



VOL 11 ▶ JAN 12 2026

# UGANDA WEEKLY FOCUS



*Top highlight*

## GOVERNMENT EQUIPS LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS WITH LAPTOPS



INFORMING MINDS · INSPIRING CHANGE

# WHO IS THE NEXT PRESIDENT?

Vote your favorite candidate this week on 15th January 2025



**NANDALA MAFABI  
JAMES NATHAN**



**KYAGULANYI  
SENTAMU ROBERT**



**MUGISHA GREGORY  
MUNTU OYERA**

**ANT**



**ELTON JOSEPH  
MABIRIZI**



**MUNYAGWA  
MUBARAK SSERUNGA**

**CMP**



**KASIBANTE ROBERT**

**NPP**



**BULIRA FRANK  
KABINGA**

**RPP**



**H.E. YOWERI  
TIBUHABURWA KAGUTA  
MUSEVENI (Incumbent)**

**NRM**

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# *The* EDITOR'S NOTE

As we release our 11th Edition, our hearts are filled with gratitude. Grateful for the journey, for your loyalty as readers, and for the growing community that believes in informed minds and inspired change. With just a few weeks to polling day, this moment calls for reflection, responsibility, and love for country.

At times like these, nations are tested not only by the choices they make, but by the manner in which those choices are exercised. Voting is more than a right. It is a quiet promise to our children and our children's children that Uganda will remain peaceful, stable, and secure. As citizens, our duty is simple but profound: turn up,

make your voice count, and reject violence in all its forms. The Uganda we hand over to the next generation depends on the decisions we make today, and on our commitment to protect the peace that has allowed families to work, children to learn, and communities to grow.

We thank you sincerely for staying with us week after week, for reading, sharing, and offering feedback that continues to sharpen our work. Your trust pushes us to do better and to tell Uganda's story with responsibility and balance.

In this week's edition, we bring you insights on government efforts to strengthen communication at

local government level, reflections on economic stability during the election period, and a youth-focused national dialogue on leadership and prosperity. These stories, and many more, are captured in this edition as we continue to document the moments shaping our nation's present and future.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Stay informed. Stay peaceful. And above all, stay committed to Uganda.



# UG NEWS BRIEFS



## IGG urges public officers to update details ahead of 2026 asset declaration

The Inspectorate of Government (IGG) has urged all public officers to urgently update their personal details in the Public Officers' Register ahead of the mandatory April 2026 declaration of incomes, assets, and liabilities. Speaking at a quarterly meeting in Kampala on 5 December 2026, Deputy Inspector General of Government Patricia Achan Okiria called on Chief Administrative Officers and Town Clerks to mobilise staff to comply. She emphasized

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that accurate contact information is critical for a smooth online declaration process through the IG-ODS system, praised high-performing districts, and urged full support to Focal Persons, including provision of computers and reliable internet access.

### Brig Gen Tukacungurwa Sworn In as General Court Martial Chairperson at Supreme Court

Brigadier General Richard Tukacungurwa has been sworn in as the new Chairperson of the General Court

Martial, alongside other members, at a ceremony held at the Supreme Court in Kampala. The oath was administered on January 7, 2026, by Principal Judge Jane Frances Abodo. Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka and senior judicial officers attended the event.

Brig Gen Tukacungurwa was appointed by

President Yoweri Museveni in November 2025. The swearing-in follows the reconstitution of the military court after 2025 legal reforms, including amendments to the UPDF Act clarifying the jurisdiction of military courts, ahead of the January 15, 2026 general elections.

### Uganda Approves Twice-Yearly HIV Prevention Injection in Major Breakthrough



Uganda's National Drug Authority has approved Lenacapavir, a groundbreaking twice-yearly injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention, marking a major milestone in the country's public health

response. Developed by US-based Gilead Sciences, the long-acting injection demonstrated near-perfect protection in clinical trials, with 100 percent efficacy among high-risk groups. Health experts say the approval addresses adherence challenges associated with daily oral pills, offering a more discreet and accessible option, especially for young women and other vulnerable communities. Officials describe the drug as a game-changer that strengthens Uganda's path toward ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

### **URSB Registrar General Named Among World's Top 50 IP Influencers**

The Registrar General of the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), Ms Mercy K Kainobwisho, has been named among the 50 most influential people in Intellectual Property for 2025 by international publication Managing Intellectual Property. She is the only Ugandan on the global list, which features leading figures



including WIPO Director General Daren Tang. The recognition follows major reforms at URSB in 2025, including the establishment of a Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Department, full digitisation of IP services, updated examination guidelines aligned with international standards, and strengthened enforcement against counterfeit goods. The honour highlights Uganda's growing profile in global intellectual property administration.

### **Historic Rhino Reintroduction in Uganda**

KAMPALA | Xinhua | Decades after local extinction, Uganda has reintroduced rhinos into the wild, marking a historic milestone

for conservation. Four southern white rhinos were released into Ajai Wildlife Reserve in Madi-Okollo District, northwestern Uganda, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) announced Wednesday. The reserve has been equipped with electric fencing, ranger outposts, and water infrastructure to support the program. "The four rhinos are under close observation as they adapt," UWA said. A second phase will add 16 more rhinos after successful monitoring. UWA Executive Director James Musinguzi called it "a new chapter in Uganda's conservation journey."

### **EC Hands Presidential Candidates Copies of National Voters Register**



**Kampala, Uganda |**  
**January 8, 2026** – The Electoral Commission (EC) has begun issuing copies of the National Voters Register to representatives of presidential candidates. Yesterday, officials provided registers to delegates from the

National Resistance Movement (NRM) and the National Unity Platform (NUP) under media supervision, reinforcing transparency. The EC confirmed that distribution will continue to other candidates in line with legal procedures. In

a parallel move, the Commission flagged off the first batch of election materials from its Ntinda stores to 12 districts, marking the start of nationwide phased distribution ahead of polling.



Candidate Name	Photo	Symbol	Tick✓ or ● Thumbprint
LWANGA JOHN			
AKWARE MARY			✓
OCAN BASHIR			
KEMIGISHA MERCY			

Candidate Name	Photo	Symbol	Tick✓ or ● Thumbprint
LWANGA JOHN			
AKWARE MARY			
OCAN BASHIR			
KEMIGISHA MERCY			

# ELECTION MONEY WILL NOT DESTABILISE THE ECONOMY – SAYS DR. GGOOBI

By Kenson Bugembe,  
Uganda Media Centre

Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Dr. Ramathan Ggoobi, has dismissed fears that increased spending during the election period will trigger inflation or destabilise Uganda's economy, assuring citizens that the fundamentals remain strong and well managed.

Speaking on KFM 93.3 on 3rd January, 2026 during the popular #VPN programme, Dr. Ggoobi said concerns about so-called "election money" flooding the economy are misplaced.

**"I want to assure every Ugandan, wherever you are, that there is nothing like election money destabilising us in Uganda. It is not there," Dr. Ggoobi said.**

He explained



that government has significantly strengthened coordination between the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Bank of Uganda, ensuring that fiscal and monetary policies work in harmony to maintain macroeconomic stability. According to the PSST, monetary policy remains effective, with the Bank of Uganda capably

Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Dr. Ramathan Ggoobi, addresses the media in Kampala

managing money supply. He commended the Governor and his team for their professionalism, noting that inflation trends clearly demonstrate policy success.

Dr. Ggoobi revealed that headline inflation declined to 3.1 percent in December 2025, down from 3.2 percent



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni interacts with a PDM beneficiary during a field visit

in November and 3.4 percent in October, a steady downward trajectory that underscores price stability.

**■■**What causes inflation is having too much money chasing too few goods,” he said, adding that this is no longer the case in Uganda. “We are increasing production alongside managing liquidity, which is the correct balance.”

He further attributed Uganda’s resilience to strategic government investments, particularly

the Parish Development Model (PDM), which he described as a deliberate move by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and his administration to expand the productive base of the economy.

Dr. Ggoobi explained that PDM has brought previously excluded Ugandans into economic activity by empowering households at parish level, especially in agriculture and food production. This, he said, has helped increase supply and ease inflationary pressures.

So far, government has disbursed about Shs 4 trillion under the PDM programme. Contrary to scepticism from some urban elites, Dr. Ggoobi noted that many beneficiaries have invested productively, delivering tangible results on the ground.

He concluded by reassuring Ugandans that the economy remains stable, well coordinated, and insulated from election-related shocks, urging the public to rely on facts rather than speculation.



Dr. Aminah Zawedde, PS, MoICT & NG and Ms. Marcella Karekye handover a laptop to the DCO Butambala District as the PS, Ministry of Local Government, Ben Kumumanya looks on

## GOVERNMENT EQUIPS LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATORS WITH LAPTOPS

By Fiona Luboga, Communication Officer, MoICT & NG

**“Effective communication is not optional. It is central to service delivery, transparency, and accountability.”**

**Ben Kumumanya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government**



role in communicating government programmes and interventions to the public, noting that effective communication is essential for improved service delivery, transparency, and accountability.

**“Effective communication is not optional. It is central to service delivery, transparency, and accountability,”** Mr. Kumumanya said. “Our

**K**ampala, January 7, 2026 – The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, Ben

Kumumanya, has called on Local Government Communication Officers to take a more proactive



Permanent Secretaries Dr. Aminah Zawedde and Mr. Ben Kumumanya, alongside other senior government officials, pose for a group photo with District Communication Officers following the meeting

**citizens must clearly understand government policies, programmes, and development initiatives implemented at the local government level.”**

He was speaking at a meeting of Local Government Communication Officers held on January 7, 2026, at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, where he emphasized the strategic importance of clear, timely, and accurate communication in keeping citizens informed and engaged.

During a separate engagement at the same meeting, Mr. Kumumanya

presided over the handover of laptops to the communication officers, noting that the equipment will significantly enhance their efficiency, timeliness, and accuracy in information dissemination.

“These laptops will ease your work and enable you to communicate faster, better, and more accurately,” he said. “They are part of our commitment to ensure that communication officers are properly facilitated to deliver on their mandate.”

He explained that the

laptops were provided in fulfillment of a pledge made at the previous Communication Officers’ meeting held last year, reaffirming the government’s commitment to equipping officers with the necessary tools to effectively execute their responsibilities. He encouraged the officers to use the equipment responsibly and innovatively to strengthen public engagement and promote a positive image of government service delivery across the country.

The meeting was also



Permanent Secretaries Dr. Aminah Zawedde and Mr. Ben Kumumanya pose for a photo with the Communication Officers after receiving their laptops

addressed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Dr. Aminah Zawedde, who urged Local Government Communication Officers to actively engage citizens through proactive communication and attentive listening so that government interventions are aligned with the real needs of communities.

**“Communication is not just about speaking; it is also about listening,”** Dr. Zawedde said. “You must engage citizens consistently so that government programmes

respond to the realities on the ground.”

She encouraged officers to leverage community platforms such as WhatsApp groups to highlight government plans and interventions, stressing that digital tools are no longer a luxury but a necessity in modern public communication.

**“Digital platforms give us direct access to the people. Use them effectively,”** she said, adding that officers must ensure issues raised by citizens are addressed or, at the very least, acknowledged

and responded to appropriately.

As he concluded the meeting, Mr. Kumumanya further urged the officers to widely publicize local government job advertisements to attract qualified candidates, noting that effective dissemination of such information can help address unemployment and reduce the number of unfilled positions within local governments.



# JANET MUSEVENI RALLIES WOMEN FOR PEACE, UNITY AND SUPPORT FOR NRM AT GRAND WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

By Billclinton

**K**ampala, January 8, 2026 – The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet K. Museveni, has called on Ugandan women to remain united, peaceful and steadfast in their support for the National Resistance Movement (NRM), as the country approaches the 2026 general elections.

Speaking on behalf of President Yoweri Kaguta

Museveni at the Grand Women's Celebration

organized by the National NRM Women's League at Kololo Independence Grounds, she delivered a message of gratitude, reflection and mobilisation to thousands of women leaders drawn from across the country.

She conveyed President Museveni's appreciation for the unwavering

support and affection Ugandan women continue to accord him, noting that he would have loved to personally attend the gathering. She thanked the Chairperson of the NRM National Women's League, Hon. Adrine Kobusingye, and her leadership team for organizing what she described as a historic and landmark assembly of women.

The First Lady also acknowledged the presence of the Vice President, H.E. Jessica Alupo, the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and religious and cultural leaders, applauding them for standing in solidarity with the women of Uganda.

Reflecting on Uganda's journey since 1986, the First Lady urged women not to forget how far the country has come under NRM leadership. Drawing from scripture, she emphasized that forgetting past deliverance and progress is unrighteous, and commended Ugandan

women for recognizing the gains achieved through sustained peace and stability.

She highlighted the deliberate efforts by the NRM Government to advance women's emancipation through access to education, health services, economic empowerment and political participation. Today, she noted, women occupy the highest offices in the land, including Vice President, Prime Minister and Speaker of Parliament, with similar progress evident across public service, sports, civil society and the private sector.

On economic empowerment, the First Lady pointed to government programs such as Emoyooga and the Parish Development Model, which have enabled millions of women to access finance, skills and markets. She challenged women to consolidate these gains and consider establishing a women-led bank to further advance their financial independence.

Recalling lessons from Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, she encouraged Ugandan women to adopt collaborative financial models that can decisively tackle poverty and demonstrate Africa's capacity for transformation.

As the election season draws closer, The First Lady, called on women, as mothers and nation-builders, to actively promote peace. She urged them to reject violence, guide the youth away from manipulation, and encourage citizens to participate responsibly in the democratic process.

She concluded by proposing a nationwide commitment among women to pray daily at 5:00am for peace and victory for the NRM, reaffirming that President Museveni's victory would be a shared victory for Ugandan women.

**“His victory is our victory,”** she said, as she blessed the women and their families for the new year 2026.

# PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ENGAGES DIGITAL INFLUENCERS IN “JAZZ WITH JAJJA” DIALOGUE

By Sharp Mugabe, GCIC – Uganda

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on Sunday, January 4, 2026, held a candid dialogue with young Ugandans during the Jazz with Jajja engagement at State Lodge, Nakasero, urging the youth to shift from short-term pleasures to the fundamentals of economic transformation.

Hosted by the First Daughter, Natasha Museveni Karugire, the session brought together digital influencers, journalists, broadcasters, entrepreneurs, and content creators,

offering them a rare opportunity to engage the President on leadership, the digital economy, markets, and youth livelihoods.

In his opening remarks,

President Museveni challenged young people to look beyond entertainment and focus on production and markets as the basis of prosperity. He noted that while activities like music, dancing, and football are valuable, they cannot substitute economic fundamentals.

“Sustainable prosperity comes from producing, calculating, and accessing markets, not from excitement alone,” he said.



The President in a group photo with the Bazzukulu at State House Entebbe after the Chat with Jajja engagement



**R**esponding to a question from TikTok influencer Sean Ibrahim, also known as Sean Styles, on what has sustained his long political journey, Museveni attributed his motivation to identity, history, and Africa's struggle for freedom. He said his generation was driven by the need to prevent Africans from returning to subjugation.

open to engagement if platforms operate responsibly. He also revealed discussions with Elon Musk on the possible introduction of Starlink internet in Uganda, provided costs are affordable.

Broadcaster Isaac Katende, alias Kasuku, raised concerns about limited support for digital media, especially following the shutdown of Facebook. In response, the President explained that government investments in undersea

fibre-optic cables had significantly reduced internet costs by cutting reliance on expensive satellite systems. On Facebook, he said the shutdown followed misuse of the platform but added that government remains

Journalist Simon Kaheru asked about the ideological foundation of the National Resistance Movement. Museveni reiterated that prosperity is central to the NRM philosophy, stressing that wealth comes from producing goods and



services for markets, not from dependency or begging. He highlighted Patriotism and Pan-Africanism as pillars that position Uganda and the wider African region as viable markets.

Addressing the creative sector and innovation, the President traced Uganda's economic challenges to a colonial economy built on raw exports. He outlined a five-phase recovery strategy pursued since 1986, including diversification, value addition, and a shift toward a knowledge economy. Despite

progress, he noted that many households remain outside the money economy, prompting interventions such as Operation Wealth Creation and the Parish Development Model.

**On youth employment and migration, Museveni emphasized that jobs mainly arise from commercial agriculture, manufacturing,**

**services, and ICT, urging mindset change and value addition.**

Natasha Museveni thanked the President for engaging openly with young people, assuring participants that similar dialogues would continue. The engagement underscored the growing role of digital platforms in national dialogue and reaffirmed the message that sustainable prosperity begins with skills, production, and markets.

# SAFEGUARDING TRUTH, CONNECTIVITY, AND PEACE AHEAD OF UGANDA'S ELECTIONS

By Fiona Luboga,  
MoICT&NG

**"No provider, local or foreign, is above the law. Innovation is welcome, but compliance with Uganda's regulatory framework is mandatory."**

**Executive Director, Uganda Communications Commission**

As Uganda approaches a critical electoral period, the government and sector regulators have moved to decisively counter misinformation, reassure the public on internet access, and reinforce the central role of responsible media in safeguarding peace and democratic credibility.

Speaking at a joint press

ICTs and media platforms play a central role in democratic participation.

That role becomes even more critical during elections, and it must be exercised responsibly and within the framework of the law"



briefing held on 5 January 2026 at the Uganda Media Centre, Dr. Aminah Zawedde, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and Hon. Nyombi Thembo, the Executive Director of the Uganda Communications

Commission, addressed growing public anxiety surrounding election-related rumours, particularly claims of an impending internet shutdown.

**"The Government has not announced, directed, or implemented any decision to shut down the internet during the election period. Claims suggesting otherwise are false and misleading,"** said the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance.

The Permanent Secretary emphasised that access to information and digital inclusion remain core government priorities, especially during elections when citizens depend on credible, timely information to make informed choices.

The Executive Director of the Uganda Communications Commission underscored the heightened responsibility borne by broadcasters and

digital publishers during elections, warning that irresponsible coverage can inflame tensions and undermine national stability.

“Elections place the media at the centre of national attention. Words, images, and headlines can either calm a nation or inflame it. Responsible journalism is therefore not optional; it is essential for peace and national security,” the UCC Executive Director said.

The Commission reiterated that regulation is not intended to silence the press but to promote professionalism, accountability, and editorial independence. However, the regulator warned that it would not hesitate to act where media platforms are abused.

**“We cannot stand by while media platforms are used to incite violence, spread hate, or destabilise the country. Such conduct is unacceptable and will attract enforcement action,” the Executive Director stated.**

Broadcasters were reminded that live coverage of riots, unlawful processions, or violent incidents is prohibited, as is the broadcasting or sharing of unverified election results. The declaration of official results remains the exclusive mandate of the Electoral Commission.

The briefing also addressed public debate surrounding satellite internet services, particularly Starlink. While acknowledging the potential of new technologies to expand connectivity, UCC stressed that all providers must comply with Uganda’s licensing laws.

“Uganda operates a technology-neutral licensing regime. Innovation is welcome, but no provider, local or foreign, is above the law,” the UCC Executive Director said, explaining the recent enforcement action against unlicensed services.

Both officials warned against the growing spread of fake news,

including forged public notices circulating online, urging citizens to verify information before sharing it.

**“Once you forward false information, you assume responsibility for it. Our aim is not to punish, but to protect the public and preserve trust in our communication systems,” the UCC Executive Director cautioned.**

As polling day draws nearer, the government calls on media practitioners, digital users, political actors, and citizens to act responsibly and place national unity above narrow interests.

“Our collective responsibility is to ensure that ICTs and the media contribute to peaceful, credible elections and national unity. Let us use these platforms in the service of truth, stability, and the public good,” the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, concluded.

# TAX AUTHORITY DEFENDS INQUIRIES INTO UGANDAN DIASPORA PROPERTY AND INCOME

**K**AMPALA, Uganda — The Uganda Revenue Authority is defending its recent efforts to monitor the assets of citizens living abroad, pushing back against claims that the agency is unfairly targeting the diaspora.

The defense follows a wave of criticism sparked by a commentary in *The Observer* titled “URA’s new tax zeal: Why Uganda must rethink its diaspora policy.”

While critics argue that official inquiries into the financial status of those living overseas amount to persecution, tax officials maintain that asking for clarification on property and income is a standard administrative function.

The URA holds that property ownership in Uganda is an economic activity rather than just a symbolic tie to the country. Officials note that land and buildings

can be rented, sold for profit, or used for business, making it necessary to determine if such assets are generating taxable income.

A key point in the agency’s stance is the distinction between remittances and taxes. While the diaspora contributes significantly to the economy through private transfers to families, these funds are not interchangeable with legal tax obligations. Revenue supporters argue that rental income and business profits earned within Uganda remain subject to national laws, regardless of where the owner resides.

The URA maintains that its compliance notices are not tax bills or accusations of evasion, but rather invitations for taxpayers to clarify their



Mr. Bagiire Vincent Waiswa, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

positions using available data.

Despite the firm stance on enforcement, there is an acknowledgment that the URA could improve its communication strategy. Critics suggest that initial outreach should be more educational and less alarming to avoid alienating a group that remains vital to Uganda’s development.

Suggested improvements include increased engagement through embassies and specialized diaspora desks to ensure the relationship between the state and its citizens abroad is built on mutual responsibility.



Media Liaison Officers and Political Attachés from resident embassies pose for a photo at Uganda Media Centre during the engagement

## UGANDA ASSURES DIPLOMATS OF INTERNET ACCESS AND PEACEFUL 2026 ELECTIONS

By Florence Mukankusi , Communication & Public Relations Officer, MoICT & NG

**“**We cannot shut down the internet because elections today are largely electronic. The Electoral Commission transmits results digitally, citizens need information, and the entire process depends on connectivity.”

**Hon. Kabyanga Godfrey Baluku, MoICT & NG**

**O**n 6th January, 2026 at Uganda Media Centre, the Minister of State for National Guidance, Kabyanga Godfrey Baluku, held a high-level engagement with Media Liaison

Officers and Political Attachés from resident embassies to discuss Uganda’s preparedness for the 2026 General Elections.

Addressing concerns

raised by diplomats, particularly around widespread social media claims of a potential internet shutdown, Hon. Kabyanga gave clear assurances that government has no plans to switch off the internet during the electoral period. He explained that internet connectivity is central to Uganda’s election management systems and broader information flow.

“The government cannot shut down the internet



Minister of State for National Guidance, Kabbyanga Godfrey Baluku, addressing the Media Liaison Officers and Political Attachés from resident embassies at Uganda Media Centre

because elections today are largely electronic,” the minister noted. He highlighted that several electoral processes rely on digital infrastructure, including communication, voter information, and the electronic transmission of results by the Electoral Commission from district level. “Internet access is integral to the whole process,” he said, adding that citizens and institutions alike require accurate and timely information before, during, and after polling.

Hon. Kabbyanga also provided an update on

national connectivity efforts, explaining that Uganda is currently in phase five of the national broadband expansion. While government had initially projected 90 percent national coverage by election time, implementation challenges mean coverage is expected to reach about 80 percent. Nevertheless, he emphasized that this level of connectivity sufficiently supports election-related digital operations and public communication.

Another key issue raised during the meeting was the accreditation of international election observers. Diplomats expressed concern that some observers from regional and international bodies, including the European Union and the African Union, had not yet received accreditation. The minister assured participants that the process would be fast-tracked to allow observers to deploy across the country in time.

He further cautioned observers to strictly adhere to their mandate. “Observers should remain observers,” Hon. Kabbyanga said, warning that some individuals overstep their role and attempt to act as referees, which can lead to unnecessary conflict. He advised all accredited observers to follow guidelines issued by the Electoral Commission upon accreditation.

In a second briefing, the minister underscored the importance of regular engagement with diplomatic missions to counter misinformation. He acknowledged that campaign schedules had limited consistent updates in recent weeks but said the meeting was timely, coming just days before polling.

**“We shall stand by democratic principles,”** he said, adding that any disputes arising from the electoral process would be handled through courts of law. “There will be no chaos before, during, or after the elections.”

# UGANDA DELIVERS NAM STATEMENT AT UN SECURITY COUNCIL EMERGENCY MEETING

By David Serumaga, Uganda Media Centre

Uganda has delivered a strong statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) at an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, reaffirming the bloc's long-standing commitment to sovereignty, international law, and peaceful resolution of disputes.

The statement was delivered in New York on 5 January 2026 by Celia Nabetà, Minister Counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires at the Uganda Permanent Mission to the United Nations, acting in Uganda's capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement.



Speaking on behalf of NAM's 121 Member States, Ms Nabetà conveyed the Movement's categorical condemnation of what it described as acts of aggression against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, reportedly carried out in the early hours of 3 January 2026. According to the statement, the attacks targeted both civilian and military locations in the capital, Caracas, as well as other parts of Venezuelan territory, raising serious concerns

about regional and international stability. NAM stressed that such actions constitute a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and of established norms of international law. The Movement warned that the escalation undermines international peace and security and directly threatens the right to life of the Venezuelan people. It further asserted that the use of force against

a sovereign state cannot be justified under international law and risks setting a dangerous precedent globally.

In its intervention, the Coordinating Bureau demanded the immediate cessation of all hostilities against Venezuela and called for full respect for the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, and inalienable right to self-determination. NAM also urged that those responsible for the alleged acts of

aggression be held accountable through appropriate international mechanisms.

The statement also reaffirmed the inviolability of immunities accorded to Heads of State and Government under international law, describing them as a cornerstone of sovereign equality and peaceful coexistence. NAM cautioned that any selective disregard of these protections' risks eroding multilateralism, destabilizing international relations, and weakening

the international legal order.

Concluding the address, Uganda, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, expressed full solidarity with the people and government of Venezuela. The Movement reiterated its firm position that military solutions are not viable avenues for resolving disputes between states and called instead for dialogue, diplomacy, and adherence to international law as the only sustainable paths to peace and stability.

## ADVERTISEMENT



Candidate Name	Photo	Symbol	Tick ✓ or ⚡ Thumbprint
Candidate 1			
Candidate 2			
Candidate 3			
Candidate 4			
Candidate 5			
Candidate 6			
Candidate 7			
YOWERI MUSEVENI			

Candidate Name	Photo	Symbol	Tick ✓ or ⚡ Thumbprint
Candidate 1			
Candidate 2			
Candidate 3			
Candidate 4			
Candidate 5			
Candidate 6			
Candidate 7			
YOWERI MUSEVENI			



# UGANDA LAUNCHES CREATIVE UGANDA REVOLVING FUND TO EMPOWER ARTISTS AND CULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS

By Jackie Mayega, Uganda Media Centre

**“**Creativity is not just culture, it is capital. When we invest in our artists, we invest in jobs, innovation, and national growth.”

Daniel Kazibwe

**K**ampala, 7th January 2026 – The Government of Uganda has officially rolled out the Creative Uganda Revolving Fund (CURF), a landmark initiative designed to provide affordable financing, capacity-building, and institutional support to the country’s creative

and cultural industries. The announcement was made by Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo, Minister of State for Gender and Culture, during a media briefing at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala.

The fund, which was introduced in the 2025/2026 national budget with an allocation

of UGX 28 billion, aims to unlock the potential of Uganda’s creative economy, including music, film, fashion, visual arts, crafts, digital content, publishing, performing arts, and culinary arts. The breakdown of funding includes UGX 5 billion for musician SACCOs, UGX 5 billion for copyright management strengthening, and UGX 18 billion for SACCOs supporting other creative domains.

**Addressing stakeholders, Hon. Mutuuzo highlighted the historical challenges faced by creatives, particularly limited access to affordable finance and exclusion from traditional banking services. CURF seeks to address these gaps by offering low-interest loans at 5%, flexible repayment schedules, and sector-specific loan products tailored to creative projects. The fund is structured as a revolving facility, ensuring that repaid resources can continue to support more creatives over time.**



Hon. Peace Regis Mutuuzo, Minister of State for Gender and Culture, addresses the media during a press briefing at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala



Sylvia Owori addresses the media at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala

CURF is aligned with Uganda's broader development agenda, including the Parish Development Model, the Fourth National Development Plan, and industrialization

strategies, recognizing creatives as entrepreneurs, employers, and

innovators rather than merely entertainers. The Fund also emphasizes formalization of creative businesses, intellectual property recognition, and capacity building to enhance financial literacy, business management, and market readiness.

In its initial phase, CURF resources are being channeled through domain-based artist SACCOS, including the Uganda National Musician Federation, WALK Creative Arts Foundation, and other verified associations. Already, UGX 9.5 billion has been disbursed to implementing partners to support loan disbursement, copyright management, and creative capacity-building initiatives.

Hon. Mutuuzo underscored that transparency, accountability, and safeguards are central to the Fund, with independent monitoring, clear guidelines, and strong loan recovery measures to ensure sustainability.



Daniel Kazibwe, Arts Administrator, Private Sector Foundation Executive representative, and Chairman of the National Culture Forum, addresses the media during the press briefing

The expected impact includes supporting thousands of creative enterprises, generating employment, increasing incomes, boosting

cultural exports, and strengthening Uganda's GDP contribution from the creative sector. This initiative positions creativity as a viable economic activity, transforming lives and communities across the country.

The Minister called upon the media, creative leaders, and associations to mobilize stakeholders, promote responsible borrowing, and champion the growth of Uganda's creative economy.



Senior stakeholders and creative industry leaders attentively follow proceedings during the government media

# UGANDA'S FOREIGN MISSIONS REPORT STRONG GAINS IN TRADE, TOURISM AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

By Carolyne Muyama,  
Uganda Media Centre

Uganda's Economic and Commercial Diplomacy (ECD) officers across key foreign missions have reported significant progress in advancing the country's trade, tourism, investment and regional cooperation agenda, reflecting the growing impact of Uganda's outward-facing economic diplomacy.

At the Uganda Mission in Mogadishu, Mr. Richard Mugimba, ECD Officer, reported steady progress in coordinating the Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) between the Government of Uganda and Somalia. The engagements have resulted in concrete cooperation agreements in critical areas including immigration, education and security. Importantly, the Mission has also



Robert Mugimba, ECD Officer at the Uganda Mission in Mogadishu, briefs on progress under the Uganda-Somalia Joint Permanent Commission

secured market access for Ugandan coffee and other agricultural products, opening new commercial opportunities for exporters in a recovering Somali market.

From the Uganda High Commission in Dar es Salaam, Ms. Laura Kahuga highlighted focused efforts to deepen tourism and trade linkages across the region and beyond.

These included Uganda's participation in tourism expos in Zambia and Mauritius, promotion of the Rwenzori Marathon as a flagship sports tourism product, and the organisation of familiarisation trips for tour operators. She further noted the conclusion of tourism cooperation frameworks, expanded market access for Ugandan products, and the launch of direct Malawi-Uganda flights.



Mr. Michael Bulwaka, ECD Officer at the Uganda High Commission in Rwanda, highlights tourism promotion, diaspora engagement, NIRA supported registration of Ugandans, and cultural diplomacy at the Mashariki African Film Festival

in 2025, a development expected to significantly boost trade flows and tourism exchanges between the two countries.

In Kigali, Mr. Michael Bulwaka, ECD Officer at the Uganda High Commission in Rwanda, outlined outcomes from a familiarisation trip for Rotary Club of

Kigali leaders to Queen Elizabeth National Park, aimed at positioning Uganda as a preferred leisure and conservation destination. He also cited successful diaspora engagement events held in partnership with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), National Day outreach to strategic partners, and NIRA-supported registration exercises for Ugandans living in Rwanda. Cultural diplomacy featured strongly through Uganda's participation in the Mashariki African Film Festival, where the Ugandan production *Beware of Time* won the Best Documentary Award.

At the Uganda Embassy in Bujumbura, Mr. Tarsis Turyasingura reported progress in promoting religious tourism, particularly pilgrimages to Namugongo Martyrs Shrine. The Mission has also expanded education and medical tourism opportunities for Burundian nationals, secured market access for Ugandan products with a focus on sugar exports, and mobilised the Ugandan diaspora to contribute to national development initiatives.

From Addis Ababa, Mr. Michael Wamai shared how Uganda's Mission has leveraged multilateral platforms to advance development financing across priority sectors such as education, health, infrastructure, energy and manufacturing. These efforts have reinforced Uganda's regional and continental economic engagement, particularly within the African Union framework.

Meanwhile, Ms. Juliet Kiggundu Namirimu of the Uganda High Commission in Nairobi underscored gains in sports and leisure

tourism promotion, including the Rwenzori Marathon, as well as destination marketing at the Magical Kenya Tourism Expo and the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE). She also highlighted active diaspora mobilisation, engagement in Joint Ministerial Commissions and trade technical committees, and contributions to the elimination of non-tariff barriers, strengthening Uganda-Kenya economic cooperation.



Collectively, the reports demonstrate the growing effectiveness of Uganda's missions in translating diplomacy into tangible economic and development outcomes, positioning the country as an increasingly competitive trade and tourism destination within the region and beyond.



# “VOTE NRM FOR MORE SUPPORT,” SAYS BYARUHANGA AS HE SENSITIZES MARKET LEADERS ON KATALE LOAN

By Joellah Anshemeza, GCIC – Uganda

The Senior Presidential Advisor in-charge of political mobilisation, Mr. Moses Byaruhanga has reiterated the government's commitment to continue supporting market vendors to improve their livelihoods.

He said the government is working around the clock to ensure that vendors get support to sustain their businesses through the Katale loan.

“The aim of this loan is to help our vendors

get money at a very low interest rate,” he said.

Mr. Byaruhanga made the remarks today while meeting leaders of different markets in Kampala City. The event was held at Kolping Hotel,

Kawempe Division.

The meeting was aimed at sensitizing leaders of markets in Kampala regarding the Katale loan project which is set to be rolled out in different markets to help vendors grow and sustain their small enterprises.

The project is being handled by the State House with support from the Microfinance Support Centre (MSC).

Mr. Byaruhanga explained that the project is going



to be first piloted on six markets which include St. Balikuddembe/Owino, Kalerwe, Nakawa, Ggaba, Nakasero as well as Busega and it will be officially launched in the near future.

“This money is returned within a year, and you are given a grace period of 1 month before you start paying back the interest,” he noted.

He said vendors will receive the loans individually via Mobile Money.

“You will be required to get guarantors. This will help to promote

efficiency within the project,” he noted.

■■■ The pilot will run for three months and see how the six markets have performed. From there, we shall roll it out to other markets.”

Mr. Byaruhanga further reminded the vendors that President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has always supported markets, pointing out Owino Market where the President has invested billions of shillings.

“You will not eat the good tarmac road, hospital or school, you need money in your pockets to improve your livelihoods.”

On the other hand, Mr. Byaruhanga assured the vendors that the government will add more money to the myoogas which have performed well.

“Last year, we did an inspection exercise in Kampala regarding the performance of Emyooga, we found out that over 200 myoogas were dysfunctional. But those who were performing well, we shall add them Shs 20 million,” he said.

Mr. Byaruhanga implored the vendors to vote for NRM MPs who are ideologically oriented. He explained that the NRM MPs will represent their interests which is not the case with the opposition legislators.

“You are leaders in your markets, rally your fellow vendors to support President Museveni and other NRM flagbearers for continued development,” he stated.

He also reminded the vendors how with the support of the President, his office managed to stop the spread of cholera in Kampala after introducing the clean water project in the most prone areas of the city.

In May last year, President Museveni directed the MSC to extend low interest government funding-Katale loan at an interest rate of 8 percent per annum.

The first of its kind, the project will benefit thousands of vendors



across Kampala markets and it will save the beneficiaries from unscrupulous money lenders whose terms and conditions are unfavourable.

The Head of Business Development Services, MSC, Mr. Gidson Ainamani, noted that the pilot will help them get a better product which will be later rolled out to other markets.

“We are just starting. That's why we are piloting starting with 6 markets,” he said.

The Communications Manager of MSC, Mr. Tadeo Atuhura said the centre is mandated to sensitize the masses on financial management and offer financial

support through the government to Ugandans.

**■■■ The program is non- discriminatory, it's for all vendors irrespective of their political affiliation,” he said.**

On their part, the vendors commended President Museveni for empowering them through various programs such as Katale loan.

Ms. Namayanja Faridah, Usafi market Vice Chairperson requested Mr. Byaruhanga that they also need the Katale loan and they will be grateful if they are involved in the second phase of the project.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

## THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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 P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda  
 Website: [www.ec.or.ug](http://www.ec.or.ug)

Date: **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026**

### What You Need to Do on Polling Day

1. On polling day, go to the polling station where you are registered as a voter;
2. Present your National ID or your Voter Location Slip. If you do not have either, the Presiding Officer will help confirm your details on the National Voters Register;
3. Your identity will be verified using the Biometric Voter Verification machine, by scanning your fingerprints or your face;
4. After verification, the Presiding Officer will scan the ballot papers and issue them to you;
5. Go to the voting basin and mark the candidate of your choice, for each elective position, using either a tick or your thumbprint;
6. Fold the ballot paper as directed and insert it into the ballot box for the respective elective position;
7. The Polling Assistant will mark your finger to show that you have voted;
8. Remember that polling stations open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 4:00 pm!
9. Please make sure you arrive in time and exercise your right to choose your leaders!

**This message is from the Electoral Commission.**

# UGANDA ELECTION DAY

## WHAT EVERY VOTER SHOULD KNOW

### POLLING DAY TIMELINE

Activity	Time
Polling station opens	7:00 AM
Voting continues	7:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Polling closes	4:00 PM
Counting begins	Immediately after last voter

### CHECK FOR YOUR POLLING STATION



- 1 Visit [www.ec.or.ug/search](http://www.ec.or.ug/search)
- 2 Enter your **NIN** or **Application ID** (from your *ID registration slip*).
- 3 Tap **Search**.

*If you have no ID, tap \*Personal Details\* to search by name.*



GCIC - STATE HOUSE



# A CRY *Uganda's*

This week, the nation holds its breath.

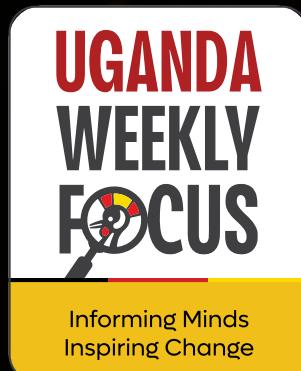
Ballot papers wait quietly,  
and hearts are heavy with expectation.  
But my cry is not for victory or defeat.

My cry is for people.

My cry is for a love of Uganda  
that rises above names, tribes, and party colours.  
A love that remembers we share the same soil,  
    drink from the same rivers,  
    and bury our dead in the same ground.

My prayer is that we understand this simple truth:  
    after the 15th January, 2026,  
    Uganda will still be here.  
The sun will still rise over our hills,  
    children will still need schools,  
    farmers will still plant seed in hope of rain.

What kind of country will we wake up to?  
That depends on our choices.





# A CRY *Uganda's*

We have seen nations forget themselves,  
where anger spoke louder than wisdom,  
where brothers turned on brothers,  
and the cost was too heavy to bear.

History whispers warnings from faraway lands,  
reminding us that hatred is easy to ignite  
but difficult to extinguish.

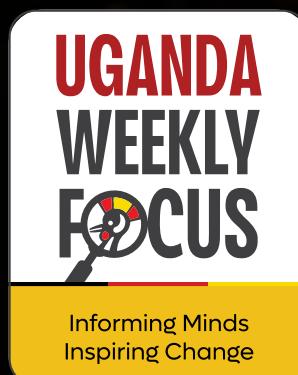
So my prayer rises quietly:  
God, heal our land.

Heal it from the sickness of political hatred.  
Heal it from words that wound  
and actions that divide.

Protect us from consuming one another.  
Teach us restraint when emotions burn hot.  
Teach us peace when provocation comes.  
Teach us to choose life over chaos,  
unity over destruction,  
and nation over self.

May Uganda remain standing,  
not because we all think the same,  
but because we chose to remain one people.

Amen.





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and development updates to:**



Paraa Bridge, Murchison Falls National Park, Photo by Leonard, 2025