MESSAGE FROM THE UBL MANAGING DIRECTOR

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limate change is the single greatest threat to a sustainable future, but at the same time, addressing the climate challenge presents a golden opportunity to promote prosperity, security and a brighter future for all."

- Ban Ki-Moon, Former Secretary-General of UN

Our commitment to sustainability has never been about ticking boxes or meeting regulations; it's about embracing a higher purpose. It's about leaving a positive legacy for future generations, demonstrating that business can be a force for good, and showing that profitability and sustainability are



not mutually exclusive but interconnected drivers of lasting success. This is the ethos we live by at Uganda Breweries Limited (UBL).

We have a responsibility within the wider ecosystem, as Uganda, like many other countries, faces a range of environmental and socio-economic challenges that impact its development and the well-being of the people.

Addressing these socio-economic challenges requires concerted efforts from the government, civil society, and development partners. It entails investing in human capital development, improving governance and institutional capacity, promoting inclusive economic growth, and prioritising sustainable development practices.

In our endeavour to tackle the climate crisis, I am happy to report significant progress in our carbon reduction journey. Since December 2022, we are proud to report that we have transitioned fully from nonrenewable sources to biomass utilisation, effectively cutting 95% of our carbon emissions. We are also tackling our postconsumer waste. This year, we entered into a partnership with five peer companies in beverage production to form an Extended Producer Responsibility organisation to manage our plastic packaging waste, collectively.

We are also cognisant that significant gender disparities persist in Uganda, particularly regarding access to education, employment, and decision-making positions.

Discrimination and gender-based violence remain issues hindering inclusive development and women's empowerment. For this reason, we have invested heavily in championing Inclusion and Diversity, enabling women to have equal access to opportunities.

We leverage partnerships to increase the



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scale and impact of our Inclusion and Diversity programmes. This year we partnered with the office of the Luzira Women Councillor, LC III, in March 2023, to offer agribusiness training and donate 2,000 mushroom gardens to Luzira single mothers. Women face unique barriers as a result of structural inequity, and we sought to reduce the growing income gaps that put them at a greater risk of poverty in Luzira.

We also worked closely with the Mayuge Health Centre and donated a universal anaesthesia machine with a monitor, vaporiser, and ventilator.

Furthermore. to address income disparities, this year we delivered the Learning for Life programme, our training initiative that seeks to promote equal access to hospitality education. Among the 202 beneficiaries, 60% were women, and 10% were people with disabilities (PWDs).

We cannot afford to be passive bystanders in the face of social inequality. As business leaders, we have a unique platform and responsibility to take bold actions, invest in sustainable practices, and inspire others to follow suit.

Let's lead by example, leaving a legacy of positive impact and showing that business can be a driving force for sustainability.

Andrew Lilongo **UBL Managing Director**