



UGANDA WEEKLY FOCUS

INFORMING MINDS • INSPIRING CHANGE

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The Call of 2026: Your Vote. Your Voice. Your Future.

Uganda Unveils National Tourism Policy to Drive Sector Transformation

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**UGANDA
WEEKLY
FOCUS**

Informing Minds
Inspiring Change

The **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 5th Edition of the Uganda Weekly Focus. Every new edition reminds us of how far we have come and how much we continue to grow. We are becoming sharper, stronger, and more impactful week by week, and this progress would not be possible without the incredible institutions that stand behind us.

Allow me to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Uganda Media Centre, the Government Citizen Interaction Centre, and the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance. Your steady support, timely information, and commitment to transparency make it possible for this publication to reach Ugandans consistently and meaningfully. Thank you for walking this journey with us.

To our readers—thank you. Your feedback, your engagement, and your trust are the reason we continue to refine and expand this platform. You inspire us to do better with each edition.

This week, the nation joined the world to commemorate World AIDS Day. It is a day that carries deep emotion, memory, and resolve. We remember the loved ones we lost, and we pray that they continue to rest in peace. May their lives become a seed that continually reminds us to protect each other, to educate one another, and to fight with renewed strength against the HIV epidemic.

The 2025 theme, “Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response,” is a national call to sustain hope, expand prevention, strengthen care, and embrace innovation as we march toward an AIDS-free Uganda.

In this edition, we bring you stories that reflect the heart of a country determined to grow and overcome. Among them:

Uganda’s National Tourism Policy 2025, a bold new direction shaping the future of our tourism sector.

Updates on the 2026 General Elections Roadmap, highlighting progress and preparedness from the Electoral Commission.

...and many other insightful stories capturing governance, development, digital transformation, and community impact across the nation.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for believing in the vision of a more informed, more empowered Uganda.

Enjoy the 5th Edition.



**UGANDA
WEEKLY
FOCUS**

Informing Minds
Inspiring Change

A VICIOUS NUP, BURNING ITS OWN AT THE STAKE

If there is anything to observe with a mix of curiosity and irony, it is the fight the National Unity Platform (NUP) has unleashed on fellow opposition actors who, for years, positioned themselves as the moral torchbearers against the NRM and President Museveni. Perhaps it is now pointless to keep arguing with strange internet crusaders, but in this digital age, the public square has moved online. And there, with nothing more than a smartphone and a few megabytes of data, even faceless bots confidently lampoon people who have proven themselves in their fields.



OFWONO OPONDO

The internet has turned public debate into a noisy battleground. Everyone is yelling, and with campaigns in full gear, emotions have only grown wilder, especially for those who take every

online opinion as gospel truth.

It all traces back to the now-infamous five hundred million shillings “service award” reportedly handed to parliamentary commissioners nearly five years ago, even before they served a full year. NUP’s top brass seized that moment to extract the political scalp of their then Leader of the Opposition, Mathias

Nsamba Mpuuga.

After a protracted and bitter year-long standoff, NUP dismissed Mpuuga. He responded swiftly by founding his own political party the Democratic Front (DF) and marched off with several NUP MPs, including the ever-loud Abed Bwanika, Michael Kakembo Mbwaterkamwa, and Juliet Nakabuye Kakande, who had read the storm early.

Those who were close to him but stayed behind Medard Lubega Ssegona, Joyce Bagala, and others now find themselves stranded. They tolerated the humiliation, hoping NUP would reward them with party tickets for the ongoing elections. Instead, they have been kicked aside by the ruthless faction now in charge. Online, NUP trolls have gone bare knuckles, even circulating a meme depicting Ssegona as a dog. In his own constituency, they are reportedly staging hostile groups of “residents” who boo him off his own rallies.

These pretenders once rode on Robert

Kyagulanyi's abrupt rise for personal gain. Today they find themselves trapped, unable to publicly challenge his methods. They may dislike him, but they dare not confront him for fear of losing votes from his loyal base. So they remain quiet, shrinking in shame. As the saying goes, if you choose to keep a dog, learn how to handle the stick and clearly, they didn't.

Enter the new enforcers: Muwanga Kivumbi and Betty Nambooze. They now act as the lead whistle-dogs of the dark political arts, dispatched

to destroy anyone who raises their head above the trenches. They swing their machetes with zeal descending into tribal chauvinism, insults, political abrasion, and the crudeness now fashionable within parts of the NUP machinery. They have overshoot their own destinations, dragging with them an army of trolls dredging up every old misdeed to smear rivals and flush them down the political drain.

There seems to be little appreciation that where reasonable people disagree, truth may exist

on multiple sides even if it is truth only as each sees it. At this rate, no saviour is coming to rescue the opposition from its own Svengalis. Let us face it: NUP is in decline, and the collapse is homegrown.

Those who helped build the Kyagulanyi myth Mpuuga, Ssegona, Bwanika, Lubega Mukaku, Michael Mabikke, Ssemujju Nganda, and Joyce Bagala must now lie in the bed they made. The consequences of Kyagulanyi-mania are theirs to live with.



ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Get ready to cast your vote. Check your voting polling station online, instantly.

Voter Information Search

National ID/Application ID

Personal Details

PERNO / NATIONAL ID / APPLICATION ID

Enter your PERNO, National ID or Application ID

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Kampala, 26 November 2025

EC UPDATES COUNTRY ON PROGRESS OF 2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS ROADMAP

“A credible electoral process is a shared responsibility, and every stakeholder must play their part as we enter the final stretch to 2026,” Justice Simon Byabakama Mugenyi, Chairperson, Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission (EC) has announced significant progress in the implementation of the 2025/2026 General Elections Roadmap, with major preparatory activities now nearing completion.

Speaking at the Commission headquarters in Kampala, EC Chairperson Justice Simon Byabakama Mugenyi provided a detailed update on milestones achieved, upcoming activities, and

the state of readiness ahead of the January–February 2026 polling period.

Justice Byabakama noted that since the launch and subsequent revision of the Election Roadmap, the Commission has completed crucial phases of the electoral cycle. These include:

- ✓ Demarcation of Local Government electoral areas
- ✓ Re-organisation of polling stations
- ✓ A nationwide update of the National Voters Register
- ✓ Public display of the Voters Register
- ✓ Compilation of Special Interest Group (SIGs) registers
- ✓ Elections of SIGs committees from village to national level
- ✓ Nomination of candidates for



**MICHAEL WOIRA,
GOVERNMENT CITIZEN
INTERACTION CENTRE**

Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government positions

Uganda now has 21,681,491 registered voters, of whom 53% are women and 47% are men, according to the summary of statistics released by the EC. The country also has 50,739 polling stations spread across 71,214 villages.

A total of 83,597 candidates have been nominated to contest for the 45,505 elective positions ranging from President to Sub-county Councillor.

The Commission also announced fresh nomination dates 27th and 28th November 2025



Justice Simon Byabakama Mugenyi, Chairperson, Electoral Commission, briefs the media on the progress of the 2026 General Elections Roadmap

for specific electoral areas where initially nominated candidates passed away.

The EC reaffirmed the official polling dates, with Presidential and Parliamentary elections set for 15 January 2026, followed by various SIG, Local Government, and regional electoral processes running up to 6 February 2026.

Stakeholders have been urged to take note of the dates and prepare accordingly.

The EC received about 300 petitions arising mostly from nomination exercises at all levels. Justice Byabakama emphasised that while the number may seem high, it is small when compared to the total number of nominated candidates.

He assured the public that all petitions have been reviewed in accordance with the law, EC mandate, and available evidence.

The Commission confirmed that ballot

paper printing is progressing smoothly. Several international and local firms – including Al Ghurair (UAE), UniPrint (South Africa), Inform Lykos (Greece), Sintel Security (Kenya), Picfare Industries, and Graphics Systems (Uganda) – are handling different categories of ballot papers.

Political parties have been invited to submit names of agents who will witness ballot paper deliveries.

Ahead of the polls,

the EC has procured 109,142 Biometric Voter Verification Kits (BVVKs) to be deployed at all polling stations.

So far, 60,000 kits have been delivered with the remainder expected by end of November. The upgraded BVVK system uses both fingerprints and facial recognition to verify voter identity and prevent double voting.

Recruitment and training of 50,739 polling day operators and 1,050 trainers is ongoing, alongside planned public demonstrations for stakeholders.

Accreditation for national and international election observers is underway. Observers operating in Kampala, Wakiso, and Mukono will be accredited at the EC

Headquarters, while others will be handled at district offices. Media houses have also been encouraged to apply early to avoid delays.

The EC applauded candidates who are adhering to campaign guidelines but raised concern over widespread non-compliance, including:

- ✔ Violent or disruptive processions
- ✔ Impromptu public addresses
- ✔ Use of defamatory and inciteful language
- ✔ Defacing of campaign posters

Justice Byabakama warned that the Commission will not hesitate to apply sanctions against candidates or political

organisations that violate electoral laws.

In closing, the Chairperson reassured the nation that the Electoral Commission remains fully committed to delivering a free, fair, and transparent election in 2026.

“A credible electoral process is a shared responsibility,” he said, calling upon political actors, security agencies, civil society, religious leaders, the media, and the general public to uphold peace and lawful conduct throughout the remaining electoral cycle.

Commemorating
World AIDS Day

1ST DECEMBER 2025



MULAGO HOSPITAL SETS NEW STANDARDS WITH ISO CERTIFICATION, ELEVATING HEALTHCARE QUALITY



We pursued ISO certification to innovate, transform, and elevate healthcare delivery at every level.”

Jane Nakibuuka

Mulago National Referral Hospital has proudly achieved certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), affirming its commitment to delivering safe and high-quality services to both patients and healthcare professionals.

On Wednesday, November 25, 2025, Eng. James Kasigwa, executive director of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), officially presented the certificates to Dr. Rosemary Byanyima, the executive director of Mulago Hospital, at the UNBS headquarters in Kampala.

Eng. Kasigwa highlighted how this accomplishment enhances trust and confidence among patients, the healthcare sector, tourists, and the general public. He emphasized Mulago’s commitment to risk-based and evidence-driven decision-making, setting the foundation

for ongoing progress.

He remarked, “With this achievement, the nation is positioned to enjoy a healthier population, which will, in turn, stimulate significant economic growth.”

Patricia Bageine Ejalu, the UNBS deputy executive director for standards, noted that Mulago is the first national medical institution to earn such management system certifications, with previous recipients mostly from the education sector. She praised Mulago’s leadership and encouraged other regional referral

hospitals to pursue similar certifications to strengthen healthcare quality nationwide.

Eng. Kasigwa also clarified that UNBS certifies not only products but also systems and processes, helping both public and private enterprises enhance their strength and competitiveness. He explained that schemes like ISO 9001 guarantee consistency in service delivery, drive optimisation, reduce waste, and improve competitiveness.

ISO 9001 sets the benchmark for Quality Management Systems, helping organisations consistently meet customer and regulatory demands while boosting efficiency and satisfaction.

ISO 14001 offers a framework for managing environmental impact, legal compliance, and sustainability through an effective Environmental Management System.

ISO 45001 establishes standards for occupational health and safety, creating safer workplaces by mitigating risks, preventing injuries, and ensuring legal compliance.

Dr. Rosemary Byanyima shared that this certification elevates Mulago to international standards and reaffirmed the hospital's dedication to enhancing health and safety practices continuously. She assured the international community visiting Uganda that Mulago stands as an ISO-certified beacon of quality integrated healthcare.

Jane Nakibuuka, chairperson of Mulago's quality assurance committee, noted that the hospital sought ISO certification to foster innovation and elevate service delivery standards comprehensively.



UNBS Executive Director Eng. James Kasigwa hands over the ISO certification to Dr. Rosemary Byanyima, Executive Director of Mulago National Referral Hospital, during the official ceremony in Kampala



Mulago National Referral Hospital Executive Director Dr. Rosemary Byanyima poses with UNBS officials and the hospital's management team after receiving the ISO (9001, 14001 & 45001) certification at the UNBS headquarters in Kampala

MUKONO, 26th November 2025

OPM, MINISTRY OF FINANCE KICK OFF ANNUAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY ASSESSMENT IN MUKONO



**BY DERRICK KADDU,
COMMUNICATION OFFICER,
MUKONO DLG**



Promote Uganda Limited Team Assessing the Production Department

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), working jointly with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, has launched the Annual Local Government Service Delivery Performance Assessment for the Financial Year 2024/2025 in Mukono District. The exercise, conducted by independent firms contracted by government, will run from 26th to 28th November 2025.

Welcoming the assessment team, Mukono District Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Mr. Ddamba Henry

said the district was fully prepared, noting that the technical staff clearly understand their roles in driving service delivery.

“The assessment enables us and the Office of the Prime Minister to evaluate what we have achieved. It is a key activity that guides how resources will be allocated in the next financial year. I am glad the team has found us ready and organized,” Mr. Ddamba said.



The evaluation team is led by Mr. Peter Mulindi Baluk from Promote Uganda Limited, the firm contracted to undertake the assessment on behalf of OPM. He commended the district for its proactive approach, especially its

completion of internal lower local government assessments.

“This level of commitment demonstrates improvement in service delivery at the district level. The programme is supported under UGIFT, which aims to strengthen development initiatives across the country,” Mr. Mulindi noted.

Over the next three days, assessors will hold engagements with Heads of Departments, technical teams from subcounties, schools, and health facilities. These interactions will help verify data, review performance records, and check compliance with national service delivery standards.

The team encouraged district staff to remain available and cooperative, noting that inadequate documentation or unpreparedness could lead to poor performance scores.

Representing the Office



Some of the Heads of Department of Mukono District during the OPM Assessment Entry Meeting



Promote Uganda Limited Team Assessing the Education Department

of the Prime Minister, Ms. Nakato Hellen applauded Mukono District's readiness and urged continued collaboration throughout the process.

The Annual Local Government Service Delivery Performance Assessment remains one of government's most critical accountability tools. Its findings shape future resource allocation, highlight

progress, and flag areas requiring improvement.

With Mukono District demonstrating strong preparedness and commitment, officials expect the exercise to yield insights that will support more efficient, people-centered service delivery in the years ahead.

Kampala, November 22, 2025

PS KUMUMANYA DIRECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEERS TO FULLY DOCUMENT INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

“Engineers must work closely with RDCs to strengthen oversight and ensure that infrastructure projects deliver real value to communities.”
PS Ben Kumumanya



Local Government Engineers were directed to comprehensively document all infrastructure works under their jurisdictions, in a renewed national push to improve accountability and strengthen service delivery across Uganda’s Local Governments.

The directive was issued by Ben Kumumanya, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), while he addressed

District, City, and Municipal Engineers during a meeting held at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala.

Kumumanya emphasized the need for a detailed inventory of all roads, clearly indicating the villages, parishes, and subcounties served, in alignment with the Parish Development Model (PDM). He noted that poor documentation had historically contributed to challenges such as duplication of road works, delayed funding,

and weak accountability mechanisms.

“Every engineer must ensure that records are accurate, complete, and accessible. Proper documentation is not optional. It is central to transparency, effective planning, and long-term maintenance of our infrastructure.”

The Permanent Secretary also instructed engineers to work closely with District and City Resident Commissioners (RDCs) in order to strengthen supervision and accountability as mandated by government oversight structures. He stressed that effective collaboration between technical officers and RDCs was essential for monitoring progress, preventing misuse of funds, and ensuring that infrastructure projects delivered real value to communities.

Kumumanya encouraged engineers who were serving in acting capacities to apply for the 22 Local Government Engineer positions that had been recently advertised across various Local Governments. He noted that fully staffing these positions was critical for improving the quality and reliability of infrastructure development nationwide.

“We need qualified, committed professionals in these roles. Acting positions should not become permanent gaps. I urge all eligible officers to apply so we can strengthen our technical teams,” he added.

The call for improved documentation came at a time when the Ministry of Local Government was rolling out several high-profile infrastructure programs, including:

- ✔ The Northern Uganda Road Project (2025), involving 803 km of community access roads
- ✔ The RUDSEC Programme funded by KfW to upgrade markets and rural roads in Lira and Dokolo
- ✔ Ongoing construction launches in districts like Gomba, where documentation had been highlighted as a key component for project success

According to ministry officials, these initiatives could not succeed without strong record-keeping, timely reporting, and accurate technical documentation of designs, materials, supervision, and as-built works.

The Ministry was expected to enhance training for Local Government engineers, including support for digital documentation tools and alignment with national systems such as the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS).

Kumumanya concluded by reaffirming government’s commitment to strengthening infrastructure monitoring under the National Development Plan III, noting that structured documentation was a “non-negotiable foundation” for sustainability, transparency, and evidence-based planning.

THE CALL OF 2026: YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE

“2026 is not for a select few. It belongs to every citizen. Democracy grows when we move from observers to participants.”

Across the country today, you can feel a quiet shift. In markets, on Boda Bodas weaving through traffic, in school staffrooms, and even in small village gatherings, people are beginning to talk about one thing: 2026. And the more we move towards the election season, the clearer it becomes that this moment belongs to every citizen not a select few, not “political people,” but all of us.

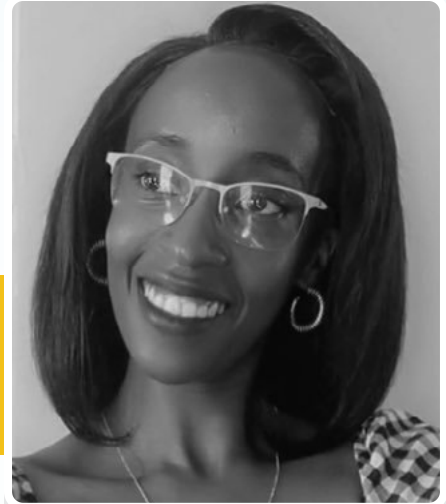
Elections are not just about lining up on polling day. They are about taking responsibility for the future of our communities, our families, and our country. When we participate, we shape the kind of Uganda we want to live in.

Many people took part in the voter verification exercise, and we hope that most Ugandans already confirmed

their names and details on the register. That step is crucial because it prevents disappointments on voting day but it is only the beginning. Now, the bigger responsibility is about active involvement.

This is the time to pay attention. To follow what candidates are saying. To join community conversations. To participate in the campaign period in a positive and constructive way. Democracy is strongest when citizens are not silent observers but active participants.

Being involved in mobilization is not just about gathering people. It helps you, as a voter, understand the political space better. When you engage with your community, when you listen to different views, when you walk



**FIONA LUBOGA,
MOICT & NG**

with candidates or attend their meetings, you begin to see issues more clearly. You learn who is offering genuine solutions and who is simply making noise.

This is also the right time to read and assess candidate manifestos. What are they promising? Do these promises speak to your daily needs? Are they realistic? Are they addressing education, health, infrastructure, youth opportunities, agriculture, or better services? A manifesto is more than a document it is a contract between the candidate and the voter. Understanding it helps you make a decision you will not regret.

So as we move toward 2026, here are simple but

powerful things each of us can do:

- ✓ Pay attention to campaigns. Attend meetings, listen carefully, and ask your own questions.
- ✓ Mobilize your community. Encourage others to engage, to stay informed, and to prepare for voting day. Participation grows when neighbours encourage neighbours.
- ✓ Compare candidates thoughtfully. Look beyond personality. Look at values, track records, and the seriousness of their plans.
- ✓ Study manifestos. They guide you in understanding where your

candidate wants to take your community.

- ✓ Stay active and informed. Democracy becomes meaningful when citizens are alert and engaged, not passive.

One thing is certain. Your vote is powerful. One informed vote is stronger than ten uninformed ones. It can determine leadership, shape development, and influence the future of your home and community.

Uganda needs citizens who do not just show up on voting day but

take the entire process seriously. Citizens who think, question, compare, and participate. Citizens who understand that democracy works when people get involved, not when they watch from a distance.

Let this period be a time where we take responsibility together. Let voter education become voter action. Let community involvement lead to informed choices. Let informed choices shape the leaders we elect.

This is your moment to be part of something bigger not just a vote, but a voice in the direction of the country.

Your vote is your future. And the road to 2026 still begins with YOU.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION IS HIRING

DISTRICT / CITY TALLY CLERKS (Deadline: 12th December, 2025)

UGANDA ADVANCES ITS DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS A CORNERSTONE OF NDP IV

By Fiona Luboga, Communication Officer, MoICT & NG



Hon. Chris Baryomunsi (3rd L), Minister MoICT & NG tours the stall of NITA-U during the launch of the fifth phase of construction of the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) in Moroto, Dec. 4, 2024

One of the country's most significant achievements is the expansion of the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI). In December 2024, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni commissioned Phase V of the NBI, extending the national fibre network by 5,845 kilometres, connecting 63 additional districts, and linking over 2,800 sites, including schools, hospitals, and community centres. With this milestone, Uganda's fibre backbone now spans more than 10,232 kilometres, creating the digital foundation needed for high-speed broadband, e-government services, digital learning, and modern business operations.

Alongside this progress, the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, working through NITA-U, has strengthened collaboration with telecom operators and tower companies to accelerate rural broadband. Through the Last Mile Connectivity Project, fibre is gradually reaching underserved communities, while Wi-Fi hotspots have been deployed in markets,



“Uganda is shifting from simply building digital infrastructure to building a digital economy that leaves no citizen behind.” Dr. Amiinah Zawedde

Uganda's digital journey has entered a new and more ambitious chapter. Over the past decade, the country has steadily expanded its fibre backbone, strengthened public-private partnerships, and invested heavily in rural connectivity. These

gains are now being consolidated and scaled up under the National Development Plan IV (2025/26–2029/30), which positions digitalisation and ICT as a major engine of inclusive growth, improved service delivery, and job creation.



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni during the launch of Phase V of the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) in Moroto

trading centres, refugee-hosting districts, and youth hubs. Uganda now enjoys 88 percent 4G population coverage, but rural fixed broadband remains low, with only 10 percent of households having wired connections. These gaps limit digital participation for learners, SMEs, farmers, and health facilities, and closing them is central to Uganda's future digital strategy.

NDP IV ushers in a more people-centred and integrated digital vision. It identifies e-government and system integration as flagship investments aimed at reducing paperwork, eliminating

system duplication, improving monitoring, and enhancing government productivity. New digital services such as online licensing, tax platforms, land services, health records, and education portals will be expanded nationwide.

The Plan also introduces smart city initiatives beginning with Kampala and the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area. These include intelligent transport systems, digital street mapping, integrated mobility solutions, and public Wi-Fi zones to strengthen the region's role as a logistical and innovation hub.

Beyond infrastructure, NDP IV emphasises ICT production, innovation, and digital skilling. It prioritises support for startups, expansion of BPO and IT-enabled services, research, and nationwide digital inclusion efforts. ICT is also recognised as a cross-sector driver of productivity in agriculture, health, tourism, industry, and financial services.

Uganda is preparing for a future where every district is digitally connected, government services are accessible online, and rural communities enjoy equal digital opportunities. By focusing on infrastructure, innovation, and affordability, the country is building a digital economy that leaves no one behind.

Kasese, November 25, 2025

UGANDA LAUNCHES 2025 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN, PRIORITISES FIGHT AGAINST DIGITAL VIOLENCE

Fortunate Akankunda,
Public Affairs Assistant,
Uganda Media Centre

“Technology must empower women, not expose them to abuse. We must build safer online spaces for every girl.” Hon. Peace Mutuuzo

Hon. Mutuuzo has announced that Uganda has officially launched the 2025 edition of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), reaffirming the country’s commitment to ending violence against women and girls both offline and online. The launch, held on 26th November 2025 at the Kasese District Headquarters, follows a comprehensive national statement issued on 25th November 2025 at the Uganda Media Centre by Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo, Minister



of State for Gender and Culture Affairs.

The campaign, which runs from 25th November to 10th December, marks the 34th Anniversary of the global movement aimed at eliminating GBV and advancing human rights.

Media Centre Statement Sets Tone for National Action

Speaking at the Uganda Media Centre on 24th November 2025, Hon. Mutuuzo outlined

Uganda’s progress, persistent challenges, and the government’s priorities under this year’s theme, “Unite to End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls.”

She emphasized the growing threat of online abuse, cyber harassment, and technology-facilitated GBV, calling for stronger collaboration among government, communities, and digital platforms.



According to the Minister, Uganda will concentrate on five strategic actions:

- ✔ Strengthening law enforcement to investigate and prosecute digital-related GBV cases.
- ✔ Improving sex- and gender-disaggregated data for evidence-based intervention.
- ✔ Enhancing policies that address cyber harassment and online abuse.
- ✔ Increasing women's

participation in science, technology, leadership, and innovation.

- ✔ Scaling up national and community-level GBV prevention and response services.

GBV Indicators Show Signs of Progress

Government data shows promising improvements in GBV trends in recent years:

- ✔ Physical violence decreased from 56 percent in 2016 to 44 percent in 2022.

- ✔ Sexual violence dropped from 26 percent to 17 percent in the same period.
- ✔ Domestic violence against men fell from 44 percent to 34 percent.
- ✔ Defilement cases slightly reduced from 12,771 (2023) to 12,312 (2024).
- ✔ Public awareness of GBV as both a human rights and economic issue continues to increase.
- ✔ Reporting improved

significantly, with 43 percent of survivors seeking help in 2022.

- ✓ Community networks such as male action groups, survivor support groups, and para-social workers have grown stronger.
- ✓ A total of 16 religious and cultural institutions issued declarations against harmful practices.

In FY 2024/25, government and partners supported 21,186 GBV survivors, including over 5,700 persons with disabilities.



National Launch in Kasese Draws Wide Support

Today's national launch in Kasese marked a powerful start to the 16-day campaign. Hon. Mutuuzo Peace Regis arrived at the celebration grounds after leading a march from the Municipal Offices, symbolizing solidarity against digital violence. She later toured exhibitions showcasing innovations, survivor support services, and GBV prevention

initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, Hon. Mutuuzo called for collective responsibility in safeguarding women and girls.

"I call upon all Ugandans to participate in the activities organized by the different stakeholders. Ending GBV requires unity, awareness and persistence," she said, thanking UN partners, embassies, civil society, and local governments for their

continued support.

Representing UN Women Uganda, Paulina Chiwangu commended Kasese District for hosting the national launch. She warned that although technology has expanded opportunities, it has also become a vehicle for online abuse that can escalate into physical violence. She stressed the need for a multi-sectoral approach to address the evolving nature of GBV.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Fred Ngabirano, Commissioner for Youth and Children Affairs, condemned the rise in severe GBV cases, including incest. He urged stakeholders to intensify efforts to protect children and vulnerable groups.

Activities Planned During the 16 Days

A series of national activities will follow the launch, including:

- ✓ National GBV Symposium – 29th November
- ✓ “Stride for Change” Day of Activism – 27th November, with national dialogue involving religious, traditional, and cultural leaders
- ✓ A Knowledge Fair featuring GBV research, publications, and advocacy tools
- ✓ Media sensitization on TV, radio, and social media platforms
- ✓ Live panel discussions on NTV Uganda



As Uganda begins the 16-day campaign, government officials reaffirm that ending violence against women and girls requires confronting both historical and emerging threats. With digital abuse rising globally, this year's focus on online safety aims to protect women and girls as they

increasingly engage in digital spaces for learning, work, and social interaction.

The 16 Days of Activism remain a critical opportunity for the nation to unite against GBV, champion human rights, and foster safer communities for all.

UGANDA MUST AVOID TURNING POLLING DAY INTO A STREET RALLY

As Uganda heads toward the General Elections scheduled for 15th January 2026 for President and Members of Parliament, the air is again thick with political mobilisation, excitement, and unfortunately, a growing wave of misleading narratives.

Some political actors are urging their supporters not only to turn up in big numbers to cast their vote, but also to remain at the polling stations to “guard” the vote. Mobilising voters to participate is commendable; encouraging them to stay at polling stations after voting is dangerous, disruptive, and grounded in an unhealthy mistrust that threatens the very integrity of the process.

Organising a national election is an extraordinarily complex undertaking. The Electoral Commission (EC) manages over 50,739 polling stations and 21,681,491 registered voters across the

country. Such an exercise must run with order, neutrality, and professionalism. When political actors tell supporters to take over the role of policing elections, they undermine established procedures meant to safeguard the vote.

If thousands of emotionally charged supporters crowd the polling stations after voting, tensions are inevitable especially when presiding officers begin announcing results. One police officer cannot control a crowd of hundreds in the heat of political disappointment or celebration. Chaos, injuries, or worse could erupt.



**OBED K. KATUREEBE,
UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE**

Encouraging supporters to “guard” votes publicly declares that the EC cannot be trusted. But the EC has already implemented comprehensive safeguards:

- ✓ Eight (8) polling officials per polling station.
- ✓ Two agents per candidate, covering all processes from material arrival to vote declaration.
- ✓ Accredited observers and the media present throughout the process
- ✓ Deployment of 109,142 upgraded Biometric Voter Verification Kits (BVVKs) to

enforce the one-person-one-vote principle through fingerprint and facial recognition technology

- ✓ Public demonstrations of technology and voter education across the country.

With this architecture in place, the argument that votes need guarding by crowds simply does not stand.

No polling station is designed to host large crowds for an entire day. Expecting hundreds of people to stay at each of the 50,000+ polling stations is unrealistic and unhealthy. There are no sanitation facilities, no shelter, no water. Why should any leader expose their supporters to such conditions?

The EC has, by law, gazetted guidelines for polling day guidelines that are not invented in isolation, but

benchmarked against best global practices

The Commission has:

- ✓ Updated the National Voters Register.
- ✓ Completed nominations for 83,597 candidates competing for 45,505 positions.
- ✓ Scheduled all polling dates and published them for public access.
- ✓ Begun issuing Voter Location Slips to help voters find their correct polling stations.
- ✓ Strengthened training for all personnel who will operate biometric kits and manage polling stations.

These are not signs of an institution to be “guarded” by crowds—they are signs of preparedness.

True civic responsibility is simple:

- ✓ Go early. Vote.
- ✓ Return home.
- ✓ Follow results from radio, TV, or digital platforms.

Let trained agents, observers, accredited

media, and polling officials perform the duties legally assigned to them.

Distrust erodes democracy. It breeds mob justice, disillusionment, and disorder. While healthy scrutiny is welcome, replacing institutions with crowd control is a recipe for violence. Uganda’s democracy is still growing; weakening its institutions especially the EC risks destabilising the entire electoral environment.

The Electoral Commission, as reiterated by its Chairperson Justice Simon Byabakama, remains “firmly on course” to deliver a transparent, timely, and credible election in 2026. It deserves cooperation, not hostility.

Let us vote. Let us go home. Let the systems we have built from biometric verification to accredited observers do their work. Because peace at the polling station is the first vote we cast for our country.

UGANDA UNVEILS NATIONAL TOURISM POLICY TO DRIVE SECTOR TRANSFORMATION



Minister of Tourism Hon. Tom R. Butime and Permanent Secretary Doreen Katusiime pose with sector stakeholders during the official launch of the Uganda National Tourism Policy 2025 in Kampala

By Kevin Sseguya, Public Affairs Assist, Uganda Media Centre

“Tourism must now be mainstreamed across all sectors. Every road built and every innovation funded must support Uganda’s tourism value chain.” PS Doreen Katusiime

Uganda has launched a new National Tourism Policy, signalling what officials describe as a historic shift in how the country will develop, market and govern its tourism sector. The policy, unveiled on 26 November

2025 by Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities Hon. Tom R. Butime, outlines a comprehensive roadmap aimed at positioning Uganda among Africa’s top five fastest-growing destinations.

Calling the policy “a

decisive turning point for Uganda’s tourism future,” Minister Butime said the strategy aligns directly with Uganda Vision 2040 and the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV). He stressed that while Uganda is abundantly gifted with natural and cultural wealth, such potential must now be translated into “real investment, real jobs and real earnings.”

The new framework places strong emphasis



Stakeholders, led by the Minister of Tourism Hon. Tom R. Butime and PS Doreen Katusiime, attentively follow proceedings during the launch of the Uganda National Tourism Policy 2025 in Kampala

on high-growth segments MICE tourism, the upcoming AFCON 2027, cultural tourism, youth-driven digital innovation and linkages with the oil and gas sector. Safety, product diversification,

destination branding and a more attractive investment climate are also central priorities, consistent with the policy's strategic objectives on visitor experience, regulation, marketing and product

development

Permanent Secretary Doreen S. Katusiime described the policy as “a national blueprint for transformation.” She emphasised that tourism can no longer operate as a stand-alone activity, noting that every sector must now actively contribute to the tourism value chain.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Tom R. Butime, officially signs and launches the Uganda National Tourism Policy 2025 at Sheraton Kampala

“Every road built, every investment approved and every innovation funded must support Uganda’s tourism sector,” she said.

“The framework is in place. Now it is time for action.”

Katusiime praised the World Bank for its support through the Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP) and commended key agencies including the Uganda Tourism Board, Uganda Wildlife Authority, UWRTI and sector associations for their roles in conservation, skills development and destination marketing.



PS Doreen Katusiime addresses stakeholders at the unveiling of the Uganda National Tourism Policy 2025



Minister Tom R. Butime delivers his keynote address at the launch of the Uganda National Tourism Policy 2025

According to the National Tourism Policy, tourism is recognised as a critical driver of socio-economic transformation, directly contributing to jobs, foreign exchange and community empowerment. The policy's vision is rooted in Uganda's long-term development path outlined in Vision 2040, which identifies tourism as one of the country's

greatest opportunities for structural transformation

NDP IV further reinforces tourism as a priority sector for productivity, value addition and export growth

The Ministry projects that with coordinated implementation, the tourism sector could generate at least USD 4 billion annually, unlocking expanded employment opportunities across the country.

WHY KIGEZI REMAINS PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S UNSHAKABLE STRONGHOLD



By Peace Ankunda, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

For nearly four decades, Kigezi has stood firmly behind President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the National Resistance Movement (NRM). Election after election, the sub-region covering Kabale, Kisoro, Rukiga, Rubanda, Rukungiri, and Kanungu has delivered some of the highest presidential vote margins in the country. The question is often asked: What keeps Kigezi consistently loyal? The answer lies in a blend of history, geography, security, infrastructure, economic interventions, and the President's relationship with the people.

Across all rallies in Kigezi, one theme stands out:

the people of Kigezi know the price of instability. Located along the volatile DR Congo border, the region once lived under the shadow of cross-border insecurity.

- ✓ In Kisoro, President Museveni reminded residents that they “know the importance of peace” given their proximity to once-volatile border points.
- ✓ In Kanungu, he emphasized that

“those who live near Congo understand better what peace means.”

- ✓ In Rukungiri, he said communities like Kanungu–Kihhi once lived in fear making NRM’s stability a deeply personal achievement.

For Kigezi, peace is the foundation upon which their everyday life, trade, farming, tourism, and cross-border cooperation depend. They vote NRM because they remember what life was like before stability.

Kigezi is one of the regions where the NRM’s “visible contributions” are most pronounced.

President Museveni consistently cites the transformation of the region’s transport network:

- ✓ Kabale–Kisoro Road
- ✓ Mbarara–Rukungiri–Kanungu–Kihhi Road
- ✓ Kabale–Katuna



Rev Father Gaetano Batanyenda blesses President Museveni who is also the NRM presidential candidate during a campaign rally in Rwamucucu, Rukiga district

- Road
- ✓ Rukungiri–Kanungu Road
- ✓ Upgrades announced for Hamurwa–Kerere–Kanungu–Butogota–Hamayanza–Ikunza stretch
- ✓ Planned Muhanga–Rwamucucu–Kebisoni Road in Rukiga
- ✓ Katuna–Muko–Kamuganguzi and Kabale–Bunyonyi–Kisoro–Mgahinga roads in Rubanda

Regarding electricity, the region is now largely connected to the national grid:

- ✓ Rukiga has four of six sub-counties already connected, with the last two planned.
- ✓ Rubanda is “fully connected.”
- ✓ Rukungiri, Bushenyi, Kabale, and Kisoro are now fully electrified under rural electrification.

District by district, government investment has been concrete:

- ✓ Rukungiri has 85% safe water coverage.
- ✓ Rukiga is at 83% safe water coverage.
- ✓ Rubanda is constructing

gravity flow schemes and expanding town water systems.

When voters say NRM “delivers,” they point to these tangible changes.

For decades, President Museveni has preached a consistent message: development is public, wealth is personal.

The people of Kigezi known for their work ethic have embraced this philosophy.

Unlike other regions where implementation may be patchy, Kigezi has some of the highest utilisation rates of government programmes:

- ✔ Kanungu: 98.89% of PDM funds disbursed to 29,726 households.
- ✔ Rubanda: 96.66% of PDM funds disbursed.
- ✔ Rukungiri: Over 23,611 households already benefited.
- ✔ Presidential Skilling Hub in Kigezi is producing real



President Museveni who is also the NRM presidential candidate hands over the party flag to Mrs Jackline Mbabazi during a campaign rally at Rwere play grounds in Kinkinzi East in Kanungu district



Members of Bufumbira Twifatanye Savings and Cooperative Union pose for a photo with President Museveni after the launch of their sacco during a campaign rally in Kisoro Municipality

success stories, such as youths now employing others after training in tailoring, welding, baking, automotive mechanics, etc.

At multiple rallies, the President reminded residents: “NRM is a tested force. We don’t promise miracles we deliver steadily.”

For this mountainous region that values hard work, stability, and visible results, the NRM remains a natural political home. And as the 2026 elections draw nearer, the message across Kigezi remains consistent: “We have seen the work and we must protect the gains.”



President Museveni (C) poses for a photo with NRM flagbearers for Kisoro district during a rally at Kisoro Saza grounds in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro district



President Museveni plays the drums gifted to him by Kanungu NRM flagbearers during a rally at Rwere play grounds in Kanungu district

UGANDA UNVEILS NEW CLIMATE FINANCE TOOLS TO ACCELERATE LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT

David Serumaga, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre



“For the first time, Uganda has a unified roadmap guiding every shilling of climate finance toward national priorities.” PSST Ramathan Ggoobi

Uganda has taken a major step toward strengthening its climate response framework with the launch of five key strategies designed to mobilize financing, guide green investment, and support the country's transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

The new tools, unveiled by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Water and Environment, form part of Uganda's broader commitment under the Paris Agreement and the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution. Together, they establish the most comprehensive climate finance architecture

Uganda has ever implemented.

The National Climate Finance Strategy (2025–2030) provides the foundation. It outlines how Uganda will mobilize and coordinate resources needed to achieve its climate targets, estimated at USD 28.1 billion by 2030. The Strategy prioritizes good governance, transparency, and inclusive climate action, particularly for women, youth, and vulnerable communities.

Complementing this, is the newly issued National Green Taxonomy, a classification system that identifies which investments qualify as environmentally

sustainable. Officials say the taxonomy will guide banks, investors, and policymakers in directing capital towards credible green projects while reducing the risk of greenwashing.

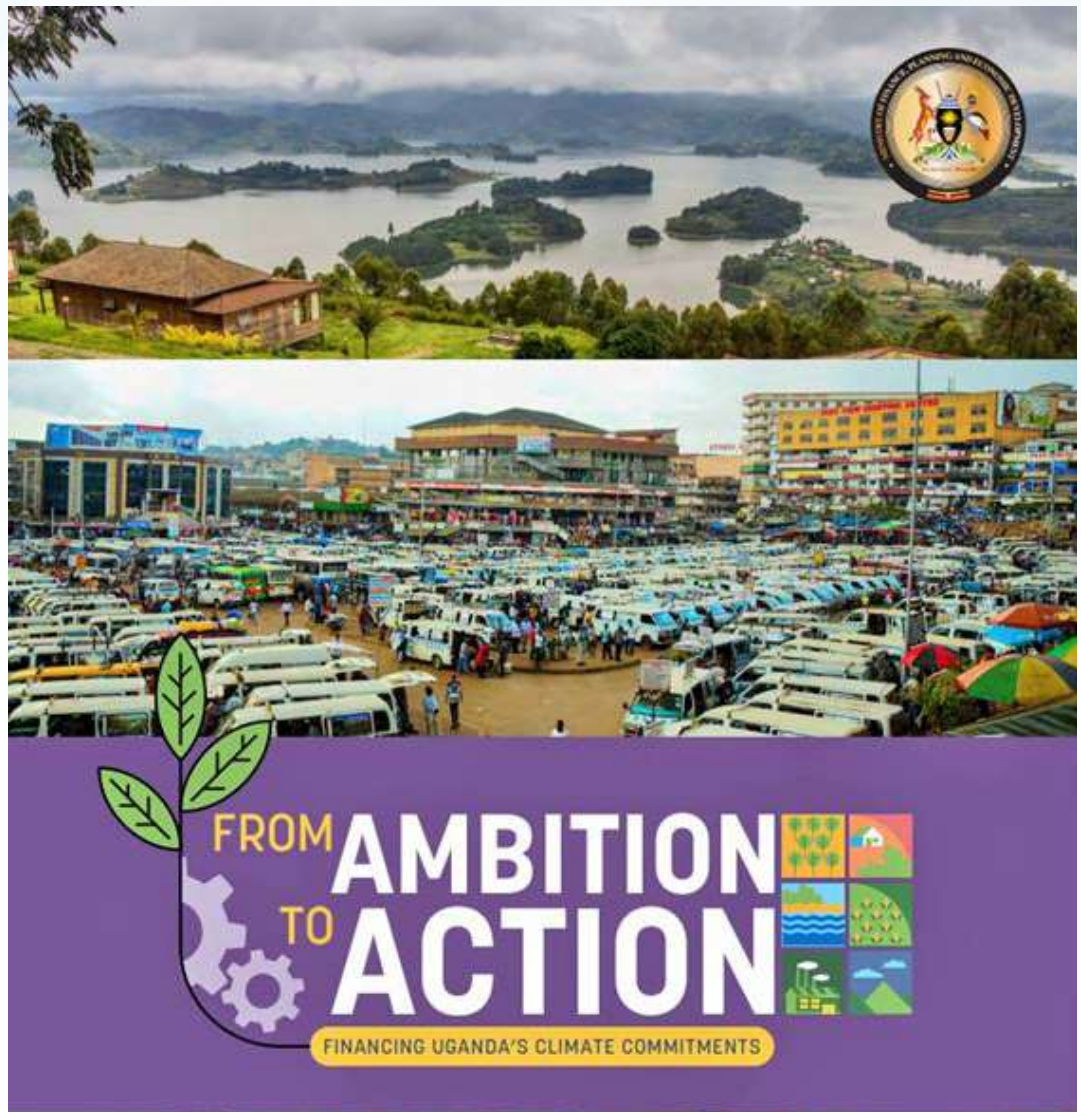
Another key tool is the Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR), developed in partnership with the World Bank. The report analyzes how climate risks such as droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures intersect with Uganda's development goals. It provides evidence-based guidance for policymakers seeking to balance economic growth with climate resilience.

To strengthen the financial sector's response to climate change, the government has also released Guidelines for Mainstreaming Climate Action in Uganda's Financial Sector. These guidelines require banks and other financial institutions to integrate

climate risks into their lending policies, investment decisions, and reporting frameworks. They are expected to increase capital flows toward climate-smart enterprises and public sector projects.

The fifth pillar is the newly approved National Climate Finance Vehicle (NCFV), a mechanism designed to mobilize, coordinate, and channel climate finance from both domestic and international sources. Built under the Climate Change Act (2021), the Vehicle aims to streamline resource flows, reduce fragmentation, and expand Uganda's pipeline of bankable climate projects.

These reforms come as Uganda continues to attract significant



financing from global climate funds. The country has already secured USD 100.8 million from the Green Climate Fund for more than 13 projects and

an additional USD 11.5 million from the Global Environment Facility for initiatives in energy, water, livestock, and community resilience.

With the new tools now in place, government officials say Uganda is better positioned to mobilize climate finance at scale and accelerate progress toward a greener, more resilient future.

UGANDA, ILO AND SWEDEN LAUNCH NEW 'TRADE FOR JOBS UGANDA' INITIATIVE TO BOOST MSMES AND EXPAND DECENT EMPLOYMENT



Ambassador Maria Håkansson of Sweden and an ILO official after signing the MoU marking the launch of the five-year “Trade for Jobs Uganda” project to boost MSME competitiveness in dairy and tourism

“Trade for Jobs Uganda will strengthen enterprise capacity, open access to markets, and support the creation of better jobs where they are needed most.”
H.E. Maria Håkansson, Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda

Kampala, November 27, 2025 – Uganda has taken another major step toward strengthening inclusive

economic growth with the launch of Trade for Jobs Uganda, a five-year initiative designed to expand decent



**BY MICHAEL WOIRA,
GOVERNMENT CITIZEN
INTERACTION CENTRE**

employment through trade and enterprise competitiveness.

The project, officially unveiled in Kampala on 27th November, 2025 by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in partnership with the Government of Uganda and the International Trade Centre (ITC), is funded by the Government of Sweden. It aims to accelerate trade-led growth by supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly in the dairy and tourism sectors two of Uganda’s most promising engines of job creation.



Participants from government, development partners, the private sector, and the ILO/ITC teams gather for a group photo at the official launch

Speaking at the launch, H.E. Maria Håkansson, the Ambassador of Sweden to Uganda, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the ILO reaffirming Sweden's long-standing commitment to Uganda's economic transformation. Sweden has committed USD 5 million for the first 18 months of the programme, focusing on creating secure, productive, and

inclusive employment opportunities.

The Ambassador highlighted that the initiative is timely, especially for women and men living in poverty who face barriers to entering competitive markets. "Trade for Jobs Uganda will strengthen enterprise capacity, open access to markets, and support the creation of better jobs where they are needed most," she said.

The programme brings together government agencies, the private sector, worker and employer organisations, and international development partners. Through this collaboration, the project will promote decent work principles, skills development, improved productivity, and higher-value participation in regional and global markets.

ILO representatives noted that the programme aligns with Uganda's national development targets, including job creation, industrial value addition, and strengthening MSMEs as the backbone of the economy. With Uganda's dairy industry growing steadily and tourism poised for recovery and expansion, the initiative seeks to unlock new opportunities across value chains while ensuring sustainability and social justice.

Over the next five years, the project will focus on:

- ✓ Enhancing MSME competitiveness
- ✓ Supporting value chain development in dairy and tourism
- ✓ Expanding market access through trade facilitation
- ✓ Strengthening labour standards and decent work outcomes
- ✓ Boosting job creation, especially for youth and women

The launch marks a renewed commitment to making trade work for ordinary Ugandans, ensuring that economic growth translates into real employment gains and improved livelihoods across communities.

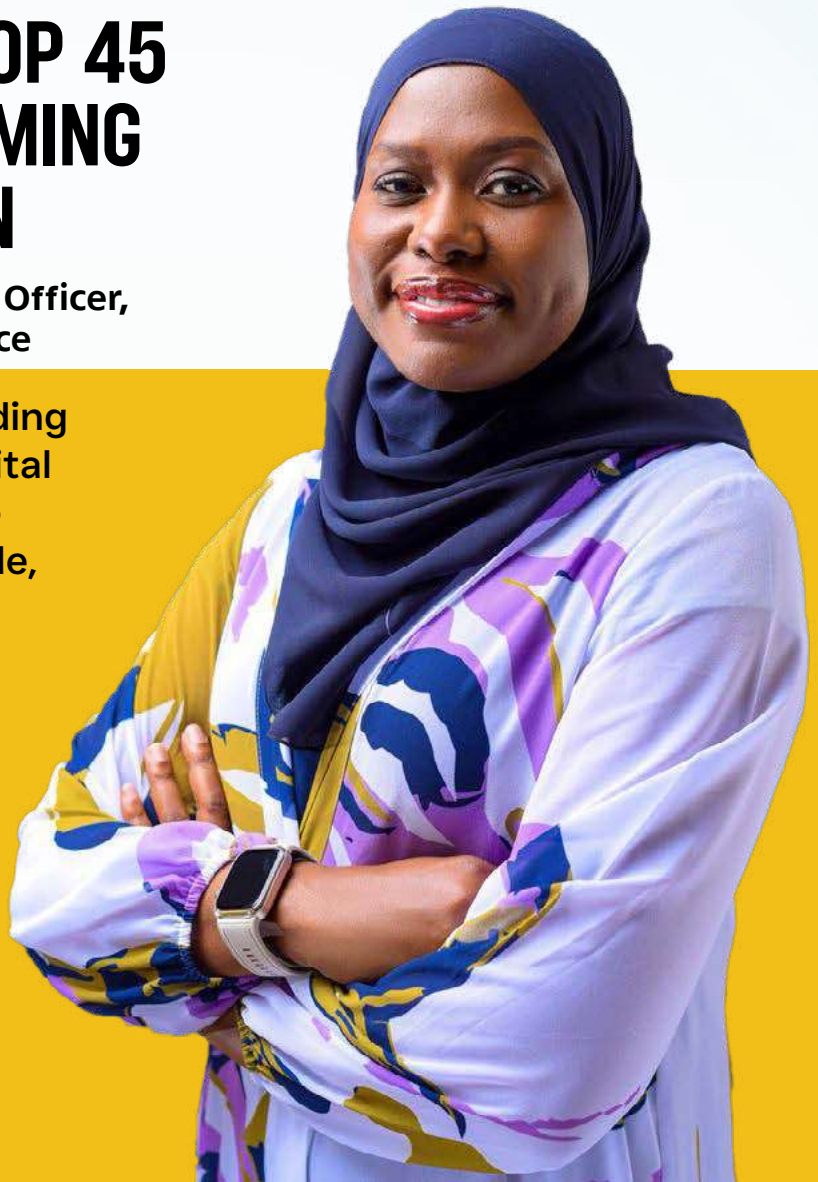
With implementation already underway, the Trade for Jobs Uganda initiative is expected to contribute significantly to Uganda's pursuit of inclusive, job-rich growth in the years ahead.



DR AMINAH ZAWEDDE NAMED AMONG AFRICA'S TOP 45 WOMEN TRANSFORMING DIGITAL INNOVATION

By Fiona Luboga, Communication Officer,
Ministry of ICT & National Guidance

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to Uganda's digital progress, CIO Africa Magazine has named Dr Aminah Zawedde, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, among the Top 45 Most Influential Women in Digital Transformation in Africa for 2024–2025. Featured in the November 2025 edition, the honour places her among the continent's leading voices shaping digital policy, innovation and inclusion.



CIO Africa, a respected authority on technology leadership, described the honorees as women redefining Africa's digital trajectory across artificial intelligence, digital health, fintech, e-commerce, and cybersecurity. Dr Zawedde is the only Ugandan on the list, appearing alongside notable leaders including

Rwanda's Minister of ICT, Paula Ingabire, and Naspers CEO, Phuthi Mahanyele-Dabengwa.

Her recognition comes at a pivotal time for Uganda's ICT sector. Over the past three years, she has played a central role in expanding the national ICT backbone, strengthening the Business Process

Outsourcing industry, promoting digital skilling and advancing innovation-friendly reforms. These efforts align with the Digital Transformation Roadmap launched in July 2024 to accelerate ICT adoption across government, business and society.

A key milestone under her leadership is the

development of Uganda's ICT Intellectual Property Guidelines in 2025, a framework to protect and commercialise local innovations. She has also championed a nationwide skilling programme that has trained more than 40,000 Ugandans, including 1,500 refugees who earned ICDL certification with an 86% pass rate, and in partnership with Multichoice Uganda facilitated the training of over 200 public officers in digital media, crisis communication and content modernisation.

The CIO Africa Top 45 list celebrates women with exceptional vision and impact in advancing technology for national development. Dr. Zawedde's inclusion reflects her ability to foster collaboration across government, the private sector, academia and development partners, and to rally stakeholders around a shared digital agenda.

In her remarks, Dr Zawedde expressed gratitude for the recognition, noting that it reflects the government's leadership and the collective efforts of teams and



CIO Africa Magazine unveils the 2024–2025 list of the 45 Most Influential Women in Digital Transformation, celebrating trailblazers shaping the continent's technological future.

partners committed to digital transformation. She emphasised that innovation, capacity-building and forward-looking policy remain essential to empowering young people, improving lives and strengthening Uganda's competitiveness.

This recognition stands

as a national milestone, underscoring Uganda's growing influence in Africa's digital landscape and reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to building a digitally empowered, inclusive and globally competitive society.

EASTERN AFRICA MOVES TO HARMONIZE INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT



NCTTCA group photo during the Validation Workshop on Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) Policy Harmonization for Seamless Multimodal Transport and Trade Facilitation in Eastern Africa.

By Omulongo Annet, Freelance Writer

Regional experts have convened in Kampala, for a validation workshop on inland waterway transport policy harmonization meant at harnessing Eastern Africa's extensive network of lakes and rivers to support sustainable trade and deeper regional integration.

The workshop has brought together representatives from nine countries including Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Malawi, and

Zambia, which is jointly organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Office for Eastern Africa, the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA), and the Northern Corridor

Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA).

Eastern Africa's inland waterways spanning Lakes Victoria, Tanganyika, Kivu, Albert, and Malawi cover thousands of square kilometers and link multiple countries. It was realized that, less than 5% of regional freight currently moves via waterways compared to over 70% by road, resulting in high transport costs and congestion.



Validation Workshop on Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) Policy Harmonization for Seamless Multimodal Transport and Trade Facilitation in Eastern Africa ongoing

While delivering his speech, the Permanent Secretary for Works and Transport, Waiswa Bageya, confirmed the country's commitment to leveraging its waterways for trade and facilitating seamless multimodal transport systems that strengthen economic integration across Eastern Africa. He explained that studies demonstrate that inland waterway transport can



John Deng Diar Diing, the Executive Secretary of the NCTTCA, addressing on critical role of harmonized standards for safety improvements on 27th November 2025

reduce logistics costs by up to 40% for bulk cargo and lower carbon emissions by 50–70%

relative to road transport.

Andrew Mold, Director of ECA in Eastern Africa,



Standardized MV BKK navigating on water on Lake Kyoga

emphasized that policy harmonization is pivotal for regional integration, stating that it is far from a bureaucratic exercise and instead underpins efforts to incentivize regional trade, reduce logistics costs, and fulfill the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area. He explained that harmonization will increase transport linkage choices for member states and the private sector, advancing a greener and more resilient future for Eastern Africa.

Charles Kalinda from the CCTTFA highlighted

that the validation process marks a critical step in creating an efficient and harmonized transport framework, with agreed actions set to be integrated into a forthcoming five-year strategic plan to ensure effective ownership.

John Deng Diar Diing, the Executive Secretary of the NCTTCA, highlighted the critical role of harmonized standards for safety improvements including mandated life jackets, modern communication systems, and standardized navigation protocols, while also emphasizing

connectivity with road and rail networks to establish a truly multimodal transport system that boosts the region's competitiveness in global trade.

The 27th November 2025 workshop validated a regional Inland Waterway Transport policy framework and strategic plans for the Northern and Central Corridors, proposing targeted interventions to bridge infrastructure gaps, enhance safety standards, and ensure environmental compliance.

UGANDA STEPS UP FIGHT TO END AIDS BY 2030

By Billclinton, Staff Writer



“The goal of ending AIDS by 2030 is within reach, but only if we sustain the momentum and keep every Ugandan engaged in the response,”

Dr. Nelson Musoba, Director General, Uganda AIDS Commission

Kampala, Uganda — The Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) has reaffirmed the country’s commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, highlighting steady progress in reducing new infections, expanding treatment, and

strengthening national coordination. The update came ahead of the National HIV and AIDS Symposium, held from 26–28 November 2025 at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), where leaders, researchers, and communities gathered

to reflect on Uganda’s journey and next steps.

Uganda’s HIV prevalence now stands at 4.9 percent, a dramatic decline from 18 percent in the 1980s. An estimated 1.5 million Ugandans are living with HIV, including 930,000 women and 570,000 men, with 1.3 million already on treatment. Annual new infections have dropped from 94,000 in 2010 to 37,000 in 2024, while AIDS-related deaths have fallen from 54,000 to 20,000 over the same period.



Leaders from the Uganda AIDS Commission and partner institutions participate in a high-level session during the National HIV & AIDS Symposium at Mbarara University of Science and Technology



Participants listen attentively as leaders deliver opening remarks at the National HIV & AIDS Symposium 2025 at Mbarara University of Science and Technology



Participants engage in a discussion during the National HIV & AIDS Symposium 2025 at Mbarara University of Science and Technology

These achievements are credited to the Presidential Fast-Track Initiative (PFTI) launched in 2017, which accelerated targeted prevention, testing, treatment access, and multi-sectoral coordination. National estimates indicate that

Uganda is approaching the global 95-95-95 targets, with 94 percent of people living with HIV aware of their status, 90 percent of those aware on treatment, and 97 percent of treated individuals virally suppressed.

Dr. Musoba commended

Uganda's progress but urged renewed commitment. "Our success is the result of political will, dedicated health workers, and resilient communities," he said. He appealed to leaders at all levels to confront stigma and misinformation, calling them "the biggest remaining barriers to ending AIDS."

For the first time, the National Symposium opened its doors to the general public. According to Dr. Musoba, this shift ensures that "ordinary Ugandans can participate in a national reflection that belongs to all of us."

The symposium featured free HIV testing, scientific presentations,

tributes to Philly Lutaaya, exhibitions, and the 17th Joint AIDS Review. It also showcased new behavioural findings: multiple partnerships among men dropped from 45.4 percent to 23 percent, and among women from 28.8 percent to 3.5 percent. However, early sexual debut remains a concern, with 16.4 percent of males and 11.9 percent of females reporting sexual initiation before age 15, above National Strategic Plan targets.

Delivering the keynote address, MUST Vice Chancellor Prof. Pauline

Byakika reflected on Uganda's scientific advances. "From the days of Slim Disease to today's modern ART regimens, science has transformed our HIV epidemic and saved countless lives," she said.

Opening the symposium, UAC Chairperson Canon Dr. Ruth Senyonyi restated Uganda's gains but cautioned against complacency. "We have reduced prevalence from 18 percent to 4.9 percent, but we must accelerate prevention, testing, and treatment if we are to end AIDS by 2030," she said.

Youth leadership also took centre stage. MUST Guild President H.E. Ariho Lucky Rwabuturumba urged greater investment in youth-led innovation:

■ Sustainability means designing and leading the response with young people. Fund them, trust them, and let them drive prevention and education."

The National Symposium sets the stage for World AIDS Day, to be commemorated on 1 December 2025 in Bushenyi District, officiated by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.



MUST Guild President H.E. Ariho Lucky Rwabuturumba delivers a passionate call for youth-led innovation and action in the fight against HIV during the National HIV & AIDS Symposium 2025



Prof. Pauline Byakika, Vice Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology and chief guest at the National HIV & AIDS Symposium, delivers her keynote address



Canon Dr. Ruth Senyonyi, Chairperson of the Uganda AIDS Commission, delivers her opening remarks at the National HIV & AIDS Symposium 2025 at Mbarara University of Science and Technology

UGANDA'S WINNING FIGHT AGAINST KILLER DISEASES

By Billclinton

Over 3.4 million children were protected from polio in 2024 alone through routine immunisation and outreach services.



Uganda's health sector has undergone remarkable transformation over the past three decades, emerging as a regional leader in infectious disease control. Once-devastating childhood illnesses such as measles and polio have been pushed to the brink of elimination, while tuberculosis, though still persistent, is increasingly contained through stronger diagnostics and community-based models of care.

Measles was historically one of Uganda's most feared childhood diseases, responsible for repeated outbreaks and high mortality. The shift began with the expansion of routine immunisation and subsequent mass vaccination campaigns. Between 2013 and 2023, first-dose measles-containing vaccine (MCV1) coverage rose from 83 percent to 93 percent, surpassing the critical threshold needed to limit transmission.

The national Measles–Rubella campaign drove cases down even further, recording a 71 percent reduction in suspected infections in 2019. Today, while small outbreaks still surface, their magnitude is far below the epidemic waves of the early 2000s, signalling that Uganda is edging closer to local measles elimination.

Polio presents an equally compelling success story. Uganda has maintained polio-free status for over a decade through



sustained vaccination, meticulous surveillance, and nationwide community mobilisation. In 2019 alone, 8.2 million children under five were vaccinated against polio, while 18.1 million received the measles–rubella shot. The country’s strengthened surveillance system supported by digital reporting, improved laboratory networks, and EPI reforms under the National Immunisation Strategy continues to guard against the threat of vaccine-derived poliovirus circulating in neighbouring countries. What was once a disease that paralysed thousands has now been driven to functional extinction within Uganda’s borders.

Tuberculosis, though still one of the most common infectious illnesses in Uganda, has become increasingly manageable. The country still records approximately 96,000 cases a year, yet treatment success has risen to 90 percent. The rollout of GeneXpert machines has enabled earlier and more accurate detection, while community approaches including household contact screening and widespread preventive therapy have accelerated progress. Recent data shows that over 90 percent of household contacts were screened, and 95 percent of those started on preventive treatment successfully completed it.

These gains reflect deeper system-wide investments:

- ✓ stronger cold-chain infrastructure
- ✓ digital immunisation tools
- ✓ expanded surveillance
- ✓ growing health workforce. infrastructure
- ✓ digital immunisation tools
- ✓ expanded surveillance
- ✓ growing health workforce.

The 2024 Census also affirms improvements in national health outcomes, with the under-five mortality rate now at 46 per 1,000 live births—down from previous decades.

Yet sustaining these victories requires vigilance. Measles can resurge if coverage slips, polio importation remains a real risk, and TB control requires constant investment.

For the first time in generations, millions of Ugandan children are growing up free from diseases that once defined childhood.

UICT GRADUATES 600 AS LEADERS PUSH FOR A DIGITALLY SKILLED UGANDA



“You are the digital generation that will shape Uganda’s transformation story.” Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, Minister of ICT & National Guidance

Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT) held its 18th Graduation Ceremony in Nakawa on 28th November, 2025, awarding diplomas and certificates to more than 600 graduates.



Dr. Aminah Zawedde, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance, delivers her keynote address

The event, held under the theme “Empowering the Digital Generation: Building Adaptive ICT Talent for Uganda’s Future,” brought together top government officials, ICT regulators, educators, innovators, development partners, parents and guardians.

The Minister of ICT and National Guidance, Dr Chris Baryomunsi, who served as Chief Guest, praised the graduates for their resilience and positioned ICT as a “pillar of industrialization, job creation and improved service delivery.” He highlighted government priorities including support for local innovation, expansion of digital infrastructure,



**BY FLORENCE MUKANKUSI,
PR & COMMUNICATION
OFFICER, MOICT & NG**

BPO job creation and strengthening cybersecurity frameworks.

“The future belongs to those who innovate,” he said, urging the graduates to build start-ups, collaborate across sectors, and use technology to drive national development.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr Aminah Zawedde, emphasized Uganda’s rising digital indicators, which include over 38 million mobile

subscriptions and more than 14 million internet users. She noted that systems like EMIS, iHMIS and PDMIS demonstrate the power of local innovation to strengthen public services.

She applauded the growing BPO ecosystem now at 243 registered companies—and congratulated UICT graduates who developed ICT projects for Japanese firms under the institute's BPO flagship programme. "The future needs you. The nation

expects you," she told the graduands.

Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) Executive Director George William Nyombi Thembo reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to supporting UICT as mandated under the Uganda Communications Act. He described UICT as the producer of "over 70 percent of the foundational ICT skills" powering Uganda's communications sector.

He highlighted UCC's

ongoing support in upgrading digital labs, establishing smart classrooms, and implementing digital-literacy programmes. He also announced the successful training of 750 teachers across three regions through UCUSAF-backed initiatives.

"UICT sits at the nexus of infrastructure, skills and innovation," he said, calling for wider partnerships to strengthen the institute's sustainability.





“The future is digital and you are the architects of that future,” he told graduates.

Governing Council Chairperson Dean Munene urged the graduates to embody purpose, adaptability and collaboration. He emphasized ICT’s role in solving national challenges in agriculture, health, governance and business.



UICT Principal Dr Fredrick Kitoogo outlined the institute’s performance over the last five years, including the training of 56,086 Ugandans, 5,055 government officers and more than 1,300 teachers. He announced that 81 percent of UICT graduates are employed or self-employed, with 69 percent securing

employment within a year of graduation.

The Principal also celebrated the awarding of 69 distinctions and announced progress at the National ICT Innovation Hub, which has supported 84 innovators and helped commercialize 52 solutions.

The ceremony highlighted UICT’s expanding national footprint from digital skilling and applied research to incubation, BPO development and innovation commercialization. Officials reaffirmed the institute’s strategic importance as Uganda enters a new phase of digital transformation under Vision 2040, NDP IV and the Digital Uganda Vision.

UGANDA POLICE DEPLOYS 162 VEHICLES AND 1,040 MOTORCYCLES TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL SECURITY



The Uganda Police Force has boosted its nationwide mobility and operational readiness with a fresh deployment of 162 vehicles and 1,040 motorcycles to regions and sub-counties across the country. The handover was presided over this afternoon by AIGP James Apora, Director of Logistics and Engineering, at the Police Headquarters.

According to AIGP Apora, the new fleet is part of the Force's ongoing efforts to strengthen sub-county policing, improve service delivery, and ensure timely response to crime during the ongoing election period.

■ This deployment is designed to close existing security gaps, increase visibility,

and improve our ability to respond quickly and effectively across all communities," he said.

Under the arrangement, each sub-county will receive two motorcycles to support patrols, intelligence gathering, and community policing initiatives. The vehicles have been distributed to regional commands to reinforce supervisory and

A fleet of newly commissioned police patrol vehicles lined up at the Logistics and Engineering Directorate, ready for deployment to regions and sub-counties

rapid-response functions.

AIGP Apora urged local leaders and officers to ensure the assets are used responsibly and maintained properly.

"These vehicles and motorcycles are public resources. We expect full accountability, proper usage, and strict adherence to the purpose for which they have been given," he emphasized.

He also expressed gratitude to the Inspector General of Police, the Minister of Internal Affairs, and H.E. the President of the Republic of Uganda for

their continued support in securing the fleet and strengthening the mobility needs of the Force.

The deployment is part of a broader strategy

to bolster community-level security, support electoral operations, and enhance the overall efficiency of policing structures across Uganda.



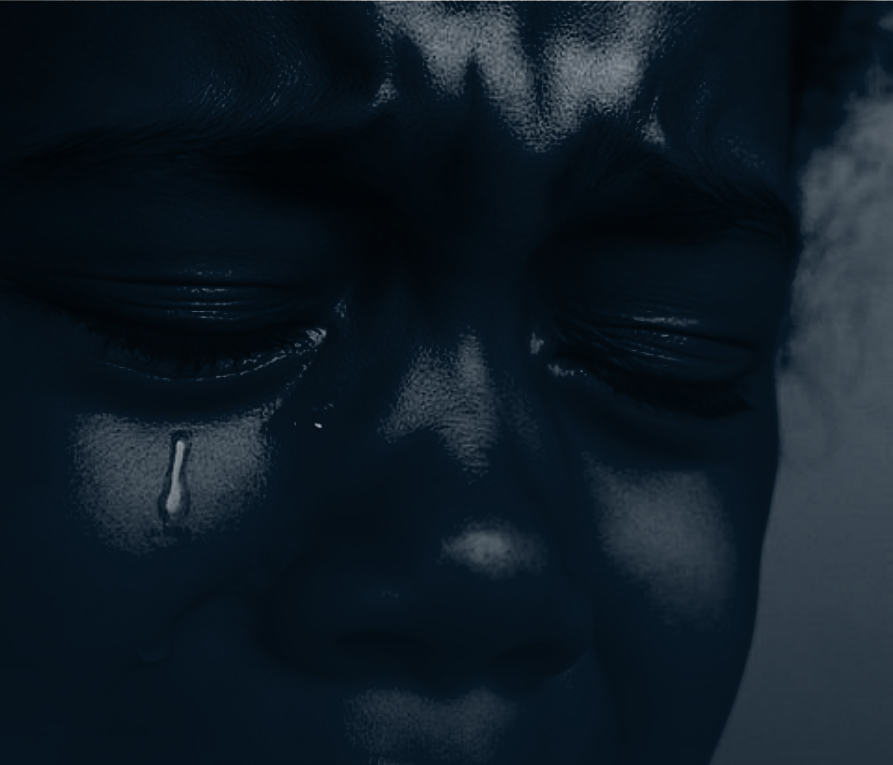
Police officers inspect one of the newly allocated patrol vehicles during the handover ceremony



AIGP James Apora, Director of Logistics and Engineering, hands over keys to one of the newly deployed police vehicles as officers look on



A Cry for the Children



Do not steal their childhood.
Do not break the light in their eyes.
Our sons and daughters are flowers
still opening,
yet too many hands reach for them
before their time.

And every early touch,
every stolen moment,
every secret forced into their young
bodies,
opens a door to danger
HIV, trauma, a future cut before it
grows.

16.4% of our boys,
11.9% of our girls,
enter adulthood before they even
turn 15.
far below the dream we set for them,
far below the promise of our National
Strategic Plan.

So today we speak.
We cry, We demand.
Leave the children alone.

Let their innocence breathe.
Let their dreams grow tall.
Let the next generation rise unbroken.

If you are an adult
choose courage.
Choose restraint.
Choose love.

Because a nation is judged
not by its buildings
or its wealth,
but by how it protects
its smallest souls.

As we celebrate World AIDS Day,
may our hearts break enough
to finally change.
May we guard every child
with fierce, unshakable love.
May we say “ENOUGH”
and mean it.

For their future.
For our nation.
For the children who deserve to live,
and live free.

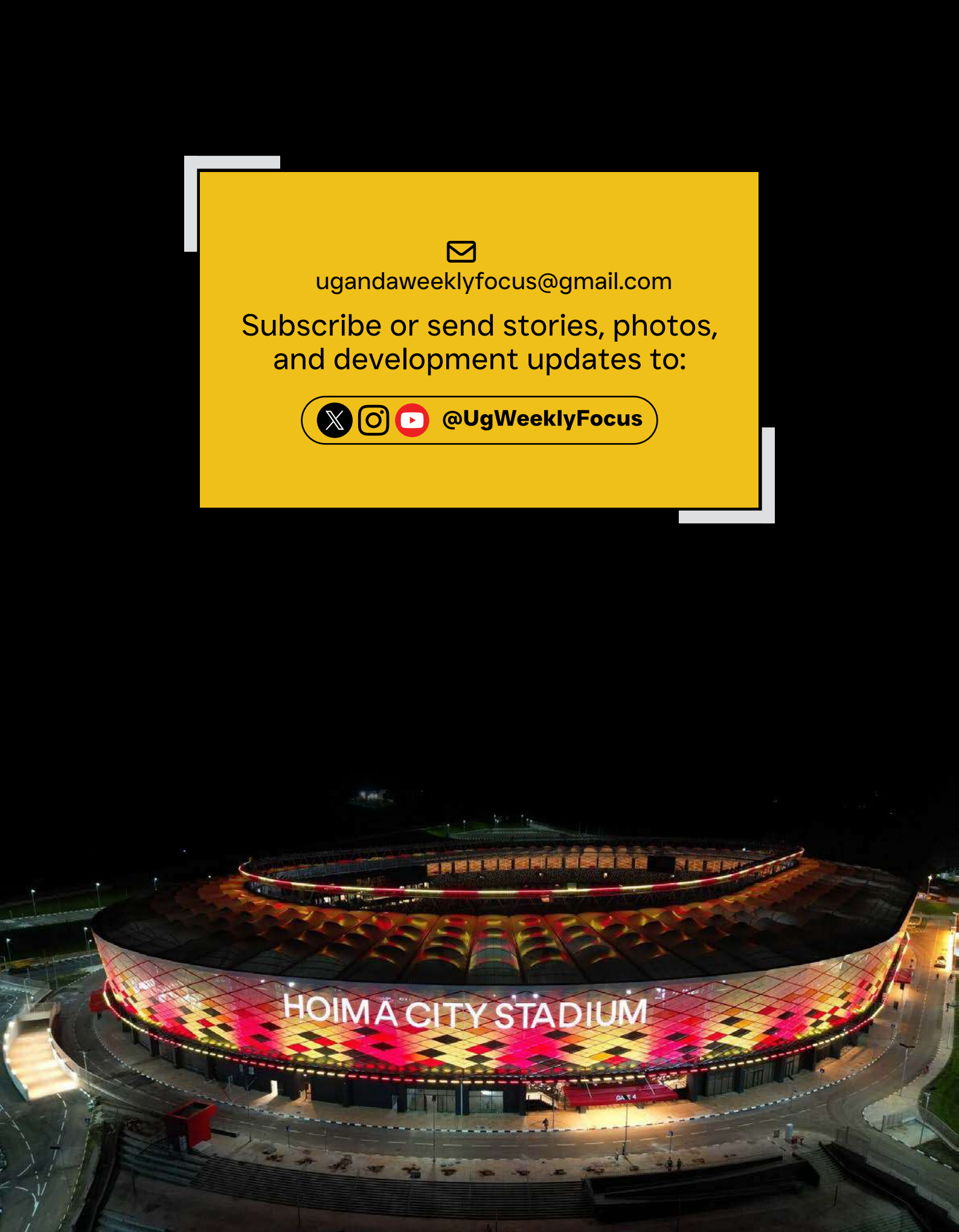


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A large, circular stadium with a colorful, illuminated facade of red, yellow, and black diamond patterns. The stadium is surrounded by a road and some greenery. The text 'HOIMA CITY STADIUM' is overlaid in white capital letters on the lower part of the stadium's facade.

HOIMA CITY STADIUM