

VOL 7 ► DEC 14 2025

UGANDA WEEKLY FOCUS

Top highlight

UGANDA AND UNITED STATES SIGN 5-YEAR HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT WORTH \$2.3 BILLION

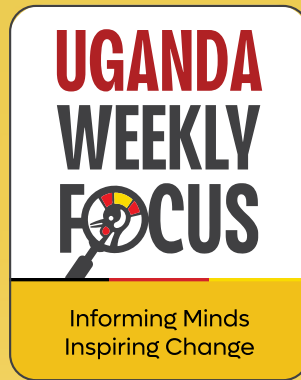
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*Hon. Matia Kasaija, Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,
signs the U.S.–Uganda Bilateral Health Cooperation MoU*

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The **EDITOR'S NOTE**



As the year draws to a close and the holiday season approaches, there is a shared sense of excitement, reflection, and anticipation in the air. It is a time to reconnect with family and friends, to celebrate milestones, and to look ahead with hope. As you enjoy the festivities, we encourage you to stay safe, spend wisely, and celebrate responsibly, making the most of this special season.

Welcome to the 7th Edition of the Uganda Weekly Focus. We are grateful that you continue to read, engage, and journey with us week after week. Your loyalty inspires our commitment to deliver timely, balanced, and meaningful stories that matter to Uganda.

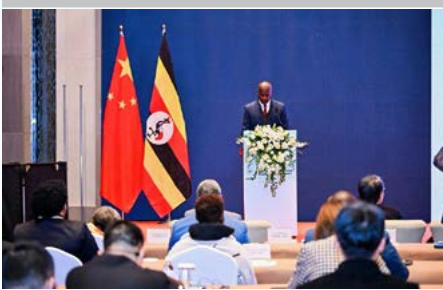
In this edition, we bring you a comprehensive roundup of key developments from the past week. From governance and public service delivery to health, business, and national development, a lot is in store. As campaigns continue across the country and Ugandans prepare to exercise their civic duty at the ballot box, we remain focused on providing informed coverage that keeps you aware of the issues shaping our nation.

This week's magazine features stories drawn from different sectors, highlighting progress, policy direction, and opportunities that define Uganda's current moment. Our aim remains simple: to keep you informed, engaged, and connected to the national conversation.

Stay updated. Keep reading.

Thank you for being part of the Uganda Weekly Focus community.

Uganda, Qingdao Hold First Agricultural Trade and Investment Conference in China



Uganda and Qingdao City on 10 December 2025 held the inaugural Uganda-Qingdao Agricultural Trade and Investment Conference in Qingdao, China, bringing together government officials, investors, and private-sector leaders. Led by Ambassador Oliver Wonekha, the Ugandan delegation highlighted Uganda's investment climate, youthful workforce, and opportunities in agriculture and manufacturing. Qingdao authorities, represented by Mr. Cui Zuo, expressed readiness to partner in agritech, aquaculture, and value addition. The

Uganda Investment Authority urged Chinese companies to establish processing and manufacturing hubs in Uganda. The conference aimed to boost bilateral trade, promote technology transfer, and strengthen long-term agricultural value-chain cooperation.

Agriculture Ministry all set to distribute UGX 26.12 Billion in hand hoes to farmers

The Ministry of Agriculture is set to distribute seven million durable hand hoes to farming households nationwide, after it secured UGX 26.12 billion for the initiative. This supportive programme guarantees that every farming household will receive at least one high-quality hoe annually for the next three years. The hoes are particularly suitable for inaccessible hilly and mountainous regions where the use of tractors is impractical.

The procurement process is complete, and distribution will commence early next year.

Uganda to Host First Refugee Exhibition to Promote Self-Reliance



The Government of Uganda will host its inaugural Refugees Exhibition from 12–14 December 2025 at Motiv Grounds, Bugolobi. The three-day event will showcase innovation and entrepreneurship among refugees and host communities under the theme “Exhibiting Innovations for Business Opportunities and Policy Reforms.”

The exhibition aims to promote self-reliance, dignity, and economic opportunity amid reduced food rations and

shrinking aid. Visitors will explore value-added products and new ideas in agriculture, renewable energy, creative industries, and finance, while engaging stakeholders on how to strengthen refugee livelihoods and inform future policy reforms.

Prime Minister Nabbanja Represented President Museveni at Kenya's Jamhuri Day Celebrations in Nairobi



The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Uganda, Robinah Nabbanja, on Wednesday, 10 December 2025, arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, to represent H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at Kenya's Jamhuri Day celebrations. The national

event, which marks Kenya's Independence Day, was held on December 12, 2025. Prime Minister Nabbanja was received at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by Ambassador Eunice Kigenyi, the Chargé d'Affaires at the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi. The visit underscored Uganda's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations, regional cooperation, and East African Community integration between Uganda and Kenya.

OPM Officials Represented at Uganda Nutrition Action Plan Validation Workshop

On December 11, the Under Secretary in charge of Finance and Administration at the Office of the Prime Minister, Madam Patricia Lakidi, represented the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Alex Kakooza, at the third Uganda Nutrition Action Plan (UNAP)

Validation Workshop held in Entebbe. The workshop brought together key stakeholders from government, development partners, and implementing agencies to review and validate the national nutrition framework. Speaking at the closing ceremony, Madam Lakidi commended the technical team for its dedication and contribution to strengthening Uganda's nutrition sector. She urged participants to sustain efforts to advance the country's nutrition agenda through a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach targeting vulnerable populations.

Uganda Receives Eight Rhinos From South Africa, Boosting Conservation Efforts

Uganda's rhino restoration efforts have received a major boost following the arrival of eight Southern

White Rhinos donated by African Parks from Muniyawana Conservancy in South Africa. The rhinos arrived at Entebbe International Airport and were safely transported to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, where they are undergoing quarantine and acclimatization. The donation, comprising four males and four females, supports breeding and long-term population growth. Officials hailed the move as a vote of confidence in Uganda's conservation systems. With this addition, Uganda's total rhino population now stands at 59, marking significant progress in national conservation efforts.

Uganda Film "Back to the Source - The Nile" Premieres in Guangzhou

On December 13, 2025, Ugandan Ambassador Juju Nsababera premiered the documentary Back to the Source – The Nile in Guangzhou, China,

before an audience of over 300 guests. The event brought together diplomats, partners, creatives, and friends of Uganda. The film documents Ambassador Nsababera's personal journey of overcoming a fear of deep water, which evolves into a broader rediscovery of Uganda's rivers, forests, people, and resilience. Beyond telling the story of the Nile, the documentary highlights Uganda's potential for tourism, investment, and global storytelling. The Uganda premiere is scheduled for February 22, 2026.

Kira Motors Secures First African Electric Expedition Deal

Kira Motors has concluded its first deal

under the African Electric Expedition, securing the sale of 450 electric buses and 75 charging units. The agreement was sealed at the University of Johannesburg during a science, technology and innovation knowledge-transfer engagement. Uganda's Ambassador to Pretoria and officials from the Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat witnessed the signing. The deal marks a significant milestone in Uganda's push for electric mobility and regional market expansion. The Made-in-Uganda electric buses can travel up to 500 kilometres on a single charge. The transaction advances Kira Motors' target of selling 1,000 electric buses across Africa.



KCCA's Kisenyi Health Center IV Wins Top National Health Award

Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is celebrating after Kisenyi Health Center IV was named the best-performing public Health Center IV for the 2024/25 financial year. The Ministry of Health

announced the award on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, during the 31st Annual Health Sub-Program Joint Review Mission at Speke Resort Munyonyo. Kisenyi topped national rankings with a 74 percent score, ahead of facilities in Kyegegwa and Aboke districts. The recognition highlights KCCA's leadership,

strong management, and commitment to improving urban health service delivery in Kampala.



ELECTORAL COMMISSION CONDEMNS GULU CLASHES, CALLS FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

By Peace Ankunda, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre



The Electoral Commission has strongly condemned the violent confrontations that occurred in Gulu on Saturday, 6 December 2025, during the campaign rally of presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu. The Commission described the incident as unfortunate, uncalled for, and a setback to the collective commitment made by all political actors to ensure peaceful conduct during the 2026 electoral season.

According to the Commission, the clashes took place barely days after a meeting between agents of all presidential candidates and the Uganda Police Force, where stakeholders resolved outstanding issues and agreed to uphold peace and compliance with the law throughout the campaign period.

In its statement, the Commission reiterated that violence has no place in Uganda's electoral processes. It emphasized that

every duly nominated presidential candidate is free to campaign in any part of the country, provided they observe the law and abide by the guidelines issued by the Commission. The statement further stressed that any disagreements arising on the campaign trail should be resolved through dialogue rather than confrontation.

The Electoral Commission has called on the Uganda Police Force to investigate the circumstances

surrounding the Gulu incident and ensure that those responsible are held to account. It also urged all law enforcement agencies to exercise restraint and to apply proportionate, lawful, and humane measures while enforcing electoral guidelines.

As the country approaches the 2026 general elections, the Commission appealed to all political actors, supporters, and the wider public to uphold peace, respect the rights of all candidates, and contribute to an environment in which Ugandans can participate freely and confidently in democratic processes.

A peaceful election, the Commission noted, is a shared responsibility and the foundation for credible results that uphold the will of the people.

Kapeeka, Nakaseke | 8 December 2025

LIAO SHEN INDUSTRIAL PARK MARKS 10 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION



Leaders and stakeholders pose for a group photo during the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Liao Shen Industrial Park in Kapeeka, Nakaseke District

The Liao Shen Industrial Park in Kapeeka, one of Uganda's flagship industrialisation projects, on Monday marked its 10th anniversary with a strong call for deeper local content participation, better jobs, and expanded infrastructure to support the country's economic ambitions.

Speaking at the celebrations, the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), Dr. Ramathan Ggoobi, described the industrial park model as “the most appropriate pathway for countries

like Uganda,” noting that concentrating infrastructure such as power, roads, and water in one location creates an enabling environment for investors to set up and thrive.



PSST Dr. Ramathan Ggoobi delivers remarks on the importance of industrial parks in advancing Uganda's sustainable industrialisation under NDP IV

Dr. Ggoobi said it was gratifying to see how a space that was “just a maize garden” a little over a decade ago has



Guests follow proceedings during the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Liao Shen Industrial Park, reflecting on a decade of growth and impact

transformed into a busy manufacturing hub. He reaffirmed government's commitment to strengthening industrialization through sustained investment in infrastructure, reiterating plans to establish 24 industrial parks across the country.

As Uganda pushes toward a tenfold economic expansion



Gen. Salim Saleh addresses participants, emphasizing the role of industrial parks in job creation and Uganda's industrial transformation agenda

under its industrial agenda, the PSST challenged all parks to now shift focus toward boosting local content. This, he said, includes using locally sourced materials and equipping young Ugandans with transferable skills that guarantee long-term employability.

“How do we ensure that we provide good jobs that pay well, a living wage?” Dr. Ggoobi asked, emphasizing that government incentives will continue as long as investors align with Uganda's long-term aspirations.

The Chief Guest, Gen. Salim Saleh, Chief Coordinator of Operation Wealth Creation and Senior Presidential Advisor on Defence, applauded the park's exponential growth. From an initial projection of 50 products, the park now produces more than 1,000 different items and has created 36,000 jobs. He noted that communities are increasingly benefiting from the distribution of locally manufactured goods to markets nationwide.

However, Gen. Saleh also issued a challenge to historical leaders from the region, including former Finance Minister Syda Bbumba, urging them to help address persistent poverty and unemployment among communities surrounding the industrial park. He stressed that industrial success must translate into improved livelihoods for local residents.

The anniversary event highlighted both the progress made and the priorities that lie ahead as Uganda accelerates its industrial agenda.

UNDERSTANDING THE NUP COPYCAT “PROTEST VOTE” MANTRA

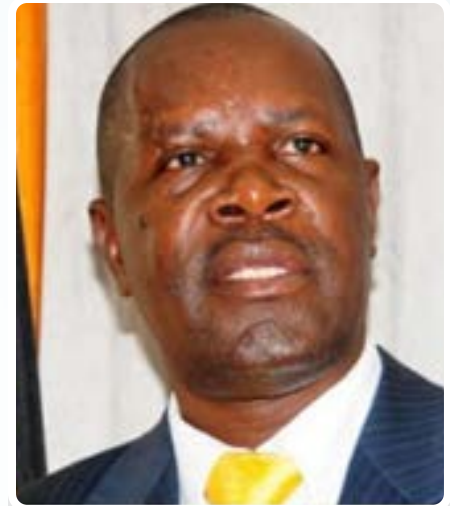
When the process for the ongoing general elections was announced, the National Unity Platform (NUP), led by Robert Kyagulanyi alias Bobi Wine, adopted what it termed a “protest vote” mantra. This choice left many Ugandans puzzled. How does one participate in an election while simultaneously framing the act itself as a protest against the very process they have voluntarily joined?

In many respects, NUP and some of its leaders appear desperate, mirroring the posture of Dr. Warren Kizza Besigye during the height of his political activism between 2006 and 2011. At the time, Besigye attempted to employ bellicosity, intransigence, confrontation, and violent civil disobedience as tools to topple President Yoweri Museveni. That approach ultimately ended in failure.

As political amateurs, NUP leaders appear not to have understood, or learned, any meaningful lessons from those episodes. Instead, as

poor copycats, they are recycling the same tired scripts. First, they have sought to cast doubt and sow negativity around key government institutions, beginning with the Electoral Commission, which is constitutionally mandated to organise elections, and its leadership under Justice Simon Byabakama Mugenyi. This mirrors the earlier attacks by Besigye and the Forum for Democratic Change against the then Electoral Commission chairperson, Eng. Badru Kiggundu.

Next, NUP has deliberately adopted a



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confrontational posture towards the police and other security agencies by repeatedly defying lawful instructions issued in the interest of public order and safety. Ugandans may recall similar behaviour during the FDC era, particularly the “Walk to Work” campaigns, characterised by defiance and civil disobedience that yielded little beyond disruption.

NUP has further shown disregard for regulations governing public campaigns, polling, vote counting, tallying, and declaration of results. This is intended to sustain a climate of discontent and tension, thereby entrenching a narrative of unfairness in the public mind. As

was the case in 2021, the party is believed to be planning, especially in areas it considers strongholds, to prevent those perceived as unsympathetic, particularly National Resistance Movement supporters, from exercising their right to vote.

These tactics are lifted directly from Besigye's failed playbook, which included the so called Power 10 vote protectors, private tally centres, premature declarations of victory, and even attempts at symbolic swearing in as "the people's president."

Borrowing further from recent experiences in Tanzania, NUP appears intent on disrupting polling, vote counting, or tallying processes to manufacture chaos. The objective is to provoke unrest that could escalate into violent riots, which they hope to exploit as a means of overwhelming the state. Predictably, they anticipate a firm response from law

enforcement agencies, one they believe could result in mass arrests or bloodshed, thereby damaging the government's image.

This explains NUP's defiant calls for supporters to remain at polling stations nationwide under the pretext of guarding against vote theft. This claim is disingenuous, given that the law already allows each candidate to deploy two official polling agents to observe the entire process. Aware of their institutional weaknesses, the party has instead mobilised aggressive and often ill prepared foot soldiers to perform these roles.

Meanwhile, other opposition parties such as DP, UPC, FDC, JEEMA, and ANT, now eclipsed by NUP, appear unwilling or unable to openly challenge Kyagulanyi's strategy for fear of political extinction. Smaller formations like PFF and DF, competing for the same ethnic and regional political space in Buganda,

can only whisper their reservations in private. None dare publicly question Kyagulanyi's competence or suitability to lead Uganda. Instead, they pander on, hoping his political moment will eventually fade, even as he positions himself to absorb their remnants, as he did in 2021.

We warned the FDC and Besigye during their heyday, when they still enjoyed public goodwill, that unchecked political hubris may thrive briefly but inevitably collapses. That lesson has since been painfully learned. Today, FDC and Besigye are little more than empty political shells.

Kyagulanyi and his surrogates would do well to study this recent history. They should understand that no democratic process can be won by endlessly ramming one's head against the solid wall of the NRM revolution.



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI PLEDGES COCOA PROCESSING FACTORY FOR BUNDIBUGYO

By Fortunate Akankunda, Public Affairs Assistant,
Uganda Media Centre

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has pledged to establish a cocoa processing factory in Bundibugyo District, a move he said will transform the area's agricultural strength into industrial wealth and create thousands of jobs. The President made the pledge on Friday, December 5, 2025, while addressing a campaign rally ahead of the 2026 general elections.

President Museveni, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) presidential flag bearer, said government has secured committed investors and that the project will mark

a turning point for Uganda's leading cocoa-producing district. Bundibugyo contributes more than 70 percent of Uganda's cocoa exports, making it a major source of foreign exchange.

“We are going to establish a cocoa factory,” President Museveni said, noting that previous attempts to attract foreign chocolate manufacturers had failed. “Now we have serious investors and we shall have our own factory.”

He added that the factory would be the anchor of a broader industrial ecosystem, similar to Namanve and Sino-Mbale industrial parks. The President said Bundibugyo would not host a single plant, but a cluster of factories to support value addition, employment, and



regional growth.

Reiterating his long-held position on job creation, President Museveni said Uganda's employment future lies in commercial agriculture, manufacturing, services, and ICT, rather than the public sector. He noted that government employs only about 480,000 people in a country of nearly 50 million.

He encouraged young people to acquire practical skills and engage in enterprise, citing success stories from industrial hubs and private entrepreneurs who have built thriving businesses employing hundreds of workers.

The President also highlighted the NRM's seven historical contributions to Uganda, beginning with peace and stability, which he contrasted with ongoing

insecurity in parts of the region. On development, he pledged to rehabilitate the Mubende–Fort Portal–Bundibugyo road, acknowledging its current poor state.

However, he cautioned against what he termed misplaced prioritisation, arguing that infrastructure development must sometimes take precedence over salary increments in order to unlock long-term economic growth.

On social services, President Museveni outlined progress in education and health. He said Bundibugyo currently has 107 government primary schools and 12 secondary schools, with plans to ensure each parish and sub-county is adequately served. In health, he announced upgrades and construction of

several Health Centre IIIs and improvements at Nyahuka HCIV, while emphasising disease prevention as a national priority.

Turning to wealth creation, the President urged residents to embrace commercial agriculture, pointing to successful cocoa and dairy farmers who earn substantial incomes despite limited infrastructure.

Speaker of Parliament and NRM Second National Vice Chairperson, Rt. Hon. Anita Among, confirmed that Cabinet has approved the creation of Bughendera District, urging leaders to avoid divisive politics. Bundibugyo NRM Chairperson David Kabyanga welcomed the cocoa factory pledge, noting progress under the Parish Development Model and Emyooga, while calling for special road funding due to recurring landslides.

The proposed cocoa factory is expected to significantly boost local incomes, industrialisation, and regional development in Bundibugyo.

PARDONS ARE CONSTITUTIONAL, NOT POLITICAL

By Billclinton

As Uganda moves toward the January 2026 general elections, public debate has intensified over the recent presidential pardon granted to selected inmates across the country. Some voices on social media have alleged that government is “emptying prisons” to create space for the detention of political actors during the election period. But a closer look at the Constitution, the law, and official clarification from prison authorities tells a very different story.



Frank Mayanja Baine, the spokesperson for Uganda Prisons Service

humane management of Uganda’s correctional facilities. “The Advisory Committee chaired by the Attorney General scrutinizes every file. Nothing is arbitrary,” he clarified.

Speaking during a press briefing on 8th December 2025 at Naguru Police Headquarters, Senior Commissioner of Prisons Frank Baine dismissed the claims as misinformation. “Pardons are a constitutional process. They are not connected to elections, politics, or any planned arrests,” he said. Baine emphasized that the exercise is routine and guided strictly by Article 121 of the Constitution. “This process has existed for decades, and it

follows the same legal and administrative steps every year,” he added.

Article 121 establishes the Prerogative of Mercy, a mandate that allows the President acting solely on the advice of the Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy to grant clemency to convicted inmates. Baine reiterated that this is not a political or security tool but a constitutional mechanism aimed at promoting justice, rehabilitation, and

A pardon may take several forms including full or conditional release or remission of sentence, but it applies only to convicted prisoners and not remandees. Eligibility is determined through a rigorous multi step process that begins at the prison station level and ascends through the Commissioner General of Prisons before reaching the Advisory Committee and eventually the President.

Baine noted that the

timing of pardons should not be sensationalized.

“There is nothing unusual about a pardon in October or December. Look at the records. These pardons have happened consistently from 2020 to 2025,” he stated.

Indeed, data from the Uganda Prisons Service shows that 1,798 inmates have benefited from presidential clemency over the past five years including 833 in April 2020, 579 in May 2021, and 130 in October 2024.

The beneficiaries typically include elderly inmates, pregnant or breastfeeding mothers, terminally ill prisoners, capital offenders who have nearly completed

their sentences, petty offenders who have served at least half their term, and inmates who have demonstrated exceptional reform.

“A pardon is humanitarian, legal, and constitutional. It is not political. Its purpose is to support rehabilitation, reduce congestion, and

give deserving inmates a second chance,” he said.

The evidence is clear. Uganda’s presidential pardons remain a regulated, humane, and non-political constitutional practice that stands far from the election related speculation circulating online.

MEDIA REVIEW

NOV 20 2025

DAILY MONITOR ► PAGE 06

**PRESIDENT PARDONS
143 PRISONERS**

GCICUganda

THE ROAD CRISIS WE CAN FIX

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

Every day that I interact with road safety reports, incident logs, and public feedback, one truth becomes clearer. Uganda's road safety challenge is not merely a policing issue. It is a behavioural issue. It is a cultural issue. It is a collective responsibility.

The recently released Annual Crime Report 2024 confirms what many of us on the ground see daily. Road crashes continue to claim lives at an alarming rate, and the majority of these incidents can be prevented through simple, consistent, responsible habits.

According to the 2024 report:

- ✔ Uganda registered 25,107 road crashes, a 6.4 percent increase from 2023.
- ✔ Out of these, 4,434 were fatal, also a rise of 6.1 percent from the previous year.
- ✔ The country recorded 25,808

casualties, with pedestrians and boda boda riders making up a significant proportion of the victims.

- ✔ December alone registered 2,445 casualties, the highest for any month in 2024.

These are not just statistics. These are fathers, mothers, school children, boda boda riders, cyclists, and everyday pedestrians who lost their lives or suffered severe injury. Each number tugs at the heart of anyone who works in policing, because behind every single case is a family broken, a community

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affected, and a future disrupted.

Data from the report highlights some of the major causes of crashes, including:

- ✔ Following too closely (tailgating)
- ✔ Reckless or careless driving
- ✔ Speeding, especially in busy and

residential zones

- ✔ Failure to yield to pedestrians
- ✔ Driver impatience and aggressive behaviour

These match what we often observe on the road and what I personally reflect on when reviewing field reports.

Tailgating in particular remains one of the most common contributors to rear-end collisions. The report emphasises that a significant portion of crashes occur simply because drivers do not leave enough space to react or stop safely. The lack of patience anxiety to rush ahead, the pressure to “push” the car in front continues to cost lives.

The Annual Crime Report also shows that:

- ✔ Pedestrians remain among the most affected groups in fatal crashes.
- ✔ Bodaboda riders continue to record high numbers of serious injuries and deaths.

This is why it is crucial for all drivers to slow

down in populated areas school zones, markets, commercial centres, and residential streets. Vulnerable users do not have the protection of a vehicle. A moment of impatience on the part of a driver can result in irreversible consequences for someone walking home, a child crossing the road, or a cyclist sharing the lane.

Working within the Uganda Police Force has taught me that enforcement alone is not enough. We can ticket offenders, impound vehicles, or run countrywide operations, but unless road users internalise responsibility, lives will continue to be lost unnecessarily.

One of the most practical and lifesaving behaviours we must adopt is observing safe following distance. The three-second rule allows a buffer for reaction and safety. In rain, dust, or night driving, this distance should be increased. Giving space is not a sign of weakness it is a sign of discipline and

respect for life.

What We Can Do Together

- ✔ Slow down in busy areas
- ✔ Respect pedestrian crossings
- ✔ Give cyclists and riders room
- ✔ Observe the three-second following distance
- ✔ Avoid pressuring the car ahead
- ✔ Remember that patience literally saves lives

Uganda can reduce fatalities significantly if we all play our part. Building safer roads is not just the work of traffic officers. It is the work of every citizen who steps onto the road, sits behind a steering wheel, or rides a motorcycle.

The 2024 statistics are a reminder and a warning. But they can also be a starting point for change if we allow them to shift our behaviour.

Because road safety begins with each one of us.

UGANDA AND UNITED STATES SIGN 5-YEAR HEALTH COOPERATION AGREEMENT WORTH \$2.3 BILLION

By Kevin Sseguya, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

Uganda and the United States have entered a new era of strategic health cooperation following the signing of a five-year, \$2.3 billion Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Kampala on December 10, 2025. The agreement outlines a bold framework to strengthen Uganda's health system, expand lifesaving programs, and enhance global health security.



Ugandan and U.S. government officials pose for a group photo after the signing of the landmark Bilateral Health Cooperation MoU

The MoU commits the United States Government to extend up to \$1.7 billion in support between 2026 and 2030, targeting priority health areas such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, maternal and child health, polio eradication, emergency preparedness, and disease surveillance. Uganda, in turn, has pledged to increase its domestic health

financing by more than \$500 million, marking a significant step toward long-term sustainability and national ownership of health outcomes.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, U.S. Ambassador William W. Popp emphasized that the agreement reflects a shared commitment to safeguarding both Ugandan and American citizens. He noted that

the partnership will promote self-reliance through stronger community health systems, improved data capabilities, and an expanded focus on global health security.

Uganda's Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Hon. Matia Kasaija, who signed on behalf of the Government of Uganda, described the MoU as a critical milestone in Uganda's journey to develop a resilient,



Minister of Health Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng, Hon. Matia Kasaija, and U.S. Ambassador William W. Popp display the signed MoU outlining a five-year, \$2.3 billion health cooperation framework

well-financed health sector. He applauded the United States for its longstanding contribution to Uganda's health gains and reaffirmed government's commitment to meeting its co-funding obligations. The Minister noted that the collaboration would not only improve disease-specific outcomes but also strengthen institutions, systems, and workforce capacity across the sector.

A number of innovative provisions are embedded in the MoU. These include

a gradual transition of commodity procurement from U.S. agencies to the Government of Uganda, integration of frontline health workers into the public payroll, and substantial U.S. investment in data systems, electronic medical records, and disease surveillance. Additional emphasis is placed on supporting faith-based health providers through performance-based agreements, increased primary health care grants, and community health insurance initiatives.

This agreement builds on over six decades of U.S.–Uganda cooperation in health, reinforcing the shared vision of a strong, sustainable health system capable of protecting lives and promoting economic and social wellbeing for generations to come.

UGANDA LAUNCHES NEW 5-YEAR LAND SECTOR BLUEPRINT, SETS COURSE FOR SECURE TENURE AND MODERN SERVICE DELIVERY

By Jackie Mayega, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

Uganda has formally unveiled two major tools that will guide the country's land, housing, and urban development agenda for the next five years the Strategic Plan IV (2025/26–2029/30) and the Service Delivery Standards, during a high-level launch at Mestil Hotel this morning.



Senior officials from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development pose with the Minister during the launch of the Strategic Plan 2025/26–2029/30 and the Service Delivery Standards at Mestil Hotel

Speaking at the event, the Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Judith Nabakooba, said the Strategic Plan is anchored on the national vision of creating “sustainable land use, land tenure security, affordable, decent housing and organized urban development”

She noted that the Plan advances Uganda's

broader economic direction under NDP IV, which positions land, housing, and urban development as foundational pillars for the country's projected tenfold growth.

“Our focus is clear. Land must be secure. Cities must be well-planned. Housing must be dignified and affordable. This Strategic Plan gives us a unified

direction and modern tools to achieve that,” said the Minister.

The Strategic Plan outlines five priority areas that will shape interventions across the country:

- ✓ Efficient, transparent land administration — supported by expanded digitisation, better

land records, and modernized land information systems.

- ✓ Integrated land-use planning for both rural and urban areas, in line with the National Physical Development Plan.
- ✓ Productive, inclusive, and climate-resilient cities that support economic agglomeration and job creation.
- ✓ Scaled-up housing delivery and stronger real-estate markets to respond to the national housing deficit.
- ✓ Enhanced policy, legal, and institutional coordination to eliminate overlaps and streamline implementation.

These priorities directly reflect the ministry's mandate as documented in the Strategic Plan, including strengthening land tenure, promoting adequate housing, and driving orderly urban development

Alongside the Strategic Plan, the Ministry



launched the Service Delivery Standards for 2025/26–2029/30 a framework that defines the quality, timelines, costs, coverage, and transparency citizens should expect from all ministry services.

The Minister emphasized that clear standards will help rebuild public trust in land services:

“Ugandans must know what service to expect, how long it will take, what it will cost, and where to get redress. Accountability begins with clarity.”

Hon. Nabakooba highlighted two reforms guided by the President that are now entering

Participants attentively follow presentations during the launch of the Ministry's new Strategic Plan and Service Delivery Standards

operationalization:

A tamper-proof digital registry will strengthen the integrity of the land administration system by reducing fraud, tightening audit trails, and securing property rights.

This aligns with the Strategic Plan's call for modern innovations such as geospatial technologies and digital land information systems to improve transparency and efficiency

Following the RAPEX recommendations, the physical planning function will be fully realigned within the



Ministry to eliminate fragmentation and ensure better coordination between land management, housing, and urban development.

“Planning and land administration must speak to each other. We are strengthening this linkage to prevent unplanned settlements and ensure well-governed cities,” the Minister stated.

The Minister said the reforms and the new Strategic Plan directly tackle persistent issues highlighted in the sector review, including:

- ✔️ widespread land

- disputes and fraud
- ✔️ unplanned urban growth and expansion of slums
- ✔️ inadequate decent housing options
- ✔️ weak enforcement of regulations
- ✔️ staffing and capacity gaps at local and national levels

These challenges, which are documented throughout the Strategic Plan’s situation analysis, have historically weakened service delivery and slowed sector transformation.

The launch symbolizes a renewed commitment to coherence, accountability, and

modernization across the Ministry’s operations.

“This is a new chapter. We now have a clear strategy, strong standards, and a digitization pathway that will ensure our services meet the expectations of a transforming Uganda,” Hon. Nabakooba said.

With the Strategic Plan IV and the Service Delivery Standards now in force, Uganda enters a new era of land governance one driven by technology, improved coordination, and a firm commitment to national development ambitions.

Qingdao, Shandong Province – 10 December 2025

UGANDA POSITIONS ITSELF AS AFRICA'S NEW AGRICULTURAL HUB AT QINGDAO INVESTMENT SUMMIT

By Kenson Bugembe,
Public Affairs Assistant,
Uganda Media Centre

Uganda has taken a significant step toward deepening agricultural and industrial cooperation with China following the launch of the inaugural Uganda–Qingdao Agricultural Trade and Investment Conference held today in Qingdao City, Shandong Province. The high-level forum was jointly organised by the Embassy of Uganda in Beijing, the Qingdao Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, and the Qingdao Municipal Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

The conference, led by Uganda's Ambassador to China, H.E. Oliver Wonekha, brought together an influential delegation of Ugandan government officials, investment facilitators, and private-sector actors. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and

Fisheries, and the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) joined local business leaders and Chinese agritech enterprises to explore new avenues for trade, technology transfer, and investment.

In her keynote address, Ambassador Wonekha presented Uganda as one of Africa's most

stable and strategically positioned markets for long-term investment. She underscored the country's competitive value proposition, including a fast-growing youthful labour force,





processing systems, Chinese officials expressed strong optimism about forging deeper cooperation with Uganda.

Mr. Cui Zuo, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC Qingdao Municipal Committee and President of the Qingdao General Chamber of Commerce, said the two sides are “natural partners” whose comparative strengths can support mutually beneficial agricultural value chains.



sustained political stability, and its strategic access to the East African Community (EAC) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) markets.

“Uganda is prepared for transformative partnerships grounded in industrialization, technology transfer, investment financing, and trade facilitation,” Wonekha said, noting that Uganda

offers unmatched opportunities for agricultural production, value addition, and manufacturing. She added that the conference provides an ideal platform to engage partners who understand Uganda’s long-term potential.

With Qingdao known globally for modern agriculture, advanced agritech, aquaculture, and efficient agro-

“Qingdao has developed advanced capabilities in modern agriculture, aquaculture, and agri-technology. We see Uganda as a natural partner for expanding agricultural cooperation and building mutually beneficial industrial value chains,” he noted.

The Uganda Investment Authority used the platform to encourage Chinese investors to take advantage of Uganda’s favourable investment



landscape. Mr. Fred Kakooza, Deputy Director General of the One-Stop Centre, highlighted the country's generous tax incentives, strong investor protections, and large opportunities in agro-processing, manufacturing, and large-scale farming.

"Uganda is one of Africa's most promising investment destinations. We invite Chinese partners to establish manufacturing and processing hubs in Uganda for regional export," Kakooza said, emphasising the government's

commitment to supporting foreign investors.

Organisers say the conference is the first in a series of engagements designed to strengthen Uganda-China agricultural investment and trade cooperation. Its objectives include promoting two-way trade, attracting Chinese capital into Uganda's agriculture sector, facilitating agritech transfer, enhancing capacity building, and building value-chain partnerships centred on manufacturing and export.

Kampala, 5 December 2025

UGANDA'S HEALTH MINISTRY SEALS NEW RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

By David Sserumaga,
Public Affairs Assistant

The Ministry of Health has entered into a new partnership with New York University (NYU) aimed at strengthening research collaborations and expanding capacity building programs within Uganda's health sector.



The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formally signed on 5th December, 2025 at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala by the Ministry's Under Secretary, Mr. Kenneth Akiiri, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary. The signing was witnessed by the Director General of Health Services, Dr. Charles Olaro.

NYU was represented

by Dr. Lindsey, the University Dean, alongside Prof. Fred Ssewamala of the Silver School at NYU, who has been a long-standing collaborator in global health and development research.

According to officials, the MoU will open avenues for joint studies, academic exchanges, faculty development, and technical support



to enhance evidence-based decision making in Uganda's health sector. The partnership is expected to strengthen local capacity in areas such as epidemiology,

community health, health systems strengthening, and child and adolescent wellbeing.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Olaro represented the Hon. Minister of Health at the close-out ceremony

of the CHILD-Global Research Fellowship, a collaborative program implemented by the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHD), Washington University in

St. Louis, and Makerere University. The fellowship has supported advanced training for Ugandan researchers working in child health, mental health, social protection, and development.



Jinja City, 9 December 2025

URSB LAUNCHES ANNUAL CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT WEEK IN JINJA CITY TO BOOST BUSINESS FORMALISATION

BY Desire Amanyanya,
GCICUganda

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) has rolled out its Annual Customer Engagement Week in Jinja City, a four-day outreach initiative running from 9th to 12th December 2025. The programme is designed to bring essential registration services closer to the public, deepen stakeholder partnerships, and expand nationwide awareness about the benefits of formalising businesses.



URSB officials in Jinja City rally entrepreneurs to formalise their enterprises during the Annual Customer Engagement Week

The campaign, now underway, is one of URSB's flagship efforts to strengthen service delivery by meeting entrepreneurs where they are and addressing barriers that hinder business growth. Teams from the Bureau have already begun stakeholder engagements across

Jinja City, holding meetings with business owners, traders, local leaders, financial institutions, and partner organisations.

According to URSB, these engagements are structured to offer practical solutions to client concerns, enhance understanding of

registration processes, and promote a supportive ecosystem for enterprise development.

One of the major highlights is on-spot business registration services, allowing entrepreneurs to instantly register business names, companies, partnerships,

intellectual property, or update company records. Field teams are also demonstrating the Online Business Registration System (OBRS) and the Security Interest in Movable Property Registration System (SIMPO), two key platforms driving URSB's digital transformation agenda.

Throughout the week, sensitisation sessions are being conducted to emphasise the importance of business formalisation, legal compliance, protection of business identities, and the long-term opportunities that come with joining the formal economy. These sessions are interactive, offering space for dialogue, feedback, and real-time

clarification of service-related questions.

To inspire greater participation, URSB has introduced a "Register and Win" promotion. Individuals who complete registrations during the Engagement Week will be entered into a draw to win branded giveaways and essential business support materials. The initiative aims to motivate more entrepreneurs to take the critical step toward formalisation.

URSB staff are also distributing informative materials covering all Bureau services, including business registration, insolvency matters, copyright and neighbouring rights, intellectual property protection, and security

interest registration.

All activities are being coordinated from a central walk-in hub at Tropical Bank, Jinja Branch on Main Street, where clients can access demonstrations, make inquiries, and receive personalised support.

As the engagement week continues through 12th December, URSB affirms its commitment to building an inclusive and client-centred registration system. The ongoing outreach reflects the Bureau's dedication to empowering Ugandan entrepreneurs through improved access to services, transparent processes, and a stronger culture of business formalisation.



A PEACEFUL ELECTION IS A DUTY OF EVERY PEACE-LOVING UGANDAN

Uganda is currently in the midst of an election cycle, with campaigns actively underway at the presidential, parliamentary, and local council levels. Overall, the process has largely been orderly, and citizens continue to participate freely in campaign activities across the country. However, it is regrettable that isolated incidents of violence have been reported in some areas.

The Electoral Commission, working closely with the Uganda Police Force and other security agencies, has taken deliberate steps to manage the situation and ensure that the electoral process proceeds in a manner acceptable to all stakeholders. That said, no institution can single-handedly guarantee a fully peaceful and seamless election if citizens, especially key political actors, fail to comply with established rules and guidelines.

Persistent violations of Electoral Commission campaign guidelines by some presidential candidates have

complicated the work of both the Commission and the police. In recent weeks, the Uganda Police Force has been subjected to intense public scrutiny, particularly regarding its handling of campaign activities involving one presidential candidate, Mr. Robert Kyagulanyi, in locations such as Gulu City on December 6; Kawempe on November 24; Kiira on November 25; Kayunga on November 27; and Iganga on November 28, 2025. These incidents are unfortunate and deeply regrettable.

However, a closer and more balanced



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

examination indicates that such confrontations are likely to persist as long as the National Unity Platform (NUP) continues to disregard Electoral Commission guidelines. The party appears to be pursuing a strategy reminiscent of that previously employed by former opposition leader Dr. Kizza Besigye, who openly championed political defiance as a means of challenging President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni's leadership.

It is therefore incumbent upon social commentators, election observers, and peace-loving Ugandans to apply equal scrutiny to Mr. Kyagulanyi and his team, and to interrogate the persistent defiance

of established electoral regulations. There is growing concern that some of these violations may be deliberate, intended to provoke confrontations with law enforcement agencies and generate negative media coverage, which the party appears willing to embrace.

Indeed, NUP's announcement of a so-called "protest vote" suggests a predisposition to reject the Electoral Commission's final results in the event of defeat, potentially laying the groundwork for post-election defiance.

The situation was further aggravated when the NUP presidential candidate reportedly assembled a private security detail, which confronted individuals perceived to oppose the party, including police officers. Incidents in Lira and Abim on October 28 and 29, 2025, respectively, resulted in attacks on police personnel, damage to police vehicles, and injuries to officers. These actions compelled the police to adopt firmer measures to contain the emerging indiscipline.

All presidential candidates are provided with specialised anti-terrorism police protection, and their logistical requirements are facilitated by the Electoral Commission. There is therefore no justification for any candidate to establish private security groups or militias under the guise of protection.

Electoral Commission guidelines are explicit. They require peaceful arrivals and departures from agreed venues, use of designated routes, avoidance of unauthorised rally locations such as markets and trading centres, and strict adherence to traffic regulations. These include prohibitions against reckless driving or riding, unsafe passenger practices, and unauthorised processions along highways or within urban centres.

On December 3, 2025, the Electoral Commission convened a meeting with representatives of all eight presidential candidates to harmonise positions on peaceful conduct and compliance with campaign guidelines. Despite this engagement,

defiance, particularly from the NUP camp, has persisted. The confrontation in Gulu City, for example, followed the presidential candidate's refusal to use an agreed police-designated route located less than two kilometres from the rally venue. Insistence on passing through the city centre precipitated the ensuing disorder.

The Uganda Police Force bears a constitutional duty to protect the rights and freedoms of both political actors and the general public, including citizens engaged in their daily livelihoods. Any individual who breaches the law must be dealt with accordingly. This balance is delicate but essential, and neither interest can be pursued at the expense of the other. Government cannot suspend effective management of society simply because the country is in a campaign season.

Assertions by some international actors and sections of the media suggesting that the Government of Uganda is employing repressive tactics against the opposition

are therefore misplaced. No responsible state abdicates its duty to maintain law and order during elections. Political competition must not override public safety, as unrestrained conduct risks descending into violence.

Uganda must remain peaceful and calm throughout this electoral period, regardless of the status of any political actor. Daily life must continue uninterrupted, particularly for investors and the business community whose

stability is critical to national development.

The writer is the Acting Executive Director, Uganda Media Centre.

2025/2026 CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Website: www.ec.or.ug

Our Ref: ...**ADM**.....

Date: ...**July 23rd, 2025**.....

CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, 2025/2026

1.0 Laws Applicable

- The Constitution of Uganda, 1995
- The Electoral Commission Act, Cap.176 (ECA)
- The Presidential Elections Act, Cap. 179 (PEA)
- The Parliamentary Elections Act, Cap. 177 [PAR-EA]
- The Political Parties and Organizations Act, Cap. 178 [PPOA]
- The Uganda Communications Act, Cap. 103
- The Uganda Communications (Content) Regulations, 2019
- The Computer Misuse Act, Cap. 96
- The Uganda Communications (Text and Multimedia Messaging) Regulations 2019 S.I 83/2019
- Attendant Rules, Regulations and Guidelines that may be issued by Commission from time to time.

2.0 Time and manner of campaigns [Section 22 of PEA]

- 2.1 Subject to the Constitution and the Presidential Elections Act, the Commission may determine the manner and the period during which campaigns shall take place and shall publish that information in the Gazette and forward a copy to each Returning Officer.

WHAT UGANDANS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIOMETRIC SYSTEM

Nanteza Sarah Kyobe , Uganda Media Centre



Electoral Commission officials demonstrate how ballot papers will be scanned and issued using the Biometric Voter Verification Kit ahead of the 2026 General Elections.

In just 34 days, Uganda will go to the polls on January 15, 2026. As preparations intensify, the Electoral Commission will again deploy the Biometric Voter Verification Kit (BVVK) to authenticate voters before they cast their ballots.

The BVVK is a portable electronic device that verifies a voter's identity by comparing fingerprints or facial features with the national voter database. On polling day, each

kit is first assigned to its polling station by scanning the Quick Response code on the station's register. The device then displays all station details before voting begins.

To vote, a voter's National ID or Voter Location Slip (VLS) is scanned, followed by fingerprint verification. If fingerprints are unclear or missing, facial recognition will be used. Biometric verification is mandatory, and only original National IDs or VLS will be accepted. In the unlikely event that a BVVK is unavailable, the presiding officer will rely on the physical voter



register and its QR code.

Once a voter is successfully verified, the operator selects the type of ballot on the kit, such as “Scan Presidential Ballot,” then scans the QR code on a ballot paper taken from the ballot booklet. Each ballot category is handled in the same way.

Importantly, there is no link between a voter and their ballot. The kit stores verified voter data and scanned ballot information in separate databases. This guarantees secrecy of the vote, as required by law.

Voting will officially begin when at least ten voters are present to witness the opening of the

polling station. These ten witnesses will have their National IDs scanned and their biometrics captured before polls open. Thereafter, voters will be verified one by one.

All three ballot papers will be issued at Table 1, where the BVVK is located. To avoid accidental mix-ups, only the presidential or chairperson ballot is handed directly to the voter. The remaining two ballots are placed in a pouch before the voter proceeds to the booths and ballot boxes.

If a voter spoils a ballot, Section 54 of the Presidential Elections Act allows for a replacement. The voter’s details will be re-scanned, and the spoiled ballot will also be scanned to cancel it before issuing a new one.

After all voters in the queue by 4 pm have cast their ballots, polling officials will close the station using the “Close Polls” function on the BVVK.

As January 15 approaches, Ugandans are encouraged to exercise their constitutional right to vote, as guaranteed to every citizen aged eighteen and above.



IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY DEMANDS MORE THAN ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Apollo Munghinda, Principal - Communications Officer, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

As part of the budget preparation process for next financial year (FY) 2026/27, the Finance Ministry, together with key service delivery Ministries, Departments and Agencies, consulted Local Government leaders across the country from mid-September until the first week of October 2025 on the proposed budget strategy for FY 2026/27.

This followed the National Budget Conference held on 11th September 2025, during which the Finance Minister consulted key stakeholders at the national level on the budget strategy for FY 2026/27.

This consultative process is in accordance with Article 155(1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 12(1) and (2) of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Cap.171.

These engagements had a special focus on exploring service delivery challenges, improving Government efficiency, strengthening project execution, and improving the productivity of all Ugandans.

It was also an opportunity

to provide feedback on actions taken concerning the issues raised during the previous consultations on the budget for FY 2025/26. Some of the key issues responded to include the low share of Local Government financing, lack of transport, and unharmonised revenue systems.

Actually, the financing of Local Government services has greatly improved from Shs 2,361.4 billion in FY 2015/16 to Shs 7,345 billion in FY 2025/26, which is 10% of the national budget. Indeed, substantial funding has gone towards financing operations in health, education, water, agriculture, the Parish Development Model (PDM) and Emyooga,

among others.

The issue of lack of transport for monitoring Government programmes and projects also came out strongly. In response, Government has provided Shs 35.2 billion in the budget for this financial year towards the purchase of cars for Chairpersons and City/ Municipal Mayors. These cars have already been procured and distributed to the district leaders.

Regarding non-induction of political leaders (Councillors), a new roadmap is now very clear. These leaders will be inducted after the 2026 general elections, and funds for this activity will be provided in the budget for FY 2026/27.

The revenue systems have also been harmonised. All Local Governments are now using the Integrated Revenue Administration System (IRAS) effective this FY 2025/26.

During the recent consultations, a new set of issues were raised which the Government is expected to address. These include low

morale due to salary disparities within and across the different cadres; wage, pension and gratuity shortfalls; commercialisation of recruitment in Local Governments; and inequitable distribution of road funds and PDM funds.

The Local Government leaders concurred that salary disparities have caused low morale, absenteeism and early retirement among Local Government staff, thus affecting service delivery.

In response, the Ministry of Public Service expressed the commitment of Government to increase the salaries of all public servants over the next five years in a phased manner as per the pay plan, subject to the availability of resources.

Surprisingly, wage, pension and gratuity shortfalls are still a challenge despite the increase in the budget for wage, pension and gratuity following the recent audit by the Office of the Auditor General. The staffing

levels have not been addressed, and some Local Governments are still filing supplementary budgets for salaries.

According to the Finance Minister, this persistent trend of wage, pension and gratuity shortfalls signals underlying issues of poor budgeting and fiscal indiscipline. He has now made it categorically clear that effective FY 2026/27 emphasis will be on strict adherence to verified payroll audits and the integrity of data captured on the Human Capital Management System (HCM).

The Finance Ministry has evidence that, indeed, some Local Governments do not adhere to the Chart of Accounts while preparing budget estimates. Others allocate the budget to wrong budget items, resulting in budget adjustments during the financial year or in failure to absorb the budget.

This poor planning and budgeting ultimately deny citizens the required services, since resources are tied to certain areas where they cannot be utilised, with

limited possibilities for virement, resulting in returning the money to the Consolidated Fund at the end of the financial year.

Incidentally, whereas the budget is financed through taxes, among other sources, many Local Governments also do not prioritise payment of statutory deductions such as PAYE to Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), resulting in revenue shortfalls and hence delayed payment of service providers.

During these budget consultations, the Finance Ministry reiterated that the budget strategy for FY 2026/27 is guided by the strategic direction of H.E. the President, the Tenfold Growth Strategy, and the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV).

Ultimately, these engagements deepened the understanding of the budget strategy, whose focus is anchored on implementation of the four growth sectors of Agro-Industrialisation, Tourism Development,

Mineral-Based Industrial Development, Science, Technology and Innovation, including ICT and the Creative Arts Industry (ATMS), as well as the Enablers, such as security, transport infrastructure, and social services. This is intended to grow the economy tenfold to USD 500 billion by 2040.

The critical service delivery challenges, such as low productivity, the silo mentality, absenteeism in schools and hospitals, and poor project implementation and monitoring, among others, were also clearly identified. In connection with this, the role of Local Governments was clarified in ensuring bottom-up planning and effective implementation of Government projects to improve service delivery.

All stakeholders must, therefore, do their part in implementing the necessary reforms and actions to fix the binding constraints on the productivity and efficiency of Government.

District leaders should also utilise the available Government airtime on radio stations to create awareness about Government programmes, provide accountability to the citizens, and also encourage them to embrace wealth creation programmes like PDM and Emyooga.

The issues raised and the recommendations made have now been shared with relevant stakeholders for consideration during the preparation and finalisation of the budget for FY 2026/27.



A LOVE LETTER *Letter* TO HOME

Uganda,
you are the home I love.
The land that held me,
nurtured me,
and taught me who I am.

From quiet villages
to busy towns and city noise,
you shaped my footsteps
with patience and grace.

You fed my childhood with laughter,
with stories spoken at dusk,
with lessons learned on dusty roads
and under open skies.
I grew because you made space for me.

In your soil, I learned belonging.
In your people, I learned strength.
No matter how far I go,
my heart knows the way back.





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