



**PRESS STATEMENT FOR THE 34TH HEROES DAY
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS MADE BY THE MINISTER
FOR PRESIDENCY**

June 6, 2023

Venue: UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE

The Leadership of the Media Center
The Press
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am here to brief the country on the forthcoming Heroes Day Celebrations.

On the 9th of June 2023, Uganda will be celebrating the 34th Heroes Day.

The celebrations will take place at Kasaala Catholic Parish Grounds in Butuntumula Sub-County in Luwero District. The function will begin at 8:00 am.

The Chief Guest will be His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni; the President of the Republic of Uganda.

The Occasion will be attended by several government officials, historicals, International and Local Diplomats and the general public.

Important to note, we shall award 51 special categories of medals recommended by the Presidential Awards Committee and approved by H.E the President.

As part of the activities of celebrating this year's Hero's-day a health camp has been organized at Lutuula Health Centre II starting tomorrow June 7, 2023 and ending on June 9, 2023.

Specialists in different areas such as male circumcision, dental services, TB and cancer screening, HIV testing and counseling and general medical services will be available to attend to the public, free of charge.

I therefore appeal to our people especially from Greater Luwero to go and be attended to. The RDCs and local leaders should mobilize the communities to turn up in big numbers for these services.

This year's Heroes Day theme is "**Arise Uganda; Our Heroes' Sacrifices are Now Bearing Fruit.**" This is the day as a country we remember people like Edidian Luttamaguzi who was violently murdered

by UNLA soldiers on the 9th June 1981 because he was collaborating with the NRA liberators led by Yoweri Museveni during the liberation war that was launched in the Luweero Triangle in the early 1980s.

The day, June 9, 1981, was just breaking. Edidian Luttamaguzi was relaxing in his house, oblivious of what was happening outside. He was later to learn that over 1,000 heartless soldiers had besieged his village. Their mission was to crack down on collaborators of Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) fighters.

Additionally, today is the day we remember and honor all our countrymen and countrywomen who were violently murdered by public execution on the orders of President Idi Amin in 1973. These were accused of collaborating with the FRONASA rebel movement led by Yoweri Museveni.

We remember;

- Masaba and Namirundu who were killed in Mbale City;
- Nkoko and Ntale who were killed in Jinja City;
- Obwona and Labeja executed in Gulu City;
- Malibo and Kasolo killed in Fort Portal City;
- Karuhanga the mathematics teacher nicknamed as Muharaabu killed in Mbarara City;
- Karambuzi and Bitwali who were killed in Kabale Town.

We also remember many other Ugandans that have sacrificed in rather extraordinary manner for motherland Uganda to reach where we are now.

On June 9th we honor these heroes and heroines for their sacrifices that resulted into the peace and prosperity we enjoy today.

It is due to their sacrifices that we can dream of prosperity rather than fear the nightmare of torture and extra-judicial killings.

They were brutalized, tortured, imprisoned and assassinated, all in the name of freedom.

Let us therefore not take our freedom for granted. Uganda is now an island of peace. No wonder, we are the second biggest host of refugees in the whole world. These refugees prefer to come to Uganda because of peace and opportunities for prosperity.

Yes, there are those who say that peace and stability "Otulo" has not brought them the jobs they want or wealth, but they should take heed to the words of former Tanzania founding president Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who said, "Unity and peace will not make us rich, but it can make it difficult for Africa and the African peoples to be disregarded and humiliated. And it will, therefore, increase the effectiveness of the decisions we make and try to implement for our development.

Now that the country is at peace and politically stable all the energies should be directed into helping our people to come out of poverty through the PDM and Emyoga and ensuring better service delivery to our people.

We therefore invite you all to join us in celebrating and honouring this important day in our history.

This function is open to the general public; only the few guests who shall sit near the President are required to undertake a COVID test. All members of the public are invited unconditionally.

In conclusion I have been briefed by the Presidential Press Unit and the Media Center that a number of Media Houses have offered free live coverage for this event to allow Ugandans at home and abroad to follow the proceedings of this event. I cannot end without appreciating this kind of patriotic spirit for your motherland.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Mbabanda

BABIRYE MILLY BABALANDA
MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY