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UGANDA WEEKLY FOCUS

Top highlight

UGANDA SECURES MAJOR BOOST AS WIPO DIRECTOR GENERAL CONCLUDES HIGH-LEVEL MISSION

PG. 35



WIPO Director General, Mr. Daren Tang upon being received by URSB Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso

INFORMING MINDS • INSPIRING CHANGE

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The **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 6th Edition of the Uganda Weekly Focus. We deeply appreciate each one of you. To our contributors, well done your consistency and effort keep this platform alive. And to our readers, thank you for showing up every week. You are the reason this magazine exists, and we honour your time and attention.

We are counting down to Christmas and the holiday season, and at the same time, counting down to the national elections. A lot is happening across the country. In moments like these, we encourage you to stay calm, stay informed, and stay hopeful. Uganda moves forward not only through policy and leadership, but through the everyday people who keep our communities working, learning, trading, building, and living together.

In this week's edition, you will find stories that reflect that spirit.

Communities are being reconnected through new infrastructure in Bundibugyo. Health workers are sharpening their skills through the Suprahub. We highlight meaningful progress in disability inclusion – a reminder that dignity and opportunity must belong to everyone.

All these stories and more await you in this edition.

As we move into the festive season, may you find rest, joy, and clarity. Thank you for reading, and thank you for being part of this growing community.

Enjoy the edition.



UGANDA WEEKLY BRIEFS

Energy Ministry Clarifies UEDCL Review, No Dismissals Made



The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has clarified reports regarding an internal administrative review at Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL), following a statement issued on 5 December 2025. The Ministry confirmed that no staff member has been dismissed and directed the UEDCL Board to carry out a clear, transparent, and time-bound investigation into performance concerns raised by the Electricity Regulatory Authority. It urged the public to avoid speculation as the inquiry follows

standard procedures. The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to reliable electricity supply, accountability, and professionalism within the distribution sub-sector, noting that further updates will follow once the review is complete.

Uganda Begins Preparations for Digital Government Africa Summit 2026

NITA-U on 05 December 2025, signed an MoU with Africa Brains to officially launch preparations for the Digital Government Africa Summit 2026. The Summit, set for 6–7 October 2026 in Kampala, will bring together ministers, policymakers, innovators, and private-sector leaders. The agreement positions Uganda as a key regional hub for digital governance, with more updates expected as planning advances.

Government delivers 12 brand new motorcycles to Teso commercial officers



Commercial officers in the Teso sub-region received a big boost when the government handed over 12 brand new motorcycles in Soroti City on 4 December 2025. One motorcycle went to each local government, Bukedea, Kumi, Kumi Municipality, Ngora, Serere, Soroti City, Soroti District, Kaberamaido, Kalaki, Katakwi, AAmuria, and Kapelebyong. The officers thanked the government and promised to use them

only for official work. They said the bikes will help them reach far villages quickly to monitor PDM, EEmyooga, and other programmes. With these motorcycles, people in Teso can now expect better and faster government service delivery.

Uganda Launches Suprahub to Boost Nationwide Health Worker Training

On 4 December 2025, the Ministry of Health launched the Uganda Suprahub, a U.S.-funded innovation enhancing health worker learning and expert support. The platform now connects 425 facilities, 17 regional hubs, and 6 national hubs, enabling tele-mentoring and continuous professional development. Over 5,000 health workers have joined national sessions since October, strengthening HIV and TB service integration across the country.

Uganda Cranes Set for AFCON 2025



On 7 December 2025, the Uganda Cranes departed Entebbe for Casablanca, Morocco, to begin an eleven-day preparatory camp ahead of AFCON 2025. FUFA unveiled the final squad before departure. The team will play two trial matches during the camp. Uganda will open its AFCON 2025 journey on 23 December 2025, facing Tunisia in their first match.

MV Kalangala Ferry Services Resume

The Ministry of Works and Transport has announced the resumption of MV Kalangala ferry services as of 5th December

2025. The vessel, which operates between Entebbe–Nakiwogo and Kalangala–Lutoboka, is now fully operational after emergency engine repairs. The Ministry confirmed that the ferry has been restored to safe, normal working condition. Passengers and the general public can now use the service as scheduled. The Ministry thanked users for their patience during the temporary interruption.

HOIMA: CDF urges high standards at new Hoima stadium ahead of official launch

Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, Chief of Defence Forces, led a detailed inspection of the newly completed Hoima City Stadium on 4 December 2025, finished five months ahead of schedule after 18 months of construction. The 20,000-seat stadium boasts a basketball court, semi-Olympic swimming

pool, modern changing rooms, and VIP facilities. Key officials, including Minister of State for Sports Hon. Peter Ogwang and SUUMA leaders, joined the tour. Gen. Kainerugaba emphasized maintaining the stadium's high standards. As one of Uganda's three venues to co-host the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations, Hoima City Stadium will boost sports development and regional economic growth.



UPDF warns Bobi Wine over calls to storm polling stations and confront security forces

Uganda's security forces have strongly condemned National Unity Platform presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine) for urging supporters to storm polling stations on

Election Day, march on Kampala, and confront police and army troops, claiming security would be "outnumbered." Colonel Chris Magezi, Acting Director of Defence Public Information, called the statements "ill-advised, toxic and extremely dangerous," warning that anyone inciting violence or misleading youth will face severe consequences. He urged all leaders to campaign peacefully and respect the law for a calm, fair election.

BUKOMANSIMBI: Police K9 unit recovers stolen coffee, arrests suspect in Bukomansimbi

Police in Bukomansimbi, aided by the K9 Unit, arrested Byamukama Edward for stealing coffee from Mr. Ssebyanzi Baker's garden in Jingo Village, Bigasa Sub-county. After the victim reported the theft this morning and

requested K9 assistance, police dog Forest tracked a scent 250 metres from the crime scene directly to Byamukama's home. Freshly harvested coffee was recovered there. Confronted with the evidence, Byamukama confessed, was arrested on 4 December 2025, and is now in custody. The stolen coffee has been seized as an exhibit. The swift operation highlights the vital role of the Police K9 Unit in rural crime-fighting.

JINJA: Boiler explosion triggers massive fire at Nile plywood factory, dozens of workers feared dead

A massive fire broke out at Nile Plywoods (U) Ltd factory in Jinja, one of Uganda's leading manufacturers of plywood and wood products, on 4 December 2025. The inferno began in the boiler section after a boiler exploded and burst into flames.

Several workers remain unaccounted for as police and fire brigades battle to bring the blaze under control. Kiira Regional Fire Officer Nicholas Sunday confirmed that the exact cause is still under police investigation. The fire has already claimed lives and caused damage estimated at billions of shillings. Rescue and firefighting efforts continue amid fears that more workers may be trapped inside the burning facility.

Uganda Highlights Digital Progress and Financial Inclusion at 3rd Microfinance & SACCOs Governance Forum

On 6 December 2025, the Director for Economic Affairs, Moses Kaggwa, represented Finance Minister Matia Kasaija at the 3rd Annual Microfinance and SACCOs Governance Forum held at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

The forum, themed "The Role of Microfinance Institutions and SACCOs in Wealth Creation," convened sector leaders to discuss governance and growth. The Minister emphasized the role of MFIs and SACCOs in economic development and consumer protection. He highlighted Uganda's digital transformation advancements and rising financial inclusion, now at 81%, alongside 43.4 million registered mobile money accounts.

Kyabazinga of Busoga Urges Youth to Embrace Emyooga for Financial Growth and Community Development

The Kyabazinga of Busoga, William Wilberforce Gabula Nadiope IV, rallied youths across the region to actively embrace government programs like Emyooga to drive personal financial growth and community transformation,

urging them as the majority demographic to participate in developmental initiatives that uplift families and households. Speaking at the Busoga Kingdom Headquarters in Bugembe during a Microfinance Support Centre (MSC) visit on December 5, where beneficiaries showcased diverse products from carpentry, sewing, juice processing, clean energy technologies, to liquid soap production, he commended the program's impact after touring stalls and noted...

Ministry of Works and Transport expands Busega-Mpigi expressway with five new interchanges

The Ministry of Works and Transport has upgraded the Busega-Mpigi Expressway design by adding five major interchanges at Busega, Nabbingo, Maya, Lungala, and Mpigi. The enhanced



high-capacity road will ease congestion on one of Uganda's busiest corridors, improving links between Kampala and the western region. The expansion follows the African Development Bank's approval of

€217.37 million (approx. UGX 910 billion) in financing. The revised plan was announced on December 5, 2025, to boost transport efficiency and regional connectivity.



2026 ELECTIONS: RIDING A 'MAD TIGER' CALLED UGANDA

Seasoned politician and Democratic Party (DP) President, who also serves as Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Norbert Mao, once made a memorable and philosophical remark about governing Uganda. He likened ruling the country to “riding a mad tiger” a task requiring extraordinary courage and exceptional skill, because one wrong move can throw you off in an instant. Mao offered this image as praise for President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who has led Uganda for nearly 40 years. To Mao, surviving and stabilizing such a turbulent political landscape is an achievement that deserves respect.



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

Mao's analogy is deeply rooted in Uganda's history. Between independence in 1962 and 1986, Uganda changed presidents seven times, almost all through violent military takeovers. The instability reflected an unresolved historical reality: Uganda was not originally a single political entity. The British colonial administration forcibly merged kingdoms, chiefdoms, tribes, and clans to form the Ugandan state. These groups had long histories of rivalries and wars, making unity an enormous challenge for early post-independence leaders.



Hon. Norbert Mao, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Figures like Dr. Milton Obote, Sir Edward Mutesa, Grace Ibingira, and John Kakonge, despite their political intellect, struggled to forge cohesion among these diverse groups. The consequences were years of turmoil—well documented in Uganda's political narrative until 1986.

As President Museveni campaigns across the country ahead of the January 2026 elections, his message consistently centres on preserving peace. He argues that peace is the anchor of Uganda's socioeconomic transformation, the foundation upon which

all development gains have been built.

Uganda's ability to attract foreign investment illustrates this point. Once shunned due to civil wars and coups, Uganda has become a destination for major investors who now see stability and long-term potential. Companies like TotalEnergies, CNOOC, and previously Tullow Oil are injecting billions into oil extraction in the Albertine region. The East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) now valued at USD 5 billion—is one of the clearest demonstrations of investor confidence

and gas future.

Beyond oil, Uganda has attracted significant Foreign Direct Investments into telecoms, banking, agro-industrialisation, manufacturing, and services. Peace has enabled these sectors to grow and integrate Uganda into global economic networks.

Uganda's stability is also reflected in its status as the world's second-largest refugee-hosting nation. Families fleeing conflict instinctively choose safety, and Uganda's open and hospitable policy continues to affirm the country as a regional haven.

As the nation approaches January 15th, 2026, the critical question arises: Do we maintain the status quo to safeguard this progress, or gamble with uncertainty? My honest view is that Ugandans should maintain the course. The driver still has stamina, a steady hand, and a clear vision for the road ahead.

rooted in peace and predictable governance. Its benefits include thousands of jobs, opportunities for local businesses, technology transfer, and a strengthened foundation for Uganda's oil



AFCFTA OPENS NEW FRONTIERS FOR UGANDA'S EXPORT GROWTH, SAYS GEN. MBADI

By Peace Ankunda, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre



“Our goal is simple: expand exports, deepen markets, and position Uganda as a continental trade hub.” Gen. Mbadi

Uganda is entering a new phase of accelerated export growth powered by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), expanded regional markets and the country's ambitious 10-Fold Growth Strategy, Minister of State for Trade Gen. Wilson Mbasu Mbadi has said. Speaking at the Uganda Connect International Buyers Week on 26 November 2025, Gen. Mbadi outlined government's strategic direction for international trade and reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to

becoming a competitive regional and continental export hub.

Addressing hundreds of international buyers, exporters and investors gathered at Speke Resort Munyonyo, Gen. Mbadi applauded the Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID) for its collaboration with the Ministry of Trade in advancing Uganda's export agenda. He noted that trade has now been elevated to a central pillar of the forthcoming

National Development Plan IV (NDP IV), identified as a key driver of export-led growth, industrialisation, job creation and increased household incomes.

Gen. Mbadi outlined Uganda's priority areas under NDP IV, including expanding non-traditional exports, reducing the trade deficit through value addition, strengthening standards and SPS compliance, and easing trade logistics. These priorities directly align with Uganda's 10-Fold Growth Strategy, which seeks a dramatic rise in export volumes and value across agriculture,



manufacturing, tourism, and science and innovation.

The Minister described AfCFTA as one of the most transformative opportunities for Uganda. With a continental market of 1.4 billion people and a combined GDP of USD 3.4 trillion, AfCFTA offers unprecedented access for Ugandan goods and services. He noted that Uganda stands to benefit especially in West Africa, where AfCFTA has opened 14 new markets including Nigeria, Africa's largest economy. Additional high-income markets in North Africa—Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia—offer expanded demand for Uganda's coffee, dairy, fruits, vegetables and fish.

He highlighted new opportunities across ATMS sectors—Agriculture, Tourism, Minerals and Science & Innovation—ranging from agro-processing and eco-tourism to mineral beneficiation and digital innovation. Uganda has already identified priority AfCFTA products including coffee, tea, cereals, iron and steel, pharmaceuticals, fruits and vegetables.

Gen. Mbadi pointed to ongoing reforms strengthening Uganda's competitiveness,

including the Export Support Facility under PSFU, Uganda's admission into Afreximbank's Fund for Export Development in Africa (FEDA), and plans for an Export Credit Insurance Guarantee Scheme to be managed by UDB. He also noted major improvements in trade facilitation such as digitised customs, enhanced border infrastructure and the rollout of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) to enable cross-border payments in local currencies.

On commercial diplomacy, he announced that Uganda will deploy Market Access Specialists and Trade Attachés to key missions to strengthen market intelligence and complement PACEID's representatives. "With AfCFTA, the 10-Fold Growth Strategy and strong regional markets, the opportunities before us are enormous," he said.

FR. GAETANO BATANYENDA AND FR. MUSAALA: BALANCING BIRDS OF A FEATHER

By Martha kyosimire,
Communications Officer, GCIC

Two controversial Catholic priests, Fr. Gaetano Batanyenda of Kigezi and Fr. Anthony Musaala of Buganda, are once again stirring political waters this election season. Their statements, appearances, and social media antics have set tongues wagging both on the ground and online. It almost recalls that famous moment ahead of the 2021 elections when another Catholic priest held up a calculator before President Yoweri Museveni, instantly turning the scene into a national political metaphor.



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

For those who may have forgotten, Fr. Batanyenda first entered partisan visibility in 1994 when President Museveni nominated him among the ten special representatives to the Constituent Assembly that debated and promulgated the 1995 Constitution. He was a firm and controversial

delegate, known for defending the NRM political line, including the rejection of an immediate return to multiparty politics and Mengo's push for Federo.

Somewhere along the journey, and for reasons never clearly made public, Batanyenda fell out with Museveni and

the NRM. Speculation suggests unfulfilled expectations or ambitions. Whatever the cause, he later crossed over to support Dr. Kizza Besigye, then the new face of the opposition, and became one of the most aggressive and unrestrained critics of the government. His political tone often veered into the toxic and abrasive.

That is why his sudden appearance this week blessing NRM presidential

candidate Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at a campaign rally in Kabale surprised many. Whether this is a search for relevance, a rediscovery of old loyalties, or simply attention seeking, only time will tell. If it is genuine repentance, all well and good. If it is theatrics, Ugandans have seen worse. Either way, it is a fascinating twist.

At the opposite end stands Fr. Anthony Musaala. Once suspended from priestly ministry by the late Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga for challenging clerical celibacy, Musaala has reinvented himself on social media, especially TikTok, where he now prefers to communicate through sarcasm and political innuendo. Recently, he mockingly declared that there was no rain in the sky and therefore Ugandans do not need an umbrella.

In Uganda's political lexicon, the umbrella points unmistakably to the National Unity Platform and its leader Robert Kyagulanyi, also known as Bobi Wine.

Musaala was among the loud clerical voices in Buganda supporting Kyagulanyi in the 2021 elections, which makes his new message sound very much like a public confession of disappointment.

Since then, Musaala has continued posting pointed sarcasm directed at the opposition, leaving many wondering whether he too is undergoing a political conversion. Whatever lies beneath, NRM supporters are understandably amused. Museveni, a veteran chess player in Uganda's political arena, may once again be demonstrating his unmatched ability to win back opponents who once vowed never to return.

After all, who expected Aggrey Awori, Beti Olive Namisango Kamya, Beatrice Anywar, Norbert Mao, or Dr. Patrick Wakida to join forces with Museveni after years of sharp criticism? Now even Lt. Gen. Henry Tumukunde, once a presidential contender and fierce critic, is back and running for

Parliament on the NRM ticket. Welcome home, comrade Tumukunde.

With Kyagulanyi and his close allies Louis Rubongoya and Benjamin Katana, it would be wise for observers to keep their expectations flexible. Politics is fluid, loyalties shift, and today's adversary can easily become tomorrow's guest at State House.

When five past presidential contenders including Beti Kamya, Abed Bwanika, Prof. Venansius Baryamureba, Amama Mbabazi, Tumukunde, and Patrick Oboi Amuriat now appear to be drawing closer to Museveni, one must admit that the man from Rwakitura remains a master of political maneuvers.

Museveni may not only be a shrewd strategist. In the eyes of his admirers, he is increasingly looking like a political magician.

GOVERNMENT COMMENCES CONSTRUCTION OF NEW NYAHUKA–MIRAMBI BRIDGE IN BUNDIBUGYO

By Fortunate Akankunda,
Public Affairs Assistant,
Uganda Media Centre

Construction works have officially commenced on the New Nyahuka–Mirambi Bridge in Nyahuka Town Council, Bwamba County, Bundibugyo District, marking an important step in government’s efforts to improve rural mobility and strengthen transport resilience in the Rwenzori region.



The project includes a 20-metre reinforced concrete single-span bridge designed to withstand heavy rains and increased traffic loads. Works underway include temporary river diversion, construction of coffer dams, excavation and foundation works, construction of the road embankment, and 0.663 kilometres of gravel approach roads. The project also features extensive river training and erosion-

control measures using reinforced concrete retaining walls and gabions.

Speaking about the project, the Minister of Works and Transport, Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, said the bridge represents a direct investment in the safety and productivity of rural communities. “For many years, the people of Nyahuka and Mirambi have suffered whenever this river flooded,” he said. “This bridge will

ensure that farmers, traders, students, and health workers can move safely throughout the year without fear of being cut off.”

The Minister emphasized that the intervention fits within national priorities outlined under the forthcoming Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), which highlights rural access, climate-resilient infrastructure, and improved connectivity to markets. “NDP IV puts strong emphasis on linking production areas to markets,



“Gen. Katumba noted. “A bridge like this is not just a crossing. It is an economic lifeline that helps rural families turn their hard work into income.”

He further noted that the construction aligns with government’s broader infrastructure agenda, which prioritises strategic bridges, roads,

and transport corridors as a foundation for lowering transport costs and stimulating local economies.

“Our goal as the Ministry is to make sure no community remains isolated,” he said. “Every district, including the mountainous and hard-to-reach areas, must benefit from safe and reliable transport infrastructure.”

Local leaders say the bridge will address long-

standing transport challenges that have slowed agricultural trade and disrupted access to essential services. With Bundibugyo being one of Uganda’s leading producers of cocoa, bananas, and coffee, the improved route is expected to boost market access and reduce losses caused by impassable roads during the rainy seasons.

The government maintains that it will continue upgrading critical rural infrastructure as part of its commitment to improving service delivery, supporting agricultural commercialization, and ensuring regional connectivity across Uganda.

OPINION: IF UGANDA IS UNSAFE, WHY ARE 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE RUNNING TOWARD US?

By Kevin Sseguya, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

“People do not run to danger; they run from it. Refugees choose Uganda because it is safe.”

Every now and then, a familiar chorus rises from certain commentators, politicians, self-appointed and activists claiming that Uganda is unsafe, unstable, or hostile. These tired narratives, recycled on social media, foreign blogs, and a handful of politically motivated platforms, crumble the moment they confront reality. And there is one stubborn fact they cannot hide, twist, or bury: Uganda is Africa's largest host of refugees, with over 1.8 million displaced people seeking safety within our borders.

According to the NRC report, Uganda's refugee protection framework is not only functional it is one of the most

progressive in the world, offering rights and dignity that “generally comply or exceed international standards”. Refugees arriving in Uganda are given land, freedom of movement, access to health care, and the right to work and start businesses privileges many nations do not extend even to recognized refugees.

And here is the uncomfortable truth for the critics: people do not run to danger; they run from it.

If Uganda were the chaotic, unsafe country some try to portray, why would families fleeing war in South Sudan, Eastern DRC, Somalia, Burundi, Eritrea, and beyond choose to cross into Uganda? Why would

mothers carrying infants, young people desperate for safety, and entire communities travel hundreds of kilometres to enter this country?

The answer is simple: Uganda is peaceful. Uganda is stable. Uganda is safe.

The report confirms that Uganda grants prima facie refugee status to entire populations fleeing conflict especially South Sudanese because the numbers are so large and the environment here so stable that Uganda can absorb them humanely and efficiently. This means refugees are recognized automatically without even needing lengthy legal battles.

Uganda's refugee processes are not theoretical they are lived. They are seen. They are proven by the millions who trust this land with their lives. The report states clearly that Uganda sets “a leading standard across Africa and the world” in protecting refugees and asylum seekers. Refugees receive land to build homes, access education and health services, and enjoy freedom of movement again, rights

far above what many host countries offer.

Yet some voices often speaking from comfortable cities far away from Uganda's realities still paint a false picture that collapses under the weight of evidence. Their narratives are loud, but the facts are louder.

The irony is striking:

Those who claim Uganda is unsafe often say so from countries that would never give refugees the freedoms Uganda grants as standard practice.

Sometimes the lies told about Uganda are so naked that one wonders whether those who spread them ever look at the truth standing

openly before them. Because whether they like it or not, the truth is visible to everyone: Uganda is a sanctuary. Uganda is a pillar of peace. Uganda is Africa's

humanitarian capital.

You cannot hide a light. And you certainly cannot hide a peaceful nation behind cheap propaganda.



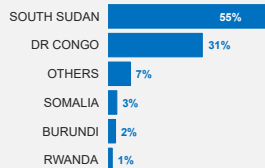
UGANDA - POPULATION DASHBOARD ANNEX I - Map - Refugees and Asylum Seekers

30-Sep-2024

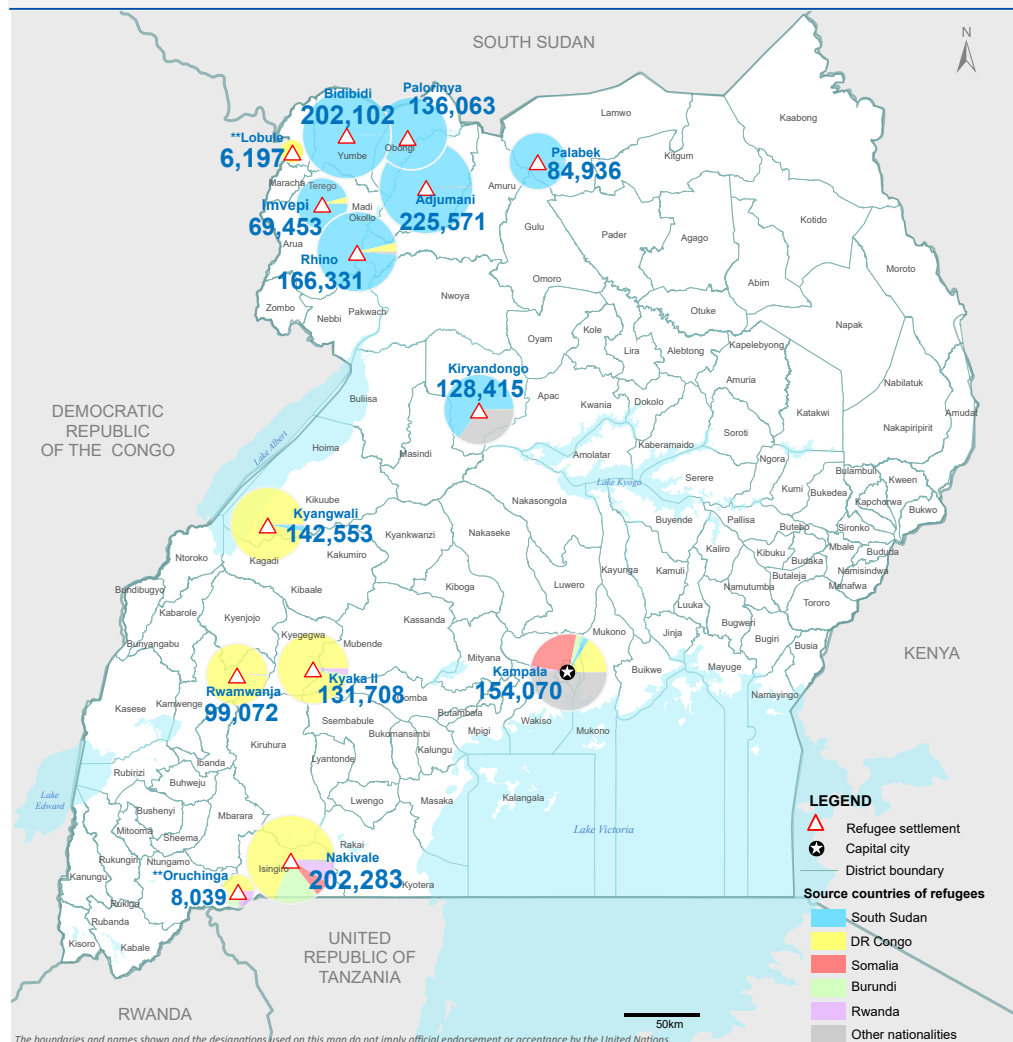
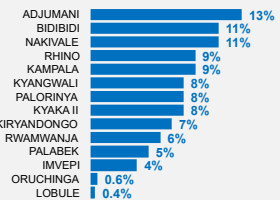
Total refugees and asylum-seekers

1,756,793

Countries of origin



Refugees per settlement



** Oruchinga and Lobule symbols not to scale

Population data: proGres (OPM) Author: UNHCR Representation in Uganda

Feedback: ugakaimug@unhcr.org

For more info, please visit: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/uga>

KATUMBA WAMALA FLAGS OFF FESTIVE ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN, WARNS AGAINST DEADLY DRIVER BEHAVIOUR

By Jackie Mayega, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

The Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, has officially launched the 2025 Festive Season Road Safety Campaign, urging Ugandans to prioritise vehicle safety, responsible driving, and full compliance with traffic laws as the country enters its busiest travel period.

Speaking during a media briefing in Kampala this afternoon, the Minister unveiled this year's campaign theme: "Safe Vehicles for a Safer Uganda." He noted that

December traditionally comes with increased travel volumes, which heighten the risk of road crashes, making preventive action more urgent than ever.

“This time of the year is a period of high mobility and high travel demand across all corners of the country. The downside is that it is associated with increased levels of exposure to road crashes,” Katumba Wamala stated, calling on the public to remain vigilant and ensure their vehicles are well maintained before travel.

The Minister explained that the campaign is aligned with the Ministry's ongoing efforts to improve



Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, officially launches the 2025 Festive Season Road Safety Campaign under the theme "Safe Vehicles for a Safer Uganda,"



Hon. Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala addresses journalists during the launch of the Festive Season Road Safety Campaign at the Ministry of Works and Transport headquarters, as officials and media personnel look on

vehicle safety through the implementation of Mandatory Motor Vehicle Inspection Services, accompanied by nationwide stakeholder engagements and awareness drives. These activities are aimed at building a safer vehicle fleet and reducing avoidable road carnage.

While emphasising the central focus on vehicle safety, Gen. Katumba also condemned dangerous road user behaviour, including speeding, drunk driving, distracted driving, non-use of seatbelts, and failure to wear motorcycle helmets. He noted that Uganda continues to lose an average of 14 people every day to road

crashes, a figure that typically rises during the festive season.

“We are losing on average 14 lives every day due to road crashes and these numbers increase around the festive season. This is unacceptable,” he warned.

The Minister appealed specifically to political actors to observe discipline on the road during the ongoing campaign season. With the country heading into the 2026 general

elections, he urged candidates and their supporters to prioritise safety while traveling for political activities.

Gen. Katumba further called upon a wide network of stakeholders to support the campaign, including vehicle dealers, parts suppliers, repair workshops, fuel distributors, UNBS, the Uganda Police Force, fleet operators, and the media. He encouraged the public to report reckless driving, especially in public service vehicles such as buses, taxis, and boda bodas.

Government, he said, remains committed to reducing road crash fatalities and serious injuries by 50 percent by the year 2030, in line with national and global road safety targets.

He concluded with a message of caution, responsibility, and national unity as Ugandans prepare for the festive holidays:

“Please drive responsibly and ensure that your vehicles are in a roadworthy condition. I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.”

POLICE ROUGH TACTICS COULD BOOST BOBI WINE'S ELECTION PROFILE

Forty days remain before the heavy dark election curtain closes on presidential candidates Robert Kyagulanyi of NUP, Nathan Nandala Mafabi of FDC, and retired Major General Gregory Mugisha Muntu of ANT. Until this week, the campaign trail had been relatively smooth and uneventful, denying the rumbling yet ineffectual opposition groups the sensational headlines they always crave. Some of these elements continue to behave as though the rules should be suspended specifically for Kyagulanyi and his disorderly groups to operate without restraint.

In the United States, the United Kingdom and most developed countries, no one dares speak rudely to, disobey or even touch the uniform of a police officer on duty. The events of this week, where police forcefully restrained the well calculated and deliberate provocations by NUP supporters, risk fouling the campaign atmosphere and casting long shadows over the electoral process. The police must remain firm and decisive but also even handed. They

must understand that Kyagulanyi's camp is aware that their political ground has slipped, and they are now deliberately inciting confrontation in order to create propaganda moments and shore up their dwindling fortunes. Police should therefore expose these calculated machinations to the public.

The internal contradictions within NUP, the failure to meet the false expectations they raised, and the open



OFWONO OPONDO

greed for money and ostentatious living have left Kyagulanyi politically vulnerable. Buganda, the party's once solid base, is steadily slipping away. The fallout with Mathias Mpuuga, who enjoys strong ties with Mengo and the Catholic Church in Buganda, has further isolated Kyagulanyi. His apparent disdain toward the more educated and enlightened voices within NUP has also created widening cracks as the campaign progresses.

It is now evident that NUP has failed to craft a credible election message or manifesto that can expand its political reach. They are struggling even to maintain their existing base. Instead, they have

chosen a whirlwind strategy of roadside performances and rowdy processions that violate the electoral guidelines they willingly signed.

They aggressively rely on artificial intelligence generated rally crowds, manipulated photos and provocative online insults to create false impressions of momentum. Left alone, these political strawmen would naturally drown in their own inconsistencies. Excessively rigid policing, however, could hand them the confrontational drama they desperately seek.

After traveling and monitoring the campaign activities of the presidential contenders, one arrives at the unmistakable conclusion that the NRM candidate, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, remains far ahead and is well positioned to win decisively on 15 January 2026.

With forty days

remaining, Museveni has already campaigned in West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, Elgon, Bukedi, Busoga, Kigezi, Ankole, Rwenzori and Tooro, and is now entering Bunyoro.

These regions remain strongholds of the NRM, making it increasingly unlikely that he can be stopped.

The NRM, which already commands the majority in Parliament and local governments, is widening its margin. Thirteen MPs have already been elected unopposed out of the 419 seat Parliament. Much of the campaign noise is simply background chatter from potential bad losers, whom Ugandans have come to recognize.

As the campaigns enter the final stretch and Museveni's rallies continue to draw large crowds, the NRM



must close ranks. The party's teams must now prioritise first time voters, the youth, rising affluent groups and non traditional supporters. They must clearly articulate why Museveni remains the most credible custodian of Uganda's steady transformation journey. It is essential for NRM leaders to abandon petty internal quarrels and bickering over campaign facilitation. With intensified village visits and person to person interactions, NRM must step up civic and voter education to ensure that every potential supporter turns out in full force on polling day, 15 January 2026.

POLICE URGES POLITICAL LEADERS AND UGANDANS TO RESPECT ELECTION GUIDELINES



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

“There can never be credible elections where there is no peace. We will protect rights, but we will enforce the law firmly.”
IGP Byakagaba Abas

With just weeks left to the January 2026 General Elections, the Uganda Police Force has issued a strong appeal to political leaders, candidates, supporters and the general public to uphold election laws and maintain peace throughout the remaining campaign period. The call follows a surge in incidents of non compliance and violent confrontations recorded in different parts of the country in recent weeks.

Inspector General of

Police Byakagaba Abas applauded Ugandans for the relative calm so far but warned that growing acts of defiance are undermining the integrity of the electoral process. He noted that several clashes have emerged from rallies held in unauthorised locations such as trading centres and markets, processions that disregard approved routes, and reckless behaviour on the road by supporters.

■ **We are duty bound to ensure that every Ugandan enjoys their**

rights and freedoms within the limits of the law. The right to assemble and express political views must be exercised responsibly and with respect for the rights of others,” the IGP stated.

Police cited several incidents as examples of the rising concern. In Lira District on October 28 supporters of a presidential candidate attacked officers and damaged a police vehicle. In Abim another civilian was assaulted by individuals believed to be part of a campaign inner circle. Further confrontations erupted in Kawempe, Kayunga and Iganga, where stone throwing, disregard of campaign time limits and refusal to obey police guidance resulted in

injuries, arrests and in Iganga a tragic loss of life.

The IGP condemned all acts of violence and urged candidates to take responsibility for their supporters.

“We have been very tolerant and we continue to engage with political actors. Unfortunately some have chosen to ignore the law. Electoral violence and criminality will be handled decisively for the safety and stability of our country,” he said.

The Electoral Commission guidelines for presidential, parliamentary and local government candidates provide a clear framework to ensure fairness. Campaigns must run strictly between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm, and candidates are required to adhere to harmonised programmes submitted to Returning Officers. The guidelines prohibit incitement, hate speech, defamatory language, unauthorised processions, sectarian messaging and

interference with the activities of other candidates.

The Voter Education Handbook further reminds citizens that peaceful participation and tolerance are essential for credible elections. It stresses that every stakeholder must understand their rights and responsibilities during the electoral process.

Reaffirming the Police commitment to a peaceful election, Byakagaba said, “There

can never be elections where there is no peace. We shall protect the rights of Ugandans to campaign and vote, but we will enforce the law firmly before, during and after the elections. I call upon all political parties, candidates and supporters to respect the guidelines and keep Uganda safe.”

“For God and My Country.”



. @MudongDavid "The Territorial Police in the Aswa West Region today, 5th December 2025, blocked the NUP presidential candidate, Hon. Kyagulanyi, after he defied the venue designated for his campaign rally. He and his team abruptly attempted to divert and proceed to the Elegu border instead.

We have stopped him from continuing in that direction and advised him to adhere to the venue earlier agreed upon between his organising committee and other stakeholders.



PRIME MINISTER NABBANJA REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO DISABILITY INCLUSION

By Kenson Bugembe, Public Affairs Assistant,
Uganda Media Centre

“Economic empowerment is the most powerful path to restoring dignity and independence for Persons with Disabilities.” Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja



Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja launches the National Guidelines on Disability Inclusion in Child Protection during IDPWD 2025

Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja has reaffirmed Uganda's national commitment to equity, dignity, and economic empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), as the country marked the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) on 3rd December 2025. The

national celebrations, held at the Uganda National Institute of Teacher Education (UNITE) in Mubende, were officiated by the Rt. Hon. Nabbanja, who represented President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

Delivering the President's message, the Prime Minister praised Persons

with Disabilities for their resilience, contributions to national development, and increasing participation in wealth creation programmes. She emphasized that disability inclusion is not charity but a core pillar of Uganda's socio-economic transformation agenda under NDP IV.

“The President appreciates the tremendous efforts of Persons with Disabilities who have embraced programmes such as the Parish Development Model and the National Special Grant for PWDs,” Rt. Hon. Nabbanja said. “Your participation is transforming households and strengthening our journey toward a fully inclusive money economy.”

The Prime Minister's message echoed the broader national theme: “Wealth Creation Programmes: A Key to Socio-Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.” She highlighted that improving access to capital, enterprise development, skills, and financial inclusion remains central to



Prime Minister Nabbanja shares a light conversation with leaders and stakeholders as she tours exhibition stalls and meets participants at the IDPWD 2025 event

using the four-acre model, PDM revolving funds, and small-scale enterprises show that economic empowerment works when inclusion is intentional and well coordinated.

Hon. Asamo Hellen Grace, Minister of State for Disability Affairs, reinforced this message by outlining government progress. Since FY 2019/2020, over UGX 42.5 billion has been invested in 8,739 PWD groups, boosting the livelihoods of 65,272 households. She also highlighted the 10% PDM allocation for PWDs



Prime Minister Nabbanja pose with students during the IDPWD 2025 celebrations

enabling PWDs to live with dignity and independence.

She noted that testimonies received by the President especially from PWDs



Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja arrives at the UNITE, Mubende Campus for the national commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025, accompanied by government officials and security personnel

and the UGX 500,000 top-up designed to support reasonable accommodation for enterprise activities.

Rt. Hon. Nabbanja also applauded government efforts to expand rehabilitation and assistive technology services countrywide. Key developments include:

- ✔ The new National Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Strategy (2025–2030);
- ✔ Expanded surgical and rehabilitative services in Mbarara, Jinja, and Mbale;

- ✔ Vocational rehabilitation centres that have certified 780 learners with disabilities since 2022.

She emphasized that while Uganda has made strong progress, more must be done to eliminate stigma, inaccessible infrastructure, and communication barriers that continue to prevent full participation in national development programmes.

The Prime Minister urged all Ugandans leaders, communities, institutions, and families to treat

disability inclusion as a shared responsibility. She encouraged the public to support government programmes, follow the celebration proceedings, and recommit to uplifting the dignity of every Ugandan.

“Let us build a country where every citizen, including Persons with Disabilities, participates fully and benefits meaningfully from Uganda’s development. Disability is not inability,” Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja said.

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME POSTS STRONG PROGRESS AS PDM DISBURSEMENTS DRIVE GROWTH

By Joellah Anshemeza,
Communications Officer, GCIC

“The Parish Development Model is unlocking enterprise growth at the very last mile, empowering over 10,000 parishes to drive Uganda’s economic transformation.”



Uganda’s Private Sector Development (PSD) Programme recorded strong output performance in the Financial Year 2024/25, signalling continued progress in building a competitive, inclusive, and resilient private sector, according to the latest Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit (BMAU) report from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The report shows that the Programme’s overall

performance stood at 74.9 percent, with particularly strong progress under the Enabling Environment sub-programme and the Strengthening Private Sector Institutional and Organisational Capacity sub-programme. The positive results were largely driven by the full disbursement of funds under the Parish Development Model (PDM) financial inclusion pillar, which alone accounted for 52.2 percent of the

programme’s total budget.

Speaking on the Programme’s performance, PS/ ST Ramathan Ggoobi reaffirmed government’s commitment to empowering the private sector, saying:

“Our goal is to build a private sector that is competitive, resilient, and capable of driving Uganda’s long-term transformation. These results show that targeted financing and institutional strengthening are beginning to take firm root.”

By 30th June 2025, cumulative disbursements under the PDM Financial Inclusion pillar had reached US\$ 2.699 trillion, rising to US\$ 3.261 trillion as cash transfers continued to flow directly to 10,589 parishes across the country. Government targets to invest a total of US\$ 4.4 trillion into parish-level enterprises by the end of FY 2025/26.

6.4 million, of which 41 percent were women, 13 percent youth, and 1 percent persons with disabilities. In addition, 7,740 Emyooga institutions were trained,

Ggoobi emphasised the significance of this grassroots financing approach, noting:

“The PDM is restoring economic agency to households and communities. Every shilling invested at parish level is building sustainable enterprise activity from the bottom up.”

The report highlights significant impact from the complementary Emyooga initiative. By the end of FY 2024/25, utilisation of Emyooga seed capital had reached US\$ 76.32 billion, benefitting 3,816 SACCOs, parish-based associations, and enterprises. Across all client-based institutions, total cumulative membership reached



Local farmers showcase improved piggery projects under Parish Development Model initiative



Ripe coffee cherries on a Ugandan farm highlighting the country's commitment to boosting agricultural value chains and strengthening export competitiveness

benefiting 40,784 leaders and 171,326 members—a major boost to financial literacy and enterprise governance.

The PSD Programme also recorded strong progress at the Uganda Investment Authority One-Stop Centre (OSC). A total of 25,895 transactions were processed, leading to the issuance of 481 investment licences. These projects represent a planned investment

of USD 3.2 billion and the creation of approximately 53,230 jobs, underscoring the Programme's role in expanding Uganda's investment pipeline and job market.

According to PS Ggoobi, Uganda's strategy is delivering tangible results:

“When you simplify processes, lower costs of doing business, and expand access to

finance, you unlock the full potential of the private sector. That is exactly what we are seeing under this programme.”

Programmes like PDM and Emyooga are not only expanding financial inclusion but also unlocking enterprise growth at the grassroots level, which remains a key pillar in Uganda's broader goal of driving private sector-led economic transformation.

Every shilling invested at parish level is building sustainable enterprise activity from the bottom up.



PROTECTING THE GAINS: UGANDA'S 40-YEAR JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

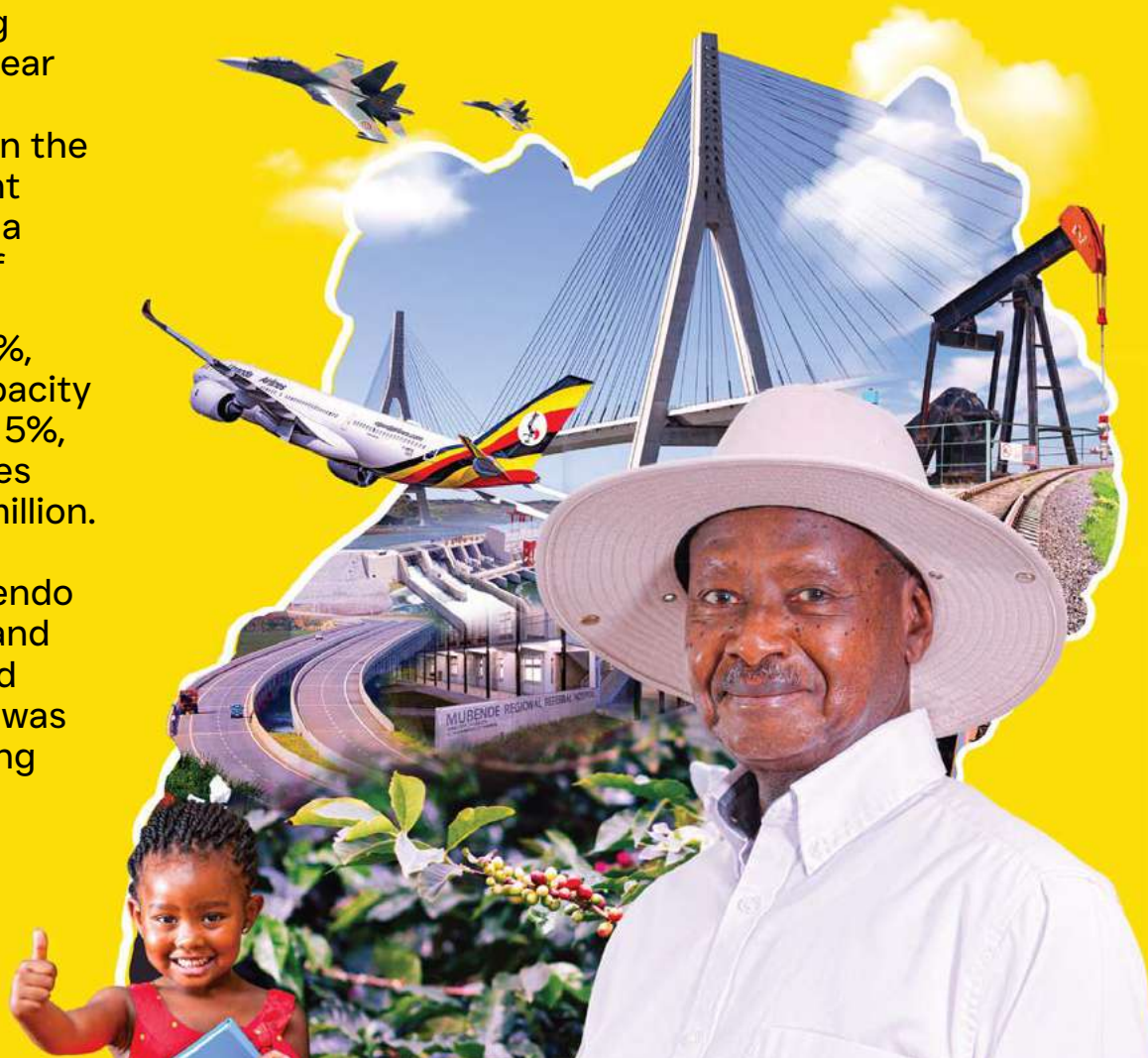
Uganda is a beautiful gem in the heart of Africa, occupying 241,038 square kilometers and surrounded by South Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her central location makes her a natural hub for trade, tourism, and cooperation. But Uganda's true story is not written in geography it is written in transformation.



**MARCELLA KAREKVE,
SPA/COMMUNICATION &
DIRECTOR, GCIC**

Although our national journey began long before 1986, that year marked a historic turning point. When the NRA/M government took power, Uganda was on the edge of collapse. Inflation had soared to 240%, manufacturing capacity had plummeted to 5%, and foreign reserves held only USD 24 million. The currency was unstable, the magendo economy thrived, and key institutions had crumbled. Uganda was literally at a breaking point.

Infrastructure was dilapidated, health and education systems were in



shambles, and insecurity persisted across many regions. What lay before the new leadership demanded vision, courage, and long-term strategy.

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni began with the most critical foundation: peace and security. No economy can grow without stability, and no society can prosper in conflict. Once peace was restored, Uganda embarked on a deliberate reconstruction path rebuilding roads, expanding electricity generation, opening schools, strengthening health centers, and restoring investor confidence. These steps laid the foundation for development as defined in the NRM Manifesto

2026–2031.

Over the years, Uganda's economic landscape has shifted dramatically. The economy has grown 17 times, reaching USD 66.1 billion, and GDP per capita continues to rise. Factories have increased to nearly 50,000, electricity generation has expanded to more than 2,000 MW, and Uganda has reclaimed position as Africa's number one coffee exporter. Tourism earnings have surged to USD 1.52 billion, driven by peace and improved infrastructure. Poverty has reduced, life expectancy has risen to 68 years, and infant mortality rates have fallen to historic lows evidence of a nation steadily advancing.

These achievements are not accidental. They are the result of strategic planning, consistent leadership, and a clear focus on socio-economic transformation. But as remarkable as these gains are, they also present a national responsibility.

Today, Uganda stands at the threshold of a qualitative leap into high middle-income status. To reach that next milestone, citizens must protect the gains, guard the peace, and participate actively in wealth creation.

Our journey is far from over. Uganda is still rising and every Ugandan has a role to play in the next chapter of transformation.



WHY VALUE ADDITION IS UGANDA'S GOLDEN KEY TO HIGH MIDDLE-INCOME STATUS

By David Sserumaga, Public Affairs Assistant

**“Uganda’s economy will not grow on raw materials. We must add value, create jobs, and keep wealth within our borders.”
(Manifesto 2026–2031)**

For decades, the country has exported raw materials coffee beans, minerals, fruits, cotton, fish, and agricultural produce only to watch other nations process these same resources and earn up to ten times

more value. As Uganda eyes its transition into a high middle-income economy, value addition is not just an economic policy. It is the golden key that will unlock national prosperity, jobs, and export competitiveness.

For too long, Uganda’s economy has been shaped by the legacy of colonial-era trade patterns exporting cheap raw materials and importing expensive finished goods. The result is predictable: low earnings, limited industrial growth, and minimal job creation. Coffee alone tells the story. Uganda exports an average of 6–7 million 60-kg bags of green coffee yearly, earning roughly USD 850–900 million. Yet the global coffee industry is valued at USD 460 billion, with less than 10 percent returning to



President Museveni commissions coffee hub in Ntungamo

producing countries.

A kilogram of unprocessed Ugandan coffee earns about USD 2–3, while the same coffee, once roasted, ground, packaged, and branded abroad, sells for USD 20–30 per kg and over USD 100 in premium markets. This is the wealth Uganda is currently giving away.

The story repeats in other sectors. Cocoa beans exported raw earn Uganda about USD 600 million, yet processed chocolate earns up to four times more on global markets. Raw cotton fetches roughly USD 1 million per 1,000 acres, while garments and textiles can multiply earnings by 300–500 percent. Even bananas Uganda's largest crop lose massive value when sold only for local consumption. With proper processing into flour, starch, crisps, wine, and animal feeds, Uganda

could unlock a billion-dollar banana industry instead of losing value to post-harvest waste.

Value addition is even more vital in minerals and oil. Exporting raw iron ore fetches between USD 40–60 per ton, yet steel sells for USD 600–900 per ton. Lithium, gold, and rare earth minerals follow similar patterns: raw minerals earn little; refined minerals earn fortunes.

The transition to high middle-income status depends on reversing this historical leakage of value. Industrial parks across Uganda including Mbale, Namanve, Kapeeka, and Soroti are already proving that processing drives exponential growth. Manufactured exports currently generate over USD 2.4 billion, higher than at any time in Uganda's history. As more factories move from assembling to manufacturing, Uganda's export earnings, jobs, and tax base will multiply.

Value addition is not optional. It is the pathway that turns



Matthew Bagonza, an executive member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID) says value addition on a number of Uganda's produces such as Matooke and coffee can help to fetch the country a reasonable foreign exchange

farmers into commercial producers, youth into machine operators and technicians, districts into industrial hubs, and Uganda into a competitive continental exporter. By retaining value at home, Uganda will finally expand its economy from USD 66 billion today to the projected USD 500 billion, fulfilling its long-awaited economic transformation.

Value addition is the future and Uganda must seize it now.

UGANDA SECURES MAJOR BOOST AS WIPO DIRECTOR GENERAL CONCLUDES HIGH-LEVEL MISSION

BY Desire Amanyanya,
GCICUganda

Uganda concluded one of its most significant intellectual property (IP) engagements in recent years following a three-day high-level mission by the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Mr. Daren Tang, who visited Kampala from 3rd to 5th December 2025.



WIPO Director General, Mr. Daren Tang upon being received by URSB Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho

The visit is widely viewed as a defining moment in Uganda's journey to strengthen its IP ecosystem and position innovation at the centre of national development. The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), as the national IP office, led the coordination of the mission in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government agencies.

Mr. Tang's engagements brought together leaders from across government, the private sector, and innovation communities. His meetings included discussions with the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, and the Speaker of Parliament culminating in a courtesy visit to President Yoweri

Kaguta Museveni.

Registrar General Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho described the mission as both recognition and opportunity for Uganda. "Uganda's innovation landscape is entering a defining moment. We are building a modern, future-ready ecosystem that supports innovators, researchers, and young creators," she said.

The centrepiece of the mission took



the event featured cultural performances, keynote speeches, and presentations by senior government officials, including the Registrar General, the URSB Board Chairperson, and the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

A highlight of the day was the launch of the IP in Schools Program, officiated jointly by the WIPO Director General, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the URSB Board Chairperson, and the Registrar General. The programme aims to nurture a generation of young innovators by integrating intellectual property education directly into the school system.



The WIPO Director General, Mr. Daren Tang, joins URSB leadership, government officials, and innovation stakeholders for a group photo at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre during the high-level mission to Uganda

place on Friday, 5th December 2025, at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre in Kololo. According to the official programme,

In his keynote address, Mr. Tang emphasized the transformative role of intangible assets in modern economies and applauded Uganda's efforts in expanding IP awareness, supporting youth innovators, and formalising creative enterprises. His remarks echoed WIPO's global vision of making IP more accessible and relevant to SMEs, women, youth, and grassroots creators.

URSB has spent the last decade streamlining

business services, supporting innovators,

and promoting IP awareness nationwide. The WIPO mission provides renewed momentum to these efforts, reinforcing Uganda's emerging leadership in the global IP arena.

The visit is expected to strengthen collaboration in several strategic areas, including:

- ✓ IP awareness and public education
- ✓ Capacity building for SMEs, youth, and women-led enterprises
- ✓ Modernization of legal and institutional frameworks
- ✓ Innovation exhibitions and commercialization of local research
- ✓ Technical assistance and investment partnerships

URSB Board Chairperson Francis K. Butagira noted that Uganda's Strategic Plan IV (2025/26–2029/30) aims to position the country as “the best destination for doing business”, and the WIPO mission aligned seamlessly with this



Mr. Daren Tang holds discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs during a courtesy call focused on strengthening Uganda–WIPO collaboration in innovation and intellectual property development



WIPO Director General Mr. Daren Tang and team meets with the Attorney General, Kiwanuka Kinyowa

national ambition.

For many observers, the visit marked global recognition of Uganda's steady progress in building a knowledge-based economy. It also follows Uganda's historic signing of the WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources & Traditional Knowledge in 2024, which protects indigenous knowledge

and biodiversity while creating new avenues for innovation-driven investment.

The mission affirmed Uganda's growing influence in the global IP community an influence underscored by Ms. Kainobwiso's position as Vice-Chair of WIPO's General Assembly.

PEACE AS THE FOUNDATION: INSIDE PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S ANKOLE MESSAGE AND THE DEVELOPMENT FACTS BEHIND IT

By Michael Woira,
Communications Officer,
GCIC

As President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni moved across the Ankole sub-region from 27th November – 3rd December, 2025, one message rose above the applause, pledges, and campaign excitement: peace is Uganda's most valuable asset. It is the force, he argued, that made it possible for roads to be built, factories to open, farmers to thrive, and young people to access opportunities that were once beyond reach.

Before development, before wealth, before jobs, he told crowds,



Uganda first needed stability and stability is what the NRM has delivered for nearly four decades.

In Isingiro, the President contrasted Uganda's turbulent past with today's calm:

■ In the past 1972, 1979, and 1985 I passed through here with guns. But today, we are gathered peacefully,

well-dressed, dancing, and united.”

The sentiment was echoed in Ntungamo, where he told supporters: “God used the NRM to bring peace to Uganda... peace remains the foundation for all national progress.”

He added that once threatened by insecurity spilling across the border, his message was



unwavering: “We are a tested force... we have delivered stability.”

Across all rallies, peace was presented as the mother pillar. Without it, there would be no roads, no hospitals, no schools, no industrial parks, and no agricultural transformation.

Throughout Ankole, the President listed completed and upcoming road projects not as political promises but as proof of work already done and work underway.

Key highlights included:

Ntungamo:

- ✓ Rehabilitation of the Kanungu Road
- ✓ The upcoming Ntungamo–Kanungu Road
- ✓ The Mirama Hills–Kitwe–Ruborogota–Kikagati corridor

Isingiro:

- ✓ Completed Mbarara–Kikagati–Isingiro Road
- ✓ Kachumbala–Kabale–Ntungamo Road link
- ✓ Priority upgrade for the Kikagati–Kitwe–Namahimba route

Buhweju:

- ✓ Long-awaited Bwizibwera–Nyakambu–Nsiika–Nyakashaka–Nyakabirizi Road approved for construction, with Shs 30 billion set aside for compensation

Each stop reinforced one argument: with peace, Uganda has been able to build and more can be built.

If peace was the opening theme, the second message was equally strong:

“Development is public; wealth is personal.”

The President highlighted that while government provides infrastructure roads, electricity, water systems, schools, and hospitals it cannot generate household wealth on behalf of families.

Some of the key economic facts repeated across the region included:

- ✓ Government jobs: 480,000
- ✓ Jobs in factories and industrial parks:



1.3 million

He reminded supporters that the Four-Acre Model introduced in 1996 remains the most practical route out of poverty:

- ✓ 1 acre for coffee
- ✓ 1 acre for fruits
- ✓ 1 acre for pasture for dairy cattle
- ✓ 1 acre for food for the family
- ✓ Backyard for poultry, piggery, or fish farming

He also clarified that the Parish Development Model (PDM) is designed for the poor, not landowners, and does not require one to own land. Ordinary cases, such as Mr. Ayesiga Kenneth who started a restaurant by renting space, were used to illustrate this point.

The President's speeches highlighted real people whose lives have shifted through training and initiative turning policy into lived experience.

- ✓ In Buhweju, Mary Getrude Kyomugasho, once a P7 dropout, now owns three tailoring machines and employs two people.
- ✓ In Kiruhura and Kazo, success stories such as Joseph Ijala's 10,000-layer poultry farm and Richard Nyakaana's 1.2-acre dairy enterprise demonstrated that even small pieces of land can generate substantial incomes when used productively.

These stories illustrated the President's takeaway: wealth is created by skill, effort, and enterprise not proximity to tarmac roads or electricity lines.

At each rally, leaders presented district fact-sheets showcasing progress in social services.

Water Access

- ✓ Buhweju: 75% of villages now have safe water
- ✓ Isingiro: Major piped schemes now serve over 100,000 residents, supported by irrigation projects such as the Kabuyanda Multipurpose Scheme, projected to benefit 32,000 farmers

Education

- ✓ Ntungamo now has 63 government primary schools and more than 36,000 students enrolled in government secondary education
- ✓ Rukungiri's network includes 178 government primary schools and

expanding USE and UPOLET coverage

Health

- ✓ Buhweju's population increase from 34,000 in 1980 to 167,000 today was highlighted as evidence of successful immunisation and improved healthcare access.

These systems water, health, and education were repeatedly linked to the stability that allowed long-term planning.

In Ntungamo, the

First Lady pointed to the district's 552,786 residents, spread across 34 sub-counties, and the UGX 53 billion already invested through PDM, Emyooga, and related programmes. Such numbers were used to illustrate what the President called "the work of peace."

Across Ankole, the President's message remained consistent and clear: peace is the engine of Uganda's transformation, and everything else roads, dams, skilling hubs,

irrigation systems, industrial parks, and household wealth grows from that foundation.

And as the country moves toward the 2026 elections, the President's appeal rested on one central claim: Uganda's progress is real, it is visible, and it is rooted in peace the foundation that must be protected if development is to continue.



PARLIAMENT APPROVES SHS 8 TRILLION SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET TO BOOST NATIONAL PRIORITIES

By Billclinton



Uganda's Parliament has approved a supplementary budget totaling Shs 8.104 trillion, a significant allocation aimed at strengthening key national projects and supporting critical government priorities. The approval marks one of the largest mid-year budget revisions since the amendment of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) in 2015.

The supplementary budget was divided into three schedules, presented to Parliament by Budget Committee Chairperson Patrick Isiagi Opolot:

- ✓ Schedule 1: Shs 1.652 trillion
- ✓ Schedule 2: Shs 1.696 trillion, primarily for the Ministry of Works and Transport to fund road projects, bridge construction, and

additional aircraft for Uganda Airlines

- ✓ Schedule 3: Shs 4.756 trillion, with the majority allocated to the Electoral Commission

The approval process, however, was not without controversy. Kira Municipality MP Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda, presenting a minority report, criticized the handling of the supplementary



Kira Municipality MP Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda, presenting a minority report, accused the government of poor planning and violating the PFMA by repeatedly resorting to large supplementary requests.

allocations, arguing that they reflected poor planning and financial indiscipline:

"This supplementary violates the Public Finance Management



Minister Musasizi presenting the supplementary budget to parliament yesterday. Courtesy photo.

Act. Government has turned the national budgeting process into a mere ritual. There is total disregard for the law and blatant abuse of taxpayers' money," Ssemujju said.

■ Ugandans deserve planning, not improvisation. They deserve fairness, not favoritism. We refuse to endorse waste, political convenience, or poor planning."

Ssemujju also raised concerns about the growing reliance on supplementary budgets and the implications for Uganda's debt, noting that the initial

budget already involved borrowing Shs 32 trillion.

Government officials defended the supplementary budget, emphasizing its necessity to keep critical projects operational.

Minister of State for Finance Henry Musasizi stressed that the allocations were part of ongoing initiatives initiated by State House prior to election campaigns:

"This is a programme that was there before the campaigns. It is the programme that is seeking to remodel

the Youth Livelihood Programme. To insinuate that this is money to mobilize NRM youths is completely not true," Musasizi said.

With this supplementary approval, Uganda's national budget for the 2025/2026 financial year now exceeds Shs 80 trillion, reinforcing the government's commitment to development and strategic investment in key sectors, despite ongoing debates over planning, transparency, and accountability.

UGANDA'S ANTI-TICK BREAKTHROUGH: PSST ASSESSES READINESS OF WORLD'S LARGEST VACCINE FACILITY

By Victor Nimusiima,
Communications Officer,
GCIC

On 6 December 2025, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury Dr Ramathan Ggoobi visited the National Agricultural Research Organisation's Anti Tick Vaccine facility at Nakyesasa to assess its preparedness and requirements ahead of commercial production.



PSST Dr Ggoobi engaging technicians during an on site assessment of the production equipment

Dr Ggoobi was taken on a guided tour of the state-of-the-art facility by NARO Director General Dr Yona Baguma, Deputy Director General Dr Swidiq Mugerwa and other senior directors. He commended NARO for transforming Uganda's research and development landscape and for delivering

scientific solutions that directly address national agricultural challenges.

He noted that Uganda was on a mission to grow the economy tenfold. Under the Agro Industrialisation pillar of the ATMS strategy, he explained that agro industrialisation was expected to contribute USD 20 billion annually

over the next fifteen years to steer Uganda towards USD 500 billion economy by 2040.

The PSST who was accompanied by the Acting Director for Debt and Cash Policy Maris Wanyera and Commissioner Paul Mwanja pledged the Ministry of Finance's support to enable NARO to complete

and operationalise the investment. He observed that NARO had already demonstrated strong accountability and impressive research outcomes.

Dr Baguma expressed gratitude to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the Ministry of Finance for supporting the anti tick vaccine research and the construction of the facility. He confirmed that NARO was ready to deliver the vaccine to the market and stated that Uganda had become a globally competitive

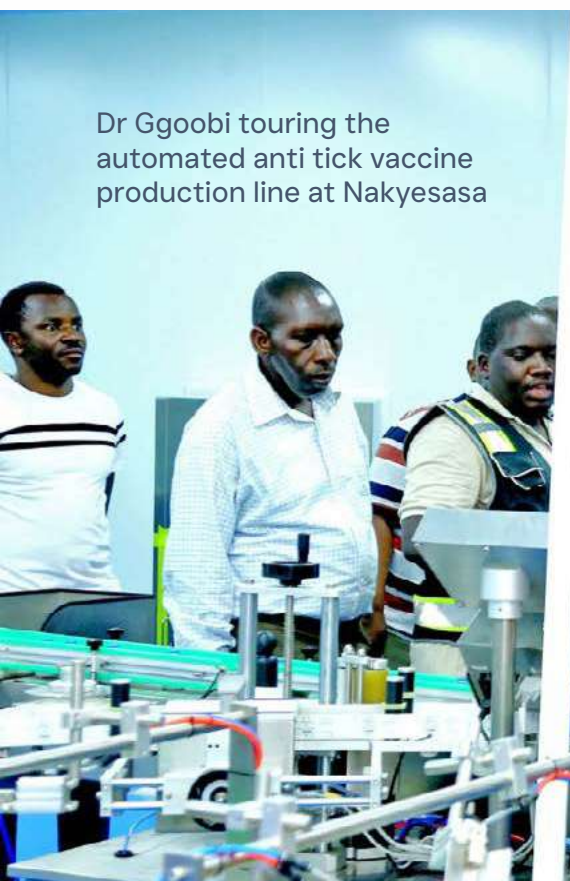
leader in cattle research.

The Anti Tick Vaccine facility at Nakyesasa is the largest in the world with capacity to produce forty-two million doses annually. Its upcoming commercial rollout was expected to significantly reduce livestock losses and boost the country's agro industrialisation drive.



NARO scientists briefing the PSST inside the state of the art vaccine manufacturing facility

Dr Ggoobi touring the automated anti tick vaccine production line at Nakyesasa



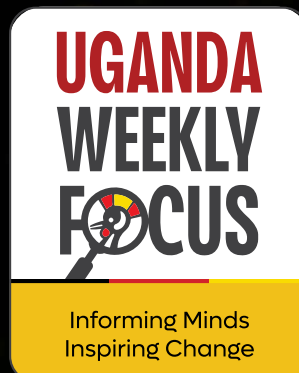


PEACE IS *Uganda's* GREATEST ASSET

Peace walks softly through our valleys,
settling on the hills like morning light.
It is the quiet strength beneath our feet,
the reason we sleep without fear,
the reason we wake to a country still standing,
still dreaming, still rising.

Because of peace,
we open our shops at dawn
and close them deep into the night.
We walk out of our homes freely,
knowing safety is not a privilege
but a daily blessing many nations pray for.
We gather in markets, in churches, in fields,
our laughter unbroken, our journeys unhindered.

Because of peace,
the skyline changes each season
buildings sprout like new hope,
roads stretch across the land like open arms.
No nation builds when guns speak louder than people.
No foundation stands where fear is a daily visitor.
But here, peace has become the mother pillar,
holding every other dream upright.





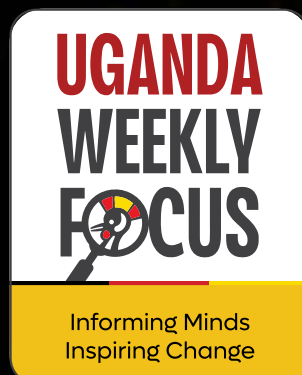
PEACE IS *Uganda's* GREATEST ASSET

It is peace that opened factory gates,
peace that turned villages into towns,
peace that let farmers plant with confidence
and harvest without trembling.
It is peace that gave young people a chance—
a chance to learn, a chance to work,
a chance to imagine a future beyond survival.

Across the rallies, one truth rose above the songs,
above the excitement, above the colours of the crowd:
Without peace, there are no hospitals.
Without peace, there are no schools.
Without peace, there are no jobs,
no investors, no harvests, no tomorrow.

Peace is Uganda's most valuable asset
the silent shield, the unseen builder,
the mother that holds our nation in her arms.

May we guard it.
May we honour it.
May we remember that everything we celebrate today
stands upon its gentle, unwavering foundation.





Ministry of Works & Transport
To provide Reliable, Safe works, Transport
Infrastructure & Services



ROAD SAFETY OUTREACH 2025

#SafeFestiveSeasonUg

Before you
speed, ask
yourself;
“Is this rush
worth my
life?”



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