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UGANDA WEEKLY FOCUS

Top highlight

UNEB RELEASES 2025 UCE RESULTS



INFORMING MINDS • INSPIRING CHANGE



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The EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Thank you for your continued readership and trust in **Uganda Weekly Focus**. Your engagement, feedback, and shared conversations keep this platform vibrant and relevant. We are equally grateful to our dedicated contributors whose professionalism and commitment to informing the nation make every edition possible.

We warmly congratulate the 2025 candidates following the release of the UCE results by the Uganda National Examinations Board. The performance of the second cohort under the Competency-Based Curriculum reflects resilience, adaptability, and growing confidence in education reform. To all learners, teachers, and parents, we celebrate your effort and achievement.

This edition brings you in-depth coverage of the 2025 UCE results and what they mean for Uganda's evolving education system. We also highlight the inauguration of the new UNEB Board and renewed calls for integrity and innovation in national assessments.

Beyond education, we feature President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni's engagement with Sudan's leadership on regional peace, preparations for the 2027 AFCON infrastructure upgrades, strengthening of systems within the Uganda People's Defence Forces, and a landmark environmental partnership between the National Environment Management Authority and the Kingdom of Buganda.

We also examine insights from the 2025 Auditor General's Report and bring you inspiring community transformation stories from Karamoja.

As always, we invite analysts, writers, and development practitioners to submit articles, opinion pieces, and field updates for future editions. Uganda's story is unfolding across sectors, and your voice matters.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for believing in informed journalism.

The Editor
Uganda Weekly Focus

89 UPDF OFFICERS TRAINED TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM

By Mugesera Bulasio

The Uganda Peoples' Defense Forces (UPDF) has taken a major step to reinforce its military justice system by successfully completing an induction training program for 89 court martial chairpersons, prosecutors, and members. The course took place at the Legal Training Centre in Gaddafi Barracks, Jinja District, from February 2 to 9, 2026, providing participants with a comprehensive framework for addressing disciplinary matters and related offenses within the forces.



Brig. Gen-Micheal-Kabango gifting the best course participant

The program aligns with recent legislative reforms under the UPDF Amendment Act and directives from the Supreme Court, equipping participants with the skills to conduct criminal trials rigorously while ensuring full adherence

to constitutional requirements.

The training concluded on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, with a closing ceremony presided over by Brigadier General Michael Kabango, Commandant of the Senior Command and Staff College in

Kimaka. In his address, he emphasized the significance of their new responsibilities, saying:

“You now step into pivotal roles where your rulings will profoundly shape lives, careers, and military dignity, demanding unwavering fairness, integrity, and rigorous procedural justice to uphold constitutional standards.”

Colonel Susan Muwanga, Commandant of the Legal Training Centre,



The Commandant Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC) Kimaka, Brigadier General Michael Kabango speaking at the ceremony

highlighted the essential role officers play in overseeing trials comprehensively, particularly on behalf of the government. She noted that the curriculum emphasized ethical decision-making, professional duties, and ensuring marginalized voices are heard.

“This approach promotes discipline and accountability, which are crucial for maintaining operational readiness while signaling the government’s dedication to a transparent justice system that earns public

trust and safeguards the rule of law,” Colonel Muwanga stated.

The event brought together senior and junior officers, who congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to uphold the UPDF’s core values and legal principles. The ceremony also recognized outstanding

performance, with Brigadier General Kabango presenting awards to the best course participants.

This initiative demonstrates the UPDF’s commitment to professional development in military justice. By aligning military proceedings with constitutional ideals and the rule of law, the program aims to strengthen public confidence while advancing President Museveni’s vision for a disciplined force capable of securing Uganda’s stability and sovereignty.



Commandant-Legal-Training-Center-Col.Suzan-Mwanga-giving-her-remarks

DCIC ORIENTS NEW OFFICERS, STRESSES INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By Sarah Nakyobe, Uganda Media Centre



“As you step into your roles, remember that the public entrusts you with sensitive duties that require absolute integrity, fairness, and dedication.” – Maj. Gen. Apollo Kasiita Gowa, Chief DCIC

Kampala, 11th February 2026 – Maj. Gen. Apollo Kasiita Gowa, Chief of the Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control (DCIC), today presided over the orientation of 68 newly appointed Immigration Officers and 9 Community Service Officers, underlining the critical role of ethics, integrity, and accountability in public service.

Addressing the officers during the orientation, Maj. Gen. Gowa emphasized that the reputation and efficiency

of the DCIC rely on each officer’s commitment to professional conduct. “As you step into your roles, remember that the public entrusts you with sensitive duties that require absolute integrity, fairness, and dedication,” he remarked.

The orientation, held at the DCIC headquarters, provided the new recruits with guidance on organizational policies, service standards, and operational procedures. It also offered practical sessions on

Maj. Gen. Apollo Kasiita Gowa, Chief DCIC, addresses the newly appointed officers
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the responsibilities of Immigration and Community Service Officers in ensuring national security and effective public service delivery.

Maj. Gen. Gowa further encouraged the officers to serve as role models, promoting transparency and ethical practices within their units. He reminded them that public confidence in the DCIC depends on consistent accountability and adherence to the law.

The newly appointed officers, representing diverse regions across



Maj. Gen. Apollo Kasiita Gowa, Chief DCIC, Newly appointed Immigration and Community Service Officers pose for a group photo during their orientation at DCIC headquarters, 11th February 2026



New recruits attentively listen to Maj. Gen. Gowa's address during the orientation session

Uganda, expressed their commitment to upholding the values of the DCIC and contributing to efficient, professional service.

This orientation marks a key step in

the Directorate's ongoing efforts to strengthen its workforce and enhance service delivery, ensuring

that immigration and community services remain accessible, fair, and efficient for all Ugandans.

HON. DR. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM MUYINGO INAUGURATES 12TH UNEB BOARD

By Kenson Bugembe,
Uganda Media Centre

“The new UNEB Board must serve with integrity, professionalism, and patriotism to safeguard the future of Uganda’s learners.”
Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Muyingo



Kampala, 10 February 2026 – Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Muyingo yesterday officially inaugurated the 12th Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) Board on behalf of the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni. During the ceremony, he emphasized the importance of integrity, accountability, and innovation in the management of Uganda’s national examinations.

Speaking on her behalf,

Hon. Janet Museveni highlighted UNEB’s critical role in national development and in maintaining public trust. She urged the new Board to safeguard the credibility of Uganda’s assessment system, ensuring that the country’s learners are evaluated fairly and accurately.

The outgoing Board received commendation for its significant achievements, including the successful

Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Muyingo presides over the inauguration of the 12th Board of the Uganda National Examinations Board in Kampala on 9 February 2026

implementation of Competence-Based Assessment, a reduction in examination malpractice, the timely release of results, and the initiation of e-assessment systems aimed at modernizing national examinations.

The newly inaugurated 13-member Board is



The newly inaugurated 12th Board of the Uganda National Examinations Board poses for a group photo with Hon. Dr. John Chrysostom Muyingo after the official ceremony in Kampala

chaired by Prof. Celestino Obua, who begins his second term in office. Members were called upon to serve with integrity, professionalism, and patriotism to protect the future of Uganda's learners and uphold the standards of the national assessment system.

Prof. Obua and the Board members expressed commitment to building on the achievements of their predecessors while introducing innovative approaches to further strengthen UNEB's operations.



Board Chairperson Prof. Celestino Obua speaks after being inaugurated to lead the 13-member UNEB Board into its new term

KARAMOJA SEES DRAMATIC SHIFT IN EYE HEALTH

By Akena Martin, GCIC Uganda

KARAMOJA, Uganda — 2025 emerged as a landmark year for eye care services in Karamoja, with a surge in patients seeking treatment and an increase in surgical interventions, according to ophthalmologist Gladys Atto, a specialist in clinical and public eye health at Moroto Regional Referral Hospital.

This year, the Karamoja eye care team performed 646 surgeries, of which 417 patients sought care voluntarily, a dramatic shift from previous years when health workers had to actively seek out patients.

“When someone walks into our clinic on their own, it shows that awareness is growing and that our community is beginning to prioritize eye health,” said Atto.

The rise in patient referrals from other health facilities underscores the growing trust in local services.

Referrals nearly doubled from 150 in 2024 to 296 in 2025 a significant leap for a region that reported just 16 referrals five years ago.

“Trust is earned. The increase in referrals demonstrates that healthcare providers across Karamoja are confident that patients will receive quality eye care here,” Atto added.

Another notable trend is the increasing number of

women and girls seeking eye care services, outnumbering men in recent years. Health education initiatives have played a key role in encouraging women to take charge of their vision health, which, according to Atto, benefits entire families



Gladys Atto, the doctor transforming Karamoja through sight restoration



Some patients going through vision checks using the “E” chart

and communities.

The impact of these efforts is critical in a country where more than 6 million people live with visual impairment, and roughly 400,000 are completely blind, according to Uganda’s Ministry of Health. Cataracts account for nearly 58 percent of blindness, while uncorrected refractive errors remain the leading cause of visual impairment. Experts estimate that up to 80 percent of visual impairment is preventable or treatable.

Karamoja, which historically has had some of the highest rates of blindness in the country, has begun to see meaningful improvements thanks to local clinics and outreach programs.

“Eye health should be as routine as checking your blood pressure. By changing mindsets one person at a

time, we can change the future for entire communities,” said Atto.

Atto credited the team’s success to collaboration, dedication, and consistent community engagement, emphasizing that these changes would not have been possible without the local eye care staff.

Despite conducting only two outreach programs in November and December, the increase in patient numbers highlights a significant shift in the population’s health-seeking behavior.



Dr. Gladys at one of the school outreaches in November, 2025

POLICE IN MUKONO RECOVER STOLEN FIREARM, ARREST THREE SUSPECTS

By ASP. Faridah Nampiima, Head of Media Monitoring, Uganda Police Force

Security remains steady and responsive in the country as Police in Mukono District successfully recovered a stolen firearm and arrested three suspects connected to the incident.

Confirming the development, the Police Public Relations Officer for Kampala Metropolitan Police, SP Kawala Racheal, said, “The case was reported on 6 February 2026 at about 10:00 a.m. at Mukono Police Station. The firearm, which belongs to Cheetah Security Company, was allegedly stolen within Mukono District.”

According to preliminary investigations, “the prime suspect, Mbabajje Robert, a male adult and a security guard employed by Cheetah Security Company, fraudulently obtained the firearm from his company supervisor at the company offices in Mukono using deceitful

means,” SP Kawala Racheal explained.

She further noted that, “following intelligence-led operations, Police tracked and arrested Mbabajje Robert in Kajansi with the assistance of his associate, Parker Scoott.” A search conducted at the suspects’ premises in Kajansi led to the successful recovery of the stolen firearm.

SP Kawala Racheal identified the suspects as “Mbabajje Robert, a security guard with Cheetah Security

Company, Kasongo Blessing, and Parker Scoott, all residents of Kitende Cell ‘A’, Kajansi, Wakiso District.”

She added that, “investigations are ongoing to establish the full circumstances surrounding the theft and to ensure that all those involved are brought to justice.”

SP Kawala Racheal emphasized that the operation demonstrates the effectiveness of intelligence-led policing, noting, “the swift recovery of the firearm and the arrest of the suspects highlights the continued commitment of the Police to maintaining public safety and security.”

STEADFAST IN THE STORM: PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S POST-ELECTION MESSAGE TO THE NATION

On February 12, 2026, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni addressed the nation following the conclusion of Uganda's general elections. Framed as a conversation with "Fellow Ugandans and especially the Bazzukulu," the statement blended reflection, defense of record, and a forward-looking call for unity delivered in the President's characteristic historical sweep and ideological clarity.

Having traversed 153 districts and addressed 143 rallies, Museveni described the campaign season as "celebratory and consultative," evoking memories of earlier electoral cycles particularly 1996, when he says the electorate coalesced around stability and continuity.

Central to Museveni's message is the concept of Okukyenuura—loosely translated as removing society's "mikyeno," or solvable bottlenecks. He credits the National Resistance Movement (NRM) with resolving foundational crises that

once plagued Uganda:

- ✓ Ending extra-judicial killings through the creation of a disciplined national army.
- ✓ Neutralizing sectarian politics rooted in religion and ethnicity.
- ✓ Reforming electoral processes to curb ballot manipulation.
- ✓ Reviving industrial production and eliminating shortages of essential goods.
- ✓ Rehabilitating critical infrastructure.
- ✓ Defeating insurgent

movements and restoring national security.

- ✓ Launching universal immunization against six major childhood diseases in 1987.

The President argues that these milestones established the political and economic foundation that shaped voter loyalty in successive elections.

While defending past achievements, Museveni acknowledged emerging challenges poverty, school fees, corruption, and land disputes. In response, he highlighted three flagship interventions introduced in the late 1990s:

- ✓ Entandikwa (interest-free capital at sub-county level),
- ✓ UPE (Universal Primary Education),
- ✓ Constitutional and statutory land reforms.

He maintains that

weak implementation blamed on what he calls “careerist leaders” blunted their transformative potential, contributing to increased political fragmentation in later elections.

A major theme in the address was election credibility. Museveni criticized the reintroduction of the secret ballot in the 1990s, claiming it reopened avenues for ballot stuffing and manipulation.

He praised the deployment of Biometric Voter Verification (BVV) machines in the most recent election, asserting that where properly operated, they curtailed fraud. He cited specific district-level results to demonstrate what he described as the NRM’s enduring dominance.

While alleging that opposition actors including the National Unity Platform (NUP) benefited from past irregularities, he framed technological reform as a decisive corrective measure.

To illustrate long-term progress, Museveni presented agricultural production data comparing 1986 to the present:

- ✓ Coffee production: from 3 million to 9 million bags.
- ✓ Milk output: from 200 million to 5.3 billion litres.
- ✓ Maize: from 500,000 to 5 million tonnes.
- ✓ Cattle population: from 3 million to 16 million.
- ✓ Bananas and cassava production doubled or more.
- ✓ Egg production reached 49.6 million trays.

He noted that by 2019, 61% of Ugandan households had entered the money economy, up from 32% in 2013 and an estimated 9% at independence. However, 39% remain in subsistence production prompting the rollout of the Parish Development Model (PDM) to deepen grassroots financial inclusion.

In a poignant historical reflection, Museveni recalled crossing the

Kagera River on February 11, 1979, with 200 FRONASA fighters during the campaign against the regime of Idi Amin. Within weeks, he said, the force grew to 9,000 fighters an origin story he invoked to underscore continuity between the liberation struggle and present governance.

Despite sharp criticism of opposition actors, the President concluded with an appeal for principled reconciliation. Ugandans, he said, should abandon “bad behaviour,” address mistakes honestly, and work toward a unified future grounded in patriotism and socio-economic transformation.

Museveni asserted that the NRM’s registered membership 18.5 million voting-age members out of 21 million voters reflects overwhelming national support. Yet he also acknowledged internal weaknesses, including primary election disputes and disengagement among supporters.



UPDF TO TRANSFORM MAKERERE SPORTS GROUNDS AHEAD OF 2027 PAMOJA AFCON

By David Serumaga, Uganda Media Centre

The National Council of Sports (NCS) and Makerere University have today officially handed over the Makerere University Sports Grounds to the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) Engineering Brigade, marking the start of construction for a state-of-the-art training facility in support of the 2027 Pamoja Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) at Mandela National Stadium, Namboole.

The handover ceremony saw NCS Chairman Ambrose Tashobya and Makerere University Vice Chancellor Barnabas Nawangwe formally transfer the site to Lt. Col. Engineer Peter Sseku Kidemuka, the Engineering Brigade's Project Manager. Kidemuka will oversee the transformation of the grounds into a CAF-

certified training facility within eight months, replicating the successful upgrade of Kyambogo University grounds ahead of last year's CHAN tournament.

As with all AFCON-related infrastructure projects, the UPDF will operate under the supervision of the Ministry of Works and Transport. Present at the ceremony were Commissioner for Public Structures, Arch. Dr. Edward Ssimbwa, and Project Manager Arch. Andrew Nsamba, who will oversee compliance and project standards.

Chairman Tashobya, accompanied by NCS General Secretary Dr. Bernard Patrick Ogwel

and top management, highlighted the strategic importance of the handover.

"This project is a critical component in ensuring Uganda presents world-class facilities for the 2027 AFCON," he said.

The upgrade will feature a football and rugby training pitch, a running track, a 1,700-seat pavilion, modern dressing rooms, floodlights, as well as upgraded water and power facilities. The government of Uganda has allocated Shs 21.8 billion for the project.

Makerere University joins Kyambogo University, FUFA Kadiba Stadium, and the external pitch

at Namboole in forming a cluster of training grounds to support Mandela National Stadium during AFCON 2027. Similar four-pitch clusters will also be established at Hoima City Stadium and Akii-Bua Olympic Stadium to meet the tournament's training requirements.

This initiative underscores Uganda's commitment to providing top-tier sports infrastructure in preparation for continental tournaments and reflects ongoing collaboration between government agencies, academic institutions, and the UPDF.



The current appearance of the Makerere University playground before construction | Credit: David Isabirye

WHY THE 2025 AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT IS GOOD NEWS FOR UGANDA

By Solomon Male Grace – GCIC, Uganda

The release of the 2025 report by the Office of the Auditor General is not a moment for alarm it is a moment for confidence.

Confidence in our institutions. Confidence in transparency. Confidence in a government that is willing to measure itself, openly, and improve.

At its core, this report demonstrates something powerful: Uganda's public financial management systems are functioning, oversight is active, and reform is ongoing.

The fact that the report openly discusses public debt levels, revenue shortfalls, project variances, and sector gaps is not a weakness. It is proof that accountability mechanisms are alive and operational.

In many countries, such candour is rare. In Uganda, it is institutionalized.

The partnership between the Office of the Auditor General and Parliament ensures that public spending is not only tracked but scrutinized. That transparency strengthens investor confidence, development partnerships, and citizen trust.

Yes, public debt stands at UGX 115.4 trillion, with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 53.2%. But context matters.

Over the past five years, Uganda has financed major infrastructure roads, energy generation, water systems, industrial parks assets that expand productivity and future revenue capacity. These are not consumption expenditures; they are long-term investments.

The shift toward

domestic borrowing, which now accounts for 51% of the debt portfolio, reflects deliberate efforts to manage exchange rate risks and deepen local capital markets.

More importantly, Government is already:

- ✓ Prioritizing concessional financing,
- ✓ Lengthening debt maturities,
- ✓ Strengthening fiscal discipline.

This is proactive management not crisis response.

The reported UGX 4.336 trillion revenue shortfall highlights the challenge of growing an economy while expanding the tax base. Uganda's tax-to-GDP ratio stands at 13.6%, below the Sub-Saharan average of 16%.

But here is the opportunity: economic expansion, digital compliance systems, and enforcement reforms are already underway. Government's medium-term target of 16% tax-

to-GDP is achievable and critical for self-reliance. Revenue mobilization is no longer just about collection; it is about modernization.

One of the most encouraging findings in the report is the progress under the Parish Development Model (PDM).

- ✓ UGX 1.1 trillion released in FY 2024/25
- ✓ 84% disbursement rate
- ✓ UGX 2.75 trillion cumulatively disbursed
- ✓ 10,594 SACCOs operational

These figures represent real households accessing capital for the first time.

While audit findings flagged compliance gaps such as duplicate payments or ineligible beneficiaries this reflects the scale of implementation, not systemic failure. Government is strengthening verification systems and tightening oversight to ensure every shilling reaches the intended

beneficiary.

Transformation at this scale inevitably requires refinement. And refinement is happening.

Under Uganda's Tenfold Growth Strategy, priority sectors Agro-Industrialization, Tourism, Mineral Development, and Science & Technology (ATMS) received UGX 2.933 trillion, or 4% of the national budget.

The audit observation on alignment is being taken seriously. Budget frameworks are being reviewed to ensure that productive, export-oriented sectors receive the necessary emphasis.

This is how planning evolves through evidence and adjustment.

The report identifies staffing shortages

and equipment gaps in regional referral hospitals, with staffing levels below 70%.

This clarity is valuable. It enables targeted action:

- ✓ Recruitment drives are ongoing.
- ✓ Maintenance funding is being strengthened.
- ✓ Capital investments in critical care infrastructure are being prioritized.

Audits provide the diagnosis. Government delivers the treatment.

The finding of 12% wetland encroachment is a reminder of the pressures facing a growing economy. But it is also a call to action.

Enforcement capacity is being strengthened. Monitoring systems are improving. Collaboration between national and local authorities is deepening.

Economic growth and environmental protection are not opposites they must advance together.

The review of entities under the Uganda Development

Corporation underscores the need for improved returns.

Government has already initiated:

- ✔ Performance contracts for leadership,
- ✔ Governance reforms,
- ✔ Portfolio rationalization.

State investment must create jobs, stimulate industries, and generate returns—and reforms are underway to ensure precisely that.

What the 2025 report ultimately demonstrates is institutional maturity.

Uganda has:

- ✔ A functioning audit authority,
- ✔ Transparent public reporting,
- ✔ Active parliamentary oversight,
- ✔ A government responsive to findings.

That is the foundation of sustainable development.

The findings in this report are not

roadblocks. They are guideposts.

They guide:

- ✔ Smarter borrowing,
- ✔ Stronger revenue systems,
- ✔ Better project execution,
- ✔ Improved service delivery.

The Government remains committed to fiscal stability, economic transformation, and accountable leadership.

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The 2025 Auditor General's Report confirms it: the systems are working, the investments are deliberate, and the path ahead is clear.

UNEB RELEASES 2025 UCE

The Uganda National Examinations Board officially released the 2025 Uganda Certificate of Education results, marking the second cohort of learners assessed under the Competency-Based Curriculum. The results were presented on Friday, 13th February 2026, in Kampala.

Presenting the results, UNEB Executive Director Dan N. Odongo said,

“A total of 432,163 candidates from 3,975 examination centres registered for the 2025 examination, reflecting a 20.2 percent increase compared to 2024.”

He added, “Of these, 429,949 candidates, representing 99.5 percent, sat for the examination, while only 0.5 percent were absent. Just like in 2024, the rate of absenteeism continues to drop.”

According to Odongo,

“Overall, 428,628 candidates, representing 99.69 percent of those who sat, qualified for the award of the UCE certificate. This will be indicated on the transcript and certificate as Result 1.”

This marks an improvement from 2024, when 98.1 percent qualified. He noted that “the percentage of candidates who do not qualify has dropped significantly from 1.9 percent in 2024 to only 0.31 percent in 2025.”

Achievement under the Competency-Based Curriculum is reported using grades A to E,



ranging from Exceptional to Elementary. Odongo explained, “The modal achievement level across the compulsory subjects remains Grade C, meaning the majority of candidates demonstrated satisfactory competency.”

UNEB reported improved performance in several subjects, particularly:

- ✓ English Language
- ✓ Christian Religious Education
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ Sciences, where the proportion of candidates scoring

below the basic level declined significantly

However, Odongo cautioned that “the challenge that cuts across all areas is the difficulty candidates showed in linking scenarios to creative thinking and problem solving in real life situations.”

He emphasized, “This curriculum is not merely about learning of facts, but emphasizes training of the mind to think.”

Gender Performance

The Board noted that

female candidates performed better than males in English Language and Christian Religious Education, while males slightly outperformed females in Mathematics, Sciences, Geography, and History at the higher achievement levels.

Odongo observed, “Apart from English Language and Christian Religious Education where females show better achievement levels, the rest of the subjects are comparable.”



Overall, performance between genders was described as largely balanced, with achievement curves centered around Grade C.

Special Candidate Groups

UNEB registered 708 Special Needs Education candidates, of whom 695 (98.2 percent) qualified for the UCE certificate. The Board provided Braille scripts, enlarged print papers, sign language interpreters, and extra time allowances.

Odongo said, “The Board made adequate arrangements for these candidates, including modification of questions and provision of support personnel.”

All candidates from Uganda Government Upper Prison School, Luzira, and Mbarara Main Prison Secondary School who sat for

the examination qualified for certification.

Examination Integrity

Only 63 cases of malpractice were reported, mainly in Mathematics and science practicals. Odongo warned, “In some cases, there is overwhelming evidence that candidates were given experimental results by teachers merely to copy.”

He stressed that such actions undermine the Competency-Based Assessment framework, where learners are expected to design and carry out investigations independently.

Candidate Feedback

A post-examination survey involving 36,546 candidates across 118 districts showed:

- ✓ 96.3 percent said the examination was within the syllabus.
- ✓ 74.7 percent found the time allocated adequate.
- ✓ 88.2 percent said the items were

clearly presented.

- ✓ 66.4 percent described the examination as fair.

Odongo noted that these findings align with the overall performance trends, particularly the concentration of candidates at the satisfactory competency level.

CBC Study Highlights Stronger Skills Development

During the ceremony, UNEB Chairperson Professor Celestino Obua presented findings from a nationwide study on the impact of the Competency-Based Curriculum.

Obua stated, “The results confirm that this is a very good curriculum, destined to produce the kind of Ugandans that the country needs to propel its socio-economic growth.”

The study, conducted in 176 secondary schools, found that over 90 percent of headteachers and teachers agreed that learners under CBC demonstrate stronger:

- ✓ Problem-solving abilities

- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Creativity and innovation

One headteacher quoted in the study said, “Learners under the new lower secondary curriculum are able to identify problems and propose solutions. They demonstrate stronger critical thinking skills.”

However, Obua acknowledged challenges, including large class sizes, inadequate internet facilities, project costs, and concerns about Continuous Assessment integrity.

He warned, “The integrity of scores is something that the Board takes very seriously. Provisions have been made to institute rigorous monitoring and evaluation exercises in schools throughout the country.”

Analysis: What the 2025 UCE Results Mean for Uganda’s Education Reform

Stabilization of CBC Implementation

The improved qualification rates

suggest growing institutional confidence in the CBC. With strengthened psychometric testing and item pretesting in 2025, UNEB appears to have consolidated lessons from the first cohort.

Shift from Content to Competency

The emphasis on real-life application is evident in science practicals and project-based learning. However, the persistent challenge of linking theory to real-world meaning indicates that teacher training must continue evolving. The reform is about cultivating thinking minds rather than memorization.

Equity and Gender Balance

Gender gaps appear narrower, especially with females excelling in language-based subjects and remaining competitive in sciences. This signals gradual progress toward balanced participation.

Integrity of Continuous Assessment

Since 20 percent of final grades derive from

Continuous Assessment, safeguarding its integrity is central to maintaining public trust. UNEB’s commitment to tighter monitoring will be critical in the next phase of implementation.

Resource Constraints

Infrastructure remains a decisive factor. Large class sizes, limited internet access, and inadequate learning materials risk creating disparities between schools. Sustained investment will determine whether CBC benefits are equitably distributed.

The 2025 UCE results reflect measurable progress in Uganda’s transition to competency-based education. While performance indicators are encouraging, the long-term success of the reform will depend on strengthening teacher capacity, safeguarding assessment integrity, and expanding access to digital and research resources.



President Museveni holds bilateral talks with H.E. Malik Agar at State House Entebbe, discussing the security and political situation in Sudan and regional peace efforts

Entebbe, 13 February 2026

MUSEVENI, SUDAN'S MALIK AGAR DISCUSS PEACE EFFORTS AND REGIONAL STABILITY

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on Friday met and held fruitful discussions with H.E. Malik Agar, the Deputy Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan, at State House Entebbe.

During the meeting, H.E. Agar briefed President Museveni on the current security and political situation in Sudan,

outlining ongoing efforts to restore stability amid continued conflict in parts of the country. Since April 2023, Sudan

has been grappling with fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the Rapid Support Forces commanded by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. The conflict, which grew out of disagreements over



Yoweri Kaguta Museveni welcomes H.E. Malik Agar, Deputy Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan, during a meeting at State House Entebbe on 13 February 2026



Ugandan and Sudanese officials during bilateral discussions between President Museveni and Sudan's Deputy Sovereignty Council Chairman Malik Agar at State House Entebbe

the country's transition to civilian rule following the 2019 removal of former President Omar al-Bashir, has resulted in widespread displacement and humanitarian

challenges.

H.E. Agar updated President Museveni on the political developments, security concerns, and the steps being undertaken by

Sudanese stakeholders to rebuild institutions and advance dialogue aimed at ending the hostilities.

President Museveni welcomed the briefing and emphasized the importance of inclusive dialogue and regional cooperation in resolving the conflict. He noted that lasting peace in Sudan is essential not only for the Sudanese people but also for the stability and prosperity of the wider region, particularly neighboring countries that have felt the effects of displacement and disrupted trade.

The meeting highlights Uganda's continued diplomatic engagement in regional peace efforts and its commitment to supporting initiatives that promote stability across the Horn of Africa.



Ms. Mariam Nkalubo Mayanja signs the Memorandum of Understanding as Dr. Barirega Akankwasah looks on during the official signing ceremony

Kampala

GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND KINGDOM OF BUGANDA SIGN FIVE-YEAR MOU ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

By Victor Nimusiima

The Government of Uganda, through the National Environment Management Authority, has signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Buganda to promote the sustainable and responsible use of the environment and natural resources.

The partnership seeks to implement mutually agreed programmes and activities aimed at

strengthening water and natural resources management, as well as environmental

conservation across the Buganda region.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga. Dr. Barirega Akankwasah, Executive Director of NEMA, signed on behalf of the Government, while Ms. Mariam Nkalubo Mayanja, the Minister of Environment for the Buganda Kingdom,



Charles Peter Mayiga addresses officials during the signing ceremony of the environmental partnership between the National Environment Management Authority and the Kingdom of Buganda

signed on behalf of the Kingdom.

Under the partnership, the Kingdom of Buganda, recognized under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda as a cultural institution, will work to assist its subjects and communities to optimally utilize, manage,

and sustain water and environmental resources. The collaboration is also expected to create employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women, through green economy initiatives and sustainable resource management.

Dr. Barirega described the Memorandum as both timely and strategic.

■ This MoU is critical as the Buganda Kingdom hosts important wetlands that act as natural sponges, protecting watersheds that feed into Lake Victoria and the Nile River system," he said. "By working together, we are strengthening environmental compliance and promoting a green economy approach to natural resource management."

The objectives of the MoU include establishing a collaborative platform to foster environmental

conservation, promoting environmental compliance, enhancing strategic environmental literacy, building staff capacity, and strengthening national, regional, and international partnerships for sustainable development.

The partnership will also support the Kingdom's ongoing Ekibira Kya Kabaka initiative, which focuses on restoring tree cover across the Buganda region through the planting of indigenous and other environmentally friendly tree species.

The MoU is considered particularly significant due to the ecological importance of the Buganda region.

The Kingdom lies at the convergence of diverse ecosystems, including forests, savannahs, and wetlands. These ecosystems support rich biodiversity, serve as critical water catchments for Lake Victoria and the River Nile, provide essential resources such as food and medicinal plants for local communities, promote tourism, and function as vital carbon sinks that help regulate the climate.

Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga emphasized the cultural and environmental

significance of the agreement.

■ This Memorandum is critical in protecting Buganda's culture," Mayiga said. "It comes at a time when the Kingdom is increasingly threatened by poor environmental practices driven by population pressure and rapid urbanisation."

He noted that safeguarding the environment is central to preserving the Kingdom's heritage, livelihoods, and future generations.

Through this five-year partnership, NEMA and the Kingdom of Buganda aim to build a strong working relationship that will jointly promote environmental compliance, sustainable resource use, and long-term ecological resilience.

Officials expressed optimism that the collaboration will not only improve environmental stewardship in the Buganda region but also contribute meaningfully to Uganda's broader sustainable development agenda.

Kampala

GOVERNMENT TO COMMISSION NATIONAL STUDY ON IMPACT OF CURRICULUM REFORMS

By Michael Woira, GCIC -Uganda

The Government of Uganda has announced plans to conduct a comprehensive national study to assess the impact of the Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) on learner outcomes and education quality, as new evidence suggests the reform is transforming the country's lower secondary education system.

The announcement came during the official release of the 2025 Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) examination results at State House, Nakasero, on Friday, February 13, 2026, by Hon. Janet K. Museveni, First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports.

“The increase in candidature and the improved performance we are witnessing under the Competence-Based Curriculum call for deeper scientific inquiry,” said Hon. Janet Museveni. “This is why the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) is

planning to carry out a comprehensive study next financial year, looking at the implementation and benefits of the curriculum, in comparison with the previous one.”

Uganda's education system began shifting away from a traditional, content-based approach toward a Competence-Based Curriculum (CBC) in January 2020. The reform aims to produce learners equipped not only with academic knowledge but with practical skills such as critical thinking, problem-

solving, communication, creativity, digital literacy, and the ability to apply learned concepts to real-world situations. Under the old system, assessment largely emphasised memorisation and high-stakes examinations. The CBC, by contrast, combines Continuous Assessment (CA) and project work with end-of-cycle exams to calculate overall achievement levels.

Under the new assessment model, students are graded on a letter-scale system from A (Exceptional) to E (Elementary), replacing the previous division system. This grading approach recognises not just content recall but functional competence how well students can apply what they have learned in real life.

The 2025 UCE results, representing the second cohort of learners examined

entirely under the CBC, showed encouraging performance improvements compared to the first CBC cohort in 2024. According to the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB), a record 99.7 percent of candidates who sat the exams in 2025 achieved Result 1 meaning they qualified for the UCE certificate up from about 98 percent in 2024.

This year also saw a significant increase in the number of candidates: 432,163 students registered, a rise of over 72,700 (about 20 percent) from the previous year, suggesting better learner retention through lower secondary education.

Hon. Janet Museveni highlighted that the low absenteeism rate and higher candidature reflect positive retention trends among learners who transitioned from primary to lower secondary levels under the new curriculum.

Despite these promising signals, she said the government needs

reliable evidence to determine how much of the improved outcomes can be directly attributed to the CBC.

■ ■ We are also full of thanks to God, because the results we are releasing today are for the second cohort of learners that complete Senior Four under the revised Lower Secondary Curriculum that is Competence-based,” she said. “However, it leaves a lot of curiosity as to whether the CBC we have adopted for O-Level has influenced learner retention in the system.”

The planned national study by the NCDC will aim to answer these questions by comparing learner performance, retention, and skills application across the new CBC and the previous system.

While the curriculum shift has delivered improved outcomes overall, implementation challenges remain. UNEB has identified areas such as Continuous Assessment administration and timely score submission as requiring stronger

oversight, with plans for intensified monitoring in collaboration with NCDC and the Directorate of Education Standards.

Experts argue that the move to competence-based education is intended to better align school learning with the realities of the labour market and societal needs. Instead of focusing narrowly on examination scores, the CBC emphasises abilities that graduates must possess to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

“We have to ensure that our learners leave school not only with a certificate but with skills that make them employable, innovative, and socially responsible,” Hon. Janet Museveni said.

Meanwhile, learners who did not achieve satisfactory results in 2025 will have opportunities to re-sit the UCE, with their Continuous Assessment scores carried forward, and the selection exercise for Senior Five is scheduled for February 18–19, with classes beginning March 5.

LET US CUT SOME FLAK TO HON. NSIBAMBI FOR MEETING PRESIDENT MUSEVENI

Throughout history, courageous men and women have chosen the difficult path of seeking peace with their opponents. They have demonstrated empathy, restraint, and a willingness to put national interest above personal or partisan considerations. In many instances, they have engaged former adversaries and transformed hostility into constructive partnership for the greater good.

In the past week, Hon. Yusuf Nsubambi and other political leaders met President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Since that meeting, critics, particularly those opposed to the President, have subjected Hon. Nsubambi to harsh attacks. Some have branded him a sellout and a traitor. Others have gone further, alleging that he sought the meeting to secure employment after losing his Mawokota South

parliamentary seat to Ms. Susan Nakawuki.

Such claims are not only unfair but also dismissive of a long public career. Hon. Nsubambi has served Uganda for many years as a lawyer, legislator, and public servant. As he himself clarified, he was not seeking a job or personal favour. It is reasonable to assume that after decades of service, he has secured sufficient stability not to be driven by financial desperation in his later years.

It often takes one resolute individual to shift the course of national discourse. For this reason, well meaning Ugandans should appreciate Hon. Yusuf Nsubambi and his



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

colleagues for choosing dialogue with the duly elected President who will lead the country for the next five years. Leadership sometimes requires the courage to endure criticism in pursuit of long term peace. As the proverb says, the giraffe sees far when others cannot.

For some time, a section of politicians in Buganda, led by Robert Kyagulanyi of the National Unity Platform, have advanced the narrative that President Museveni and his government do not care about Buganda. Other leaders, including Muwanga Kivumbi, Paulson Lutamaguzi, and Betty Nambooze, have

echoed similar claims on various platforms. They have alleged that Buganda and Busoga are being sidelined in national development.

Yet a review of government programmes and infrastructure investments suggests a deliberate development agenda across regions, including Buganda and Busoga. Successive initiatives in roads, electricity expansion, wealth creation programmes, and social services have been rolled out nationwide. To dismiss these efforts outright risks promoting division and resentment among citizens.

The danger of such narratives lies not merely in their political utility but in their social consequences. Persistent messaging that portrays a section of the country as neglected can fuel anger and entrench mistrust. Even when evidence suggests otherwise, repetition can turn perception into assumed reality.



Hon. Yusuf Nsibambi, Outgoing Mawokota South MP

Responsible leadership demands caution in advancing claims that may polarise communities.

It is also worth recalling that in previous electoral cycles, some candidates gained popularity by sharply attacking President Museveni. However,

political fortunes shift, and rhetoric alone does not sustain long term credibility. Many leaders in Buganda appear to be reassessing strategies that hinge solely on confrontation. This evolving political landscape partly explains why President Museveni received significant support in parts of Buganda and Busoga during the recent elections.

Hon. Nsibambi has further argued that inflammatory political messaging has misled some young people into risky and, in certain instances, criminal conduct, resulting in arrests and prolonged detention. Whether one agrees fully with this assessment or not, it underscores the need for sober engagement rather than emotional mobilisation.

Uganda's own history offers perspective. During the insurgency in northern Uganda in the 1990s and early 2000s, several leaders opted for dialogue and reconciliation despite fierce criticism. Figures such as Betty Bigombe, Norbert Mao, and others were at various times accused of betraying their communities for engaging government. Yet their efforts, alongside national leadership, contributed to the eventual end of the brutal insurgency by the Lord's Resistance Army led by Joseph Kony. Today, many acknowledge that dialogue, though unpopular at the time,

was essential to restoring peace.

The principle is simple. Disagreement in politics should not translate into permanent hostility. Mature democracies are built on engagement, even between rivals. East Africa has witnessed similar lessons in neighbouring Kenya, where veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga repeatedly demonstrated that political competition does not preclude dialogue. His willingness at different moments to engage those he contested against reshaped Kenya's political landscape and underscored the value of negotiation.

Hon. Nsibambi's decision to meet President Museveni should therefore be viewed within this broader tradition of political engagement. Peace making is rarely glamorous. It is

often misunderstood and, at times, thankless. Those who initiate it may face suspicion before their intentions are fully appreciated.

Uganda's political season has been intense. However, elections eventually end, and governance continues. The responsibility then shifts from mobilisation to collaboration. It is in this spirit that Hon. Nsibambi and his colleagues' actions should be understood. Rather than castigating them, we should evaluate their engagement by its outcomes and its potential to foster stability and development.

If transformation is our shared aspiration, then dialogue must remain open.



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Paraa Bridge | **520m** | Murchison Falls N.P.
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