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UGANDA WEEKLY FOCUS



Top highlight

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI RECEIVES OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF VICTORY, PLEDGES ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY ERADICATION



INFORMING MINDS · INSPIRING CHANGE



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The EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back to this week's edition of the Uganda Weekly Focus.

First and foremost, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, our readers, for the exemplary spirit shown during the recent presidential elections. Thank you for maintaining peace and order, and for exercising your fundamental right to vote. Your participation is the heartbeat of our democracy, and it is through your voices that the direction of our nation is shaped.

As we move forward, let us remember that the democratic process continues. Voting for Local Council elections is still underway. We encourage every eligible Ugandan to go out and select your local leaders. While it is your right, it is also a vital contribution to the transformation of our immediate communities. These are the leaders who will walk the journey of development with us at

the grassroots level.

In this edition, we take a sneak peek into the election outcomes, analyzing how candidates and parties performed across the country. The data tells a story of a vibrant political landscape, with the National Resistance Movement (NRM) maintaining strong support in regions like Sembabule (83.67%) and Lyantonde (78.42%), while the National Unity Platform (NUP) showed significant presence in the Kampala Metropolitan area, particularly in Mukono (65.71%) and Wakiso (63.55%). This diversity of choice is a testament to the maturing of our political discourse.

Beyond the polls, this week's edition brings you critical updates from across different Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). We highlight the government's 22 strategic priorities for the next five years a roadmap designed to

transition Uganda into a modern, competitive economy. From the 40th Anniversary of the NRM/A Liberation to the strides made in Digital Transformation, we cover the milestones that define our current era.

A Note of Appreciation
This publication would not be possible without the dedication of our contributors Michael Woira, Kenson Bugembe, Baker Mubiru, and many others who provide the insights that inform and inspire. To our readers, your engagement is what drives us to keep digging deeper.

Join the Conversation
We are always looking for fresh perspectives. If you have insights, analyses, or stories that can contribute to "Informing Minds and Inspiring Change," we invite you to become a contributor. Let us build this narrative together.

Thank you for being an active participant in Uganda's journey.

For God and My Country.

UGANDA TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF NRM/A LIBERATION

By Michael Woira

Kampala – Uganda will on Monday, January 26, 2026, mark the 40th anniversary of the National Resistance Movement/Army (NRM/A) Liberation Day, commemorating four decades since the National Resistance Army captured Kampala in 1986 and brought an end to years of political instability and military rule.

The national celebrations will take place at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds under the theme “Tribute to the Patriots who ushered in a fundamental change.” President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni will be the chief guest at the event, accompanied by senior government officials, regional leaders, diplomats, and invited guests from across Uganda and abroad.

While addressing the media at the Uganda Media Centre on

23rd January 2026, the Minister for the Presidency, Hon. Babirye Milly Babalanda, said the 40th NRM/A Liberation anniversary is a significant national milestone that provides Ugandans with an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the liberation fighters and the progress the country has achieved since 1986.

She noted that the 2026 celebrations come at a time when

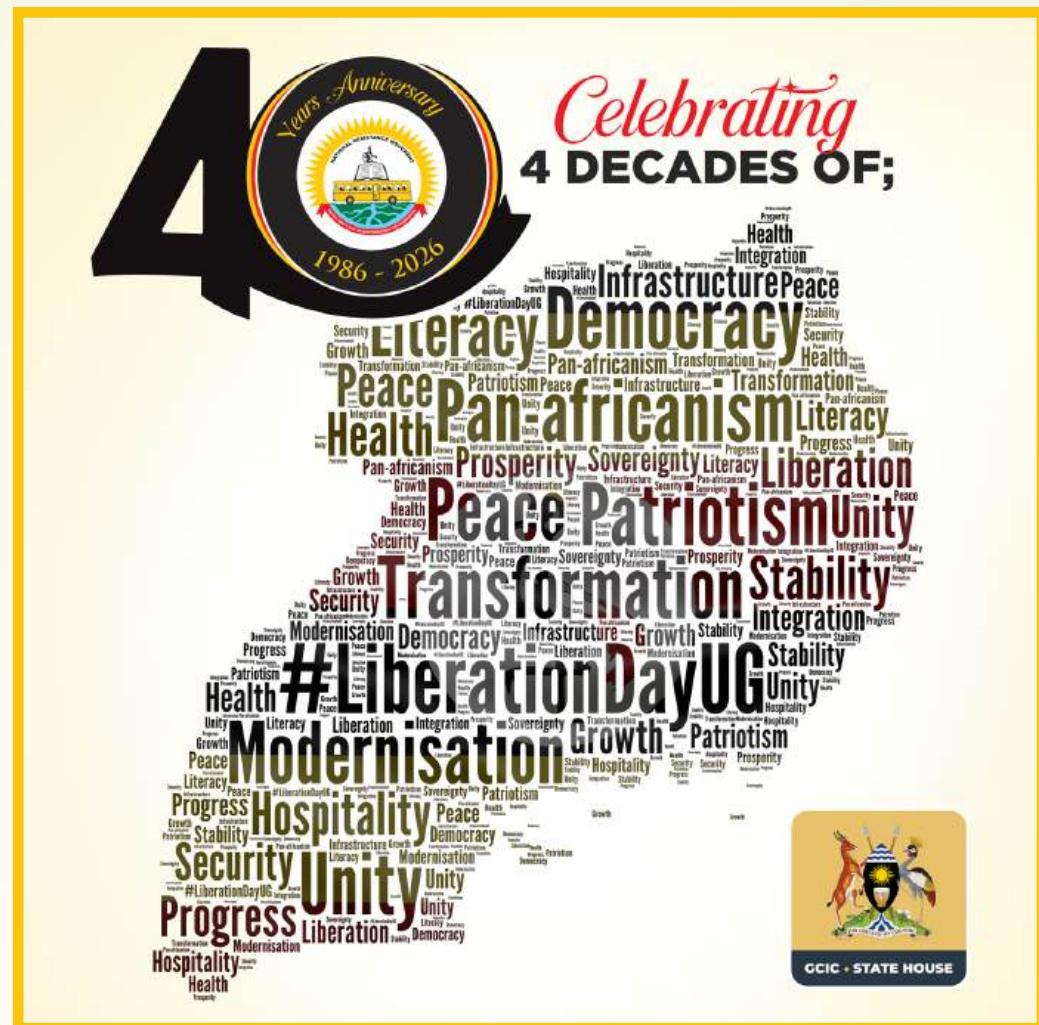


President Museveni has recently been re-elected, describing it as a renewed mandate and vote of confidence in the leadership and policies of the NRM government.

The commemorations will be marked by a special military parade featuring the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda Prisons Service, and the Uganda Wildlife Authority. Cultural performances and other forms of entertainment are also expected to form part of the celebrations. During

the ceremony, President Museveni will confer national medals on 33 Ugandans in recognition of their distinguished service and contribution to the country's liberation and development.

Liberation Day marks January 26, 1986, when NRA forces captured Kampala and overthrew the UNLA military junta led by the late Gen. Tito Okello Lutwa. President Museveni was subsequently sworn in as Uganda's ninth President, declaring that the change represented "not a mere change of guards, but a fundamental change in the politics of our country."



According to the Minister, the four decades since liberation have been characterized by restored national security, political stability, and steady economic growth. Uganda has expanded its electricity generation capacity, strengthened healthcare systems, widened access to education through universal programs, and invested heavily in infrastructure, digital transformation, and

agriculture.

As Uganda prepares to mark 40 years of NRM/A liberation on January 26, 2026, government leaders have urged citizens to honor the country's heroes, safeguard peace and stability, and remain committed to national unity and sustainable development.

UGANDA'S ECONOMIC PROMISE: NRM SETS 22 PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

By Kenson Bugembe,
Uganda Media Centre

Uganda's Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), Dr. Ramathan Ggoobi, has outlined 22 strategic priorities that will guide the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government over the next five years as it seeks to transform the country into a modern, inclusive, and competitive economy that works for all Ugandans.

The priorities form part of a broader commitment to sustain growth, create wealth, and strengthen Uganda's position in the regional and global economy.

Speaking on behalf of Finance Minister Matia Kasaija at the NRM Party Secretariat on Kyadondo Road, Dr. Ggoobi said Uganda now has all



the key ingredients required to create shared prosperity. He noted that decades of deliberate economic reforms have laid a strong foundation

for resilience and long-term transformation.

At the core of the agenda is maintaining macroeconomic stability through sound fiscal management, while accelerating wealth creation for the remaining 33 percent of households still engaged

in subsistence. The government plans to address land ownership and fragmentation challenges, expand irrigation and fertilizer use, and prioritize value addition in agriculture and mineral exports to boost incomes and productivity.

Infrastructure development remains central to the strategy. Key commitments include reducing the cost of doing business through improved transport networks, affordable electricity, and access to long-term capital. Government will fast-track completion of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline for first oil in 2026, construct pipelines for refined products, complete the Standard Gauge Railway, and rehabilitate the Meter Gauge

Railway.

The priorities also place strong emphasis on industrialization, science and technology, tourism development, and expansion of industrial parks and export zones. Youth employment will be addressed through skills development, increased labour productivity, and support for the creative arts, sports, and talent industries.

Dr. Ggoobi highlighted governance reforms, particularly the fight against corruption through digitization, automation, stronger audits, and enhanced accountability. Regional and global market access through the EAC, COMESA, and AfCFTA will be

deepened, alongside efforts to raise domestic revenue to 20 percent of GDP within five years.

Reflecting on past gains, Dr. Ggoobi said Uganda's economy has expanded an estimated 17 times since 1986. Per capita GNP rose to USD 1,278 in FY2024/25, above the lower-middle-income threshold, with projections of USD 1,324 by FY2025/26. Poverty declined to 16.1 percent, while subsistence households fell sharply.

He cited additional gains including stable inflation, a resilient shilling, record export earnings, growing foreign direct investment, expanded electricity generation, and renewed growth in tourism.

■■■ The NRM Government remains resolute,” Dr. Ggoobi said, “to transform Uganda into a modern, inclusive, and competitive economy that works for all.”

UGANDA'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: 40 YEARS OF NRM LEADERSHIP IN THE ICT SECTOR

Fiona Luboga and Daisy Nakandi

The Cabinet Minister for ICT and National guidance, State Ministers for ICT and National guidance, Permanent Secretary, and the staff of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance wish to congratulate President H.E General Yoweri Kaguta Tibahaburwa Museveni and the NRM Government upon the celebration of the 40th NRM liberation day and re-election as the President Elect 2026-2031.

40 Years of NRM Leadership in the ICT Sector

As Uganda marks 40 years of National Resistance Movement (NRM) leadership, the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance commends the NRM for providing the stability, policy direction, and institutional reforms



President Museveni Launches Phase V of National Backbone Infrastructure 2

to sustain long-term growth.

that have transformed Uganda's information and communications technology sector into a central driver of national development.

Uganda's ICT journey reflects deliberate sequencing: restoring stability, reforming policy, investing in infrastructure, and building local capacity

Liberalisation and Infrastructure Expansion

When the NRM assumed leadership in 1986, mobile telephony and internet access were non-existent. Recognising ICT as a foundation for governance, security, and economic growth, the government prioritised sector reform as part of



Uganda Launches National Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Policy and Publicity Campaign

national reconstruction.

A major milestone was the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector in the 1990s. This policy shift attracted private investment alongside Uganda Telecom, bringing in operators such as MTN and Airtel. Increased competition accelerated network expansion, reduced service costs, and rapidly expanded access to mobile voice and data services.

These reforms were reinforced through sustained public investment. To date, over 4,353 kilometres

of national fibre optic infrastructure have been deployed, with connectivity established at all border points. Through regional partnerships with Kenya and Tanzania, Uganda secured access to undersea cables, ensuring international bandwidth redundancy and reliability. These investments have been instrumental in reducing internet costs and extending affordable connectivity to households, businesses, and public institutions.

Today, widespread mobile and internet access has opened new

avenues for participation. Women entrepreneurs are using digital platforms to reach wider markets, rural youth are accessing digital skilling programmes, and refugees are leveraging technology to support livelihoods. Government, working with development partners, has established ICT training centres and affordable access initiatives to ensure that marginalised groups are not only consumers but active contributors to the digital economy.

This inclusive approach marks a decisive shift from the early

post-independence years, when access to information was limited to a few. Digital tools are now serving as equalisers, enabling empowerment, economic independence, and participation in national development.

Integrated Digital Government

Beyond connectivity,

data sharing across ministries, departments, and agencies. UG-Hub underpins interoperability, reduces duplication, and allows government systems to communicate seamlessly.

E-Governance Driving Service Delivery

The government has deliberately adopted e-governance to

(OBRS) has simplified business formalisation, the Electronic Document Management and Information System (EDMIS) has modernised records management, the electronic Government Procurement (eGP) system has enhanced transparency in public procurement, and the Education Management Information System (EMIS) provides real-time data on schools, teachers, and learners nationwide.

At the centre of grassroots service delivery is the Parish Development Management Information System (PDMIS), supporting the Parish Development Model. PDMIS provides Uganda's first comprehensive digital registry of households and beneficiaries, capturing names, National Identification Numbers, contact details, household enterprises, and savings group memberships. Integration with the National Identification and



Parish Development Model gets boost with laptops from the Ministry of ICT & National Guidance

the NRM government pursued digital integration across the public sector. A key milestone was the establishment of the Government Integration Platform (UG-Hub), which enables secure, efficient, and sustainable

enhance the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of public services. Locally developed digital platforms now underpin service delivery across sectors.

The Online Business Registration System

Registration Authority ensures verification, reduces fraud, and safeguards public funds.

As of 2025, PDMIS has registered over 30.4 million Ugandans across 9.1 million households, supporting 10,594 PDM SACCOs and 217,704 enterprise groups. More than UGX 3 trillion in government funds have been tracked through the platform, reaching approximately three million beneficiaries. This represents a significant shift toward data-driven planning, accountability, and transparency at the parish level.

To strengthen system resilience, the government established a National Data Centre and a Disaster Recovery Site in Jinja, currently hosting applications for 66 government entities.

Rural Connectivity and Universal Access

Recognising the risk of digital exclusion, the government prioritised rural connectivity as a foundation for inclusive growth. Under the Universal Services framework, 25 broadband



ICT-training-Uganda-Acholi

sites were upgraded from 2G to 3G, while over 580 free public Wi-Fi hotspots under the MyUg brand were deployed across Kampala, Entebbe, and nine border posts.

Through the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and the Uganda Communications Universal Service and Access Fund (UCUSAf), targeted interventions expanded access in underserved areas, ensuring that connectivity reached beyond urban centres to support education, enterprise, and service delivery nationwide.

Digital Skills

Development and Human Capital

Infrastructure alone does not deliver transformation without skills. In line with the NRM Manifesto and Vision 2040, the government placed digital skilling and human capital development at the centre of ICT sector growth.

Through the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT), more than 50,000 Ugandans have been equipped with practical digital skills spanning foundational digital literacy, public sector digitisation, and advanced industry-



aligned competencies. These programmes target youth, women, public servants, entrepreneurs, and marginalised groups to ensure broad participation in the digital economy.

UICT has positioned Uganda for future-ready skills through the establishment of the country's first Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) Centre. The facility supports immersive training in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Innovation, as well

as industry-focused applications, marking a shift from theory-based instruction to applied, technology-enabled learning.

Digital inclusion is deliberately embedded in national skilling efforts. UICT is one of only 14 Digital Training Centres globally under the International Telecommunication Union, delivering the Inclusive and Connected Business Value Initiative. In partnership with the ST Foundation and ITU, the Institute has trained visually impaired, partially sighted, and

sighted participants in essential computer skills, expanding access to digital opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Community-based initiatives complement institutional training. Programmes such as the DigiTruck, a mobile digital classroom serving rural communities, have expanded digital literacy nationwide. In addition, UCC-led interventions trained over 3,000 women from 20 districts in smartphone use, internet applications, and basic digital skills, strengthening participation in the digital

economy.

Innovation, Research, and Institutional Capacity

Digital skilling has been matched with deliberate investment in innovation and applied research. Through over 30 national and international strategic partnerships, UICT has strengthened curriculum co-design, certification, faculty development, and exposure to global best practices. Fifteen [15] new competence-based academic programmes have been developed to respond directly to labour market needs. A total of 30,340 individuals from the formal and informal business community.

Innovation support has expanded alongside training. More than 150 startups across health technology, agricultural technology, financial technology, education technology, e-commerce, and government technology have been supported through incubation, mentorship, and technical assistance, delivering locally relevant solutions that

improve service delivery, productivity, and employment.

Under the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, the National ICT Innovation Programme has supported over 100 startups, with 63 commercialised, creating more than 700 jobs and over 1,000 internships. The National ICT Innovation Hub at UICT Nakawa provides a modern co-creation and incubation space, complemented by regional hubs at Kabale, Muni, and Soroti universities, with expansion planned for Gulu and Busitema. The Ministry has ensured regional inclusivity in innovation by establishing Regional Innovation hubs in the following universities; Soroti, Muni, Kabale, and is in the process of setting up in Gulu and Busitema Universities. Participated in 7 International Expos. These include; Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit Tamil Nadu, India, Pearl of African Business Expo Bangkok, Thailand,

United Trade Partnership Expo London, UK, 8th China International Import Expo Shanghai, China, Latitude 59 Nairobi, Kenya, Osaka Expo Osaka, Japan and TICON Africa Conference Accra, Ghana enhancing Uganda's visibility on the global innovation stage.

Notable home-grown innovations include KaCyber, a digital ticketing platform for transport services; Ridelink, an AI-powered logistics optimisation platform; the Parish Development Management Information System (PDMIS); the Electronic Government Procurement System (Egp), the Online Business Registration system, the Electronic Document and Records Management System; E-Posta, a digital postal management platform; and Microfuse, developers of Uganda's first low-power computing device.

Media Expansion and Information Access

NRM-led liberalisation has transformed the media landscape. Uganda now hosts over

300 licensed FM radio stations, with radio remaining the most widely accessed medium, reaching approximately 73% of the population on a weekly basis, particularly in rural areas.

Uganda Broadcasting Corporation radio services have been restored and expanded to regions including Kisoro, Rubirizi, Arua, Soroti, Lira, Mbarara, and Masaka, extending national radio coverage to approximately 85%.

Television has expanded to over 30 registered stations following the completion of digital migration in 2015, resulting in increased free-to-air access. While television remains more urban-based, shifts toward online and mobile content are increasingly shaping media consumption, particularly among younger audiences.

Today, Ugandans access information through hundreds of radio stations, dozens of television channels, over 30 newspapers, and a rapidly growing digital

media ecosystem. What was once fragile and scarce is now vibrant, diverse, and inclusive.

ICT, Jobs, and Economic Transformation

ICT has become a significant driver of employment. Business Process Outsourcing is among the fastest-growing job segments, with over 50 active firms employing approximately 10,000 Ugandans. The government has set a target of creating up to 150,000 BPO jobs in the coming years.

These opportunities are supported by reliable broadband, affordable connectivity, and specialised training in customer service, data processing, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and cybersecurity. Ugandan youth are increasingly delivering services to global markets from within the country.

Strategic Direction to Vision 2040

To consolidate these gains, the government developed the Digital Uganda Vision and the

Digital Transformation Roadmap (2023/24–2027/28), structured around five pillars: digital infrastructure, digital services, digital skills, digital innovation, and digital governance.

Conclusion

Forty years of NRM leadership have transformed Uganda's ICT sector from rudimentary systems into a digitally enabled foundation for governance, service delivery, innovation, and economic growth. This progress reflects political stability, long-term planning, and sustained policy execution.

As Uganda advances toward fulfilling the NRM manifesto 2026–2031 and Vision 2040, ICT remains central to building an inclusive, competitive, and knowledge-based economy anchored in connectivity, skills, and trust.

UGANDA TARGETS UPPER MIDDLE-INCOME LEAP AS GOVERNMENT TABLES NATIONAL BFP FOR FY 2026/27



By David Serumaga,
Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

Uganda is at what government officials describe as its most promising economic inflection point, with the Financial Year 2026/27 identified as a decisive moment to fast-track the country's transition to upper middle-income status. This was revealed during the briefing of Parliament's Budget Committee on the National Budget Framework Paper (BFP) for FY 2026/27.

Presenting the BFP, the State Minister for Finance in charge of General Duties, Henry Musasizi, said the coming financial year offers Uganda a strategic opportunity to accelerate economic transformation through focused investment and stronger fiscal discipline. The Minister

was accompanied by the Permanent Secretary and Secretary to the Treasury, Dr Ramathan Ggoobi.

Musasizi reported that Uganda recorded a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 6.3 percent in FY 2024/25, with growth projected to range between 6.5 and

7.0 percent in the current FY 2025/26. Looking ahead, the economy is expected to grow by 10.4 percent in FY 2026/27, expanding the size of the economy to Shs 290.2 trillion, equivalent to approximately USD 76.7 billion.

■■■ The budget for the next financial year will be guided by the aspiration to expand the size of the economy tenfold before 2040, starting with doubling GDP every five years as programmed under the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV)," Musasizi said.

He noted that this policy direction will be implemented through sustained investments in the



Areas of Transformation and Macro-economic Stabilizers, alongside key enablers.

The Minister outlined several critical unfinished reform areas to be prioritized in the coming financial year. These include eliminating budget practices that foster corruption, closing leakages in routine expenditures such as transfers to schools and health centres, strengthening payroll management, improving liquidity and cash management, enhancing Uganda's sovereign credit rating, and diversifying development financing through innovative funding mechanisms.



State Minister for Finance (General Duties), Hon. Henry Musasizi, briefs Parliament's Budget Committee on the National Budget Framework Paper for FY 2026/27

Musasizi disclosed that the preliminary resource envelope for FY 2026/27 stands at Shs 69.399 trillion, a reduction from Shs 72.376 trillion in FY 2025/26.

Earlier, Musasizi, together with the Minister of State for Planning, Amos Lugoloobi, presented the Budget Framework Papers for Vote 008 (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development) and Vote 130 (Treasury Operations) to the Finance Committee of Parliament. The Ministry of Finance is projected to receive Shs 2,693.40 billion in FY 2026/27, down from Shs 2,796.77 billion, largely due to the reduced resource envelope. Meanwhile, Shs 28,264.652 billion allocated to Treasury Operations will cater for timely debt servicing, redemptions, and other statutory obligations.

UGANDA KICKS OFF 2026 WITH RECORD AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

By Victor Nimusiima, GCIC Uganda

Kampala, January 22, 2026 — Uganda has opened 2026 with strong momentum in its agriculture sector, posting record export earnings, expanded irrigation coverage and nationwide scaling up of disease and pest control, according to new figures released by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries.

Government data shows agricultural export earnings surged from USD 1.66 billion in FY 2020/21 to USD 4.18 billion in FY 2024/25, accounting for nearly 39 percent of Uganda's total exports. Over the same period, agriculture contributed 26.1 percent to national GDP and recorded sector growth of 6.6 percent, underscoring its central role in economic transformation and household income



generation.

Speaking at the release, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Maj. Gen. David Kasura-Kyomukama, said the results reflect deliberate investments aimed at shifting agriculture from subsistence to a productive, commercial engine of growth. He noted that agriculture remains the backbone of the economy, engaging about 70 percent of

Uganda's households and supporting millions of livelihoods across the country.

Coffee remained the sector's standout performer, earning a record USD 2.2 billion in export revenue in FY 2024/25 from 8.2 million bags, supporting incomes for an estimated 12.5 million Ugandans. Cocoa exports also expanded sharply, with export values rising nearly ninefold over the past decade to USD 620 million, making it Uganda's second-leading agricultural export. Dairy exports tripled in value to USD 280 million, while milk production nearly

doubled to 5.3 billion litres.

Beyond exports, government investments focused on productivity drivers. Since 2021, more than 1,080 tractors and 1,350 power tillers have been distributed to farmer groups, alongside training for over 2,000 operators and mechanics. Large and medium-scale irrigation schemes have expanded formal irrigation by more than 3,500 hectares, complemented by valley tanks, dams and solar-powered systems to improve water security and climate resilience.

Significant progress was also registered in livestock health.

Government procured 53.6 million doses of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, the largest single vaccination investment in Uganda's history, and expanded cold chain infrastructure nationwide. Local vaccine manufacturing capacity is being established to reduce losses from tick-borne diseases and strengthen regional market access.

mechanisation and irrigation, strengthen standards and certification, and establish new market-support institutions to further de-risk exports.

Looking ahead to 2026-2031, government plans to deepen agro-industrialisation, expand

Officials say the results confirm that agriculture is increasingly driving inclusive growth, positioning Uganda as a competitive player in regional and global agricultural markets.



THE TALE OF TWO UGANDAS: HOW THE 2026 ELECTION EXPOSED A DEEPENING POLITICAL DIVISION

By Jackie Mayega, Public Affairs Assistant, Uganda Media Centre

The 2026 general election was more than a routine contest between the National Resistance Movement and the National Unity Platform. It became a quiet but powerful referendum on the character of the Ugandan state, laying bare a widening political divide that now defines the nation. Beneath the headlines and declarations lay a deeper truth. Uganda is increasingly living as two political realities under one flag, each voting, believing, and imagining the future in sharply different ways.

The election data reveals this divide with striking clarity. Urban Uganda spoke loudly and consistently through the ballot in favor of the NUP. In the Kampala Metropolitan region, the party secured 58.33 percent of the presidential vote,



confirming its dominance in the country's most urbanized and economically pressured spaces. Buganda followed a similar pattern, reinforcing the NUP's identity as the political expression of city life. This is the Uganda of the youthful, digitally connected population grappling with unemployment, high living costs, and unmet aspirations. Even beyond the capital, the NUP averaged 37.60 percent in other urban centers, a respectable showing that confirms its appeal is rooted in urban experience rather than regional loyalty.

However, this urban momentum met a formidable wall in rural Uganda. Outside major towns, the

NRM's dominance was overwhelming. Across the rural heartland, the ruling party averaged 76.18 percent of the vote, while the NUP managed only 19.74 percent. In regions such as Ankole, Teso, and Acholi, NRM support exceeded 80 percent. These results reflect more than party loyalty. They point to deeply embedded historical ties, effective grassroots structures, and the enduring influence of state presence and patronage networks. The strong correlation between high voter turnout and NRM victories underscores how deeply rooted its machinery remains in the countryside.

Parliamentary results further cemented this reality. The NRM secured 355 seats, granting it an unassailable majority and full control of the national legislative agenda. The NUP, by contrast, won just 50 seats, almost all concentrated in urban constituencies.

While the opposition captured the symbolic

At parliamentary level, the NRM secured 355 seats while NUP won just 50 seats, almost all concentrated in urban constituencies.

heart of the capital, the ruling party decisively controlled the political map of the nation.

Uganda now faces a central challenge that extends beyond electoral arithmetic. How does a country govern itself when its cities and villages express such divergent political mandates? The NRM must confront

growing urban disillusionment and demands for accountability that it struggles to address. At the same time, the NUP must find a credible pathway into rural Uganda if it hopes to evolve from an urban movement into a national alternative. Until one Uganda learns to listen to the other, the nation's politics will remain polarized, defined by division rather than shared destiny.

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S LEGACY OF RESTORING PEACE AND STABILITY

By Nanteza Sarah Kyobe

President Museveni's legacy in Uganda is most clearly defined by his efforts to restore peace and stability in a country that experienced prolonged conflict after gaining independence in 1962. His leadership ended violent conflict and promoted national unity by involving all ethnic groups in governance. This inclusiveness was essential for building lasting peace and development in a nation once torn by division and strife.

Museveni's government established key institutions such as a professional military and an organized police force, which were vital for maintaining order and restoring public trust after years of coups and political violence. Uganda also emerged as a regional leader by participating in peacekeeping missions and supporting neighboring countries in stabilizing their security situations. These efforts

strengthened Uganda's international reputation and contributed to regional stability.

Under Museveni, Uganda shifted from a constant state of war to a period of relative stability and a thriving civil society. This transformation was particularly significant given the chaos that followed Idi Amin's regime in the 1970s and the subsequent



turmoil under Milton Obote, which caused widespread suffering and displacement. Museveni's leadership helped the country recover its identity and dignity.

A major aspect of his legacy is ending insurgencies. Museveni effectively addressed major threats, especially the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which brought immense suffering to northern Uganda. Led by Joseph Kony, the LRA was notorious for brutal acts, including child abductions. Through coordinated military action, the Ugandan army successfully drove the LRA out of the country by 2006, restoring hope to communities that had lived in fear for decades.

The military also confronted the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), which attacked urban areas. Success against these insurgencies allowed previously conflict-affected regions to recover, with children returning to school and local markets beginning to flourish again.

Museveni recognized the harmful effects of tribal and religious divisions, which he described as sectarianism. To counter this, he promoted national patriotism that went beyond tribal identity. He included people from different groups in the military and police and worked to remove favoritism in government appointments.

This approach fostered cooperation and mutual respect among leaders from different regions. Through reconciliation efforts, the stories of war victims were shared, encouraging forgiveness, healing, and a shared vision for the future.

Museveni also focused on building strong institutions. He aimed to transform security forces into well-trained, professional units. Major reforms were undertaken in the Uganda People's

Defence Force (UPDF) and the police, with emphasis on crowd control and intelligence capabilities. Appointing people based on merit improved government efficiency and increased public trust. The result was reduced crime, more secure borders, and fewer civil disturbances, allowing citizens to live with greater peace of mind.

On the regional front, Uganda has played a significant role in international security efforts, deploying troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) since 2007 to fight Al-Shabaab and stabilize Mogadishu. Ugandan forces have also addressed cross-border threats from insurgents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, helping to preserve Uganda's security achievements.

President Museveni's legacy is one of peace, stability, and growth—overcoming the challenges of Uganda's past and inspiring hope for a better future.

January 22, 2026

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI NOMINATES JUSTICE FLAVIAN ZEIJA AS UGANDA'S NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE

Carolyne Muyama,
Uganda Media Centre

President Yoweri Museveni has formally nominated Hon. Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija for appointment as the Chief Justice of Uganda, following the retirement of Alfonse Owiny-Dollo.

Justice Owiny-Dollo, who reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 on January 18, 2026, officially handed over office to then-Deputy Chief Justice Flavian Zeija on January 19, 2026, making him Acting Chief Justice during the interim period.

Justice Zeija's ascent within Uganda's judicial system has been swift in recent years.

- ✓ He served as Principal Judge



this role in April 2025.

of the High Court from late 2019, where he oversaw the administration of High Court justices.

- ✓ In February 2025, President Museveni appointed him Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, a role that also makes him head of the Court of Appeal, replacing the retiring Justice Richard Buteera.
- ✓ He was sworn into

Now, less than a year later, he has been nominated to lead the entire judiciary as Chief Justice.

The nomination is subject to parliamentary approval.

As of January 22, 2026, the Parliament's Committee on Appointments, chaired by Speaker Anita Among, convened to vet Justice Zeija. Sources indicate the vetting session

took place on 22nd January, 2026, with the committee expected to forward its report to the President, who is the appointing authority, as required by procedure.

The announcement has sparked conversation online, with some commentators noting the speed of Justice Zeija's rise through the judiciary.

Others expressed hope that his leadership will usher in reforms aimed at improving judicial efficiency.

Many Ugandans are looking to him to address longstanding challenges such as:

- ✓ Delays in judgment delivery
- ✓ Outdated practices in land and

inheritance cases

- ✓ Overall judicial modernization and improved case management

Justice Zeija, who holds a Doctorate and is widely known for his work as a lawyer, academic, and judge, has previously spoken about these issues and the need for

reforms.

If approved by Parliament, Justice Zeija will assume the role of Chief Justice, leading Uganda's judiciary at a time when the institution continues to manage high-profile cases and public demands for transparency and efficiency.



Mosquito nets are here!

Distribution starts in **January** in the following districts:

- Amolatar
- Iganga
- Alebtong
- Kamuli
- Buyende
- Apac
- Budaka
- Kwanza
- Bugweri
- Mbale
- Lira
- Mbale City
- Lira City
- Dokolo
- Kaliro
- Otuke
- Kole
- Jinja
- Oyam
- Jinja City

Under the Net

Get ready to receive your mosquito net

For more information, visit the nearest health facility or call Ministry of Health toll-free line on: **0800 100066**

POLITICAL CASUALTIES OF THE 2026 ELECTIONS: MAYBE WE NEED A REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR THEM

By Obed K. Katureebe

The 2026 electoral season is almost over. Victors are celebrating their wins, while losers are quietly counting their losses. Understandably, the burden is heavier on those who lost. Political contests demand enormous investment, not only financially but also emotionally and socially. In African politics, and particularly in Uganda, conceding defeat where it is clearly deserved remains one of the hardest disciplines for political actors to master.

For many candidates, losing an election is deeply destabilising. Some retreat from public life to recover from the shock, while others struggle with anger, denial, or emotional breakdown. Yet, the earlier one recollects themselves and moves on, the better. Elections, by their very nature, inevitably produce winners and losers.

The attrition rate among sitting Members of Parliament in this

election cycle has exceeded 70 percent. To many Ugandans, this outcome was predictable. President Yoweri Museveni has repeatedly cautioned MPs against using money politics and making unsustainable promises to voters. However, desperation to win often pushes candidates beyond reason, leading them to make commitments they cannot fulfil. Voters, in turn, respond decisively in the next election cycle.



BY OBED K. KATUREEBE,
UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE

Against this background, the public concession speeches by Hon. Medard Sseggyona and Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju came as a rare and refreshing surprise. Their reflections on why they lost were mature and measured, a quality not commonly displayed in Ugandan politics. They conceded defeat honourably, congratulated the victors, and accepted the verdict of the electorate. Hon. Sseggyona went even further, offering to provide guidance to his successor should it be required.

Such conduct is exceptional in a political culture where losing is often treated as

unacceptable. In extreme cases, some defeated candidates resort to organising violence against their opponents. Yet, political competition, however rewarding it may be, should never turn fellow citizens into enemies. Public office is not permanent. That is precisely why elections are held every five years.

For poor losers, elections are treated as a zero-sum, do-or-die affair. When victory does not come, some lose not only the contest but also their sense of proportion. In such moments, refusal to accept defeat can lead to destructive behaviour, bitterness, and even self-harm.

In healthy democracies, conceding defeat is a

vital tradition. It marks the end of electoral hostilities, affirms the legitimacy of the process, and allows society to heal. A concession is not an admission of incompetence or weakness. On the contrary, it reflects humility, maturity, and a willingness to place national stability above personal disappointment.

Graceful acceptance of defeat reinforces the principle that partisan interests must yield to patriotism. It reassures citizens that, despite fierce

competition, the system remains credible. Conversely, refusing to concede only deepens divisions and threatens social order.

As the country emerges from the 2026 elections, it is time to heal and move forward. Political seasons disrupt livelihoods, delay productivity, and heighten tension. Ugandans now need peace and calm to return to their gardens, businesses, and communities, to rebuild and improve their lives.

“

The public concession speeches by Hon. Medard Sseggona and Hon. Ibrahim Ssemujju came as a rare and refreshing surprise. Their reflections on why they lost were mature and measured, a quality not commonly displayed in Ugandan politics.”



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI RECEIVES OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF VICTORY, PLEDGES ECONOMIC GROWTH AND POVERTY ERADICATION

By Male Solomon Grace, GCIC-Uganda

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on 18th January, 2026 formally received the declaration of his re-election as President of Uganda, pledging to prioritize poverty eradication, unity, and disciplined governance in the new term.

President Museveni, who won the recently concluded Presidential elections with more than 7 million votes according to Electoral Commission figures, was

officially presented with the declaration form by the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Central Executive Committee (CEC) at his country home in Rwakitura.

In his acceptance remarks, the President began by thanking God and the First Lady, Maama Janet Museveni, for her steadfast support.

“I want to thank God for this victory and for all the victories we have had over the last 55 years of struggle since 1971,” President Museveni said.

“I also thank Maama Janet for her support.”

He credited the win to



collective effort, praising NRM members, party leaders, and institutions that he said played a critical role.

“I want to thank the NRM members and all the leaders because they all played a critical role in this victory,” he said.

The President also acknowledged the contribution of national institutions and community leaders, including the armed forces, religious leaders,

and cultural leaders.

“I thank the armed forces for their role, the religious leaders for praying for us, and the cultural leaders for being responsive and working for peace,” President Museveni said.

Reflecting on voter turnout, President Museveni said a significant number of NRM supporters did not vote, a matter he said the party must study going forward.

“About 10 million of our people did not turn up. Many of them are our members, and we must find out why.”

He linked this reflection to what he described as a return to the founding principles of the NRM, emphasizing unity and stability, particularly in regions that had previously experienced conflict.

“That atmosphere of maximum unity is coming back,” he said, citing peace in parts of northern and eastern Uganda.

President Museveni highlighted government programs such as the Parish Development Model (PDM) and presidential skilling hubs, saying they have begun to restore hope among Ugandans.

“PDM has given people hope that we can get rid of poverty,” he said, adding that skilling hubs are equipping young people with practical abilities.

However, he acknowledged uneven implementation and said



the government must critically assess what is working and what is not.

“We must analyze and find out,” he said.

On security, the President warned against what he described as isolated acts of violence linked to political extremism, while stressing that peace in Uganda is maintained not only by security forces but by citizens themselves.

“It is not just the security forces who are maintaining peace,” President Museveni said. “It is all Ugandans, including members of the

opposition.”

He cautioned groups he accused of working with foreign interests to abandon violence.

■■■ *This is a free warning from me,” he said. “Stop what you are doing. We shall maintain peace in Uganda.”*

Looking ahead to the new term, President Museveni outlined two broad economic priorities: supporting wealth creators to grow the economy and intensifying efforts to eliminate household poverty.

“For about 70 percent of the people in the money economy, we

must support them to continue growing,” he said. “For the remaining 30 percent, this is where we must decisively address poverty.”

He said PDM funds are central to that effort, insisting that poverty must be eliminated at the household level.

“We must end poverty in the homesteads,” he said.

The President also emphasized the importance of free education in government schools, improved healthcare delivery, and strict action against corruption.

“Corruption annoys



our people,” President Museveni said, calling on elected leaders to closely monitor government programs, including drug availability in hospitals, justice delivery, land protection, road maintenance, and water access.

I will be very harsh in this Kisanja,” he warned.

On job creation, President Museveni said the focus would remain on agriculture, manufacturing, and the private sector, rather than public service employment.

Turning to regional integration and natural resources, the President said Uganda’s internal market is insufficient

on its own and pointed to the East African Community as a critical

“Our oil will start flowing this year,” he said. “This money must be used for things that will last, like railways, power stations, roads, and science education.”

President Museveni cautioned against proposals to directly distribute oil revenues to local governments, arguing that oil is a finite resource.

“This oil will last about 20 years,” he said. “If



economic opportunity.

He confirmed that Uganda’s oil production is expected to begin this year and said revenues would be invested in long-term national assets.

you care about your country, you must use this exhaustible resource to build things that will endure.”

He concluded by urging unity and discipline as Uganda looks toward the



next electoral cycle.

■■■ If we do these things. We shall unite our people and build a stronger country.”

In her remarks, the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet Museveni congratulated the extended National Resistance Movement family for the party's electoral victory, calling on leaders to remain faithful to God and recommit themselves to guiding Ugandans on the right path.

“I want to congratulate the extended family of

the NRM,” the First Lady said. “I am deeply grateful to God for allowing this to be the first programme of this Kisanja, where we meet with the Central Executive Committee and the Secretariat to first thank Him, because only God made this possible.”

She said the gathering was an opportunity not only to give thanks to God, but also to appreciate the collective effort that led to the victory.

“God gives us the opportunity, and then we thank every one of you,”

she said.

Reflecting on the campaign period, Maama Janet commended party leaders and mobilizers for standing firmly with President Museveni throughout the process.





“When I look at you, I remember that none of you left the President alone,” she said. “The contribution of each one of you made God’s divine purpose possible.”

The First Lady also expressed gratitude to President Museveni, the NRM Central Executive Committee,

the Secretariat, and religious leaders across the country, saying their efforts were instrumental in guiding the nation.

“I thank the President himself, the CEC, the Secretariat, religious leaders, and above all, I thank God for His faithfulness,” she said.

In her closing remarks, the First Lady urged leaders to reflect, renew themselves, and continue serving with purpose.

“We must now re-educate ourselves,” she said. “If we do so, God will bless our efforts just as He did during these campaigns.”

The Vice President, H.E. Jessica Alupo called on Ugandans to remain grateful to God and united following the recent presidential elections, saying the outcome is a moment for thanksgiving and national reflection.

“On a day like this, we can only say glory be to God and thanks be to God,” H.E. Alupo said.

She thanked President Museveni for inviting them to listen to his address to the nation, describing the occasion as significant for the country’s democratic journey.

H.E. Alupo congratulated President Museveni, for what she described as an overwhelming victory in the just-concluded presidential elections.



Allow me to congratulate you, Your Excellency, and Maama for securing an overwhelming victory. Congratulations,” she said.

The Vice President praised President Museveni’s resilience throughout the campaign period, noting that his leadership style helped galvanize support across the country.

“This is not the day to give a detailed account of the campaign, but Your Excellency demonstrated a very fatherly approach that brought together people from all walks of life across Uganda.”

She further applauded the National Resistance Movement Secretariat, led by the Secretary General, for working in a united and coordinated manner throughout the electoral process.

The Electoral Commission (EC) was also praised for delivering the election results peacefully.

“I would like to thank the EC for delivering the results in a very

peaceful way,” H.E. Alupo said, adding that civic education efforts helped maintain calm across the country.

She thanked the people of Uganda for demonstrating unity and overwhelmingly backing President Museveni.

“I thank the people of Uganda for throwing their weight behind you, Your Excellency,” she said.

The Speaker of Parliament and NRM Second National Vice Chairperson (Female), Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among congratulated the President on what she described as a well-deserved victory in the recently concluded general elections, citing strong public confidence in the ruling party.

“On my behalf, the NRM fraternity, and the people of Uganda, I want to congratulate you upon your win and this well-deserved victory,” she said.

She also congratulated the President and the party on the landslide performance in the

parliamentary elections, noting that so far, 352 Members of Parliament have been elected under the NRM flag.

Rt. Hon. Among paid special tribute to the First Lady, Maama Janet for her role in mobilizing women across the country.

“We thank Maama for standing up for this country. As women of Uganda, we were energized. We left our homes, mobilized, and here is the victory we have achieved. No wonder most women turned up to vote.”

The Speaker said the declaration of the election results was a clear sign of the trust Ugandans have in the National Resistance Movement and in President Museveni’s leadership.

“Yesterday’s declaration is a testament to the trust that the people of Uganda have in NRM and in you, Your Excellency,”



she said.

She commended the President for running a consistent and inclusive campaign, noting that he remained open to ideas from party leaders throughout the process.

“We thank you for your consistent campaign and for always accepting our ideas as leaders, whether to add value or improve our approach,” Rt. Hon. Among said.

She also praised the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and the NRM Secretariat, led by Rt. Hon. Richard Todwong, for strengthening the party’s

campaign strategy.

I thank the CEC and the Secretariat for the work you did, she said. “No wonder we moved from 58 percent to 72 percent. You incorporated new ideas and made a real difference in the campaign.”

Speaking on behalf of the Parliament of Uganda, the Speaker thanked President Museveni for his continued support of the legislature and pledged Parliament’s commitment to work with the executive.

“On behalf of the Parliament of Uganda, we thank you for your

support, and we pledge to continue working with you as one government for the people of Uganda,” Rt. Hon. Among said.

On the other hand, the NRM Secretary General, Rt. Hon. Todwong hailed the party’s performance in the recently concluded elections, describing the results as a clear demonstration of the National Resistance Movement’s strength as both a political party and a national movement.

He said the outcome reflected deep-rooted support for the NRM across the country.



“I can speak with pride that this percentage has demonstrated that the party has truly become a movement,” Rt. Hon. Todwong said.

He noted that the NRM performed strongly at all levels, particularly in local government elections, where the party secured the majority of leadership positions.

“At the local government level, we are winning across the board and we are well-positioned,” he said.

Rt. Hon. Todwong said the party’s success was the result of an inclusive campaign strategy that deliberately reached out to members at the

grassroots, re-energizing the NRM base.

“We campaigned and reached out to every NRM member we could,” he said. “We saw that our base was awakened, and people responded.”

He paid tribute to President Museveni for heeding the call of party members to once again contest for the presidency, recalling that the appeal was made during Parish Development Model tours across the country.

“I want to thank you, Your Excellency, for accepting the call of your party members to contest. We remember asking you during the PDM tours,

and you listened.”

The Secretary General also acknowledged the role played by the First Lady, Maama Janet, in supporting the party throughout the campaign period.

“Allow me to thank the First Lady, Maama, for always standing with us,” he said. “The support you give us encourages and strengthens the party.”

He concluded by reaffirming the Secretariat’s commitment to strengthening party structures and supporting the President as he begins a new term in office.

The event was attended by all members of the NRM Central Executive Committee (CEC), and several religious leaders, including Bishop Joshua Lwere, Pastor Robert Kayanja, Apostle Joseph Sserwadda, Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe, and the Rt. Rev. Alfred Muhoozi, Bishop of North Ankole Diocese.

Kasese, 12 January 2026

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE BOOSTED IN KASESE WITH NEW FACILITIES AT NYABIRONGO HCIV AND BWERA HOSPITAL

The Ministry of Health has strengthened maternal and newborn healthcare services in Kasese District through the commissioning of new infrastructure at Nyabirongo Health Centre IV and key interventions at Bwera General Hospital.

At Nyabirongo HCIV in Bukonzo East, a new maternity ward and theatre were commissioned by Dr. Diana Atwine on behalf of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The expansion followed earlier support supervision visits which revealed that the facility was operating with only two small blocks despite serving a large population. With the new infrastructure in place, Nyabirongo HCIV is now positioned to operate as



a community hospital, although additional wards and staffing are still required to fully meet service demands. Mothers were urged to attend antenatal care, maintain proper nutrition during pregnancy, and deliver from health facilities to improve maternal and newborn outcomes.

In the same outreach, support supervision was conducted at Bwera General Hospital, a strategically located

Dr. Diana Atwine commissions the new maternity ward and theatre at Nyabirongo Health Centre IV in Bukonzo East, Kasese District

facility along the Uganda-DRC border that serves a large catchment area, including cross-border communities. The supervision identified key service delivery challenges, which will be addressed through short- and long-term interventions.

Additionally, a new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) was officially opened at Bwera General

Hospital to provide specialized care for premature and critically ill newborns. A mothers' dormitory was also inaugurated to support mothers whose babies

are admitted to the NICU.

These developments underscore the government's continued commitment to strengthening health

infrastructure, improving service delivery, and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in border and hard-to-reach communities.



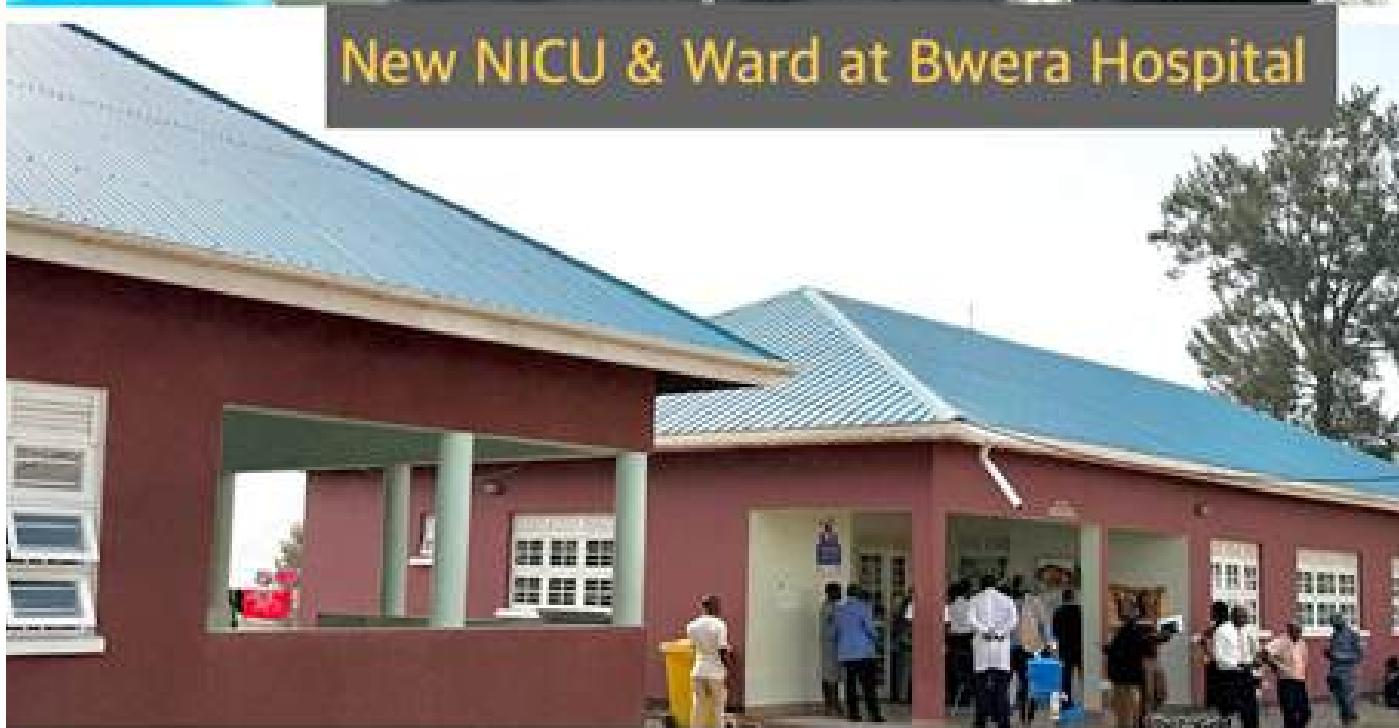
Dr. Diana Atwine commissions the new NICU at Bwera Hospital



PS, Dr. Diana Atwine in a group photo with the team at Bwera Hospital



New NICU & Ward at Bwera Hospital



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI SAYS 70% OF UGANDANS ARE NOW IN THE MONEY ECONOMY AS NRM MARKS 40 YEARS



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has said that 70 percent of Ugandans are now participating in the money economy, a milestone he attributed to four decades of National Resistance Movement (NRM) rule and a series of state-led wealth creation programmes aimed at lifting households out of subsistence livelihoods.

Speaking at the 40th Liberation Day celebrations held at the Kololo National Ceremonial Grounds on January 26, 2026, President Museveni said Uganda's economic transformation had progressed steadily from post-war recovery to diversification, value addition, and, most recently, the emergence

of a knowledge-based economy.

The celebrations, held under the theme "Tribute to the Patriots who ushered in a fundamental change," came just days after President Museveni secured another term in office in the recently concluded presidential elections, in which he was declared winner with 71 percent of the vote.

In his address, the President thanked God and Ugandans for successfully completing the electoral process.

"I thank God for having seen us through this big exercise of elections. Secondly, I salute all Ugandans for participating in the elections. I thank all the NRM members for supporting the NRM and its flag bearers," he said.

The President described the election outcome as a major political victory but expressed concern over what he termed as low voter turnout among NRM supporters.



According to President Museveni, although he received about eight million votes, internal party data suggested that many more supporters were eligible to vote.

“We are celebrating a big victory in politics. I got eight million votes, but ten million of my supporters of NRM did not turn up to vote,” he said, recounting challenges encountered during the party’s registration exercise and the national voters’ register verification process.

He said that while the

NRM had registered about 21 million supporters—18 million of whom were ready to vote—only eight million initially appeared on the Electoral Commission register. Although the party later ensured that at least 14 million supporters were registered in time, many still failed to cast their ballots.

■■■ But I got eight million votes. So where are the rest of the votes? That means some of our people did not turn up to vote,” he said.

Gen. Museveni attributed the low turnout to two

main factors: intimidation by opposition supporters and indiscipline within sections of the NRM leadership.

“I hear the opposition wasting time talking nonsense. They are lucky because not all of my supporters turned up. If they had all turned up, there would be no opposition in Uganda,” President Museveni said.

He alleged that some NRM supporters were threatened and attacked during the campaign period, while law enforcement agencies failed to act decisively.

“People were threatening our supporters, telling them, ‘you are the reason why Museveni is still leading us.’ You have no right to say that. Why would the police hear this and do nothing?” he asked.

The President also criticised what he described as selfishness and indiscipline among some NRM leaders, which he said discouraged citizens from exercising their civic rights.

The Economy is moving very fast:

Turning to the economy, President Museveni said Uganda was currently growing at about seven percent annually and projected even faster growth once oil production begins.

“The economy is moving very fast, growing at seven percent now, and with the oil, we are going to go into double digits. This year, your oil will start flowing,” he said, adding that Uganda had resisted external attempts to control its petroleum resources.

However, he

acknowledged that despite overall growth, a significant segment of the population remained trapped in subsistence production.

“These are the ones who are still in poverty,” President Museveni said, tracing the challenge

the NRM introduced wealth creation programmes, starting with early initiatives such as Entandikwa, which provided micro-credit to small-scale entrepreneurs.

By 2013, he said, only about 32 percent of households were in the



back to colonial economic structures that excluded the majority of Africans from meaningful participation in the money economy.

At independence in 1962, President Museveni said, only about nine percent of Ugandans were involved in the money economy. Although the proportion increased over time, progress remained slow until

money economy, while 68 percent were producing mainly for subsistence.

This, he explained, prompted the launch of Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), under which the Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) distributed seedlings and agricultural inputs across the country.

“When we checked in 2019, 61 percent of



Ugandans were in the money economy, while 39 percent were still in the subsistence economy,” President Museveni said.

However, concerns emerged over what he described as “beegabira bokka”—elite capture of government programmes, leading to the introduction of the Parish Development Model (PDM), which channels funds directly to communities at the parish level.

According to President Museveni, the proportion of Ugandans in the money economy has now risen to 70 percent, leaving about 30 percent still outside.

“We don’t want a country

of 70 percent rich people while 30 percent are poor,” he said, issuing a stern warning against the misuse of PDM funds, citing cases where local officials and committees had diverted money for personal gain.

In some areas, he said, PDM resources had been monopolised by a few individuals, including

parish chiefs and so-called focal persons, contrary to programme guidelines.

■■■That’s not how the PDM is supposed to be. PDM needs a general meeting of the whole parish with everybody above 18 years, and the general meeting should elect a committee,” he said.

President Museveni said the government would amend PDM guidelines, increase funding, especially in urban areas where parishes have larger populations, and enforce strict accountability.

“We may have to put 300 or 400 million shillings per parish in towns because the homes there are many,”



he said, adding that rural households could be fully covered within three years if funds are properly utilised.

He warned that parish chiefs who violate PDM rules would be arrested, noting that officials in Buwambo, Maracha, and Iganga had already been apprehended following

Museveni said the government would continue supporting other groups, including boda boda riders, ghetto youth, cultural and religious leaders, unemployed university graduates, and political leaders at the parish level.

The goal, he said, was to



complaints from residents.

While those who improperly formed committees would be barred from leadership positions and required to refund money, President Museveni said individuals who extorted funds from beneficiaries would face prosecution.

Beyond PDM, President

ensure that all Ugandans are actively involved in wealth creation.

“This will be emphasis number one,” President Museveni said.

He added that once household incomes improve, the government would intensify investment in education and health, particularly in addressing curative

health challenges, while preventive programmes such as immunisation continue to perform well.

Infrastructure development, especially maintenance of rural roads, will also remain a priority.

“We don’t want any unrepainted roads, whether tarmac or marram,” he said.

Justice and corruption:

On governance, President Museveni said the fight against corruption would extend to the judiciary, praising the new Chief Justice Dr Flavian Zeija, for taking a firm stance.

“We don’t want corruption in the courts. The new Chief Justice is very active on that,” he said.

The President also dismissed criticism from sections of the media and opposition figures who claim that Uganda has not changed over the last 40 years.

“You have been hearing people say that the NRM has done nothing in the last 40 years,”

President Museveni said, referencing a newspaper headline that read 'No change for 40 years.'

To counter such claims, President Museveni presented what he described as five phases of Uganda's economic recovery and transformation since 1986.

These include minimum economic recovery after years of instability, expansion of the small colonial economy, diversification and value addition, and the current transition into a knowledge economy.

He showcased video footage highlighting four key sectors he said define Uganda's modern economy: commercial agriculture, manufacturing, services, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The films featured large-scale sugarcane plantations, coffee and cocoa farms, palm oil estates, livestock projects, and major industrial parks, including Namanve, Mbale-Sino,



Kapeka, and Mukono-Mbalala.

■■■ *That's why somebody told me that when you go to the supermarkets now, 65 percent of the products are made in Uganda. In the past, it was 100 percent imported," President Museveni said.*

He also reflected on Uganda's troubled past, recalling the 1972 expulsion of Asians by former president Idi Amin.

■■■ *At that time, there were only about 4,000 properties owned by Asians in the whole of Uganda. Now we have millions of properties owned by Ugandans," he said, questioning the rationale behind Amin's actions.*

On industrialisation, President Museveni cited the progress of the Kiira Motors project, noting that locally assembled vehicles had recently completed a return journey to South Africa.

The Minister for the Presidency, Hon. Babirye Milly Babalanda, congratulated President Museveni on his re-election, describing the 40-year journey of the NRM as transformative.

"Today's commemoration is a reflection on four decades that have profoundly reshaped the destiny of our nation," Hon. Babalanda said, thanking God for President Museveni's leadership and resilience.

She said the election



victory reflected continued public confidence in President Museveni and the NRM. “Now that the elections

During the ceremony, the government awarded national medals to 33 distinguished Ugandans in recognition of their contributions to the liberation struggle and national development.

January 26 marks the day in 1986 when National Resistance Army fighters

captured Kampala, ending the rule of the UNLA junta led by the late Gen Tito Okello Lutwa. President Museveni, who led the NRA, was subsequently

sworn in as Uganda's ninth President.

The event was attended by Vice President, H.E Jessica Alupo, Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Anita Among, Chief Justice, His Lordship Flavian Zeija, Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Robinah Nabbanja, senior NRM leaders, ministers, service chiefs, diplomats, religious and cultural leaders, and former national leaders, including Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi, Ruhakana Rugunda, Amama Mbabazi, and Kintu Musoke.



are behind us, we face the greater responsibility of building Uganda. Let us move forward in unity, mutual respect, and shared national purpose,” she said.

RABAT, Morocco

AFCON 2027: KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA RECEIVE HOSTING FLAG IN HISTORIC HANDOVER

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have officially received the hosting flag for the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2027, marking a historic milestone for East African football.

The flag handover ceremony took place on Sunday, January 18, 2026, in Rabat, Morocco, during the final stages of the AFCON 2025 tournament. The ceremony was led by CAF President Dr. Patrice Motsepe, who formally handed the CAF flag to representatives from the three host nations.

The event signifies the official transition of hosting responsibilities



from Morocco 2025 to the East African trio, branded as Pamoja 2027 "Pamoja" meaning "together" in Swahili.

AFCON 2027 will be the first edition of the tournament to be co-hosted by three countries, a landmark development for the East African Community (EAC) and the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

CAF officially awarded hosting rights to Kenya,

Hon. Peter Ogwang, Minister of State for Sports, Uganda, and Moses Magogo, President of FUFA, proudly receive the CAF hosting flag for AFCON 2027 – PAMOJA during the official handover ceremony

Uganda and Tanzania on September 27, 2023, following a decision by the CAF Executive Committee.

Since the awarding of hosting rights, a delegation from the three countries has been observing the ongoing



AFCON 2025 tournament in Morocco to learn best practices and build capacity.

Preparations are currently focused on infrastructure development, including the construction and renovation of stadiums, training facilities, accommodation, and transport systems. Host cities expected to feature in the tournament include Nairobi, Kampala, Dar es Salaam, and regional centers such as Eldoret, Arusha and Hoima.

Officials from Kenya,

Uganda and Tanzania described the handover as a “proud moment” and expressed confidence that East Africa is ready to deliver a “memorable” tournament. CAF President Dr. Motsepe reiterated CAF’s support for the hosts, noting the importance of promoting football development across Africa despite concerns about infrastructure readiness.

AFCON 2027 is scheduled for August 2027, with exact dates yet to be confirmed. Qualification for the tournament is already underway, with preliminary rounds drawn

in January 2026 and group stages expected to follow.

The flag handover officially sets the stage for East Africa’s biggest football event, and the region now begins the final countdown to #Pamoja2027.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Date: **7th January 2026**

Press Release

Polling Dates for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Councils Elections, 2026

In line with Article 61(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, the Electoral Commission appointed the dates below for the elections of President; Members of Parliament and Local Government Councils (City/District; Municipality/City Division; and Sub County, Town, Municipal Division), including Councillors representing Special Interest Groups (SIGs):

No	Elective Position	Polling Date
1.	Elections of the President and Members of Parliament (Directly-elected MP and District Woman Representative to Parliament)	15 th January 2026
2.	National Conference for Election of Workers Representatives to Parliament	19 th January 2026
3.	Election of Councillors representing Special Interest Groups (Youths; Older Persons and PWDs) at Municipality/City Division	20 th January 2026
4.	Election of Councillors representing Special Interest Groups (Youths; Older Persons; Workers and PWDs) at the District/City	21 st January 2026
5.	Elections of District Local Government Councils: District/City Chairpersons, Lord Mayor, Mayors, and Councillors	22 nd January 2026
6.	Elections of Municipality/City Division Chairpersons and Councillors	27 th January 2026
7.	Regional Conferences for Election of Regional Youths Representatives to Parliament	28 th January 2026
8.	National Conference for Election of National Female Older Persons Representative to Parliament	28 th January 2026
9.	Army Council Meeting for Election of UPDF Representatives to Parliament	28 th January 2026
10.	Election of Councillors representing Special Interest Groups (Youths; Older Persons and PWDs) at Sub County/Town/Municipal Division	30 th January 2026
11.	Regional Conference for Election of Older Persons Representatives to Parliament	2 nd February 2026
12.	National Conference for Election of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) Representatives to Parliament	3 rd February 2026
13.	Elections of Sub County/Town/Municipal Division Chairpersons and Councillors	4 th February 2026
14.	National Conference for Election of National Female Youth Representative to Parliament	6 th February 2026

All candidates, their agents and supporters, election observers and the general public are reminded to observe the respective dates and participate in accordance with the guidelines for polling for the respective elective position.

Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission

for a regular free and fair elections and referenda



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