



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# THE UGANDA NATIONAL CULTURE POLICY

*A Culturally vibrant, cohesive and Progressive Nation*

**Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development  
P.O Box 7136  
Kampala-Uganda**

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## **FOREWORD**

Culture is the sum total of the ways in which a society preserves, identifies, organises, sustains and expresses itself. Uganda is endowed with a rich and diverse cultural heritage, which includes sixty-five indigenous communities with unique characteristics.

The Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP, 2004) acknowledges that culture is intrinsically valuable and an important dimension of identity and a form of capital with the potential to move people out of income poverty. However, there is a general lack of appreciation of the significance and value of Uganda's cultural heritage towards the realization of Uganda's development goals.

The National Culture Policy has addressed this challenge by providing strategies to enhance the integration of culture into development. These strategies include; advocating for culture, ensuring capacity building, ensuring research and documentation, promoting collaboration with stakeholders and mobilizing resources for culture. These strategies are an integral part of the Social Development Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SDIP) whose mission is to create an enabling environment for social protection and social transformation of communities.

The process of developing this Policy was consultative, participatory and inclusive. The Ministry recognizes and appreciates the efforts of all Government Ministries, Local authorities, civil society organisations and the private sector towards developing this Policy. Special mention is made of the British Council, Uganda, and the National Commission of UNESCO in Uganda who provided the technical and financial support.

The Policy provides a framework, which indicates the roles of various stakeholders in the implementation of the National Culture Policy. I therefore call upon all stakeholders to operate within this framework to ensure the development of culture for sustainable development.

Hon. Syda Bbumba

**Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development**

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ICESCR	:	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICT's	:	Information and Communication Technologies
IK	:	Indigenous Knowledge
ILO	:	International Labour Organisation
LGA	:	Local Government Act
MAAIF	:	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MFPED	:	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
MoCCD	:	Ministry of Culture and Community Development
MoEMD	:	Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
MOES	:	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoGLSD	:	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
MoH	:	Ministry of Health
MoIA	:	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoJCA	:	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoLG	:	Ministry of Local Government
MTTI	:	Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry
MoWE	:	Ministry of Water and Environment
NCF	:	National Culture Forum
NGO	:	Non Governmental Organisation
NLU	:	National Library of Uganda
NPA	:	National Planning Authority
OVC	:	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEAP	:	Poverty Eradication Action Plan.
SDIP	:	Social Development Sector Strategic Investment Plan
UDHR	:	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCC	:	Uganda National Cultural Centre
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UPPAP	:	Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

In the pre-colonial times, traditional communities in what is now Uganda were closely knit units. Their social, political and economic organisation revolved around the family, clan and/ or the institution of the traditional leader. The daily activities of men, women and children, whether as individuals or as groups were intrinsically linked to, and determined by their cultures.

However the exposure to various influences, cultures as well as foreign rule at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century led to the weakening of traditional socio-political setups. Aspects of culture such as indigenous knowledge and traditional health care systems were ignored or belittled. In this way, innovativeness and the whole social fabric was undermined. In spite of this, many communities continued to attach great value to their cultures and endeavoured to conserve, inculcate and sustain it.

Through Information, Education and Community Development work, the colonial Government promoted culture. This was done through broadcasts in local languages, teaching of local languages in schools, and through traditional cultural festivals.

After independence, Government established a Ministry of Culture and Community Development (MoCCD). The Department of Culture therein was charged with the responsibility of ensuring the preservation, promotion and Development of Uganda's cultures. The Government enacted the laws to strengthen the culture function. These included; the Historical Monuments (Amendment) Decree (No.6) of 1977, The Historical Monuments Act of 1967, Uganda National Culture Centre 1965 Amendments Act, Copyright Act of 1964 (This Act has been repealed and replaced with the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act, 2006) and the Stage Plays and Public Entertainment Act of 1964.

Despite the above initiatives, Uganda has not had a well-documented Policy to guide and coordinate culture. This Policy has been formulated to guide the formal and informal systems of managing culture at all levels.

## **2.0 CULTURE IN UGANDA: A SITUATION ANALYSIS**

### **2.1 DEFINITION OF CULTURE**

Culture concerns itself with socially transmitted behaviour patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions and all other products of human work and thought. Culture includes intangible and tangible heritage, which is varied, complex, and in constant evolution. The tangible heritage includes monuments or architecture, art and crafts, sites, manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic and historical interest. The intangible heritage includes language, oral traditions, performing arts, music, festive events, rituals, social practices, traditional craftsmanship, knowledge and practices concerning nature.

There are various definitions and perceptions of culture. However in this Policy, culture will be defined as; **the sum total of the ways in which a society preserves, identifies, organises, sustains and expresses itself.**

### **2.2 UGANDA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE**

The cultural heritage of Uganda includes artistic and cultural expressions. These are; language and literary arts, performing arts, visual arts and handicrafts, indigenous knowledge, cultural beliefs, traditions and values, cultural sites monuments and antiquities.



### **2.2.1 Language and Literary Arts**

Language is the means of expressing the creative arts of orature and literature. Uganda has a rich variety of indigenous languages and dialects. English is the official language of Uganda and Kiswahili is the second official language.

Literary arts as a by-product of language ensure the development of orature and literature that often depicts the culture of Uganda's people. The various languages are a unique storehouse of knowledge and have facilitated the communication between people within and outside the country. In addition, literary arts are one of the existing cultural industries in the country.

The development of languages in Uganda has not been uniform and tended to privilege some languages over others. In addition, the multiplicity of languages does not facilitate direct communication amongst communities. Information in indigenous languages has to be translated to English and vice versa if it is to be shared. This often results in gross distortions and loss of meaning. In relation to literary arts, the available literature is limited because some languages lack orthographies.

### **2.2.2 Performing arts**

The performing arts include; dance, drama, music, theatre, motion pictures, opera, traditional sports and the marching arts such as brass bands.

The performing arts in Uganda are used for self-expression, education and sensitisation of communities as well as for entertainment. In the communities, traditional and modern performing arts have been popularised as a means to facilitate participation by communities in development. In addition, cultural, educational institutions and the private sector have supported the performing arts. Consequently jobs have been created for a growing number of Ugandans.

Participation by artists in the performing arts is limited because of inadequate capacity. The available opportunities in capacity building are limited to apprenticeship and are within formal institutions, which are few. The training focuses on acquisition of skills in the art and seldom includes marketing and promotion of the art. In addition, capacity building is limited to modern performing arts.

### **2.2.3 Visual Arts and Handicrafts**

The visual arts and handicrafts include among others; basketry, mats, ceramics, beads, pottery, hand-woven textiles and products, toys, jewellery, bags and ornaments, leather products, batik, wood carvings and paintings.

The raw materials used in the production of visual arts and crafts are readily available in the country. Visual arts and crafts are produced in almost all regions of the country with product differentiation based on culture and history. This has promoted the identities of the various communities and created avenues for income generation.

Some of the challenges facing the visual arts and crafts are; inadequate quantities and poor quality of products due to limited capacity of producers and marketers. There is limited research about the products and the markets and the materials from which visual arts and handicrafts are derived are threatened by environmental degradation.

### **2.2.4 Indigenous Knowledge**

Indigenous knowledge (IK) is the traditional local knowledge existing within and developed around the specific conditions of a community indigenous to a particular geographical area.

IK is diverse, accessible, affordable and acceptable to people. IK provides the basis for problem solving strategies for local communities especially the poor. IK

is commonly used in agriculture, traditional medicine, health care, food preparation, education, natural resource management and a host of other activities in rural communities. IK is also characteristically relevant for women who use it to perform their traditional roles and responsibilities.

Although IK is useful to people, limited research has been done. IK is inadequately documented, quantified and developed. In some cases it has been marginalised and threatened with extinction by modern knowledge and environmental degradation. Coupled with this, is the absence of organising frameworks that would provide information to innovators on who needs the innovations, how to find the users and when to approach the users.

### **2.2.5 Cultural beliefs, traditions and values**

Ugandans have different beliefs and traditions that are deeply rooted in their cultural and religious values. The beliefs, traditions and values have contributed to the propagation of social harmony and development.

These beliefs, traditions and values sometimes conflict with modern laws. Some of these include; widow inheritance and female genital cutting. This has led some people to regard culture as retrogressive. In addition, Ugandan cultures are continuously adopting and adapting because of local and foreign influences. In some cases, this has led to the degradation of the moral fabric of the society with the most affected category being the youth.

### **2.2.6 Cultural Sites, Monuments and Antiquities**

Uganda has several cultural sites and monuments. Some of them are man-made while others are natural. These sites, monuments and antiquities are important for socio-cultural and educational purposes. They promote tourism and consequently create employment for people. The natural sites also enhance the protection of the environment.

Despite their importance, the sites and monuments are not adequately maintained, documented and people's awareness of their value is low. In addition, some of the antiquities are not collected and those that are kept in the Uganda Museum are not accessible to all people.

## **THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA**

### **2.3.1 Uganda's Indigenous Communities**

Uganda has 65 indigenous communities (The Constitution of Uganda- Schedule 3) representing Uganda's diverse cultural heritage. The diversity contributes to a wealth of indigenous knowledge, languages, folklore, customs and traditions and products that can be harnessed for development. The interrelationships as a result of interactions in educational institutions, at work places, intermarriages enhance understanding of other cultures and enhances harmony and social cohesion.

On the other hand, the diversity can create tension between and within the indigenous groups. In addition, there exists indigenous minorities that are marginalised. Some of these are faced with loss of identity, which threatens their existence.

### **2.3.2 The Non- Indigenous Communities of Uganda**

There exists in the country non-indigenous communities. Some are a result of intermarriages between some indigenous people with foreigners while others are foreigners who live in Uganda. These interrelationships have not only enhanced understanding of other cultures, but have also led to the emergence of new cultures.

The non-indigenous communities are however not fully accepted by the indigenous communities and in some cases they are not recognised. This leads to social tensions.

## **2.4 INSTITUTIONS THAT PROMOTE CULTURE**

### **2.4.1 Traditional/ cultural institutions**

Traditional/cultural institutions include kingdoms, chiefdoms, clans and the family. Kingdoms existed in Uganda until they were abolished in 1966. However they were re-instated in 1993. Article 246 of the 1995 constitution of Uganda provides for the revitalisation, strengthening and support of traditional/cultural institutions. To date Government recognises and supports some of the traditional/cultural institutions. The process of recognition of these institutions is continuous.

Communities look up to the traditional/cultural institutions for their identity. This facilitates these institutions to support culture and use it to mobilise people for development. However their performance is hampered by inadequate capacity and financial support.

#### **2.4.1.1 The Family**

The family is the basic societal unit. In Uganda, there are nucleus families that comprise of father, mother and children. These are closely linked with the extended families. However due to changes in society over the years including political turbulence and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, other forms of families have began to emerge. These include the single parent families and child headed families. Research findings also indicate that there is a substantial increase in dysfunctional family relationships, which has led to a rise in crimes including robbery, murder, prostitution, child abuse and neglect.

The Constitution of Uganda seeks to protect the family through Objective XIX. The protection of family members is also provided for in the Children Act Cap 59, the PEAP, the SDIP and the OVC Policy.

#### **2.4.2 Statutory institutions**

These include Ministries, Local governments, educational institutions and semi autonomous bodies such as the National Library of Uganda and the Uganda National Cultural Centre. These organisations are charged with the responsibility of promoting culture. However the performance of these institutions in relation to culture is hampered by inadequate capacity to manage the function, financing and poor coordination.

#### **2.4.3 Civil Society Organisations/Private Sector**

Civil Society Organisations and the private sector organisations are active in and benefit from the promotion of culture. They often mobilise and provide financial support for culture activities. The performance of these institutions in relation to culture is hampered by inadequate appreciation of culture and its role in development.

### **2.5 EXISTING LAWS, POLICIES AND PLANS**

#### **2.5.1 The Constitution of Uganda**

The Constitution of Uganda provides for the promotion of culture. Objective XXIV of the Constitution states that cultural and customary values that are consistent with the fundamental human rights and freedoms, human dignity and democracy and with the Constitution of Uganda may be developed and incorporated in all aspects of Ugandan life. In addition, Objective XXV mandates the State and citizens to preserve and promote public property and Uganda's heritage. Further, the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2005, Article 6 provides for use of any other language as medium of instruction in schools, and Article 3 of the Constitution (Amendment) (No.2) Act 2005 mandates Regional Assemblies under the Regional tier system of governance to handle cultural matters relating to the traditional or cultural leader, clan and sub clan leadership, cultural and traditional practices (cultural funeral rites) and cultural institutions by establishing specialized committees for them.

### **2.5.2 Other laws**

In addition to the Constitutional provisions, Government has in place initiatives to ensure preservation, promotion and development of Uganda's cultures. These include the establishment of statutory institutions such as the National Library of Uganda and the Uganda National Cultural Centre, which are responsible for promoting cultural heritage. There are also laws that address specific aspects of culture. These include; the Historical Monuments Act (Cap 46), Uganda National Culture Centre (Cap 50), The Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act 2006, the Stage Plays and Public Entertainment Act (Cap 49) and the Traditional Rulers Restitution of Assets and Properties Act (Cap 247).

Other laws that take cognisance of culture include the Local Government Act (LGA) 1997 in Part two (2) of the second schedule lists cultural affairs as one of the decentralised services and activities.

### **2.5.3 Uganda's Vision 2025**

Uganda's Vision 2025 guides interventions that are aimed at achieving stable and harmonious co-existence within a socially, culturally and economically dynamic society. Key elements of this goal include recognition and enhancement of unity in diversity, national pride and dignity and respect for/and conservation of cultural heritage. All these elements are ingrained in the vision, mission and objectives of this Policy.

### **2.5.4 Government Policies and Plans**

Government policies and plans take cognisance of culture. Key among these are the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and the Social Development Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SDIP).

The PEAP (2004) recognizes culture as being intrinsically valuable and an important dimension of identity and as a form of capital which, when well harnessed, can help to move people out of poverty.

In the SDIP, culture contributes to social protection through promotion of cultural industries, indigenous knowledge and also through support to actors and institutions that promote culture.

However culture, as a crosscutting issue is not yet adequately reflected in other sectoral plans and Policies.

### **2.5.5 International Laws and Conventions**

Uganda is signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and therefore has a moral obligation to advance the Rights spelt therein. In addition, Uganda is bound by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) which it ratified in 1987. Article 27 of UDHR and Article 15 of ICESCR recognise everyone's right to freely participate in cultural life.

Uganda is also signatory to the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972). To date Uganda has three sites on the list of the World heritage namely, Kasubi tombs, enlisted in 2001, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park and Rwenzori Mountains National Park. In 2005, UNESCO proclaimed the art of barkcloth making in Uganda, a masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

At regional level, Uganda is a member of the African Union, one of whose objectives is to promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural level. In the East African region, Uganda is obliged to implement the articles of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, which it ratified together with other member states in 2000. In article 119, Partner States agreed to promote close co-operation in culture and sports.



## **2.6 Other Initiatives**

Other initiatives in the culture sub-sector include; cultural exchange, research and documentation such as recording traditional cultural expressions, cultural tourism, capacity building of culture practitioners, initiation of the review of culture specific laws, monitoring and evaluation of interventions among others.

Government specifically implements some of these initiatives while others are implemented by the civil society and supported by the private sector. The major challenge affecting the culture sub-sector is the absence of culture statistics, which would provide evidence of the contribution of culture to social and economic development.

## **3.0 RATIONALE FOR THE CULTURE POLICY**

The National Culture Policy complements, promotes and strengthens the overall development goals of the country. The Policy shall inform other sectoral policies, plans and programmes.

Specifically this Policy shall provide a framework to;

- 3.1 Enhance the appreciation of the role of culture in National Development;
- 3.2 Promote aspects of Uganda's cultural heritage that are cherished by its people;
- 3.3 Ensure effective intra and inter-cultural exchange for harmonious co-existence;
- 3.4 Facilitate community action against practices that impinge on human dignity;

- 3.5 Guide, harmonise, complement and promote the distinct and complementary interventions and roles of stakeholders at all levels; and
- 3.6 Guide the private sector, traditional/cultural institutions and civil society organisations to research on and advocate for culture promotion.

#### **4.0 VISION, MISSION AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

##### **4.1 Vision**

A culturally vibrant, cohesive and progressive Nation

##### **4.2 Mission**

To promote culture and enhance its contribution to community empowerment

##### **4.3 Specific Objectives**

1. To promote and strengthen Uganda's diverse cultural identities.
2. To enhance social cohesion, collaboration and participation of all people in cultural life.
3. To promote community action on cultural practices that promote and that impinge on human dignity.
4. To conserve, protect and promote Uganda's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

## **5.0 CORE PRINCIPLES**

The Policy provides the framework for the promotion of culture for development and complies with international and regional instruments on culture. The core principles underlying this Policy are:

### **5.1 Promoting Unity in Diversity**

There are diverse cultures in Uganda. The Policy interventions shall therefore focus on the promotion of harmonious co-existence among the different indigenous communities and encourage intra and inter-cultural exchange.

### **5.2 Respecting one's and the others' Culture**

Respect for culture is crucial for mutual interdependence, which is a prerequisite for social harmony and cohesion. The Policy interventions shall focus on advocacy for respect of the individuals' culture and other cultures.

### **5.3 Ensuring Social Inclusion**

There are some children, youth, women, the disabled, the elderly, people living with HIV/AIDS and indigenous minorities who are marginalised by some socio-cultural practices. The Policy interventions shall therefore focus on affirmative action to ensure that these categories of people participate in and benefit from cultural life.

### **5.4 Promoting Cultural Change**

Culture is dynamic and cultural change is inevitable. It is important to catalyse change to address social and gender inequalities. The Policy interventions shall therefore encourage adapting and adopting to new ideas and approaches within the laws of Uganda.

## **5.5 Promoting Environmental Protection**

Cultural practitioners interact with and derive cultural products from the environment. However, the environment is threatened by environmental degradation, which negatively impacts on culture activities that rely on the environment. The Policy interventions shall therefore emphasise environmental protection.

## **5.6 Strengthening Partnerships**

There are various stakeholders in the delivery of cultural goods and services. It is therefore important to ensure the strengthening of existing partnerships, creation of new ones and sustaining the partnerships at all levels.

## **6.0 GENERAL STRATEGIES**

To achieve the Policy Objectives, strategies to enhance the integration of culture into development are required. The main strategies are;

### **6.1 Advocacy for Culture**

People perceive culture differently. Some appreciate it from a narrow point of view while others perceive it as retrogressive. The consequences include limited integration into National Development Processes. Advocacy for the holistic appreciation of culture shall be enhanced by;

- Facilitating the process of reviewing culture specific laws and other laws to identify culture concerns;
- Supporting the development of an advocacy strategy for culture in Uganda;
- Supporting the development of a Cultural Management Information System;
- Facilitating the collection, documentation and use of culture statistics;
- Developing and disseminating standards and guidelines on how to mainstream culture into sector policies and plans.

## **6.2 Capacity Building**

Generally capacities in the culture sub-sector are inadequate. The areas of inadequacy include; limited qualified personnel, materials and equipment, knowledge about markets for products, infrastructure and coordination. This status quo undermines the potential for culture to contribute to National Development. Capacity shall be improved by;

- Carrying out a capacity building needs assessment;
- Facilitating the development and implementation of a comprehensive capacity building plan for culture practitioners and institutions that promote culture.

## **6.3 Research and Documentation**

Research and documentation of culture is inadequate. The contribution of culture to National Development can therefore not be adequately quantified. In addition, cherished cultures are being lost and practices that impinge on the dignity of people are not being addressed. Also dissemination of available research findings is limited. Research and documentation shall be enhanced by;

- Ensuring research and documentation of intangible and tangible aspects of culture in Uganda;
- Ensuring the dissemination of research findings;
- Ensuring the establishment of Culture Resource Centres at all levels;
- Promoting public/private sector partnerships in promotion of culture.

## **6.4 Promoting Collaboration with Stakeholders**

There are various stakeholders in the culture sub-sector. However there is no established coordination mechanism to consolidate the gains from the different actors. This calls for the establishment of mechanisms to intensify collaboration among all stakeholders. Collaboration will be strengthened through;

- Supporting the implementation of culture interventions through Local Governments, CSO's and the Private Sector;
- Promoting development and implementation of joint programmes;
- Facilitating the setting up of networks in culture.

## **6.5 Resource Mobilisation**

The culture function is broad and therefore requires continuous mobilisation of resources to implement programmes and activities. Deliberate efforts by different stakeholders are necessary to ensure increased and sustained resource mobilisation. Resources shall be mobilised by;

- Developing specific programmes and plans to attract investment and funding;
- Sourcing for funding from Government, development partners, the private sector, and civil society organisations.

## **7.0 PRIORITY AREAS**

Specifically the Policy shall promote the development of Cultural industries, Languages and literary arts, Indigenous knowledge, Cultural beliefs, traditions and values, Visual arts and handicrafts, Performing arts, Cultural Co-operation, and Cultural tourism. In addition, protection of the cultures of indigenous minorities and capacity building for institutions that promote culture shall be prioritised.

### **7.1 Development and promotion of Cultural Industries**

In Uganda, cultural industries include; producing, publishing, sale, preservation and distribution of creative products such as local literature (books, magazines, and newspapers), audio-visual tapes of music and drama, art and crafts.

Cultural industries have the potential to promote the livelihoods of the marginalised, the poor, and the vulnerable. Cultural industries create

employment opportunities and produce economic gains and incomes at all levels. These cultural industries further contribute to cultural development by protecting and enriching cultural values, promoting creativity, optimising skills and human resources. In addition, they express and convey messages that foster understanding and peace. Cultural industries shall therefore be promoted, protected and developed.

#### **7.1.1 Key interventions:**

- Provide investment incentives for the Culture sector/ cultural Industries;
- Facilitate and encourage commercialisation of cultural industries;
- Facilitate and encourage the creation of internal and external partnerships for the promotion of cultural industries;
- Encourage formation of producer groups;
- Promote and support budding craftsmen and women and any other creative artistes;
- Build capacity of practitioners in; producing cultural goods, business related fields and Intellectual property rights;
- Promote the application of appropriate technology in the development of cultural industries.

#### **7.2 Development and promotion of languages and literary arts**

Language and literary arts serve as media for protection and promotion of Culture. Consequently, interventions to address the promotion of linguistic arts as a means of developing the local languages shall be promoted. This shall contribute to the expressive, socialisation and educational needs of Uganda.

#### **7.2.1 Key interventions:**

- Ensure that all languages have developed orthographies;
- Ensure that languages are taught and spoken in educational and other institutions at all levels;

- Ensure the preservation and development of Orature and literature at all levels;
- Ensure the development of dictionaries in local languages.
- Promote the learning and use of local languages.

### **7.3 Development and promotion of Indigenous knowledge**

Indigenous Knowledge (IK) is a vital sub-system of culture. IK is a key factor in social and economic development as well as cultural transformation. In addition, there is recognition of the important role of local communities in contributing their indigenous knowledge systems to enhance the sustainability of development programmes.

It is important therefore to develop IK systems in Uganda to ensure that IK is maximally used for the benefit of people. Interventions shall emphasise the preservation, integration, utilisation and promotion of indigenous knowledge.

#### **7.3.1 Key interventions:**

- Ensure research, documentation and dissemination of indigenous knowledge;
- Promote indigenous knowledge in formal and informal institutions;
- Evaluate indigenous knowledge for its efficacy and use;
- Facilitate the setting up of organising frameworks for innovators;
- Establish a mechanism to support institutions involved in indigenous knowledge development.

### **7.4 Promotion of Cultural beliefs, traditions and values**

The cultural beliefs, traditions and values are core to a community's mechanism for survival. These beliefs and values enhance social cohesion and sustain an acceptable moral fabric. Interventions to enhance the appreciation of these values and to mitigate social practices that are oppressive to people shall be promoted.



#### **7.4.1 Key interventions:**

- Promote the role of family, religious and traditional institutions in fostering values and ethics;
- Promote beliefs, values, customs and traditions that enhance human dignity;
- Ensure action on customs and traditions that impinge on human dignity;
- Develop and promote the family code of conduct for protecting the family;
- Promote respect and tolerance among different beliefs and value systems.

#### **7.5 Development and promotion of Visual arts and handicrafts**

Uganda is endowed with diverse cultures, which produce unique products including visual arts and crafts. These products are some of the raw materials on which cultural industries thrive. Visual arts and handicrafts have the potential to reduce income poverty if their quantity and quality is deliberately enhanced. In addition, domestic and international markets for the products shall be sought.

#### **7.5.1 Key interventions:**

- Promote visual arts and handicrafts in formal and informal institutions;
- Ensure research and documentation on visual arts and handicrafts;
- Ensure market research for visual arts and handicrafts;
- Establish a mechanism to support institutions involved in visual arts and handicrafts.

#### **7.6 Development and promotion of Performing arts**

Performing arts constitute an aspect of identity for the people of Uganda. There are traditional and modern performing arts. Traditional performing arts are used for social activities while the modern performing arts such as Theatre for Development are usually geared towards mobilisation and sensitisation of communities for community development. Interventions shall therefore be geared towards enhancing the development and promotion of traditional and modern performing arts.

### **7.6.1 Key interventions:**

- Promote performing arts in formal and informal institutions;
- Establish a mechanism to recognise and support performing arts/artists;
- Ensure the preservation of traditional performing arts;
- Build capacity of practitioners in business related fields and Intellectual property rights.

## **7.7 Promotion of Cultural Co-operation**

Cultural co-operation aims at promoting mutual benefit, respect, understanding, shared values, enrichment and peaceful co-existence among diverse cultures and peoples.

As the future of the world is being shaped by mutual interdependence of its peoples, it is important to promote cultural cooperation in a holistic sense at local, regional, national and international levels.

### **7.7.1 Key interventions:**

- Develop and enhance mechanisms for internal and external cultural cooperation and exchange;
- Facilitate and encourage the participation of civil society and private sector in the promotion of internal and external cultural cooperation and exchange;
- Ensure the implementation and domestication, of international conventions and agreements on culture that Uganda is signatory to;
- Promote internal and external collaboration in capacity and institutional development, sharing of cultural knowledge, expertise, goods and services.

## **7.8 Development and promotion of Cultural Tourism**

Cultural tourism provides communities with opportunities for employment, income generation, education as well as recreation and pleasure.

The Policy shall provide interventions that enhance the protection of the socio-cultural environment on which cultural tourism thrives.

#### **7.8.1 Key interventions:**

- Ensure the preservation, development and promotion of natural and cultural sites;
- Ensure the promotion and conservation of traditional/indigenous cultures;
- Ensure improved quality of cultural goods and services;
- Ensure community, civil society and private sector participation in the conservation and promotion of natural and cultural sites;
- Encourage domestic cultural tourism;
- Ensure the collection and preservation of artifacts.

#### **7.9 Protection of the cultures of Indigenous Minorities**

Indigenous minorities in Uganda have unique cultures that are threatened with extinction by internal and external influences. Interventions geared towards promotion and protection of the cultures of Uganda's indigenous minorities shall therefore be promoted.

#### **7.9.1 Key interventions:**

- Establish an inventory of indigenous minorities;
- Ensure support of the traditional/cultural institutions of indigenous minorities;
- Research, document and disseminate the cultures of indigenous minorities;
- Establish a mechanism to recognise and support indigenous minorities.

#### **7.10 Development and promotion of Institutions that promote culture**

Culture thrives in institutions. Some of these are traditional/cultural while others are public and private institutions. The capacity of these institutions to deliver quality culture services has been hampered by inadequate resources, coordination and skills. Interventions shall therefore be geared towards

revamping these institutions so that they can contribute significantly to the socio-economic development of the country.

#### **7.10.1 Key interventions:**

- Encourage communities to support the traditional/cultural institutions and the family ;
- Ensure support for traditional/cultural leaders;
- Establish and expand institutions and facilities that promote culture;
- Build capacity of institutions that promote culture to foster people's participation in cultural life;
- Develop a Family Code;
- Strengthen the involvement of the private sector, civil society and development partners in the promotion of culture programmes and activities;
- Establish mechanisms for co-ordination of institutions that promote culture.

### **8.0 CULTURE POLICY INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Government takes cognisance of cultural issues in other policies. The implementation of the National Culture Policy shall therefore be a shared responsibility by all stakeholders involved in the promotion of culture for development. While there shall be generic roles for actors such as culture impact assessment and indigenous knowledge development, all actors shall have specific roles /responsibilities.

The key actors are; Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and other Government Ministries, the National Planning Authority, Local Governments, the National Culture Forum, Development Partners, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, Traditional/Cultural Institutions and Households.

Roles/ responsibilities shall be shared out broadly as follows:

## **8.1 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES**

### **Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD)**

The Ministry has overall responsibility for the cultural affairs of Uganda and shall therefore take the leading role in the implementation of the National Culture Policy. The Ministry shall be responsible for:

- Ensuring the development of programmes in all areas of culture;
- Ensuring the initiation, review and dissemination of laws related to culture;
- Ensuring the development and enforcement of regulations, standards and guidelines for culture;
- Mobilising resources for culture;
- Creating awareness about culture;
- Establishing mechanisms for coordination of institutions that promote culture;
- Building the capacity of culture practitioners, service providers and institutions that promote culture;
- Ensuring the participation of young people in culture;
- Developing a National Action Plan on culture.

### **The Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC)**

The Centre shall:

- Provide and establish theatres and cultural centres;
- Encourage and develop cultural and artistic activities;
- Provide accommodation for societies, institutions or organisations of a cultural, artistic, academic, philanthropic or educational nature.

## **The National Library of Uganda (NLU)**

The National Library of Uganda shall:

- Promote the culture of reading;
- Preserve published national culture;
- Acquire from any person or institution, any manuscript or literature that may be considered to be of interest to the country.

## **Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES)**

The Ministry shall:

- Integrate culture issues and concerns into educational policies, plans, programmes and curricula;
- Promote the development and use of local languages in education programmes at all levels;
- Promote culture festivals in institutions of learning at all levels;
- Promote the development of traditional sports in institutions of learning at all levels.

## **Ministry of Health (MoH)**

The Ministry shall:

- Design capacity building programmes for traditional health service providers
- Train traditional health service providers;
- Promote healthy traditional nutrition programmes;
- Research, document and disseminate findings on traditional medicine and traditional service providers;
- Develop and disseminate minimum traditional health service delivery standards, guidelines and indicators.

## **Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED)**

The Ministry shall:

- Provide funds for the implementation of the culture function;
- Mobilise resources for the culture function at all levels;
- Monitor the contribution of the culture function to National Development;
- Provide investment incentives for the culture sub-sector;

## **Uganda Bureau of Statistics**

The Bureau shall:

- Collect and disseminate statistics on culture.

## **Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTTI)**

The Ministry shall:

- Promote cultural tourism;
- Develop and promote natural and cultural sites;
- Ensure community, civil society and private sector participation in the conservation and promotion of natural and cultural sites;
- Ensure the protection of local communities from the negative influences of tourism;
- Lobby for investment incentives for the culture sub-sector;
- Promote the development of cultural industries.

## **The Uganda Museum and Monuments Department**

The department shall:

- Collect and showcase items of cultural interest;
- Undertake research and documentation in cultural fields;
- Identify, document, gazette and present sites and monuments;

- Conserve and store cultural objects;
- Carry out educational outreach programmes on cultural heritage to schools and communities.

### **Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA)**

The Ministry shall:

- Spearhead the formulation and revision of laws pertaining to culture.

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)**

The Ministry shall:

- Ratify international and regional instruments that promote and are relevant to culture;
- Participate in negotiation and clearance of cultural agreements.
- Domestication of international and regional Conventions relating to culture.

### **Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MoEMD)**

The Ministry shall:

- Promote safe traditional methods of preservation of natural resources;
- Promote awareness about the value of indigenous plants and animal species.

### **Ministry of Water and Environment (MoWE)**

The Ministry shall:

- Evaluate and disseminate findings on traditional practices of environmental management.



## **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)**

The Ministry shall:

- Undertake research and dissemination on Indigenous Knowledge and plants in agriculture;
- Promote safe traditional methods of production, processing and preservation of cash and food crops;
- Promote indigenous crops, especially food crops.

## **Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)**

The Ministry shall:

- Assess the performance of culture in local governments;
- Ensure that the culture function benefits from grants sent to the local governments.

## **Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)**

The Ministry shall:

- Ensure the enforcement of laws and regulations relevant to culture.

## **The Department of Information-Office of the Prime Minister**

This department shall:

- Sensitise the public on culture through available media;
- Regulate the operations and usage of the media and information communication technologies with the intention of protecting people from negative foreign cultural influences;
- Promote dissemination and sharing of local cultures.

## **The National Planning Authority (NPA)**

This Institution shall:

- Ensure the mainstreaming of culture into the National planning process.

## **8.2 THE NATIONAL CULTURE FORUM (NCF)**

To enhance the participation of the civil society and private sector in the implementation of the Policy, a private sector-led body called The National Culture Forum shall be established. It shall include all the domains of culture. Its main functions shall be:

- To provide a forum for its Members to collaborate and organise joint activities;
- To advocate and lobby for its Members;
- To network locally and internationally;
- To contribute to the implementation of the National Culture Policy;
- To build capacity of Members.

## **8.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

The local governments shall be responsible for cultural affairs in their localities. They shall therefore ensure the:

- Implementation of The National Culture Policy and the National Action Plan on Culture;
- Development of culture plans at various local government levels ;
- Establishment of appropriate local organs for implementation and management of cultural affairs;
- Mobilisation, provision of human, financial and material resources to the culture function.

#### **8.4 DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

Development partners have played a significant role in the development of the National Culture Policy and the National Action Plan on Culture and therefore they shall be expected to:

- Support the implementation of the National Culture Policy and Plan at all levels;
- Collaborate with government, other institutions and individuals in ensuring cultural action.

#### **8.5 PRIVATE SECTOR**

The private sector is a major partner in realisation of the Culture Policy. Their participation in cultural action shall include:

- Dissemination and distribution of quality cultural industry products such as books, records, video and audiotapes, films;
- Industrial/commercial patronage of culture through organization of activities for their own personnel, supporting specific activities/institutions and contributing to or setting up foundations/trusts to finance culture activities.

#### **8.6 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

Civil society organisations (inclusive of NGO's) dealing with culture shall:

- Support cultural development, creativity and innovation;
- Identify talented people for recognition and support;
- Encourage people's participation in various forms of cultural expressions.

#### **8.7 FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS**

Faith-based organizations shall:

- Promote the dissemination of culture;

- Promote the conservation of culture;
- Support culture through their institutional frameworks.

## **8.8 TRADITIONAL/CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS**

Traditional/cultural institutions shall:

- Provide resources and networks to promote culture in their specific institutions;
- Collaborate with government, other institutions and individuals in ensuring cultural action;
- Promote intra-cultural exchange;
- Promote and conserve culture in their specific institutions.

## **8.9 HOUSEHOLDS**

Culture is inculcated, consumed and developed within households. Households shall:

- Respect their culture and the culture of other people;
- Inculcate in their children cherished beliefs, values and practices
- Support traditional/cultural institutions;

## **9.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW OF THE POLICY**

There shall be at all levels periodic monitoring, evaluation and review of the performance of the culture Policy to ensure that it serves the needs and aspirations of the Ugandan people and promotes the broader national development objectives. A National Action Plan with appropriate indicators shall be developed to guide Policy implementation. In addition to an annual, monitoring and mid-term review, this Policy shall be reviewed after every five- (5) years.

## **10.0 FUNDING OF CULTURE POLICY**

Culture is crosscutting. All sectors, Ministries and Local Governments shall therefore be required to identify culture issues within their mandate and fund these activities within their budget ceilings. In addition, funding shall be mobilised from and by the private sector, civil society organisations, traditional/cultural institutions, faith-based organisations as well as individuals.

## **GLOSSARY**

### **Aesthetic value**

Value associated with visual quality or appreciation that the individual or community derives from the beauty of an object, property or idea.

### **Beliefs**

Shared ideas about how the world operates. These may be interpretations of the past, explanation of the present, or predictions of the future, which are based on common sense, folk wisdom, religion, science or a combination of these.

### **Communities**

Groups or networks of people sharing common territories and /or interests. In Uganda there are 65 Indigenous/tribal Communities.

### **Cultural change**

Transformation that involves (and may entail positive or even negative) alterations of basic values, norms, beliefs, traditional cultural patterns and ways of life of people.

### **Cultural Cooperation**

Direct or indirect support to promote closer national and transnational ties in field of culture. It entails collaboration and exchange of social and cultural experiences.

### **Cultural Industries**

Business, activities involved in the production of creative products which convey ideas, messages, symbols, opinions and information of moral and aesthetic value.

### **Cultural Sites**

Natural and man-made works that are of outstanding universal value from the historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.

### **Cultural Tourism**

Consumption of culture through experiencing cultural environments whether in the form of tangible heritage like sites, monuments, visual arts, crafts, material settlements or intangible heritage like values, traditions, beliefs and lifestyles.

### **Culture**

Culture is a whole complex of distinctive, spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize society or social groups. It includes not only the arts and letters but also modes of life, fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions, habits and behaviors. (UNESCO)

In this Policy, Culture is defined as “the sum total of the ways in which a society preserves, identifies, organises, sustains and expresses itself.

#### **Family**

A group consisting of one or more parents, their offspring and close relations. This group provides a setting for social and economic security, transmission of values, protection and affection for its members. This group is related by blood, is inter-generational and may not leave in the same place.

#### **Handicrafts**

Works of the hand resulting from human thoughts, needs and conceptions from nature. Handicrafts portray the thoughts, beliefs and culture of a society.

#### **Heritage**

Tangible and intangible realities that communities, groups and individuals recognize and cherish as part of their lifestyle. Heritage items can be tangible such as artifacts, traditional dress, or intangible items such as language, oral traditions, customs, music, dance and rituals.

#### **Household**

All persons living together in the same homestead.

#### **Indigenous Communities**

These are distinct tribal groups indigenous to a particular area. In Uganda there are sixty-five indigenous communities in Uganda. These are the Acholi, Aliba, Alur, Aringa, Baamba, Babukusu, Babwisi, Bafumbira, Baganda, Bagisu, Bagungu, Bagwe, Bagwere, Bahehe, Bahororo, Bakenyi, Bakiga, Bakonzo, Banyabindi, Banyabutumbi, Banyankore, Banyara, Banyaruguru, Banyarwanda, Banyole, Banyoro, Baruli, Barundi, Basamia, Basoga, Basongora, Batagwenda, Batoro, Batuku, Batwa, Chope, Dodoth, Ethur, Gimara, Ik (Teuso), Iteso, Jie, Jonam, Jophadhola, Kakwa, Karimojong, Kebu (Okebu), Kuku, Kumam, Langi, Lendu, Lugbara, Madi, Mening, Mvuba, Napore, Ngikutio, Nubi, Nyangia, Pokot, Reli, Sabiny, Shana, So (Tepeth) and Vonoma. (The Constitution of Uganda – Schedule 3)

#### **Indigenous knowledge**

Traditional knowledge and practices existing within and developed around the specific conditions of communities that are indigenous to a particular geographical area.

#### **Indigenous Minorities**

Indigenous ethnic groups that are marginalised to status unequal to that of the dominant groups. Their rights including access to justice, equality, dignity, identity are belittled or ignored compared to those of other groups.

**Literary Arts**

The body of creative written works of a language. These include poetry, essays, plays, novels.

**Myth**

Is fiction about the past that interprets key aspects of the world around us. Myths include accounts about supernatural beings and their interrelationships with the World.

**Orthography**

A method of representing the sounds of a language by written or printed symbols.

**Performing arts**

Art forms (classical, medieval, modern) that are put on public display for their aesthetic and social values. These include music, drama, dance, poetry, miming and opera.

**Social protection**

Formal and informal initiatives that provide assistance to the extremely poor individuals and households; services to groups who need special attention or would otherwise be denied access to basic services; insurance to protect against risks and consequences of livelihood shocks; and equity to protect people against risks such as discrimination and abuse.

**Theatre for Development**

A method of facilitating community participation in development through drama. Theatre for Development manifests itself in three ways; use of drama to convey multiple messages, use of drama to convey specific messages and involving the community in short plays that are performed by the community for the benefit of exposing and discussing their problems. After the play, actions to address the problem are suggested.

**Tradition**

Beliefs, custom, or ways of doing things that have existed for a long time and are deliberately handed down to the next generation.

**Traditional Health Services**

Acceptable ways of health care offered to protect, treat or heal patients in a given community. They include spiritual, physical and divine forms of treatment that have been handed down from generation to generation.

**Values**

A set of ideals that are normatively shared by members of a community and are shaped by several influences including ideology, religion, culture, history or political systems.