



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON
19th August – 7th October 2023

PRAYING FOR THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMY SECTOR

Isaiah 60: 5, 6

*Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

*A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*

PRAYER GUIDE

Written by Dr. James Magara

WEEKLY FOCUS 2023

Week 1:	20 th August – 26 th August	Family and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 2:	27 th August – 2 nd September	Church and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 3:	3 rd September – 9 th September	Government and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 4:	10 th September – 16 th September	Education and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 5:	17 th September – 23 rd September	Media and the Business and the Economy Sphere
Week 6:	24 th September – 30 th September	Celebration/Arts and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 7:	1 st October – 7 th October	Global Business/Economy

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2023/24 PRAYER SEASON ARE:

1. To seek divine enablement for the Body of Christ to rise to its place in the Business/Economy Sphere.
2. To pray for the economies of Uganda and Africa to rise to their divine destinies.
3. To pray for the restructuring of the global economy to a more righteous and just one.
4. To seek divine enablement for the individual, family, and organizational fulfillment of divine destinies in our generation and the ones to come.

WEEK THREE: GOVERNMENT THE BUSINESS/ECONOMY SPHERE

3rd – 9th September 2023

1 Timothy 2:1-4

¹Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ²for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

1. Interceding for the Government regarding its sins in the Business/Economy Sphere.
2. Praying for righteousness and justice to be established as the foundation of doing business in Uganda.
3. Praying that God will judge the menace of corruption in Ugandan society and bring down the corrupt from places of influence in the country.
4. Praying that God will enable Government to fill its divinely ordained role of maintaining security and order, without which business cannot thrive.
5. Praying that the appointing authorities will appoint upright leaders and shun corrupt leaders.
6. Praying for an overhaul of the Civil Service and the establishment of a system that is business friendly, accountable and corruption averse.
7. The establishment of righteousness, justice, mercy, and truth as the pillars of governance across the country

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

The government plays key roles in the economy and business sphere: sustaining law and order, protecting a country from external attacks, providing social security, taking care of public utilities, and maintaining peace within a nation.¹ Business is the main component in building the economy. Governments create the environment in which businesses operate through the policies they make and enforce. When a government is functioning properly and creates a conducive environment, businesses become profitable and bring prosperity by improving the quality of life, generating employment, reducing poverty and distributing income. If the environment is not healthy, doing business becomes difficult, businesses struggle and even fail, investors leave the country; both the people and government are losers. To foster the growth of the economy, governments must be intentional in improving international competitiveness, rapid modernization, and sustainable growth². The government plays the following roles in business:

- a. Regulatory Role
- b. Entrepreneurial Role

¹ <http://vle.du.ac.in/mod/book/view.php?id=13720&chapterid=30630>

² ibid

- c. Promotional Role
- d. Planning Role
- e. Restraining Corruption
- f. Creative a conducive policy environment: e.g. tax policy

1. **Regulatory Role**³:

The regulatory role is carried out by measuring and controlling the limits of the Private Sector. Regulation is done to encourage citizens to set up businesses, to spread out the growth around a country and ensure that a few companies do not dominate any sector. In regulation, the government standardizes the code of conduct, norms, and rules in the domestic environment. When governments are functioning properly, the control of business and economic activities happens in such a way that it benefits the society. Regulation involves:

- Price control
- Control of import and export
- Taxation
- Foreign exchange control
- Adding restrictions on foreign trade
- Industrial licensing etc.
- Formulation of policies like monetary, fiscal, taxation and trade policies.

The Government of Uganda plays the important role of controlling the overall financial system in Uganda through independent regulators in the field of banking, insurance, capital markets, etc.,

2. **Entrepreneurial Role**⁴:

In the entrepreneurial role, the government participates in economic activities through ownership in the form of public sector ventures. Sometimes the private sector is unable to establish ventures in some area due to constraints like lack of capital, lack of know how, or restrictions by the government. In these situations, the government performs the entrepreneurial role by entering the market with its ownership through the public sector. The entrepreneurial role of government is encouraged due to the following reasons:

- For social welfare
- For balanced regional growth
- For capital intensive growth
- For providing consultancy to private sector

3. **Promotional Role**⁵:

In the promotion role, governments support business activities by promoting a better business environment, advanced infrastructure, offering various incentives to endorse economic activities in the business. This role includes ensuring there are proper roads, transportation, communication, power supply, financial institutes, banking, capital markets for coordination among various sectors. In the promotional role, the government

- Provides necessary infrastructure for smooth functioning of business activities

³ <http://vle.du.ac.in/mod/book/view.php?id=13720&chapterid=30630>

⁴ ibid

⁵ ibid

- Provides coordination among public, private, joint and cooperative sectors
- Ensures balanced growth among all sectors
- Creates a business atmosphere that is intolerant of corruption

4. Planning Role

Governments have a planning role to ensure optimum utilization of resources. Wise planning enables the increase of productivity, the achievement of high per capita income and national income, the generation of employment, the reduction of inequality among different sections, and the attainment of greater social justice.

5. Restraining Corruption

Corruption is defined as the misuse of power, whether in the form of money or authority, to achieve certain goals in illegal, dishonest or unfair ways⁶. The Inspectorate of Government Act defines it as the abuse of public office for private gain – embezzlement, bribery, nepotism, financial loss, property loss or false accounting. Countries with high levels of corruption cannot prosper as much as those with lower levels of corruption. A corrupted nation's political and economic operations cause its entire society to suffer as a result. According to the World Bank, the average income in countries with high level of corruption is about a third of that of countries with low degrees of corruption. Also, the infant mortality rate in such countries is about three times higher and the literacy rate is 25% lower⁷.

Governments all over the world suffer from corruption. Uganda is seriously plagued with this vice. Though Uganda has very good anti-corruption laws, policies, and institutions such as the Inspectorate of Government, Director of Public Prosecution, and the Anti-Corruption Court, the general institutional breakdown has resulted in inadequate supervision, weak checks, and controls. The result is corruption at all levels, both in central and local government covering aspects such as bribery, recruitment of personnel, procurement, and activity implementation. This vice drives away business and stifles economic growth. Only a few people – the corrupt - benefit while the bulk of the population continues to suffer in poverty.

The Ten Commandments can be summarized as follows:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

⁶ <http://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/012215/how-corruption-affects-emerging-economies.asp?lgl=rira-baseline-vertical>

⁷ *ibid*

Corruption is a breach of the first and second commandment – the corrupt worship money and wealth their god. Corruption is also a violation of the eighth and tenth commandments and thus becomes a springboard for the breaching of all the other commandments. As Apostle Paul admonished Timothy:

1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Once the door to corruption opens in one's life, morals, integrity, ethical values, character, and uprightness begin to break down and collapse. The Scriptures state that bribery and corruption not only blind even the wise, but they also twist the words of the righteous.

Deuteronomy 16:18-22

Appoint judges and officials for each of your tribes in every town the LORD your God is giving you, and they shall judge the people fairly. Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD your God is giving you. Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the LORD your God and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the LORD your God hates.

Types of Corruption

Grand corruption involves large government bodies. No country can expect to develop when corruption scams are prevalent, and those caught are not severally punished. Structured corruption consists of elaborate schemes arranged by both the public and private sector players to clean up swindles, and steal money public funds in a manner that is difficult to challenge legally. Political corruption involves leaders directly doing things for personal benefit, like fraudulently awarding contracts to companies they have interests in, or from whom they have received bribes, or hope to get kickbacks. Petty corruption occurs at the individual level, for example, bribery of traffic police officers. The corrupt break both the Laws of God and the laws of the land.

The Constitution of Uganda

Objective XXVI of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of Uganda states:

1. All public offices shall be held in trust for the people.
2. All persons placed in positions of leadership and responsibility shall in their work, be answerable to the people.
3. All lawful measures shall be taken to expose, combat and eradicate corruption and abuse or misuse of power by those holding political and other public offices.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SOME KEY INSTITUTIONS

1. BANK OF UGANDA

The Bank of Uganda (BoU) is the Central Bank of the Republic of Uganda. It was opened on the 15th August 1966. Bank of Uganda conducts all its activities in close association with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED). Bank of Uganda is responsible for the monetary policy and maintaining price stability.

Pray for the Bank of Uganda to fulfill its mandate in managing the monetary policy of Uganda:

1. Price stability
2. Controlling bank credit
3. Promotion of fixed investments
4. Promotion of exports
5. Equitable distribution of credit
6. Promoting efficiency

2. MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development plays a pivotal role in the coordination of development planning; mobilisation of public resources; and ensuring effective accountability for the use of such resources for the benefit of all Ugandans. It derives its mandate and functions from the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and other related laws, including; the Budget Act (2001), the Public Finance and Accountability Act (2003) and Acts establishing agencies and auxiliary organisations.

Role and Mandate of MoFPED

- Overseeing national planning and strategic development initiatives for economic growth;
- Budget preparation – mobilizing local and external resources for public expenditure; Budget execution – managing and sustainably controlling public finances; and
- Reporting and accountability

Pray that the Ministry will achieve its vision of achieving the fastest rate of economic transformation among the emerging economies.

Pray that it will carry out its mission of:

- Formulating sound economic policies that enhance stability and development
- Maximising revenue mobilization: local and external financial resources for public expenditure
- Regulate financial management and ensure efficiency in government spending.
- Ensuring efficient allocation and accountability for public resources to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development
- National planning and strategic development initiatives for economic growth

Pray against:

- Corruption
- Extravagance and indiscipline
- Unplanned borrowing

3. UGANDA REVENUE AUTHORITY

The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) was established by the Uganda Revenue Authority Statute of 1991 and set up in September of the same year as a central body for assessment and collection of specified revenue, to administer and enforce the laws relating to such revenue and to provide for related matters. This statute incorporated all the laws that were in force then regarding tax collection.

Pray that URA will fulfill its mandate of

- Assessing, collecting and accounting for Central Government Tax Revenue (including Non-Tax Revenues)
- Advising government on matters of policy relating to all revenue sources.
- Cultivating a taxpaying culture through provision of reliable services, leadership development, and building strategic partnerships

Pray Against:

- Corruption in the tax collection systems
- Unfair tax policies that target just a few citizens. Pray for a just tax system that is contributed to by all citizens
- Harassment of compliant tax payers

4. CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Chambers of commerce are organizations of businesses seeking to further their collective interests, while advancing their community, region, state or nation. Business owners in towns, cities and other territories voluntarily form these local societies/networks to advocate on behalf of the community at large, economic prosperity and business interests. Uganda's economic policy focuses on promoting private sector led economic growth in such a way that growth leads to a reduction of absolute poverty in the country. Chambers of commerce are voluntary organizations of citizens involved in commerce and industry. They serve two primary functions:

1. Speaking and advocating for the business and professional community and translating the group thinking of their members into action. This includes advocating for appropriate economic policies and interventions that encourage a favorable business and investment climate
2. Providing specific services of a type that can be most effectively rendered by community organizations both to their members and to the areas they operate in. Chambers of Commerce work with their members to enhance their capacity to grow and run efficiently.

The Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UNCCI) is the oldest nation-wide umbrella organization for the private sector in Uganda. It was created by the business community in

1933 as a membership organization to guard their interests, at the time of anxiety caused by the great depression of the 1930s, and thereafter the Second World War⁸.

It suffered a setback with an economic collapse following the 1972 expulsion of Ugandans of Indian origin by Idi Amin. It was reconstituted in 1978 and registered as a company limited by guarantee without share capital, guided by a set of by-laws enshrined in articles and memorandum of association.

Other chambers of commerce include:

- The China Enterprises Chamber of Commerce in Uganda (Founded in March 2009 by Chinese investors and consisting of 83 firms as of 2016⁹).
- Uganda Manufacturer's Association
- Uganda Chamber of Commerce for SMEs
- Indian Business Community

- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture

Pray that more Chambers of Commerce will be set up to:

- Providing the business community with influential local, regional and global networks for business growth.
- Strengthen the private sector in Uganda, through emphasis of trade promotion, industrial development, effective advocacy for sustainable economic policies, and a promoting a conducive climate for economic development.
- Pray that members of the Body of Christ in the business sector will arise and awaken to their calling to work together to bring the Kingdom of God to the national economy. Pray that a strong network of members of the Body of Christ in the business sector will be formed.
- Pray for the Yobel Biashara Initiative that will formerly be launched in October 2023 that it will fulfill its role of mobilizing Christians in the Business/Economy Sphere.

Pray for:

- The increased participation of the private sector in human resource planning.
- The identification by public and private sectors jointly of the subsectors, where Uganda can complete globally, places where there are domestic and regional demand and where a large number of jobs can be created.
- Increased access to finance for businesses through a reform to the banking sector. The current interest rates charged by commercial banks are prohibitive for the promotion of business and the low-interest rate loans like Islamic banking ones come with strings attached.
- A strong government hand in restraining and stamping out corruption, which frustrates efforts to improve business and substantially increases the cost of doing business. A few benefit at the expense of the majority of the population.
- The curbing of bureaucracy and red tape that stand in the way investments, business, and commerce

⁸ <http://www.chamberuganda.com/news/about-uncci/>

⁹ http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1423980/chinese-enterprises-uganda-create-jobs

- Stronger collaboration between the private and public sectors.

INSTITUTIONS PRAYER FOCUS FOR WEEK THREE

1. Bank of Uganda and the Banking Sector
2. Capital Markets Authority
3. The Civil Service
4. Kampala Capital City Authority, & other Municipal Authorities
5. Micro Finance Institutions & Enterprises
6. Ministry of State for Investment and Privatization.
7. Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development
8. Ministry of Works and Transport
9. National Planning Authority (NPA)
10. National Information Technology Authority (NITA)
11. Private Sector Foundation (PSFU)
12. Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
13. Uganda Investment Authority (UIA)
14. Uganda Manufacturer's Association
15. **Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)**
16. Uganda Securities Exchange (USE)

SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER

ROMANS 13:1-8

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.** For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for **he is God's servant for your good.** But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For **he is the servant of God,** an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. **For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God,** attending to this very thing. **Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed,** respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. **Owe no one anything,** except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

MATTHEW 22:17-21

Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, **"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."**

MATTHEW 17:24-27

When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. **However, not to give offense to them,** go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. **Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."**

LUKE 3:12-13

Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, **"Collect no more than you are authorized to do."**

AMOS 5:11

Therefore **because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him,** you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

JEREMIAH 29:7

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

1 SAMUEL 8:10-18

So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: **he will take** your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. And **he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties**, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. **He will take** your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. **He will take** the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. **He will take** the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. **He will take** your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. **He will take** the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

LEVITICUS 19:13

"You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired servant shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

JEREMIAH 22:13

"Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages,

MALACHI 3:5

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, **against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages**, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

JAMES 5:4

Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

PROVERBS 22:7

The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

PROVERBS 27:23-27

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations? When the grass is gone and the new growth appears and the vegetation of the mountains is gathered, the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field. There will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household and maintenance for your girls.

PROVERBS 28:8

Whoever multiplies his wealth by interest and profit gathers it for him who is generous to the poor.

ECCLESIASTES 5:10

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.

PROVERBS 13:11

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

PROVERBS 23:4-5

Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

PROVERBS 22:16

Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

MATTHEW 6:24

'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other ... you cannot serve both God and money.'

A PROPHECTIC WORD

Cindy Jacobs (a minister with a proven prophetic ministry) gave the following prophetic word at the All Nations Convocation, Jerusalem on 21st September 2012. It concerns the African continent and Uganda in particular:

The LORD says to Africa - I am coming with the great reformation to Africa. The principality of corruption is going to be cast down. I am going to begin to change the reputation of the continent.

Even what was taken and destroyed under colonialism I am beginning to put in the hands of my people. There is a transfer of wealth. There are new economic systems coming.

The LORD is going to raise up economists in Africa that are going to put legislation. There is an anointing coming upon Africa. The sceptre shall not depart from Africa. It is your time. It is your time.

Will I not bring another East African revival?

The desert will bloom like a rose. Even over Francophone Africa, there is going to be a mighty rushing wind coming to Congo, Ivory Coast, Mali. A great move of the Holy Spirit in Benin.

The controlling spirit over Africa is corruption. It causes decay to come to nations. It causes poverty.

We know that there is idolatry, witchcraft but corruption is eating at the soul of Africa.

The LORD says over Uganda, the corruption will be broken. I am getting ready to bring a reformation.

Uganda will be a reformation nation. The LORD says I am reaching deep into the soul of Uganda. I

must answer says the LORD. I must answer. The witchcraft is being pulled out of the ground. The

serpent is being out of the ground.