



**STATEMENT BY BABIRYE MILLY BABALANDA
MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY**

ON THE 36thHEROE'S DAY 2025

To be observed on June 9, 2025

June 4, 2025

Fellow Countrymen and Countrywomen;

Uganda will on 9th June 2025 celebrate our national Heroes; both living and dead.

This special occasion will take place at Lyantonde Technical Institute, Kaaliro Town Council, Lyantonde District.

The Guest of Honour will be the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. He will be accompanied by several distinguished guests both from within and out of the country.

Ugandans across the country are therefore invited to come and join the President as we celebrate this memorable day.

The theme for this year's Heroes Day is; **"The legacy and Ideals of Our Heroes: A memorable Inspiration"**.

President Yoweri Museveni will also on this occasion honour 50 Ugandans with various categories of medals.

A medical camp to treat people at the Lyantonde Technical Institute was conducted from the 28th - 30th May 2025. This was coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister together with the Ministry of Health.

We had specialised doctors handling General Medical Services but we prioritized emergencies, pregnant women and children.

Why celebrate this day

Uganda's rich history is woven with the stories of remarkable individuals whose contributions have shaped the nation's identity and resilience.

From the struggles of the colonial era to the challenges faced in post-independence Uganda, these national heroes have left an indelible mark on the country's journey.

Their sacrifices and achievements serve as a testament to the spirit of the Ugandan people, inspiring future generations to honour their legacies.

This exploration into Uganda's national heroes not only highlights their personal stories but also contextualizes their significance within the broader narrative of the nation.

As we examine into their lives and the impact they had on their communities, we uncover the lessons that continue to echo in contemporary Uganda.

In Uganda, being declared a hero, specifically on Heroes Day, involves demonstrating exceptional dedication, bravery, and self-sacrifice for the nation.

This can involve fighting for total liberation of our motherland Uganda, contributing significantly to the country's development, or making remarkable achievements that benefit the Ugandan people.

Furthermore, the celebration of these heroes through events like National Heroes Day and various educational programs underscores the importance of remembering and learning from the past.

Also, monuments and memorials play a crucial role in preserving this history, ensuring that the stories of these influential figures are not forgotten.

Throughout these turbulent years of Uganda, several individuals emerged as symbols of resistance and hope. Their contributions and sacrifices during this period of turmoil cemented their status as national heroes.

These figures not only fought against colonial and post-colonial oppression but also inspired future generations to strive for justice, equality, and national unity.

Why are we celebrating Heroes Day in Lyantonde/Kabula District

Lyantonde District was chosen to host this year's Heroes Day because of the critical role this new district that was carved out of the Greater Rakai District played during the 1981-86 liberation struggle.

Lyantonde was not only used as a transit route corridor for recruits but also was a corridor where most young men and women bravely joined the Bush War liberation struggle of 1981-86.

Those that did not physically join the war of liberation also sacrificed by contributing financially and morally to the struggle.

Notable among them are; Lt. Gen. Pecos Kutesa (RIP), his brother Capt. Ben Muhanguzi a.k.a Dampa (RIP), Brig. Gen. Sebugwawo Eugene (rtd), Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Rwashande (rtd), Lt. Zayire Karingiri (RIP), Maj. Joel Babumba, Maj. Sam Kamukama (RIP), Lt. Kamy Deo (rtd), Lt. Tumwine Karingiri, Lt. Kutesa Kabalingi (RIP), Col. Enock Nkunda, Maj. Mugira Kinuka etc.

Equally so, many civilians in Lyantonde District played critical roles in the success of the Bush war. They either acted as contacts for the bush clandestine recruiting groups or they gave material support in form of money, food and any other required material and moral support.

Key among the very many supporters of the struggle are; Gengwe Stephen, Kiyangi Livingstone, Benedicto Sebugwawo, (father to Brig. Gen. Eugene Sebugwawo), Madam Akiiki Mugeiga, Rutemba Kezekia, Luwere Kula, Mzee Bujanjara (father to late Maj. Sam Kamukama), Mugasha Flora, Ndyamuba Enid, Kajubi Gideon, Rwabwozi Yoweri, Mitiya Kibirige, Kyateeka Damiano, Buzaabo Flora, Mzee Karingiri,

Karuhanga Chris, the Rwamurinda family, late Kigundu Peter, Mr Sewandizi Elia, Mr Muwendo Yerima, late Mihanda Mishaki, the Buzaabo family, Ezekiel Kinywamacunda and his wife Cledia Kinywamacunda, Hajj Katende, late Eliphaz Bitembe among very many others.

To the Lyantonde people, the NRA/M struggle is their struggle. No wonder they have supported the NRM government 100 percent in all previous general elections. For every election cycle, Lyantonde returns NRM with over 98%.

The population in these areas thrive mostly on farming. They have heeded President Yoweri Museveni's message of chasing away poverty from their homesteads. Lyantonde District is on course to becoming a model district through modern farming.

Indeed, Lyantonde people paid huge price for supporting the liberation war. The UPC regime at the time resorted to killing and economically sabotaging those they perceived to be sympathisers of the Bush War. Hundreds were kidnapped never to be seen again; while others were arrested and either died in cruel military detentions or were made to buy their safety after paying huge ransoms. People lived in a state of fear while others were forced to migrate deep into Ankole where they felt a bit safer.

Today, as we celebrate the 36th Heroes Day, we salute Gen. Kaguta Yoweri Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda who throughout his adult life has sacrificed to liberate Uganda.

From fighting dictator Idi Amin, to going to the bush to fight fascist regimes that succeeded Amin, Museveni sacrificed it all to liberate motherland Uganda.

Uganda is not only peaceful but also hosts close to two million refugees from across the world.

The socio-economic transformation of Uganda is there for everybody to see and testify. Uganda has attained the lower middle income

status and with the oil revenues beginning to flow come 2026, Uganda will; without a doubt, become a modern state.

In conclusion, the celebration and commemoration of national heroes in Uganda are vital to the country's identity and cultural heritage.

National Heroes Day serves as a significant observance, allowing citizens to reflect on the sacrifices of those who came before them.

Educational programs and public awareness initiatives play a critical role in ensuring that the stories of these heroes resonate with future generations. Museums and memorials stand as enduring symbols of memory, preserving the legacies of national heroes and fostering a sense of unity among the people of Uganda.

Join us as we embark on a journey through Uganda's history, honouring those who have paved the way for a brighter future especially those men and women who sacrificed their lives in the great Luwero Bush War of Liberation.

I wish all Ugandans a remarkable 36th Heroes Day Celebrations.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY



BABIRYE MILY BABALANDA
MINISTER FOR PRESIDENCY