States Dollars
USE	Universal Secondary Education

BACKGROUND

Justice Forum Party (commonly referred to as JEEMA) is one of the main political actors in Uganda's politics. The party has fielded candidates at Presidential, Parliamentary and local council levels since 1996. JEEMA is one of the six parties with representation in Parliament and local governments. Established in 1996 under the one party movement system, Justice Forum was formally registered as a political party on 23rd March, 2005.

JEEMA was established because of the belief that pluralism gives us the opportunity for full participation in shaping our destiny. But we also realized that the way democracy was applied without justice and equity was shamefully empty. JEEMA was born out of the need to champion justice, a value that has been alarmingly undermined in our nation.

The party logo summarises the party philosophy of JEEMA. The logo has a scale symbolizing the cardinal principle of justice for all. The scale balances on the map of the African continent with a palm that has a finger pointing outwards, which symbolizes *African unity*. The map is ensconced on a rich diversity of natural resources to indicate the richness of the African continent which must be used to economically revitalize it.

The Party symbol is

The Party motto is "Justice for All"

JEEMA slogan is

INTRODUCTION

Uganda's population has hit 37.5 million and is projected to continue to grow at a rate of 3.03%. The population of young people below 30 years is 76.1%, making Uganda's one of the youngest populations in the world.

Uganda's economic growth has stagnated at below 7%. With a per capita income of USD 788, Uganda is one of the 30 least developed countries in the world. Although absolute poverty levels have been going down over the last 10 years, the current figure of 19.7% is nothing to celebrate.

Uganda's un-employment is growing at alarming levels and is estimated to be over 50% for the youth. Our youth, women and men cannot find decent jobs, and wage employment is actually going down.

The macro-economic framework, which had hitherto been lauded, is beginning to get out of hand. Uganda's Inflation, exchange and interest rates are not only making doing business untenable but also making life un-bearable for the already poor and un-employed Ugandans.

Uganda's health and population demographics also indicate stagnation. Maternal and infant mortality rates remain one of the highest in the world, standing at 438 per 10,000 live births and 54 per 1000 live births respectively. HIV prevalence stands at 7% which is still higher compared to the progress that Uganda had registered in the last two decades. The prevalence of none communicable diseases is increasing, and yet the medical personnel, drugs and equipment for early detection and palliative management are dwindling over the years, even though the population continues to grow in size.

Our education sector is in crisis – our children cannot read and write! Although we have registered progress in enrolment and gender parity, the quality of education, motivation of teachers, and infrastructure are wanting. With a drop-out rate of over 50%, Uganda has one of the highest school drop-out rates, even by sub-Saharan Africa standards.

The story of deterioration can be narrated in almost all sectors of the country. And yet with this bleakness, the current Government continues to paint a rosy picture and to run

the country with utter disrespect for state structures. Our current leadership has not only lost touch with the reality but has also lost focus on the critical issues needed to transform Uganda.

JEEMA thinks that Uganda deserves and can be better. In order to attain Uganda's vision 2040 of "A transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years", JEEMA proposes a new methodical, pragmatic and frugal approach to management of our Country.

Our approach focuses on:

- Improving people's livelihood through wealth and employment creation.
- Massive planning and investments in rural and urban development.
- Providing 21st century education that makes our population globally competitive.
- Reforming the electoral systems and government's efficiency in serving the citizens.
- Providing youth, women and PWDs enhanced platforms to engage in governance and development.
- Strengthening state institutions and structures so as to minimize the running of the country through informal one-personal shows.
- Protecting our environment and promoting sustainable development.

Justice Forum believes that this approach will transform Uganda socially, economically and politically from a third world country to a middle income country by 2021. Our approach also lays a firm foundation for catapulting Uganda into a first world country by 2040.

THE 2016 JUSTICE FORUM MANIFESTO – OUR APPROACH TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION OF UGANDA:

1.0 CREATING WEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT

JEEMA's main focus shall be on improving people's livelihood through wealth and employment creation and promoting discipline in public expenditure. We consider these to be the biggest challenges facing Uganda today and which the current government has failed to address consistently.

1.1 Background: Uganda's economy today

Uganda has abundant natural resources which would be a good basis for rapid economic development. Strategic resources includes a young and hardworking population, good weather with abundant rain and water, fertile soil for diverse agricultural and animal husbandry products, abundant minerals such as oil, iron, copper and strategic location in the heart of Africa, which opens considerable market potential for the country.

Uganda's Vision 2040 is "A Transformed Ugandan Society from a Peasant to a Modern and Prosperous Country within 30 years". This involves changing from a predominantly low income to a competitive upper middle income country within 30 years. Vision 2040 is being implemented through the National Development Plan (NDP), and 6 development plans are projected to achieve the vision. Presently, we have just adopted the second development plan NDP II.

The goal of NDP II is to propel the country into middle income status by 2020 with a per capita income of USD 1,033. This is meant to be realized through strengthening the country's competitiveness for sustainable wealth creation, employment and inclusive growth.

Over this Plan period, Government is meant to focus on attaining the following results: increasing per capita income from USD 788 to USD 1,033; reducing the poverty rate from 19.7% to 14.2%; increasing manufactured exports as a percentage of total exports from 5.8% to 19%; increasing the percent of the population with access to electricity from 14% to 30%; increasing access to safe water from 65% to 79% among others.

1.2 Can the Current government achieve these targets?

Uganda is a low income country with a GDP per capita of USD 788. Although Uganda has set a laudable vision of “A transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years”, there are clear indicators that the country cannot achieve Vision 2040 under the current NRM leadership. All the major shortcomings identified in Vision 2040, including instability in economic growth attributed to the lack of discipline in public expenditure management and deficiency in job creation effort for the majority of young people who comprise the bulk of the population, are all inimical to the current government.

Much as the Government of the day has established the National Planning Authority, and has produced the long term plan Vision 2040 and the second five year development plan, these plans have glaring gaps. For example, the plan’s deficiency on job creation, **the leizez faire** approach to management of the economy are certain to hinder the achievement of the 2040 vision. To achieve the Vision 2040, the country has to undertake radical interventions with a clear approach as proposed by JEEMA below.

1.3 Our Proposed interventions

JEEMA Proposes focusing on three critical factors that enhance economic development namely efficient public delivery system, direct foreign investments and broadening financial markets. This will require:

- Re-thinking the role of the Uganda Government within a market economy, so that it is more proactive in driving the economy. Although the current focus on infrastructure development and promotion of direct foreign investment are necessary, they are not enough to generate employment for the middle class and the bulk of the population in the rural areas.
- Re-organizing and recapitalizing institutions that enable state involvement in spearheading wealth and job creation, including Uganda Development Corporation (UDC), Uganda Development Bank (UDB), the cooperative movement and the Micro finance institutions.
- Prioritization of oil drilling and marketing it in its raw form as opposed to expensive refinery processes. Granted, the current government has plans to develop the Oil and gas industry in Uganda, but we differ on some of the proposed steps, particularly the refinery. Owing to the heavy costs for the refinery and the infrastructure for oil production and export, the refinery should be scheduled in the second phase. The Oil industry is also highly sophisticated and high tech based, and for quite some time it will only attract foreigners as investors. Experience from countries such as Nigeria shows that Ugandans will mainly be onlookers, perhaps tapping on peripheries such as food kiosks at the drilling and refinery sites. The oil and gas sector will not create many jobs, even when the refinery is prioritized. The refinery will only create a few highly technical jobs for the lucky Ugandans, and the majority of the people will remain trapped in poverty.
- In addition to oil and gas, focus should be on a flagship industry with robust potentials for job creation, participation by Ugandan investors of all sizes, and accessibility by all including cottage, small, medium and large size firms. In our preliminary assessment, the area of food processing for export in both regional and global market can spur real economic take off in Uganda. This combines industries and agriculture, and it is therefore in harmony with Vision 2040. It

would impact positively on food production by the farmers in rural areas, as well turning Uganda into the food basket of Africa through export of food to the regional market first and later on to the global market. Our vision is of a Government that takes a proactive role in targeting Food Production, Processing and Export industries, both directly through participating in investing in the sector and indirectly through legislation and monetary policies.

- Restoring finance discipline by strengthening measures to fight corruption and clientele – patronage politics.
- Strengthening the capacity and financing of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) and its affiliate institutions like Uganda Commodity Exchange Limited (UCE), Management Training and Advisory Centre (MTAC), Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI), Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB) , Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) and Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) to carry out their roles. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) is the most critical ministry for growing the economy, and yet it is one of the most neglected.
- Investing more resources in re-branding Uganda’s tourism sector to make it more attractive, create more jobs and revenue.

- Reenergizing the development of infrastructure and energy. Special attention will be given to the energy sector, including hydro electric power, oil and gas and other sources of renewable energy.
- We shall redevelop the railway and road network to enable regional trade in East African community, ease internal transportation of agricultural produce to marketing centers and across the country. This is necessary for reducing the cost of doing business and reduction of spoilage for perishable goods.

1.4 Job Creation re-defined

The current Government methods of poverty alleviation will continue to fail unless jobs are created or stimulated by both the local and central governments.

Job creation has two sides each of which demands separate interventions. It has the supply side which emphasize improving the capabilities of job seekers mainly through training and the demand side, which requires investments in industrial development, attracting foreign investors and a direct policy on protection of home based entrepreneurs from foreign competition to stimulate growth of SMES, Micro Enterprises which usually provide employment for semi-skilled and unskilled Ugandans. Therefore JEEMA proposes tackling both the demand and supply sides simultaneously, and will deliberately focus on the following demand side interventions:

- The Government will stimulate job creation when it invests in projects that improve or create new services. These activities will include stimulating food production through agro-processing for export to the regional and international market. It also includes capacity building and affirmative action to local private contractors for infrastructure, defense, engineering, justice, etc.
- Government will tackle Job Creation via legislation and monetary policy. A change to monetary policies, tax incentives and changes in regulations effects employment. Foreign investors in certain sectors and industries where Ugandans have the capacity to participate will be required to assign a certain percentage of shares in corporate management and share capital to Ugandans
- Government will take a proactive role to develop flagship industries both directly through participating in investing in the sector and indirectly through legislation and monetary policies.
- Job Creation in the agriculture and Rural Development sector will use the following as its building blocks: Microfinance, the Cooperative Movements including a focus on youth and women led cooperatives, land Policy reforms and value addition along the value chain.

2.0 RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Over 80% of Uganda's population lives in rural areas. The national poverty rate stood at 19.7% in 2012/13, from 24.5 % in 2009/10. The *Uganda Poverty Status Report 2014* by the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic development brought out the new criteria of either poor or vulnerable to poverty. The poor people are those who earn less than 1.2 dollars per day. This is now estimated to be 6.7% by 2014. However, about 21.4 million Ugandans (63% of the population) were either poor or vulnerable to poverty and about 6.7 million of them (about 19.7%) are trapped in absolute poverty.

JEEMA conducted a study on the "Effectiveness of government agricultural intervention at grassroots" and one of the issues that complicate rural development is the effectiveness of targeting the most vulnerable groups, such as the landless, women and youth, who JEEMA intends to give priority by investing in rural development programmes that promote inclusive development

Our focus on rural development will be balanced with promoting the development of cities and other urban centers. Cities offer an environment for modern life and they are major sources of income concentrated on a small spatial area. For example, it is estimated that Kampala City alone generates over 50% of Uganda' GDP.

Although there have been efforts to rehabilitate Kampala, other cities such as Jinja, Mbale, Arua, Gulu, Soroti are not only stagnant, but deteriorating. The problem of urban poor, slums, poor housing in urban areas and garbage collection and other municipal services are also real and must be tackled head on.

JEEMA proposes the following interventions:

- i) First, there is need to revisit the land issue, to achieve optimal land utilization for production and fighting poverty as well as solving land conflicts in rural and urban areas. To this end JEEMA will speed up the implementation of the Uganda National Land Policy 2013, which provides for *declaring the entire*

country a physical planning area for effective land use management and also provide guidelines on zoning, sub-divisions, housing design, and standards, provision of social economic and physical infrastructure services etc

- ii) JEEMA will task the Uganda Land Commission and the Law Reform Commission to undertake a thorough review of the existing land laws with an aim of streamlining land management and utilization. This is in the spirit of solving problems created by the 1998 Land Act which have to be addressed, such as defining the interest of owners and occupants in an improved manner.
- iii) The cooperative movement will be revamped to organize both female and male farmers in production and marketing.
- iv) JEEMA will prioritize the area of food processing for export in both regional and global markets.
- v) JEEMA will set clear targets in terms output and the necessary acreage to be planted and locations (defined by crop zoning from the land use plan) for selected crops. This will define inputs needed in terms of high yielding quality seeds, fertilizers, tractor services, extension staff and weeds and pest control mechanisms. It will also determine postharvest plans such as post-harvest handling training, agro-processing, transport, local market and export arrangements which include a focus on participation of men and women as well as youth and PWDs.

- vi) JEEMA will undertake a nation-wide programme to plan and construct descent and durable low cost houses to reduce the rampant grass thatched houses in the rural areas, which constitute risks to the environment and hamper development of water harvesting initiatives necessary for promoting clean water, sanitation and hygiene.
- vii) A special program for rehabilitating and redeveloping our cities including revamping city planning and guiding the process of redevelopment shall be undertaken.

3.0 DELIVERING 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

3.1 Uganda's current education status

In the education sector, there has been an increase in the net enrolment, the gender parity gap has reduced, the education infrastructure has registered some improvements.

Despite the above apparent improvements, Uganda's education sector faces critical challenges. These challenges include high drop-out rates, deteriorating infrastructure, low teacher payments and inadequate funding.

The current Education Sector Investment Plan and MOESTS Strategic Plan are coming to an end. This is an opportunity for the country to critically review the progress made, and to shift our current focus from education in-puts like infrastructure to education outcomes like learners' attainment.

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development for any country. Countries with higher and better levels of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities of the world of work.

The key challenge of skill development is to address the needs of a huge population by providing skills in order to help them secure decent work. Skill development for persons working in the unorganized sector is a key strategy in that direction. This will also

inculcate dignity of labour and create greater awareness towards environmental concerns.

3.2 JEEMA'S proposed interventions

Provision of quality education is one of the philosophical underpinnings of JEEMA. JEEMA looks at education not only as the most critical resource for transforming society but also as a means of promoting a just society.

JEEMA's objective is to holistically improve the entire education sector to make our human resource resilient, competitive and adaptive to the changing global dynamics.

JEEMA proposes:

- A major policy shift that puts BTVET at the centre of providing 21st century education that will enhance Uganda's competitiveness, innovation and growth. This shift should be complemented with growth and improvement in Early Child Development (ECD), Primary, Secondary and Tertiary education. BTVET has a unique role to play in facilitating development, increasing national productivity and providing a competitive edge to the national economy through providing skills and value addition.
- Re-branding of the BTVET and Guidance sector to mainstream and improve perception of BTVET within our societies. This shall be achieved through raising public awareness and perception on the significance of skills training as a means to enhance the quality of Uganda's workforce.

- Taking advantage of the on-going lower secondary curriculum review to redefine the planning, financing and management of secondary school education in Uganda. Beyond the need for new content that matches the demands of the 21st century, JEEMA proposes reforming the leadership of the schools and the MOESTS in a manner that enhances performance improvement, undertaking policy changes and promoting changes in instructional approaches. JEEMA believes that modernising a curriculum without modernizing the teachers, school leaders and policy framework is waste of time and resources.
- Making UPE and USE work for our children by raising the resources allocated per term per child, providing scholastic materials, improving school infrastructure, increasing parents and community participation in the delivery of UPE and USE education, giving pupils meals and motivating and supervising teachers to deliver quality education.
- At tertiary level, we propose to reform higher education financing to expand the loan scheme, liberalise its beneficiary criteria to enable students to attend institutions of their choice and harmonise sponsorship with unit costs for each course.
- On gender equity, we propose to look beyond mere increasing of the number of women actors in public affairs. We intend to promote menstrual hygiene training and awareness among parents, teachers and pupils, as well as introduce cost

friendly methods for production of sanitary pads. Research indicates that many girls will drop out of school for menstrual related issues. Addressing through robust menstrual hygiene programmes will contribute greatly to keeping girls in school and supporting the communities to support them.

4.0 THE HEALTH SYSTEM

A healthy workforce is a prerequisite for economic transformation of a country. Health should therefore be a priority of any progressive government.

4.1 Background to Uganda's Health sector

In the Uganda constitution (1995), objective 14 states that all Ugandans have a right to enjoy access to health services, while objective 20 provides that the state shall take all practical measures to ensure provision of basic medical services to the population. However, over the years the health service delivery system has suffered due to insufficient drug stocks, manpower, high maternal and mortality rates, low investment in prevention of non communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, liver diseases, cardiovascular disease, cancer as well as low investment in psychosocial support mechanisms relevant to complement management of conventional biomedical problems. According to the Uganda Health Service delivery Assessment Report (2011), Out-of-pocket (OOP) spending on health is high at 54 %, Donor spending is high at 32% and public health financing at only 22.6% of the Total Health Expenditure (THE) with this there is consensus that the health sector is underfinanced and cannot deliver the Uganda National Minimum Health Care Package (UNMHCP) to all. It is also clear that the poor cannot access health services.

Each year there is an estimated 66,000 AIDS-related deaths and double that number of new infections. About a fifth of them are among children because of mother-to-child

transmission. 50% of Uganda's estimated 2.4 million orphans have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Each year there are between 70,000 to 10,000 malaria-related deaths. Malnutrition is an underlying cause of around 60% of child deaths. Only 42% of births are supervised by a health professionals, and among them very few are women.

Life expectancy at birth is estimated to be 53.45 years in 2012. The infant mortality rate is approximately 61 deaths per 1,000 children in 2012. There were 8 physicians per 100,000 persons in the early 2000s. The 2011 Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS) indicates that Maternal deaths account for 18 percent of all deaths to women age 15-49 with maternal mortality ratio at 438 deaths per 100,000 live births while infant mortality rate is 54 deaths per 1000 live birth and Under five mortality at 90 deaths per 1000 live birth.

However, recent pilot studies by Future Health Systems have shown that this rate could be significantly reduced by implementing a voucher scheme for health services and transport to clinics. Uganda also suffers from high shortage of skilled manpower with only 2,209 doctors, 16,221 nurses, and 1,702 laboratory technicians – almost a third of health posts are not filled.

4.2 JEEMA's proposed interventions:

- JEEMA commits to develop a National Women's Health Policy to improve the health and wellbeing of all women in Uganda, and implement policies to encourage the health system to be more responsive to the needs of women. A specialized national women referral hospital shall be established.
- JEEMA also intends to increase the Budget on health which is currently 16% to 18% of the National Budget.
- JEEMA's health focus shall also put emphasis on preventive interventions in order to reduce on the morbidity and expenses of curative care.
- JEEMA also intends to improve the health system of Uganda by equipping the National hospitals / Health centres with modern machines which are durable and

affordable to all Ugandans. This will go hand in hand with building the capacity of health workers in use of the equipment in order to reduce on the costs incurred in seeking treatment options from abroad.

- JEEMA plans to make sure these hospitals and health centres become more functional and attractive by facilitating the medical workers and fighting corruption in these institutions.
- JEEMA will ensure that each district in the country has a well equipped district hospital which will be the co-coordinating and referral centre for the smaller units. They will have the resources to provide comprehensive medical and surgical services and will be managed by medical superintendents.
- JEEMA will invest in up-grading all the existing regional referral hospitals.

JEEMA will ensure that the National health insurance policy is passed and implemented with clear provisions on inclusion of needs of informal communities and other persons currently not provided for in the scheme. This is aimed at ensuring delivery of quality Health services to all.

5.0 THE YOUTH: DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

71.6% of Uganda's population is below 30 years. This population set up can either be a dividend or a crisis for the country depending on how we prepare and engage our youth. JEEMA's strategy is to turn this huge young population into a dividend for the country by preparing them to meaningfully participate in governance and development.

5.1 BACKGROUND

The current national youth council structure runs from village to national level, there is representation of youth in Parliament and the local governments and there is also substantial existence of youth civil society organizations. And yet, despite these rosy structures and representation, the Ugandan youth do not effectively participate in wealth and job creation, let alone having an effective political voice when it matters most. A national Youth Manifesto lighting their major concerns as being unemployment, lack youth friendly health services and limited meaningful participation among others has been drafted and shared by the Uganda Youth network. In addition JEEMA has conducted thorough research on youth issues to inform its proposed interventions, and will ensure that the needs of the youth are prioritized in its government.

5.2 Our Analysis of the Current situation

According to the Population Report 2012, 71.6% of Ugandans are below 30 and 52% below 15 years. 6.5million are between 18-30 years which constitute 21.3% of the total population and projected to grow to 7.7million by 2015. The Ugandan constitution categorizes this age group as youth. However, attempts have also been made to look at youth in other ways. One of those ways is the transitional identity between childhoods to adulthood. Regardless of the definition however, youth constitute a huge majority of Uganda's total population, with most of them living in rural areas. It must also be noted that the youth in Uganda, like elsewhere are not a homogeneous lot. Also in addition to

the obvious age differences, there are other parameters which differentiate them, like the Level of education; some youth are educated and others are illiterate, difference by settlement; life of a youth in the rural areas are very distinctive and possess very different realities from that of a youth in the urban areas.

These conditions make the youth the most vulnerable to the problem of unemployment in Uganda. Unemployment situation is a condition when a person is actively looking for a job but cannot find one. In Uganda, the Youth unemployment levels have continuously increased amidst the rosy figures of sustainable growth on GDP, leading to concern about both tragic waste of human potential and the looming “time bomb” associated with this problem.

The Uganda Bureau of statistics (UBOS) 2009 estimated that over 83% of the youth in Uganda are unemployed. This has led to rural urban migration resulting into slums and its social evils, high competition in the labour market and the emergence of a rising number of unutilized and unproductive work forces, causing and accelerating related social tensions manifesting in increase in crime rate, increase in HIV infection, frequency in outbreak of violent protest and demonstrations.

5.3 JEEMA’s proposed interventions:

- **Vocational Education and Skills Training**

On several occasions, the NRM government has stated the need to have vocational and skills training institutions. JEEMA will give vocational schooling prominence by making it practical, desirable and interesting to the students, young people and parents, and will restock and re-furbish vocational institutions. In order to successfully link skills training, employment creation and development, skills training policies will target three objectives: matching supply to demand for skills, helping workers and enterprises adjust to change; and forecasting as well as delivering the new and wider skills that will be needed in the future.

- As a way of putting youth and employment issue at the centre of national planning, JEEMA government will establish a Youth and Employment Authority (YEA). This will be take charge of formulating, coordinating and collaborating all other agencies around and outside the country on issues of youth employment. It will also require every government department to integrate youth issues in its programs as a way of giving youth issues prominence and centrality in the nation policy framework.
- JEEMA government through SME will target youth especially those in the informal economy, and establish skills training centres/jua kali centres to act as incubation grounds. These can also be used for internship and industrial training in an effort to create, link and bridge the gap between what is studied in these colleges and the skills required in the labour market. This deliberate policy will create a direct link between the colleges of engineering, science and technology and the incubation grounds so that their practicability can be reinforced with research, training and credit support to young entrepreneurs.
- JEEMA will also focus its effort on upstream interventions to ensure sustained centrality of employment and particularly youth employment in development frameworks, while promoting downstream interventions in the areas of SME development.
- JEEMA also believes that a compulsory national service after school is crucial in critical sectors of the economy such as security and other public sectors. This solves the problem of experience and pre - employment skills development. It also introduces the youth coming direct from school to the life of work and its ethics, and to the culture of patriotism.

Four alternative ways have been suggested to finance this policy;

- Since youth and employment policy is a cross-cutting issue, a multi-sectoral approach shall be promoted and integrated at all levels of government department and private sector programmes. Government will require each department to implement each aspect of the policy within the mandate of that government department and within their budget allocation.

- The other source of funds is out of cutting down on public expenditure and scaling down the size of government to free resources for youth enterprises.
- Thirdly official reports indicate that Uganda loses about sh. 900 billion shillings to recorded corruption every financial year. This also means that if the government can effectively fight corruption and end or at least reduce it by just 50%, the money to finance this policy will be available.

The financing of the policy is therefore spread over the line Ministries, departments and agencies as well as local governments, social partners and Civil Society Organizations. Each sector ministry shall identify employment concerns, budget and fund them within their budget allocation.

6.0 ENTRENCHING GOOD GOVERNANCE

Justice Forum believes that improving our politics and good governance has to be a priority in the next 5 years. We believe that the lack of good governance is an underlying cause for the social, economic and political malaise afflicting our country. We propose the following measures to improve our politics and good governance:

6.1 Streamlining our representative democracy through Electoral Reforms

Political parties, civil society organizations and leaders, acting together in a non-partisan spirit, and on behalf of the people of Uganda, engaged in extensive campaigns for free and fair election in the years 2013-2014. The free and fair election campaign movement identified the principal areas of mischief which had bedeviled previous elections. These call for

- Establish an Independent electoral commission which commands the trust and confidence of all citizens.

- De-linking the party in power from Government institutions through a rigorous legal and policy framework.
- Re-visiting Constitutional, penal code and related laws to bring them in tandem with international instruments that enhance and promote human rights and freedoms.
- Constitutional amendments to reinstate the two Term limits and ensure smooth democratic transition from time to time.

Proportional representation

Besides the electoral reforms as agreed upon by opposition Political parties and civil society organizations, JEEMA goes an extra mile to advocate for **Proportional representation (PR)**. PR is a concept in voting systems used to elect an assembly or council. PR means that the number of seats won by a party or group of candidates is proportionate to the number of votes received. For example, under a PR voting system if 30% of voters votes for a particular party then roughly 30% of seats will be won by that party. **There are several models of PR adopted by various countries eg party list and mixed member.** PR applies primarily to the election of members of Parliament. The President can either be elected separately through Direct Presidential elections or the President can also be elected by the MPs who were elected through PR.

PR has many advantages. It is just and equitable to all categories of people and caters for women, youths, people with disabilities as well as other special interest groups. Each political party, regardless of size in a PR system is a player and/or beneficiary of the electoral process and their votes are considered and computed in terms of seats. As such, each voter feels represented and enfranchised in the election. It promotes Party ideologies and Parties are strengthened. Coalitions can be made in case a party fails to win the required percentage to form government. Coalitions are formed after the

election and NOT BEFORE elections. Post election violence can be avoided as each party will have its share in government in proportion to the number of votes they received

The Justice Forum will continue to struggle for free and fair electoral systems, including the Proportional Representation voting system.

6.2 None Executive President and executive Prime minister

JEEMA believes in a non-executive president elected by Parliament with an executive prime minister. The leader of the political party with the largest number of seats in parliament should become the Executive Prime Minister. However, the president should have a reasonable degree of powers as a check on the system. For example, the President should be the appointing authority of some critical offices such as that of the Chief Justice and other senior judges. The President should be the Commander in Chief of the Army. The executive Prime Minister must be subject to Court processes as another check and balance of power.

6.3 Fighting corruption

With a relatively low standard of living, undeveloped industrial base, and a moderately low human development index (HDI), Uganda is defined by the United Nations as a developing country. Uganda's progress is hampered by corruption which grows by the day. TI ranked Uganda 142 out of 173 in 2013 and 145 out 175 in 2014, IG reported corruption cases in Uganda increase by 30% annually.

JEEMA's key recommendations on fighting corruption are:

- Strengthening the implementation of the existing laws on curbing corruption and improving the moral authority of the leadership to fight this cancer through exemplary behavior.

- Integrating corruption-related courses of study in the national educational systems as a new intervention to involve the young generation in anti-corruption measures.
- Rewarding non-corrupt civil servants as an incentive to maintain a corrupt free public service system

6.4 Federalism and Decentralization

The Justice Forum believes that Federal is both a means of achieving a just distribution of power and resources between the central government and the state governments, and it is an effective arrangement to take the population out of poverty. JEEMA believes that the federal arrangement should not be reserved for Buganda alone, but should embrace the whole country.

JEEMA will set up an Inter-state Commission for promoting cooperation between the central government, federal states and districts, and other lower local governments to ensure a smooth relationship between the federal states and the central government.

6.5 Traditional leaders and Cultural Institutions

JEEMA recognizes the role and need to support all cultural institutions in accordance with our traditions and harness its leadership in mass mobilization and national development. It will facilitate them with a platform to conduct their business and also well work with them in promoting positive cultural attributes through collaborating with cultural leaders to address negative practices associated with some cultures, such as Female genital mutilation and human sacrifice.

6.6 Streamlining Public service and public service remuneration

JEEMA will scale down the size of cabinet and Parliament as critical steps towards reducing the excessive government expenditure.

A salary commission shall be established to harmonise the disparities in salaries and benefits within the public service.

6.7 Strengthening the judiciary

The Judiciary is one of the three pillars of government, the others being the Executive and Parliament.

The performance of this critical arm of government is however being lowered by a several challenges which include: Lack of adequate funding, Shortage of judicial officers i.e. Judges and magistrates, the constant interference with the independence of the Judiciary by the executive arm of government, lack of financial independence of the Judiciary, failure by the appointing authority to appoint judges, politicization of the appointments of judges, and corruption within the Judiciary.

JEEMA proposes to strengthen the Judiciary by:

1. Increasing the funding to the Judiciary for effective administration of justice.
2. Increasing the number of high court judges from the current 39 to 70, and to make a 50% increase on the number of magistrates.
3. Amending the legal regime for appointment of judges by the president and giving the power to the judicial service commission with approval of parliament.
4. Increasing the current remuneration of judicial officers by 30%.
5. Abiding by the judgments and decisions of the Judiciary, even when we do not agree with them.
6. Respecting the principles of rule of law and none-interference with decisions of the court
7. Passing a law providing for the procedure for the identification of candidates for judicial office to be conducted in a transparent manner from the outset to completion, which shall be in line with the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.

8. Strengthening the current inspection and monitoring mechanism in the judiciary by increasing and training the human resource, and further sensitizing the masses to the effect that courts are for all the people in Uganda.

6.8 Promoting E- Government

E-government refers to the use by government agencies of information technologies (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet and mobile computing) that have the ability to transform relations with citizens, businesses and other arms of government.

These technologies serve a variety of different ends: better delivery of government services to citizens, improved interactions with business and industry, citizen empowerment through access to information, or more efficient government management. The resulting benefits are less corruption, increased transparency, greater convenience, revenue growth, and/or cost reductions.

Traditionally, the interaction between a citizen or business and a government agency took place in a government office. With emerging information and communication technologies, it is possible to locate service centers closer to the clients. Such centers may consist of an unattended kiosk in the government agency, a service kiosk located close to the client, or the use of a personal computer in the home or office. E-government is supported by the regulations and policies of e-governance, bringing together IT governance and global governance, as well. This is in turn supported by the digital society developed by the connected environment. However, the society must contend with the effects of the digital divide, which represents those members of the society who cannot or will not access the connecting infrastructure.

The distribution of i-pads to members of parliament could have been used properly to market e-government.

JEEMA shall have interventions in e-government by providing good e-government infrastructures and policies. JEEMA shall put enabling environment for e-Uganda where processes and services are accessed easily at home or at working places.

7.0 DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY POLICIES

Defense and National Security (DNS) is a critical sector roundly anchored in the overall Nation's development strategy. It is the cornerstone for sustainable socio-economic progress, stability, democracy and national unity. For the sector's optimal functioning, participation in the policy interventional programmes is a responsibility of every able-bodied citizen of Uganda.

7.1 Background

Since independence however, a larger section of the Ugandan population has remained unconscious of their mandate in this sector. Policies and intervention programs thereof have remained an exclusive right of a few people in the ruling parties —prompting question marks in regard to inclusiveness, recruitment, promotion, deployment, personnel welfare and performance capabilities. Furthermore, Uganda has gained notoriety for militarism and war, participating in conflicts in Rwanda, DR Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and elsewhere. The loss of Ugandan lives in these wars is regrettable and must not be allowed to continue.

JEEMA's DNS policy, therefore, will selflessly respond to the popular wishes of Ugandans and make them gain full ownership of the sector so that it functions to their full contentment. JEEMA's intervention in DNS aims at dealing with the historical imbalances, prevailing issues in the legal framework, regulations and procedures.

7.3 JEEMA's proposed interventions:

- JEEMA's DNS policy and intervention programs will thus entail a more expanded scope than limit it to the traditional norm of concentrating all efforts on defence forces and intelligence community. It will include an embracing formation for environmental security, natural resources security, cyber security, political security and economic security.
- JEEMA will propose amending the legal framework for DNS to streamline recruitment, training, deployment, welfare and retirement of DNS staff.
- JEEMA will seek to strengthen the defence forces by introducing mandatory universal military training and improving personnel welfare and equipment.
- Initiate a Military University and strengthen research and development.
- Scale down active defence forces and increase the reserve forces through mandatory military training for all graduates.
- Improve facilitation to the national military hospital and set up a monitoring committee to ensure that all army personnel benefit from the military hospital services regardless of rank.
- Lastly, JEEMA stands for the immediate withdrawal of all Ugandan forces from other countries, opting for dialogue to solve the region's problems. This will be one of making a saving and rechanneling the funds into job creation and poverty eradication.

8.0 REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND THE EAC

8.1 Background

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have had a history of co-operation dating back to the early 20th century. The customs union between Kenya and Uganda in 1917, which the then Tanganyika joined in 1927, was followed by the East African High Commission from 1948 to 1961, the East African Common Services Organization from 1961 to 1967, and then the 1967 to 1977 East African Community. Since the signing of the treaty for the East African Community in 1999, EAC has been growing vertically and horizontally.

Horizontally it has expanded from three nations namely Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya to include Burundi and Rwanda on 6 July 2009. Potential candidates now for East African Community include South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia. Vertically, the Treaty on the Establishment of the East African Community envisages integration among the East African countries from a Customs Union to a Common Market, then a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation (Article 5(2)).

The EAC has a total population of 135 million peoples with total GDP of 85 billion. The EAC has the following organs: The Summit, Council of Ministers, Co-ordination Committee, Sectoral Committees, East African Court of Justice, East African Legislative Assembly. The East African Community has played a key role in the free flow of trade on a regional level. The reduction of NTBs such as One-Stop Boarder Post (OSBP) facilitates movement of persons and goods and allows border control officers from partner states to conduct joint inspection. This facilitates regional trade and ensures that the private sector thrives and creates jobs needed to make the region prosper. The Common Market makes the EAC more attractive investment destination, which bring in transfer of technology and opportunities for innovation.

The Justice Forum fully supports the establishment of the East Africa Community. We take such regional integration as a step towards Africa Unity which we cherish as a pillar of JEEMA. In fact, we are concerned with the slow pace with which the integration process is taking. We realize however, the many challenges which face the integration process including : relatively young, fragile democracies; poorly harmonized (regional and national) policies, laws and regulations; marginalized grass-root level stakeholders, limited institutional capacity and impact of internal conflicts within members on the EAC, eg current conflict in Burundi.

8.2 JEEMA's proposed intervention:

- Amend the Treaty, so as to replace the gradualism engraved in the EAC Treaty of 1999 to fast track the attainment of East African Federation.
- Design and implement more robust and elaborate strategies to operationalise the solemn commitment to the notion of a “people-centered” EAC as a strategy in improving popular ownership and sustainability of the integration process and institutions. It would be pertinent for the EAC Treaty to give CSO/CBOs a stature as prominent as that extended to the ‘private sector’.
- Enhance the role and significance of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) into a genuinely “people-centered” governance institution by reconsidering the manner in which its members are elected. We shall advocate for direct ballot. The direct ballot will be based on proportional representation, with the representatives directly elected in each member state.
- Revitalize the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) and find ways and means of extending its mandate to lower levels of the education system, namely, primary and secondary so as to cultivate, through a shared curriculum, a generation of genuine ‘East Africans’, the bulwark for a thriving EAC.
- Through a consultative process, design a curriculum and oversee the teaching of the course ‘East African Community Law’ in all public funded institutions of higher learning mandated to offer the Bachelor of Law degree. We shall also mainstream the teaching of a course on the East African Community (and regional integration), mutatis mutandis, into the entire education system.
- Review and revise the present criteria in determining the membership subscription fees away from the ‘equal amounts’ to a more meaningful and realistic formula, including one which tempers the liquidity of the economy, with a percentage collected by a Partner State from intra-regional trade.
- In combating what is generally referred to as an unequal distribution of benefits within an integrated area such as the EAC (widely acknowledged as determinant

of failure), it is high time to distinguish between economically highly developed Partner States, and those which are less developed. Drawing from the experience of the EU, we may want to instead to identify and isolate “poorly developed regions” wherever they are found within the entire jurisdiction of the EAC.

- Having done so, create ‘structural funds’ for the benefit of these marginalized areas, with the broad objective of reversing considerable economic and social divergences within the EAC, while also facilitating the enjoyment by these regions, of the benefits regional integration is expected to bring.
- Support initiatives and mechanisms, internal to the EAC and without, committed to ensuring that Partner States remain faithful to their treaty obligation in respect of good governance, democracy, human rights and social justice. As demonstration of commitment to good governance, member countries should adopt a two five year presidential term limits in their respective countries by the year 2020, and this should become a requirement for all new members applying to join the EAC.

9.0 SPORTS AND CREATIVE ARTS

Sport has not only become a global phenomenon that is critical in the job market but it also plays a central role in healthcare enhancement as well as facilitating national savings and sustainable development. Statistics show that globally creative arts generated a value of USD 1.3tn in 2005 and accounted for 7% of global GDP in 2009. (UWR, 2009). Likewise, creative arts are essential but neglected undertaking in both developing and emerging economies. Arts and culture are valuable for their capacity to illuminate our inner lives and enrich our emotional world, which enables the individual to grow and live as a complete human being. In addition, arts and culture have a wider, more measurable impact on our economy, health and wellbeing, society and education. In particular, the arts can be developed into effective channels for transmission of moral,

health, economic, political and social education. It is important that we recognise this impact to help people think of our arts and culture for what they are: a strategic national resource.

In Uganda, the creative and arts industry is constrained by limited funding, lack of logistical support, inadequate equipment and poor facilities. And yet despite this neglect, there is evidence that it is

a rapidly growing sector, estimated to hit a value of USD 1b by 2016, and has very valuable employment outlets. It is clear that even though the sector has not benefitted from political support the way science disciplines have, the people's appreciation of music, crafts, poetry, comedy, paintings, film and theatre is quite high and unrelenting. The industry can be helped to grow and to contribute to the national economy.

JEEMA'S PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

To effectively tap into the above highlighted opportunities, the JEEMA government will:

- (i) Amalgamate sport and the creative arts industries and upgrade them into a fully fledged ministry with mandate to:
 - (a) Review, refine and implement the national sport policy in accordance to international practices.
 - (b) Regulate and oversee sport associations.
 - (c) Regulate and oversee artistes—ensuring that the copy right law is fully operationalized and enforced.
 - (d) Ensure the construction and maintenance of a modern sport center for multiple sport disciplines at every sub county.

- (e) Implement a public-private investment in sport facilities in major towns and cities of the country.
- (f) Establish, manage and maintain a modern film and theatre village in Uganda, otherwise known as *Ugahood*.
- (g) Establish and maintain a modern theatre at every district level.
- (h) Introduce an enabling tax-policy in regard to imported sport and theatre materials.

10.0 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

10.1 BACKGROUND

Uganda has fairly positive laws and policies for Persons with Disabilities. The constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) carries a specific provision (article 35) stating that PWDs have a right to respect and human dignity. This is backed up with several laws with provisions on disability, such as the Local Government Act (1997), Parliamentary Elections Act (2005), Persons with Disabilities Act (2006) and the Equal Opportunities Commission Act (2007). However, implementation of all these laws is weak, which denies PWDs effective participation in the national development of this country.

Currently, PWDs have two parallel structures – one for government and the other for civil society organisations – that serve as their representation frameworks in the country. The government structure was set up in 2004 by an act of parliament (the National Council for Disability act – 2003). The National Council for Disability is mandated with monitoring government programmes at national, district and sub-county levels. On the other hand, the formation of the Civil Society Organisations structure was spearheaded

by the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), which carried out a nationwide mobilization of PWDs in 1997 with support from development partners from European countries; and it set up District Unions and Sub-county Associations that serves as the real voice of PWDs in Uganda. Finally, there is representation of PWDs in Parliament and local government structures.

Despite the above rosy structures and representation, PWDs in Uganda do not have an effective political voice and do not effectively participate in national development initiatives due to rampant discrimination in the job market, illiteracy and poverty.

Persons with Disabilities have attempted to come up with a national manifesto in which their major demands to the incoming government include improving accessibility of PWDs to all forms of public services, creating a Social Protection Disability Fund, making education truly inclusive and extending Disability representation to all key government Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

10.2 Our Analysis of the Current situation

The Uganda National Household Survey of 2009/10 estimates that PWDs constitute 16% of Uganda's total population, which is in tandem with statistics from the World Report on Disability (2012) that puts PWDs at 15% of the entire world population. This makes PWDs a significant portion that cannot be neglected in any development initiative. Most PWDs in Uganda live in rural areas where there are poor education and health facilities, poor road infrastructure and hardly any opportunities for gainful employment.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) defines PWDs as those individuals “who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” This shows that PWDs,

including people with hearing, physical, mental and visual impairments, people with albinism, people of little stature, and people with a combination of two or more conditions listed here, are not a homogeneous group. They therefore demand a holistic approach to participation in political life and national development. On 25th September 2008, Uganda ratified the UNCRPD and its optional protocol, which makes it mandatory to domesticate all its provisions in the laws and policies of the country. Furthermore, by being party to this convention, Uganda is expected to uphold the human rights of PWDs as enshrined in the UNCRPD. This is currently not the case, as PWDs continue to live in isolation, poverty, and often on charity from grudging relatives.

10.3 JEEMA's proposed interventions:

- The JEEMA government will put in place a welfare scheme to support all PWDs who are not or cannot be engaged in gainful employment. Disability is both a cause and an effect of poverty. Decent living is only possible if PWDs are given access to a welfare scheme that provides them with unemployment benefits that cater for their welfare and health needs.
- JEEMA will also focus its effort on putting in place a mechanism for identifying jobs that are suitable for various categories of PWDs. At the moment, many PWDs in Uganda cannot compete favorably in the existing employment market; yet they have aspirations to fulfill and families to care for. This makes it necessary to set up a mechanism that affords them jobs on affirmative action basis. This mechanism will also consider on the reasonable forms of accommodation for PWDs.
- JEEMA will also integrate training of Persons with various disabilities in the Business, Technical & Vocational Education and Training – BTVET. Currently there is minimal participation of PWDS in BTVET, as they are confined to dilapidated vocational rehabilitation centres. This denies them chance to enhance their employment opportunities. By catering for the needs of PWDs in mainstream institutions offering BTVET, JEEMA will greatly change the status quo that does not favour them today.

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JEEMA supports the recently enacted UN Sustainable development goals. JEEMA maintains that there is need to balance the exploitation of the ecosystem for society's immediate needs with sustainable mechanisms.

The state of Uganda's environment is declining at alarming levels seen through the depletion of fish and forests; the pollution of waters with concomitant impact on livelihood and agriculture is already being felt across the country.

JEEMA Proposes:

- Implementing a comprehensive energy policy which seeks to diversify and increase access to clean and renewable energy.
- Strengthening the environment regulatory and oversight framework.
- Allocating more resources to the environment sector and mainstreaming environmental conservation across all sectors of the economy e.g housing.
- Making electricity and clean water readily available to the ordinary citizens to reduce on the use of bio-fuels.
- Taking advantage of the global climate change facility to engage the citizenry in massive afforestation.

12.0 GENDER AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Introduction:

The UN Women Survey (2014)¹ and the Institute for Social Development UK, Issues paper 108 (Feb 2015) both highlight gender mainstreaming as a key aspect of development and the need for gender sensitive sustainable development goals (SDGs) planning approach with a focus on the need for gender equity as equity is critical to sustainable development (UK Bridge issues paper, 108; Feb, 2015). Equally the issues paper and report denote that gender inequalities are extracting high economic costs and leading to social inequities amidst several state commitments and declarations such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action(1995), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW 1975) and the Millennium Declaration (2000), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) among others.

Current situation:

Uganda is a signatory to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) which guides its national gender action framework (the National Action Plan on Women 1999, 2007). The plan guides all stakeholders in identifying priorities for women's empowerment and was adopted in 1999 followed by a revision in 2007 to address the following key critical concerns;

¹World Survey on the role of Women in Development 2014. Gender Equality and Sustainable Development

- **Legal and Policy Framework and Leadership;** which is concerned with considerations for Women in Power, Decision Making and Institutional Mechanism for the advancement of Women. Under this, the strategic objectives include creating and strengthening national machineries and other governmental bodies to address women's issues and to integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects as well as generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.
- **Social and Economic Empowerment of women;** which focuses on Promoting women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources, access to markets and trade and elimination of occupational employment discrimination as well as harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men.
- **Reproductive Health, Rights and Responsibilities;** focusing on reproductive health rights for women and access to health information, allocation of budgets to meeting the needs of women among others.
- **The Girl Child and Education;** for addressing cultural and economic practices that undermine girl-child education, promoting a conducive learning environment for girls and promotion of vocational skills training to ensure absorption of girls and women in the formal employment sector.
- **Involving women in Peace Building process and Conflict Resolution as well as protection from Violence.** In here the major focus is Increasing participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and to protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts in and outside of the country, promotion of non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations, to involve women in peace negotiations and provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women.

The above have been mainstreamed in various development processes and plans such as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), National Development Plan 2010/11 to 2014/15, Sector Investment Plans,² Uganda's Vision 2040 and the District Development plans with a call on stakeholders to embrace the provisions on protection of women's rights and advancement (Ministry of Gender 2015 National Report on Implementation of the Beijing platform for action 1995)

Emerging issues:

Economically limited access to land, agricultural extension services, quality agro inputs and limited access to market information continues to undermine the women's potential for development in agriculture much as they contribute 77% of agricultural labor in Uganda. Only 28% of women own agricultural land compared to 72% of their male counterparts (Agriculture Sector issues paper For NDPII (2015/16-2019/20, MAAIF. Socially, women and girls are faced with high levels of deaths resulting from insufficient access to SRHR education, high incidences of child brides, child-bearing related health complications, high levels of SGBV, high school dropout rates for girls and extreme poverty due unequal gender opportunities presented by the cultural and religious regimes in the country. Studies by the World Bank (2014), UNFPA (2012) and UNICEF (2013) indicate that Uganda falls among the 15 African countries with high numbers of child brides with 46% of girls below 18 forced or lured into marriage. Further ministry of Gender labour and social development (2014) and Uganda Demographic Health survey (UDHS 2011) indicate that over 15% of married women aged 20-49 were married by the age of 15, with the median age at first marriage being 17.9 years on average in the last 30 years. The same surveys indicate that women constitute between 55% and 75% of all adults living with HIV, and they also show a maternal death rate of 18% among women of the age 15-49. All these issues put together impede women's access to decent life, and also pose a threat to socio-economic development. They have to be tackled decisively and with a clear vision to addressing the root causes of women's poverty. JEEMA proposes to take the following actions:

² npa.ug/uganda-vision-2040

- Promotion of safe learning environments for women and girls in all learning institutions to enable girls remain in school and complete their education. A policy for promoting gender mainstreaming in education shall be instituted to ensure gender equity in education and to promote academic and professional excellence for girls and women in schools, colleges and universities.
- Promotion of a National community campaign to educate and sensitize the communities on SRH as well as provision of SRHR education for youth including those out of school
- Work with cultural institutions to end child marriages, strengthen the laws against forced marriages, in order to combat poverty, maternal deaths, and restore the dignity of the women as free citizens and mothers of the nation.
- Establish a National hospital for women and girls with district affiliate centers all over the country in order to bring health services closer to women, especially the rural poor.
- Promotion of women's cooperative movements and establishment of a women's national bank to provide access to loans and credit for agricultural development.
- Mobilise women farmers and train them in agriculture as a business, source for markets that promote trade in grain and seed within East Africa and other neighbouring countries.
- Introduce laws to compel all parents/caretakers to keep all girls under the age of 18 years in school.

13.0 CARE IN OLDER AGE

JEEMA will support people in their older age. Growing old should be a positive and fulfilling experience.

Working with relatives and local authorities, JEEMA will introduce an organized care system for persons above the age of sixty. The normal setting for care will be at home, with the support of family and friends; but in limited circumstances, for people without family support, care centres will be introduced. This will enable

us to support all our people approaching at the end of their lives, including those who are terminally ill.

14.0 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR ALL GROUPS THAT HAVE SUFFERED HISTORICAL INJUSTICES

Uganda's history has recorded many cases of armed conflicts and injustice against groups and communities on account of their general identity. The conflicts and meting of injustices to communities and peoples resulted in violence and human rights abuses from all sides. This has perpetuated situations of permanent and ending grievances against institutions and systems, with groups and communities regularly highlighting instances of unfair treatment in the history of the country, through denial of national resources, being subjected to oppressive and discriminative legislation, suffering denial of due justice even where the wrong is obvious, etc.

In addition to addressing the obvious cases of women and PWDS, JEEMA commits itself to:-

- Set up a truth and reconciliation commission to bring out all acts of war crimes against humanity.
- Strengthen the mandate of the Equal opportunities commission to be a permanent arm of government that collects information on grievances by individuals and groups on historical grievances and injustices.
- Introduce affirmative action for all groups that will make a case of having been treated unfairly in the history of the country on account of their ethnicity, race, sex, religion and other forms of general identity. This will be the most dramatic way of translating into action the JEEMA slogan of "Justice for All."
- Strengthen the enabling legislation that will facilitate aggrieved groups to file for reparations where the cases of historical injustice are demonstrably extreme in their proportions.

- The modalities for such affirmative action will be worked out on a case by case basis as the cases arise.

We deserve a decent country where everyone has equal opportunities, where all people plays by the same rules. That is what this manifesto offers. We know we have it in ourselves to build this country, let us challenge ourselves to build it together.