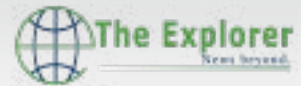


# EXPLORER NEWS ROUND UP 2023



The Presidential Zonal Industrial Hubs were initiated by H.E Kaguta Museveni to minimize high unemployment levels among the youths by equipping them with various hands-on skills.

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## Editors note:

2023 has been characterized by quite unique events that eventually made it to the newsroom and are still fresh in people's minds. That's news! that's trend! Eventually, these events will go down in history or as memories.

2023 was a news year! The Explorer annual News Roundup doesn't look to quench the thirst of readers who could have missed out on anything during the course of last year. This is because last year, like no other time, there was a surge in news consumption by the public, amplified by the rise in the use of social media platforms, as evidenced by the rocketing of TikTok globally and also among the Ugandan audience. Unlike the past years dominated by a knowledge divide in a sense that people used to hold gadgets and not use them, social media platforms like TikTok have bridged the gap so that an individual doesn't need special training to use and consume digital content. Now people follow trends, and the trend that is citizen journalism aided by hand gadgets, the information piece eventually makes it to that closed WhatsApp group or is viewed on Instagram or X, or at least a blogger will ask his audience to "Kutambuza video."

2023 ended and will not come back, but can we look back at it without only reminding ourselves of the sad events of the ADF attacks on several targets in Uganda, Operation Shuja is handling this with registered success, according

to security sources that Explorer Uganda has enjoyed quoting and protecting the sources. It is our biggest asset as the most unapologetic, fact-revealing news site. To protect sources as we break uncomfortable stories. We brag of exposing rot and deterioration in government and its opposition. As a News entity, our fulfillment is when we tell the public the truth that a few sections of people may not be comfortable with. We take no sides; we go after the government and its opposition for the sake of our audience.

Let's take a look at the controversies; 2023 was marred by news of government human rights violations but also marred by stage-managed events on the side of the opposition. Our audience must know the dilemma of a newsroom when they stand in the middle of such circumstances. The Anti Homosexuality bill is here, and Bobi Wine has no clear stand in the fight against foreign LGBTQ+ influence, which is leveraging on this law. The Ghetto kids made Uganda shine on an international stage with controversial selling stories of suffering and orphanage, but they sold us all the way. Some Ghetto dwellers and some elite youth are drowning in drug abuse, but our parliamentarians are busy getting kickbacks to soften the Alcoholics Control Bill 2023. That's where we stand; Explorer Uganda does not bat an eye. We are pro-people, and societal progress is at the forefront of our values.

"News Beyond" is not just a catchphrase! Our agenda is not to earn; our agenda is to awaken society to the opposing realities in our country.

That's why we break stories on corruption; remember the UWA Guerilla money scandal? How about the Cooperatives money that involves multiple MPS and Law firms and big personalities? We blame Government for its flaws, but we promote Uganda's image. We dilute opposition political propaganda because the public is the victim.

Dilemma has become our daily news value; 2023 gave it to us. The Israel-Hamas war is an eye-opener to our newsroom on how society can be complicated. On one day, President Museveni is graduating thousands of ghetto-dwelling youth with hands-on skills, we question the middle-income status. On another day, Bobi Wine is traveling in and out of Uganda for vacations and on political money ventures while the 'ground soldiers' are starving. Politics is a pain, people say! We report the painful events in the hope that our audiences

will make their choices count.

We foresee a 2024 that will soothe our readers as Uganda kicks off by hosting the NAM and G77 Summits. The Common Wealth Speaker's and Presiding Officers Conference is already going on, and we hope that it yields results that will outweigh the government's spending on it. Uganda is getting closer to the Oil dream as pipeline construction starts this year, while the tourism industry is recovering from COVID-19 effects and the ADF shock in the western region. And as more people get more access to digital devices, the influence of the new Artificial Intelligence technological trend is already manifesting in the deep fake online content that Bobi Wine and Muhoozi will use to their advantage in the quest to win and to retain the crown respectively.



# 01 Politics and Governance



## OPERATION SHUJAA: VICTORIES AGAINST ATROCITIES AND TOP ADF COMMANDERS IN EASTERN DRC AND UGANDA.

Since the joint military operations begun on 30th November, 2021 in Eastern DR Congo a number of achievements have been registered despite some wrong elements carrying out atrocities on innocent civilians both in eastern Congo and Uganda. We take you through some of the Operation Shujaa success stories that include the top ADF commanders killed in the battle of Mwarika and Djerube-Lusulubi in the Rwenzori sector. The joint operation in DRC against ADF, have yielded results that are self-evident. According to Brig. Stephano Mugerwa, Deputy Commander Mountain Division and other security sources, many of the ADF camps that

were scattered all over the jungles in Eastern DRC are now destroyed. Reports indicate that the remaining ADF combatants and their families are on the run. The joint forces killed top ADF commanders and many rebels and a number of ammunitions, communication gadgets, have been recovered.

Hassan Rubazana Elias Ssegujja. According to Colonel Mak Hazukay, the spokesperson for Operation Shuja, Ssegujja, also known as Fezza, Feeza and Mulalo was killed during clashes in Mwalika valley in the Rwenzori sector in North Kivu.

## TOURISTS KILLED IN UGANDA: CAPTURED ADF LEADER ALSO ACCUSED OF SCHOOL MASSACRE



A Briton and a South African were murdered

along with their guide in an attack on October 17 while on safari in Queen Elizabeth National Park. Uganda blamed the ADF, an armed militia based in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo that is affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) group.

Ugandan military captured Abdul Rashid Kyoto, an ADF militia commander, accused of murdering two foreign tourists in Queen Elizabeth Park. Kyoto faces additional charges for a June school massacre in Mpondwe, linked to ADF. Affiliated with ISIS, ADF was



implicated in attacks in DRC and Uganda, causing concern in the tourism sector. General Dick Olum, leading an anti-ADF operation, asserted Kyoto's involvement in the attacks. The arrest is a reassurance to Ugandans and tourists that Uganda is a safe

### TRAGEDY AS ADF KILLS 41 STUDENTS IN KASESE DISTRICT

On 16th June 2023, Ugandans woke up to the news of the tragic death of 37 students who had been shot dead, others hacked by Machetes, and some burnt while alive in their dormitories at Lhubirira secondary school in Nyabugando Town Council in Kasese District by ADF rebels, the other students who had sustained fatal injuries later succumbed to injuries taking the toll to 41 students. Ugandans must unite against the menace of ADF to eradicate this threat. Together, we can honor the memories of the innocent lives lost and strive for a safer, more secure future for our children and for everyone.



country and is committed to combating all those that want to interfere with the country's peace. seven individuals, including a 75-year-old, for ADF links, terrorism, child trafficking, and rape were sentenced signaling a crackdown on the extremist group.

### FRENCH COURT THROWS OUT CASE AGAINST EACOP

A French court rejected a case brought by six NGOs against TotalEnergies over the East African Oil project in Uganda and Tanzania. The NGOs filed the case in 2019, accusing TotalEnergies of insufficiently protecting people and the environment in the Tilenga oil development and the \$3.5 billion East African Crude Oil Pipeline. The activists sought to stop the projects, citing a 2017 French law requiring companies to address human rights and environmental risks in their global operations. However, the court ruled that the NGOs did not follow the correct procedures. President Museveni reassured that the project would proceed as agreed. Significant strides have been made on the project. On January 24, 2023, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Company (EACOP) Ltd obtained a construction license for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. This license empowered the company to initiate the development of the 1,443km, 24-inch diameter heated and buried crude oil pipeline

### THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN 2023



In the execution of the President's directive and the unwavering commitment to combat corruption, the year 2023 witnessed numerous individuals being held accountable for offenses such as the misuse of public funds, bribery, and misappropriation of funds. The Internal Security Organization, in collaboration with the

State House Anti-Corruption Unit, remains steadfast in leading the charge against corruption—an overarching priority for the NRM Government. The fight has led to recovery of millions of money and many offenders have been arrested and are paying for their corruption crimes. In a report produced by Inspec-

torate of Government, it was reported that the Total Value of the cases investigated was UGX: 507 Billion. Funds recovered and deposited on IG Asset Recovery Account UGX: 3,631,442,057 as of July 2023. In addition as of June 2023, 295 Corruption cases had been investigated and completed.



## POLICE ARRESTS TWO SUSPECTS OVER THEFT OF GOVERNMENT DRUGS

In Rukungiri District, two medical workers were arrested in January, 2023 in connection with the theft and sale of Government drugs in private clinics. The operation was carried out by the Deputy Resident District Commissioner (DRDC), Ahimbisibwe Wilberforce Ongom. The suspects were netted from private clinics, one in Rusheshe trading center and another one in Omukarangara belonging to Dr. Julius Tukamusiima, a health worker at Bugangari Health Center (IV).



## ENTEBBE AIRPORT CORRUPTION SCANDAL

In mid-January, social media platforms in Uganda were flooded with videos depicting travelers at Entebbe International Airport expressing grievances about instances of extortion and unauthorized payments by airport staff. In response to the public outcry, the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) took immediate action, suspending several employees pending a thorough investigation into the allegations. Uganda is dedicated to combating all forms of corruption.

## FORUM FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE SPLITS INTO TWO FACTIONS

The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) internal conflicts were brought to the public as the party leaders divided themselves into factions one seated at Katonga in Nakasero led by Dr Kizza Besigye and the other remained at Party headquarters headed by Patrick Amuriat Oboi. The two factions with irreconcilable differences from July have been making headlines in the media day in and day out. Both factions accuse each other of getting funds from the government and trying to sell the party to the ruling NRM party.

## GENERAL MUHOOZI KAINERUGABA VISITS EASTERN UGANDA

On Monday, August 14th, 2023, Senior Presidential Advisor in charge of Special Operations, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba visited the Eastern District of Bukedya where he was escorted by over 300 members of parliament including the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

The gathering of NRM MPs with the Speakers was looked at as an endorsement of the Muhoozi project by many political analysts and members of the public. The conversation made news around the country on all media platforms and outlets.

## THE NATIONAL UNITY PLATFORM (NUP) NATIONAL TOURS.

The NUP party held country wide tour starting from western Uganda in August and wrapped them up at the end of September where the top party leaders traversed the country opening up new district offices and conversing support from their supporters.

The tour saw Party President Robert Kyagulanyi traverse the country and talk to his supporters freely without any hindrance and altercation with security forces, even when on rare occasions he was diverted to use alternative routes, the crowds were never disrupted with teargas or excessive force from the security agencies. On social media, it was a war of comparison between Robert Kyagulanyi and General Muhoozi on who had more crowds, an answer that can only be answered by Photos shared on the different media platforms.





# FROM DEBATES TO DECISIONS: A YEAR IN PARLIAMENT’S SPOTLIGHT

January 23, 2023. A decisive vote of 356 was cast, with a striking 348 in favor of censuring the minister, while five MPs opposed, and three chose to abstain.

Censure, as outlined in Article 118(2) of the Constitution, does not automatically result in the removal of a minister from office. Minister Namuganza continues to fulfill her duties while awaiting the President’s decision on the censure.

## ***Bills - Passed, and in the Spotlight!***

Uganda’s Parliament buzzed with intense discussions revolving around various tabled bills. Explore the legislative highlights, with a particular focus on the dynamic developments

in the vibrant August house. While not all bills gained widespread public attention, some managed to capture the limelight, sparking discussions on social media and mainstream platforms.

The Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Bill, 2023. Parliament passed the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Bill, 2023. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill Passed into law. President Yoweri Museveni signed the bill into law on 26 May 2023.

## ***Other Bills passed by Parliament in 2023.***

1. The Uganda Human Organ

- Donation and Transplant Bill, 2022.
2. The Markets Bill, 2023.
3. The Museums and Monuments Bill, 2023.
4. The Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill, 2023.
5. The Microfinance Deposit-Taking Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2023.
6. The National sports Bill, 2023.
7. The value Added (Amendment) No.2 Bill, 2023.
8. The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
9. Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
10. Appropriation Bill, 2023.
11. Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax matters (Implementation) Bill, 2023.
12. Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
13. Explosives Bill, 2023.
14. Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill 2023.
15. Local Content Bill, 2019.
16. Lotteries and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
17. Public service pension Fund Bill, 2023.
18. Tax procedures code (Amendment) Bill 2023.
19. Traffic and Roads safely (Amendment) Bill 2023.
20. Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
21. Petroleum supply (Amendment)

Bill, 2023.

22. Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2023.
23. Foreign Exchange (Amendment) Bill 2023.
24. Excise Duty (Amendment) No.2 Bill, 2023.

The legislative achievements showcase a proactive approach to governance and the government’s commitment to shaping a legal framework that responds to the evolving needs of the nation, with Parliament addressing economic, social, and cultural concerns through the passed set of bills. As Uganda moves forward, the impact of these legislative decisions will undoubtedly shape the trajectory of the country in the coming years.

## **Opposition MP’s Boycott Parliamentary sitting over human rights abuse**

On October 10th, 2023, Opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) staged a walkout from a plenary sitting in Parliament to express their opposition to the ongoing arrest, abduction, and detention of their leaders and supporters. They condemned the behaviour of the security forces, stating that it contradicts the principles of Uganda’s independence, which was celebrated in the same month. Opposition MPs have maintained their boycott of Parliament since November 6, using their absence to press the government to address issues related to abductions and the 18 missing persons.

# 02 Economics

## WORLD BANK SUSPENDS FUNDING IN UGANDA

**O**n August 8, 2023, The World Bank Group issued a statement regarding Uganda, underscoring that “No new public financing for Uganda will be brought before our Board of Executive Directors until the effectiveness of additional measures has been assessed.”

The implementation of third-party monitoring and grievance redress mechanisms will

be significantly heightened, providing the opportunity for corrective action when necessary. The statement was prompted by Uganda’s enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, a move deemed by the World Bank to be in fundamental contradiction to global values. The announcement elicited a range of responses, with some members of the opposition expressing approval for the World Bank’s stance, citing instances of other human rights abuses. Meanwhile, numerous government officials asserted that Uganda can prosper without relying on World Bank funding, leading to a mixed reception of the decision.







Uganda's economy demonstrated remarkable resilience in 2023, exceeding expectations with a robust GDP growth rate of 6.3%. This growth was propelled by increased investments in both infrastructure and agriculture, coupled with a surge in export activities. Despite global economic uncertainties, Uganda's inflation rate remained steady at 2.4%. Notably, the country experienced a significant decline in the annual headline inflation rate, dropping from 3.5% in August to 2.7% in September. Concurrently, core

inflation, which excludes food and energy, decreased from 3.3% to 2.4%, marking its lowest point in 22 months. Michael Atingi, the Acting Governor of the Bank of Uganda (BOU), attributes the low inflation to reduced public spending, which has had a positive impact on the overall economy. He anticipates that the downward trend in inflation will persist, citing factors such as lower imported inflation, decreased food prices, and subdued public demand for goods and services.



## UGANDA ATTRACTS RECORD FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT, BOOSTING ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Uganda has experienced a significant surge in foreign direct investment (FDI), propelling significant economic growth. The country's FDI has surged by UGX 1.55 trillion, reaching an unprecedented UGX 5.5 trillion between 2021 and 2023, marking a record high. This notable increase in Uganda's FDI has been highlighted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as the most substantial in East Africa. The increase in FDI is attributed to substantial investments in the development of the Lake Albertine oil field, a strategic joint venture between the China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) and the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC). The estimated investment for this venture is UGX 23.7 trillion (\$6.5 billion), further solidifying Uganda's position as an attractive destination for foreign investment.



# IPO

## IN BUSINESS: AIRTEL UGANDA ANNOUNCES IPO

Airtel Uganda has achieved a robust 54.45% subscription rate for its initial public offering (IPO), which included 800 billion Ugandan shillings (\$213 million) worth of shares. The

IPO commenced on August 29, with the share price set at 100 Ugandan shillings, representing a 20% stake in the company. The response was significant, as potential investors expressed interest in acquiring 4.36 billion shares out of the total 8 billion shares offered, resulting in a substantial fund-raising amount of 211.43 billion shillings.

## UGANDA AIRLINES LAUNCHES DIRECT ENTEBBE-MUMBAI FLIGHTS

Uganda Airlines marked a significant milestone on October 7, 2023 with the launch of its new direct service, establishing a seamless air link between Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji

Maharaj International Airport and Entebbe International Airport in Uganda.

This groundbreaking initiative marks the first time in over 50 years that India and Uganda are directly connected by a non-stop air service, reflecting a momentous development in bilateral ties and air travel connectivity between the two nations.

With an estimated population of approximately 35,000 Indians currently residing in Uganda, the majority of whom hold Indian passports, this direct flight service is poised to play a pivotal role in fostering stronger cultural, economic, and social ties between the two vibrant communities. The direct connection is anticipated to enhance travel convenience and efficiency, facilitating increased business, tourism, and family visits.

Uganda Airlines' commitment to providing this direct link highlights its dedication to expanding connectivity options and promoting international collaboration. The newly established route is expected to open up new opportunities for trade, tourism, and people-to-people interactions, nurturing a closer relationship between Uganda and India. As Uganda and India start on this historic journey of direct air connectivity, the launch of the Entebbe-Mumbai flights symbolizes a new era of collaboration, mutual understanding, and strengthened diplomatic and economic relations.

## CAPITAL CHICKEN PONZI SCHEME UNRAVELS: UGANDANS FACE LOSSES EXCEEDING SHS 2 BILLION

Ugandans are still recovering from the fallout of the Capital Chicken Ponzi scheme, where more than 80 victims had collectively lost over Shs 2 billion. The fraudulent operation, which had promised a monthly profit of 15% for investments in the chicken business, had attracted investors over its nearly three-year existence. Notable individuals, including a retired security officer and civil servant, had invested substantial amounts, with one complainant losing Shs 420 million.

The scheme's office, situated along Kanjokya street in Kampala Central Division, abruptly closed in September, 2023, leaving clients in shock. The police had received over 80 complaints, recording losses exceeding initial estimates. Deputy Kampala Metropolitan Police Spokesperson Luke Owoyesigire had identified key suspects as Pius Wamanga and Ernest Sempebwa, who were believed to have fled the country. Some employees had also discovered the offices closed unexpectedly.

This incident followed a similar pattern seen in the previous year's BLQ online gaming Ponzi scheme, where over Shs 2 billion had been lost. Despite these setbacks, authorities remain focused on bringing the perpetrators to justice and preventing further financial scams.



## **ENTEBBE AIRPORT REBOUNDS: PASSENGER TRAFFIC SURPASSES 1.5 MILLION**

In a positive sign of recovery from the pandemic's impact, Entebbe International Airport witnessed an increase in passenger traffic, reaching 1.57 million in May 2023. The first quarter alone recorded 402,314 passengers, showcasing a resilient bounce back.

"In 2022, the airport registered 1.57 million passengers," said Uganda Civil Aviation Authority's (UCAA) spokesperson, Vianney Luggya.

While Entebbe handled 118,000 international passengers in 1991 at Uganda Civil Aviation Authority's (UCAA) establishment, the Airport handled 1.8 million passengers in 2019 before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Looking ahead to 2024, the positive momentum is expected to continue for Entebbe International Airport, as it gears up to not only reclaim but potentially surpass pre-pandemic passenger volumes. This anticipation is boosted by the upcoming hosting of significant events, including the 19th Non-Aligned Movement and the Third South Summit + China scheduled for January, 2024, which are poised to further boost passenger traffic.

The demonstrated resilience during

challenging periods lays a solid foundation for a favorable outlook, instilling confidence in the ongoing recovery and growth of the aviation sector.

## **UAE INVESTS \$1 BILLION IN UGANDA: FDI RECOGNITION AT ANNUAL INVESTMENT MEETING**

In May 2023, Uganda achieved a notable award during the Annual Investment Meeting in Abu Dhabi, where it was honored as the premier investment destination in East Africa. At the AIM Global 2023 Investment Awards ceremony, Uganda secured the distinguished title, standing out among the best-performing investment promotion agencies worldwide.

The Director of the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA), Mr. Robert Mukiza, proudly accepted the award on behalf of the country during the ceremony held on Monday, May 8, at Emirates Palace Hotel. This recognition confirms Uganda's commitment to promoting a conducive environment for investments and economic growth.

According to the Ugandan embassy in the UAE, Uganda has successfully attracted over US\$1 billion in Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The remarkable achievement positions Uganda as an attractive and promising destination for

international investors seeking opportunities in East Africa.

As part of its engagement at the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM), a delegation from Uganda, led by the Ugandan Embassy in Abu

Dhabi, is actively participated in the event. This participation reflects Uganda's proactive approach to global investment initiatives and its dedication to strengthening economic ties with the international community.



## **BANK HEIST: SHS 6.5 BILLION STOLEN FROM STANBIC AS FRAUDSTERS EXPLOIT SYSTEM VULNERABILITIES**

Stanbic Bank, Uganda, faced a major security breach resulting in the theft of \$1.8 million (Shs 6.5 billion). The heist, orchestrated by a group of fraudsters in collusion with select bank staff, exposed critical vulnerabilities in the country's financial systems.

The suspects, allegedly exploited weaknesses in Stanbic's computer systems, gaining unauthorized access to Nile Energy's account. The stolen funds, belonging to the multi-million dollar oil marketing company, were subsequently transferred to accounts held by Petrom

Limited and Famane Investments Co. Ltd. Police spokesperson Fred Enanga revealed that the fraudulent transactions involved forged documents, including a Kenyan passport and inter-account transfer forms. The suspects, posing as Nile Energy's director, Mohamed Abdul Hakim Hussein, made several unauthorized cash withdrawals totaling \$2.9 million.

The involvement of Stanbic Bank staff, particularly branch managers at Garden City and Freedom City branches, added a layer of complexity to the heist. The arrested suspects included Moses Ayesiga, the branch manager, and Brian Natukunda, a former employee, highlighting a potential internal complicity in the cybercrime.

Further investigations uncovered dubious transactions, including a gold transaction of \$250,000 by Famane Investments Co. Ltd, raising concerns about the integrity of the bank's operations. A total of 12 suspects were

arrested, with nine facing charges related to financial loss and money laundering.

The incident sheds light on the broader issue of rising fraud cases in Uganda's banking sector. While banks typically keep such incidents under wraps to safeguard their reputation, Stanbic Bank's proactive approach in addressing the matter is commendable.

The police emphasized the need for robust protective measures and collaborative efforts between banks and clients to prevent, detect, and recover from fraud.

This heist comes on the heels of public outcry over mysterious disappearances of deposits at other banks, prompting calls for increased scrutiny of management and systems. The fight against bank fraud, it seems, requires a combination of best practices, partnerships, and heightened vigilance to ensure the security of clients' deposits and savings.

## MEDIA BATTLE: DAILY MONITOR ORDERED TO PAY SHS 450 MILLION IN DEFAMATION LAWSUIT.

In January, the Court of Appeal upheld a High Court decision, mandating Ugandan newspaper Monitor Publications Ltd to pay Shs 450 million in damages for defaming Judiciary Secretary Pius Bigirimana.



## 03 Social



## KING CHARLES MUMBERE AND HIS ROYAL GUARDS PARDONED.

King of Rwenzururu since 2009, Charles Wesley Mumbere was welcomed to the town of Kasese by a jubilant crowd, to the sound of horns and whistles

Prosecutors announced in June that they were dropping the charges against Charles Wesley Mumbere, who was accused of treason, murder and terrorism after deadly clashes on 26 and 27 November 2016 between the Ugandan army and his palace guards in Kasese.



After the release of King Charles Mumbere, charges against 203 former Rwenzuru kingdom royal guards, including treason and murder, were dropped by Ugandan prosecutors. The guards received amnesty certificates, acknowledging their pardon for alleged atrocities. Amnesty Commission aims to support the group in income-generating activities but faces funding challenges. Edwin Mumbere, the coordinator for former guards, appreciated the government's release but requests support for their livelihoods. Identification loss hinders access to essential services for some guards. In addition, the President on 14th December, 2023 pledged to initiate the reconstruction of the palace of Omusinga of Rwenzuru in the next financial year 2024/2025. In a meeting with Mumbere at State House Entebbe, Museveni expressed satisfaction that Mumbere had aligned with the National Resistance Movement's (NRM) vision for Uganda's transformation. The president emphasized the importance of traditional leaders in achieving socio-economic progress and promised increased monthly allowances for kingdoms. Museveni urged unity among kingdoms and highlighted the government's commitment to historical missions. Deputy Prime Minister Edwin Kugonza reported on Mumbere's efforts toward peace, reconciliation, and socio-economic development. The meeting signifies a positive shift following the 2016 clashes at the palace, with charges against Mumbere dropped in June, 2023.

## THE PASSING OF TITANS IN 2023

Amidst the numerous reasons to rejoice in the year 2023, it is essential not to overlook the somber note of bidding farewell to some of our national giants. Let us take a moment to remember and honor their contributions, and may their souls find eternal peace. Justice Kenneth Kakuru

On March 7, 2023, Constitutional Court

### JUSTICE KENNETH

**KAKURU** passed away at Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, succumbing to cancer after a courageous battle. Kakuru endeared himself to many Ugandans during the 2018 age limit debate, where he delivered a dissenting judgment. In his ruling, he asserted that



it was unlawful for members of parliament to lift the age limit cap for presidential candidacy, a cap that had previously been set at the age of 75, the highest office in the country.

### KEITH MUHAKANIZI

**K**eith Muhakanizi, the former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Secretary to the Treasury (PSST), passed away on April 13 in a Milan, Italy hospital after a prolonged illness. Recognized as one of the key architects of Uganda's post-1986 economic recovery, he played a pivotal role in promoting deregulation and privatization to revitalize the economy following years of political and economic challenges.

During his final two years, Muhakanizi served as the Permanent Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), where he frequently took medical leave until his passing.



### CHARLES ENGOLA SHOT DEAD BY BODYGUARD

**I**n a shocking incident in Kyanja, Minister of State for Labour, Employment & Industrial Relations, Rt. Col. Charles Okello Engola was fatally shot by his bodyguard on 2nd May 2023, who later turned the gun on himself. The tragic event unfolded as Engola left his home for work. At the time of his death, Engola was the Member of Parliament representing the people of Oyam South in the Oyam district.



## THE DEATH OF HONORABLE KATO LUBWAMA

The former MP allegedly succumbed to complications resulting from his long-standing heart condition on June 7 at Stana Medical Centre in Bunamwaya. Lubwama first shot to fame as an actor and playwright in the 1990s. He was the founder of Diamonds Ensemble which is credited, along with a wave of theatre companies, that revived the art form in Uganda. Kato Lubwama was mourned by Ugandans all over all forms of media platforms.



## OTHERS THAT WE LOST IN 2023

1. Ibrahim Tusubira a.k.a Jajja Ichuli who was shot dead on 6th May 2023 by unknown gunmen.
2. City Tycoon Apollo Nyegamehe (Aponye) dies in a tragic accident.
3. Most Rev. Paul K. Bakyenga, the Archbishop Emeritus of Mbarara, which occurred on July 18, 2023 at Nsambya Hospital
4. Former Minister Henry Kyemba died aged 84 in an accident.
5. Hajj Hussien Kyanjo, the former Makindye West Member of Parliament passed away from Kibuli Hospital



## EXHIBITION THAT TOOK OVER THE SOCIAL MEDIA BY STORM

The online exhibitions which brought attention to the inadequate service delivery mesmerized social media audiences as they highlighted various sectors' shortcomings.

Our subscribers expressed that the Health and Pothole exhibitions were particularly interesting. Despite the negative portrayal of our country, highlighted gaps that leaders need to recognize and find solutions to ensure there improvements in service delivery.

In a positive development, the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget allocated an additional 1 billion UGX for road maintenance to each district. This supplement is in addition to the funds already provided through the Road Fund, signaling a commitment to addressing infrastructure issues.

## SCHOOL FIRES

In 2023, there was a concerning surge in school fires, with more than 34 reported incidents according to a police report. Notable occurrences include a fire outbreak at Little Flowers Day & Boarding Primary School in Kalisizo, Rakai on 8th July 2023, St. Thereza Girls in Wakiso on 25th October 2023, Kasaana Junior on 30th October, 2023, located



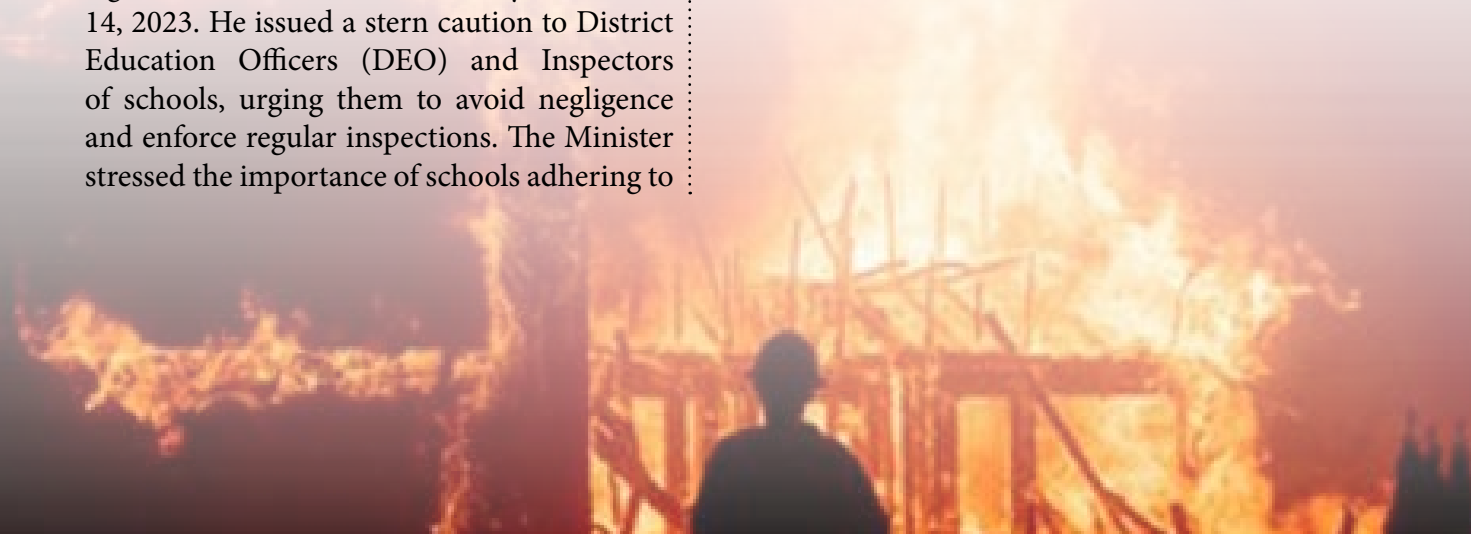


in Masaka District and Victoria College in Lukaya, Masaka, was also among the affected institutions.

Addressing the issue, Dr. Chris Baryomunsi, the Minister for ICT and National Guidance, emphasized the urgency of the situation during a Cabinet decisions update at the Uganda Media Centre on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. He issued a stern caution to District Education Officers (DEO) and Inspectors of schools, urging them to avoid negligence and enforce regular inspections. The Minister stressed the importance of schools adhering to

government-set standards to prevent further loss of lives and property.

Dr. Baryomunsi expressed concern over the continued loss of lives and property among students, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive resolution to ensure the safety of lives and protect the well-being of the children.



# 04 Entertainment



## POLICE CLOSES PART OF FREEDOM CITY MALL FOLLOWING NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS STAMPEDE THAT KILLED NINE

In January, 2023, the police announced the closure of a section of Freedom City Mall after a stampede resulted in nine casualties, as revealed by Luke Owoyesigire, Kampala Metropolitan Deputy Police Spokesperson. The incident unfolded during the New Year's fireworks display, where attendees were encouraged by the MC to go outside and witness the spectacle at midnight.

According to the Kampala Metropolitan Deputy Police Spokesperson, Luke Owoyesigire, said the victims were crushed as hundreds of people tried to return to the hall after watching a fireworks display that ushered in the New Year.

Nine individuals lost their lives instantly, with several others sustaining injuries. As we usher in 2024, let this serve as a reminder to exercise caution and prioritize safety.

The incident sparked discussions about the roles of key players in ensuring safety during such events leading to the arrest of the event organiser Abitex. Abitex also known Abbey

Musinguzi, was accused of negligence which allegedly resulted in the death of eleven people. However, the Makindye Chief Magistrates court dismissed the 13 charges against him and his co accused Elvis Francis Juuko, on October 5, 2023.

## SPICE DIANA SIRI REGULAR CONCERT

Singer Hajara Namukwaya, popularly known as Spice Diana, showcased her extraordinary talent with a spectacular performance on January 13, 2023, at Lugogo Cricket Oval in Kampala. Music analysts acknowledge her as one of the select few Ugandan musicians who have successfully dominated the Lugogo Cricket Oval stage. Spice Diana captivated the audience with an impressive stage presence that left them enthralled. The excitement began building up at the venue as early as 6:00 pm, with fans eagerly anticipating the chance to witness Spice Diana, whose hit song "Siri Regular" had been dominating the airwaves.

While the concert drew a sizable crowd, some attendees expressed dissatisfaction with the sound system and seating arrangement. Despite these criticisms, Spice Diana's performance received acclaim for its ability to unify the audience and feature collaborative moments with fellow artists.



## CHAMELEON GWANGA MUJE CONCERN

On February 24, 2023, Jose Chameleone held a concert called "Gwanga Mujje" in Uganda. The concert was held at Lugogo Cricket Oval in Kampala and was attended by thousands of fans. The stage was set up hours before the concert, and it was reported to be the biggest stage so far for a Chameleone concert. However the concert

was initially scheduled to take place at Lugogo Cricket Oval on February 10, but it was postponed due to severe rain and wind that damaged the infrastructure for the concert. The stage for the concert was washed away by heavy rain and strong winds, which caused the equipment and instruments to be destroyed and staff injured. The postponement and cancellation of the concert reportedly cost Fenon records, the organizers, Shs 1.5 billion.



## AWILO LONGOMBA LIGHTS UP SHERATON HOTEL IN KAMPALA WITH ‘LEGENDS OF SOUND

**A**wilo Longomba’s concert on August 5, 2023, at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala, titled “Legends of Sound,” proved to be a lively and captivating performance that delighted the crowds, despite encountering some technical glitches. The highly anticipated event in the Ugandan music scene showcased the celebration of Afrigo Band’s 48th anniversary.

Uganda’s legendary Afrigo Band took the stage, marking 48 years of musical excellence, and performed live, providing a vibrant backdrop for Awilo Longomba’s electrifying performance. The fusion of Awilo’s beats and the rhythmic movements of Ugandan dancers created an unforgettable experience for all in attendance. Despite the challenges, the concert stood out as a testament to the enduring power of music to unite and uplift.

## SOULFUL NIGHT IN KAMPALA: SINACH’S SPIRIT-FILLED CONCERT

**O**sinachi Kalu Okoro Egbu, widely known as Sinach, the renowned Nigerian artist, graced Kampala, Uganda, with a soul-stirring performance on September 8, 2023. The spirit-filled concert unfolded at the Lugogo Hockey Grounds, featuring a stellar lineup of talented Ugandan gospel artists, including the captivating Justine Naboosa. Gospel music enthusiasts were treated to an engaging and uplifting experience that left a lasting impression. Among the attendees were prominent and influential Ugandans, including Miria Matembe, a former Woman Member of Parliament for Mbarara District. Sinach also extended her visit to the Uganda Institute, where she offered prayers for children diagnosed with cancer, leaving a touch of healing in her wake.

## MUSIC SHOWDOWN: THE CLASH OF CINDY AND SHEEBAH

**T**he Cindy Sheebah music battle, a highly anticipated event featuring two prominent Ugandan musicians, Cindy “Nokia Phone” and Sheebah “iPhone,” took place on September 15, 2023, leaving the audience electrified with excitement. The event unfolded live on stage and was recorded for YouTube. This showdown was organized in response to a series of confrontational exchanges between the two artists online and during interviews.



According to music enthusiasts, the event was not merely a competition but rather a showcase of the artists’ talents and a celebration of music itself. Fans of both artists, passionately defending their favorites, contributed to the intense atmosphere. However, the consensus among music analysts is that Cindy’s victory was not only a personal triumph but also a testament to the enduring power of music. During the battle, Sheebah took a jab at Cindy, questioning what she had gained from her music career.

## NYEGE NYEGE FESTIVAL

**N**yege Nyege festival annual music and arts festival held in Jinja, Uganda since 2015, 8th edition took place from November 12, 2023. The festival was held on three conjoined sites

along the river Nile. The Jinja Golf course, source of the Nile, and the Jinja showground. It had hundreds of deejays and over 300 artists from over 30 different nationalities. The festival is known for its electronic, dance and experimental music, as well as its focus on African culture and creativity. The festival has faced controversy over the years, including being banned by Uganda’s parliament in 2018 on the grounds that it promoted “sexual immorality”. Before the festival 3 foreign countries warned their citizens from attending it, claiming of the risk of an attack .On 17th, October, 2023 the Allied Defence Forces attacked two British tourists visiting Queen Elizabeth National Park and their driver but President Yoweri Museveni reassured participants in a message posted on X (formerly Twitter) saying that the security forces are protecting public events scheduled in advance, including the controversial Nyege Nyege. Internal Affairs Minister Kahinda Otafiire expressed his appreciation for the





security agencies, including the Police, UPDF, and sister security agencies, for successfully ensuring the safety of attendees at the Nyege Nyege festival.

### *Other Artists that made the headlines in 2023*

1. Fally Ipupa a Congolese artist known for his music in traditional Congolese genres such as rumba, Soukous, and ndombolo, had two concerts in Uganda performed in Uganda on 29th and 1st October, 2023.
2. Myko Ouma's World of sounds concert was held at the Kampala Serena Hotel's Victoria Conference Hall on October 6th and 7th, 2023.
3. Garfield Delano Spence (born 11 January 1985), also known as Konshens, is a Jamaican dancehall recording artist DJ

and business man graced Blankets and wines on 17th December, 2023 at Lugogo Cricket Oval.

### COMEDY PIECE

Former MP marries two wives in one ceremony  
In January 2023, Watenga Godfrey Nabutanyi, a former Member of Parliament for Lutseshe County, formalized his union with two women in a unique ceremony. Watenga celebrated a joint dowry ceremony over the weekend, uniting with his two wives, Nanzala Beatrice and Nekesa Christine, at his residence in Kuushu Town Council, located in Bududa District. Having shared their lives for more than five years, Watenga and his wives are a family that has grown over time, blessed with the joy of raising children together.

INTERNATIONAL CORRIDOR

# Faces that made headlines





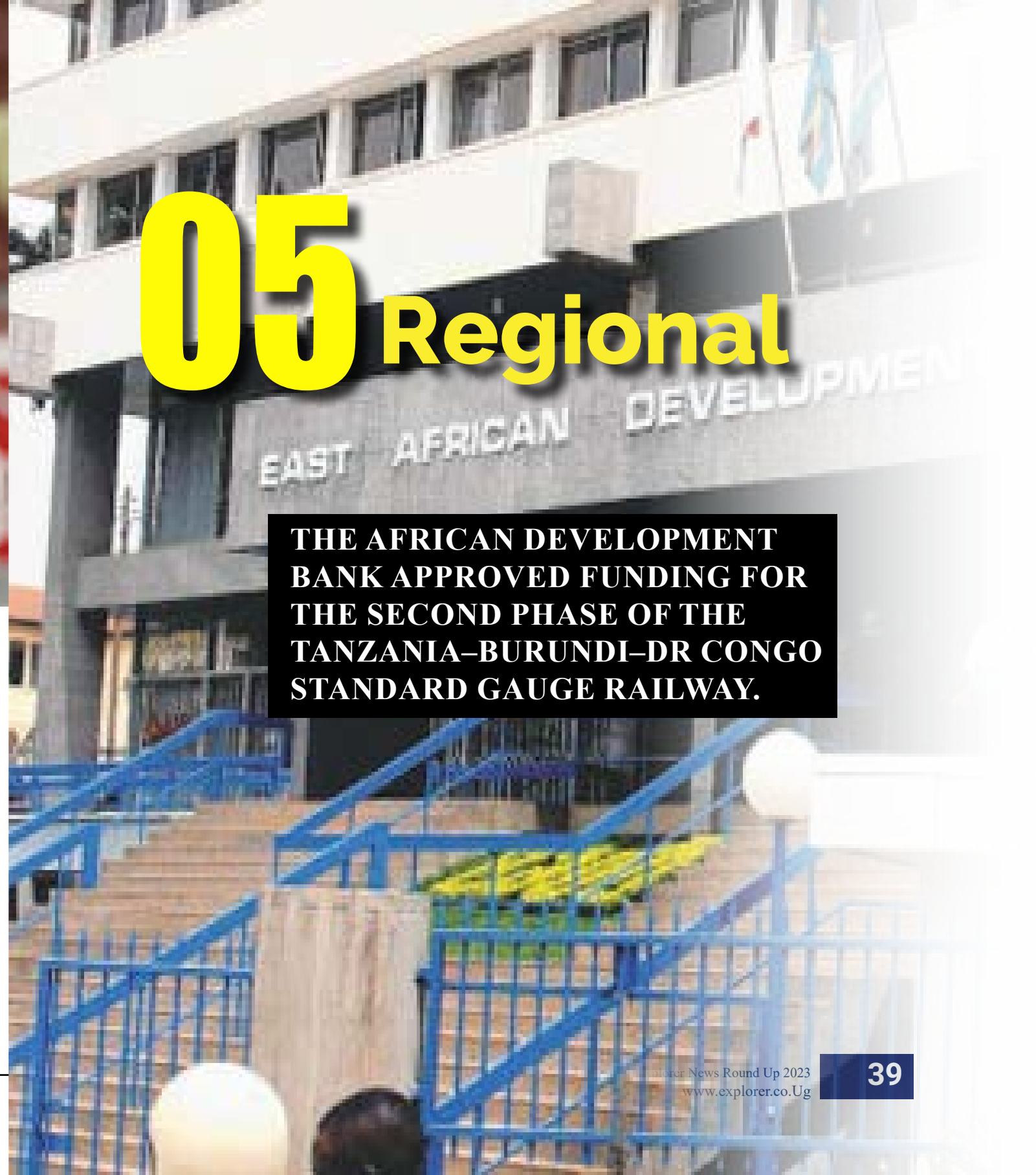






# 05 Regional

**THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK APPROVED FUNDING FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF THE TANZANIA-BURUNDI-DR CONGO STANDARD GAUGE RAILWAY.**





**B**urundi will receive grants worth US\$98.62m, while Tanzania will obtain US\$597.79m in loans and guarantees. The financing will facilitate the construction of 651 km of electrified single-track railway in three segments: Tabora–Kigoma (411 km) and Uvinza–Malagarasi (156 km) in Tanzania, and Malagarasi–Musongati (84 km) in Burundi. Connecting to the first phase in Tanzania will grant access to the port of Dar es Salaam, crucial for 80% of Burundi's imports and exports.

The project aims to transform the central transport corridor into an economic corridor, boosting trade, manufacturing, and mineral exploitation, particularly nickel in Burundi. The total estimated cost for the Tanzania-Burundi railway project is nearly US\$3.93bn. The bank will mobilize financing from various sources to support the development, promoting rail transport over road and facilitating skills training in both countries.

## UPDF SOLDIERS HAND OVER VIP PROTECTION TO SOMALI FORCES

**T**he Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) have handed over the responsibility of protecting the president, other very important persons (VIPs), and critical infrastructure in Somalia

to the country's security forces. The handover was effected on December 18, 2023, marking a significant milestone for the Somalia Transition Plan. The Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and Somalia Police Forces (SPF) will take over the responsibility of the presidency, State House, Parliament, and other critical infrastructure. The UPDF has been responsible for the protection of key officials and infrastructure for the last 16 years.

## UGANDA FORCES EXIT COMPLETES EACRF WITHDRAWAL FROM EAST DRC

**U**ganda completed the withdrawal of its troops from the violence-ridden North Kivu, Eastern Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), marking the final exit of the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF). The withdrawal, in compliance with the November 24 directive from the EAC heads of state, was completed ahead of the January 7 deadline. Uganda's contingent, part of a regional force deployed in November last year, served as a buffer between Congolese forces and M23 rebels. Other contributing countries, including Kenya and South Sudan, had already withdrawn their troops. The EACRF mandate, which expired on December 8, was not renewed by DR Congo President Felix

Tshisekedi. The regional forces played a crucial role in restoring normalcy to conflict-affected areas.

## ECOWAS COURT ORDERS MOHAMED BAZOUUM'S REINSTATEMENT AS PRESIDENT

**T**he ECOWAS Court of Justice in Abuja has mandated the immediate reinstatement of ousted Niger President Mohamed Bazoum, following his overthrow

by the presidential guard on July 26, 2023. Despite being under house arrest with his family, Bazoum's return is deemed crucial for restoring constitutional order and democratic governance. The court's ruling, delivered by Judge Geberibe Quattara, directed Niger's military government to release Bazoum unconditionally. This decision comes amid global condemnation of the coup, leading to sanctions by Ecowas, who had offered to lift sanctions in exchange for Bazoum's release—a proposal rejected by the Niger junta.



# 06 Sports

## UGANDA SHINES ON THE GLOBAL ATHLETICS STAGE IN 2023

**I**t has been a spectacular year for Ugandan athletics, the nation has once again asserted its dominance on the global stage, showcasing exceptional performances in various international competitions. Uganda hosted the East African School Games in August 2023, promoting regional cooperation and highlighting the outstanding talent of young athletes from the East African community. In the 2023 World Athletics Championships

(Hungarian: 2023 the nineteenth edition of the World Athletics Championships, which were held from 19 to 27 August 2023 at the National Athletics Centre, in Budapest, Hungary, Uganda sent a 21-member team that displayed remarkable skill and determination. Joshua Cheptegei secured a gold medal in the 10,000m race and Oscar Chelimo got a bronze in the 5,000m race. In September, 2023, at the Diamond League Halimah Nakaayi's finished in the fifth place in the 800m race which further solidifies Uganda's standing in the world athletics. Despite not securing medals at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Ugandan athletes exhibited exemplary performances, demonstrating the depth of talent Uganda has.





# SOCIAL MEDIA BURST



Sheebah Vs Cindy  
iPhone Vs Nokia

Christine Nampeera & Bashara

Boyfriend

NAMPERA

DNA SAGA





Anti- LGBTQ bill



POTHOLES



NYEGE NYEGE



KCCA LAUNCHES NEW ROADS



# 07 Environment & Sustainability



## GOVERNMENT HALTS TIMBER EXPORTS IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON DEFORESTATION

The Ugandan government, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, National Forestry Authority, Customs, Police, and sister security agencies, initiated the enforcement of a presidential directive aimed at curbing deforestation. This directive entailed a ban on the production of charcoal and the sale of timber outside the country.

The immediate consequence of this directive has been the suspension of timber exports from Uganda to international markets. The ban, announced in July 2023 during a security press briefing, is being actively implemented through joint operations involving the police, sister security forces, and forestry authorities, in coordination with local governments.

“We want to inform the public that the police have commenced joint operations to enforce the presidential directive on the ban of timber and commercial charcoal production in the country,” stated spokesperson Fred Enanga. The genesis of this initiative can be traced

back to an executive order issued by President Museveni on May 24. The order banned charcoal burning and illegal timber production, emphasizing the need to address environmental damage caused by undisciplined individuals. Various agencies were directed to take immediate action.

According to the police, the ban applies to all timber traders, transporters, middlemen, and locals involved in facilitating the illegal transportation of timber. It is now deemed illegal to export timber out of the country. Rigorous monitoring, covering land, air, and water transport, is in place. Intelligence operations are actively targeting unscrupulous dealers, criminal elites, and politicians attempting to subvert the presidential directive.

This ban is especially timely given the alarming reports of increased deforestation in Uganda. Forests are being cleared for agriculture, urbanization, and logging for charcoal and other business purposes.

Experts warn that without government intervention to curb deforestation, the country’s National Environment Management Authority predicts the loss of all forests within 25 years. Studies indicate that almost all forests outside protected areas have already been cleared.

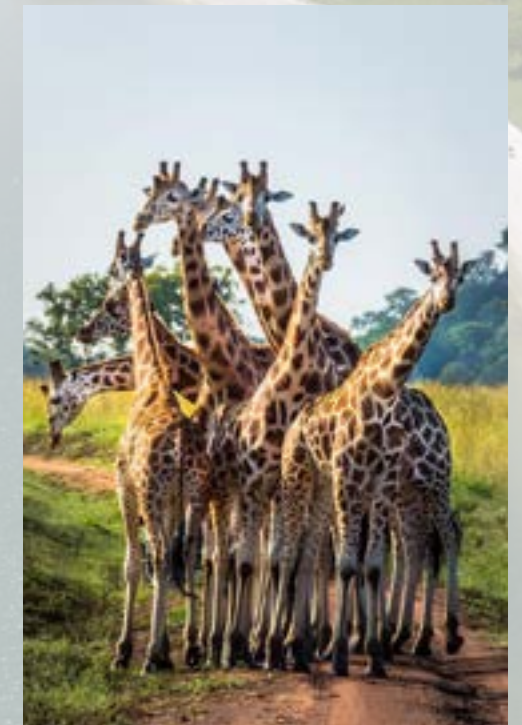
These measures mark an essential step towards sustainable forestry management and combating deforestation.



# LET'S TRAVEL UGANDA

Tourism

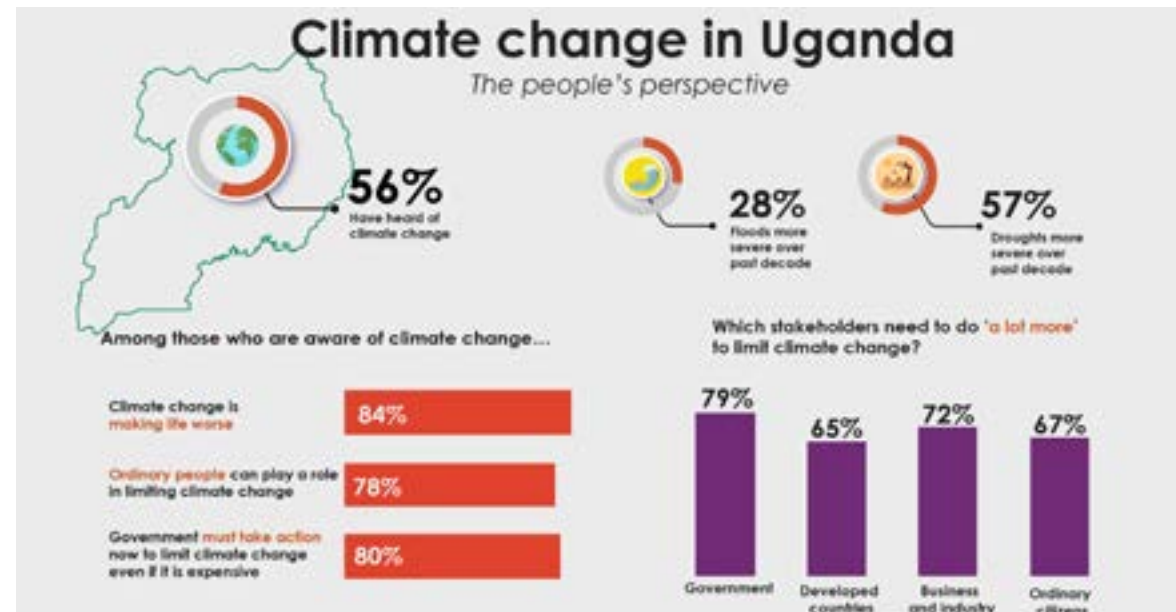
**#VisitUganda**  
**#BeautifulUg**  
**#ExploreUganda**











## A RISING DRUMBEAT OF CLIMATE CHAOS

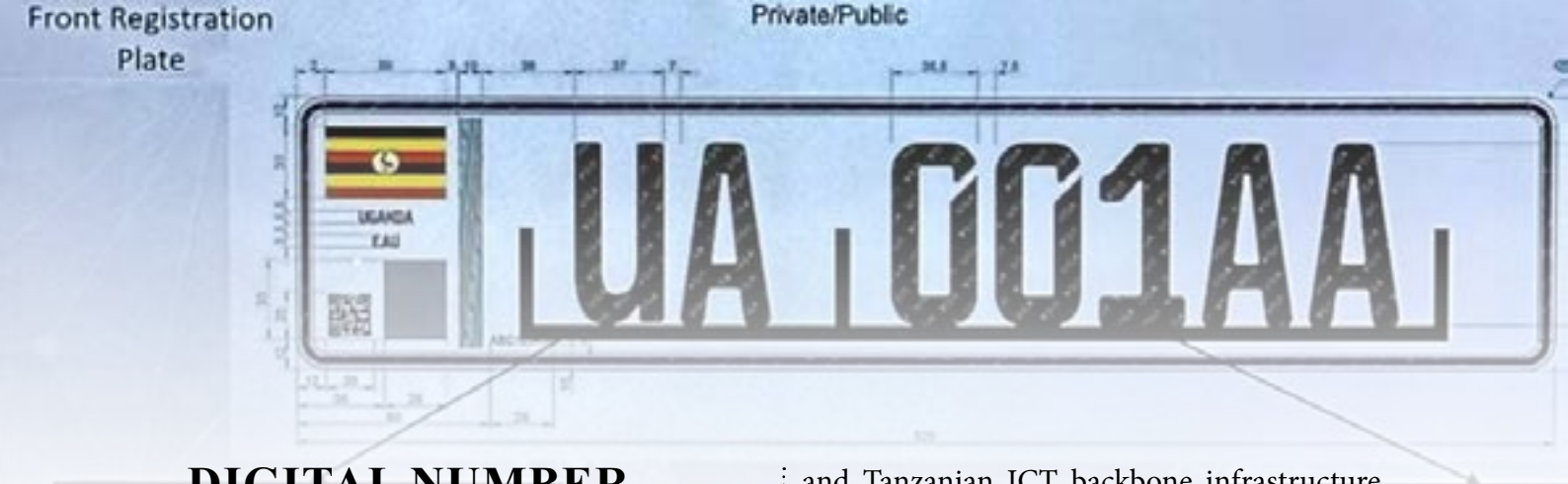
In 2022, the world witnessed a barrage of extreme weather events, including record-breaking heatwaves, floods in Pakistan, and famine threatening 150 million Africans due to a severe drought. Despite these alarming signs, greenhouse gas emissions increased instead of decreasing by nearly half, as required to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. As 2023 unfolded, the prospects for breaking temperature records again remained high, and the likelihood of reducing emissions appeared slim.

United Nations Climate Change Conference which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November until 12

December 2023, addressed the challenging issue of setting up a “loss and damage” fund for countries affected by climate disasters. While there are glimmers of hope, such as Brazil’s commitment to combat deforestation and Australia’s prioritization of climate issues, the urgency for global action is paramount. Positive developments include significant renewable energy investments in the United States and the European Union’s introduction of green tariffs to penalize high-carbon imports. However, for substantial progress, China, the largest emitter, must accelerate its shift away from coal. Meanwhile, Russia, the fourth-largest emitter, showed little inclination to address methane emissions from its oil and gas production. As fossil fuel prices rise, there is a growing global incentive to embrace renewables and reduce energy waste, but the overarching concern remains the continued environmental toll of fossil fuel reliance.

# 08 Technology





## DIGITAL NUMBER PLATES LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

The Ministry of Works and Transport launched the digital number plates which are to help curb insecurity in Uganda.

The new vehicles will pay 714,000 Ugx and the old ones will pay 150,000 Ugx and motorcycles will pay 50,000 Ugx.

The announcement by the Ministry of Works sparked off conversation in the public about the intended fees that many termed as too exorbitant.

The Ministry continues to assure the public that the primary reason for the introduction of digital number plates is to curb insecurity as they have features that make it easier to track and monitor vehicles contributing to the prevention of crimes like car theft and unauthorized use of vehicles.

On May 26th, 2023, Presidents Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and Samia Suluhu Hassan commissioned the integration of the Ugandan

and Tanzanian ICT backbone infrastructure in Isingiro District. This achievement brings the two nations closer together in their pursuit of reliable and high-speed internet connectivity, which plays a pivotal role in driving socio-economic development and fostering innovation.

On August 1st, 2023, the National Information Technology Authority Uganda (NITA-U) announced a further reduction in the price of internet bandwidth for Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) from \$70 to \$35 per Mbps through the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI). This price reduction means government offices connected to the NBI will consume the internet at the lowest price in the market.

Tanzania and Uganda signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to integrate their national information and communication technology (ICT) networks. The 15-year agreement will connect Tanzania's National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) with Uganda's National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) through collaboration between Tanzania's TTCL Corporation and Uganda's National IT Authority (NITA-U).

# INNOVATIONS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF UGANDA

## SOLAR-POWERED WATER IRRIGATION PROJECT UNDERWAY: 687 SITES TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Nexus Green Limited is progressing toward the completion of 400 solar-powered water irrigation sites in Northern and Eastern Uganda by the end of 2023, part of the \$90 million Government-funded project for solar-powered water supply and irrigation systems. The initiative, owned by the Ministry of Water and Environment and financed by the Ministry





of Finance and Economic Planning, aims to benefit over 25,000 Ugandans in water-stressed districts. Rikki Verma, CEO of Nexus Green, stated that preliminary works, including site verification and land acquisition, are nearly complete, with the focus shifting to construction. The solar-powered irrigation project, approved by the Parliament of Uganda and UK Export Finance, began in July 2021, and Nexus Green aims

to hand over all 687 sites to the government by the end of 2024. The project is expected to increase productive seasons from two to four per year, generating substantial revenue and contributing over 3% to the country's GDP annually. It is set to benefit 3,000 smallholder farmers, provide clean drinking water to 5,000 rural residents, and improve access to urban water supply systems for 15,000 people. Additionally,

2,300 farmers will gain agronomy skills through expert guidance, fostering agricultural development. MPs are conducting oversight visits to assess project implementation, emphasizing the critical role of parliamentary support in the initiative's success.



**ROBOTICS TRIUMPH:  
UGANDAN TEAM EARNS  
GENDER EQUALITY  
HONOR IN U.S.  
COMPETITION**

In April, Young Engineers Uganda made history by winning the GIRLS POWERED Badge of Honor at the Vex World Robotics Championship in Dallas, USA. The team, with more girls than boys, stood out among over 2000 participants from across the globe.



**SATELLITE  
TECHNOLOGY  
SAFEGUARDS HEATED  
OIL PIPELINE: UGANDA  
IMPLEMENTS SCADA  
MONITORING**

To ensure the security of the 1,443-km heated oil pipeline, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline's holding company will employ Satellite Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) technology. This advanced system offers real-time monitoring, independent of local networks, ensuring a comprehensive view of the pipeline's status even when buried underground.





# 09 What to Anticipate in 2024



## UGANDA HOSTS SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Speakers and Presiding Officers of the national parliaments of the independent sovereign states of the Commonwealth conference 3rd to 6th January 5, 2024 Uganda will also host the 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit and the Third South (G77 + China) Summit at the Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort. 15th to 19th January 2024. These two summits, with participation from over 135 countries, will benefit Uganda's tourism sector. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, John Mulimba, views this as an opportunity to showcase Uganda's unique tourism and investment prospects on a global stage



## UGANDA IS SET TO CONDUCT ITS NATIONAL POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS (NPHC) IN 2024.

Launched by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at Kololo Independence Grounds in December 2023, the census, which takes place every ten years, aims to utilize digital technology for data collection, processing, and dissemination. It is scheduled to commence in May 2024.





## IN THE SPORTS WORLD

For the sports lovers, in 2024, one of the notable events to anticipate is the commencement of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, scheduled to kick off in the Ivory Coast on January 13. Senegal, led by Sadio Mane, is determined to defend their title from two years prior.

Despite being officially designated as the 2023 edition, the latest AFCON is being held this year due to a rescheduling that shifted the finals from the northern hemisphere's summer to January. This adjustment aims to avoid the rainy season in that region of Africa.

A total of 24 nations will compete in this year's finals, organized into six groups of four teams each.

## MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA IN 2024 FOR THE HYPE LOVERS

In 2024 as several renowned artists gear up for unforgettable concerts. Particularly, Davido, Rema Namakula, former Blu\*3 band members, and Lydia Jazmine are set to captivate music lovers before the end of March, 2024.

## ON THE POLITICAL FRONT IN UGANDA

Ahead of the 2024 polls, various political parties in Uganda are gearing up for their grassroots elections.

The National Resistance Movement Party Electoral Commission disclosed the timetable for party structure elections, spanning from the village to the district level in 2024.

According to the outlined roadmap, village elections are scheduled for March 11, 2024, parish-level on March 18, sub-county level on March 25, municipality leaders on March 28, and district-level elections on April 1, 2024. Dr. Tanga Odoi, the chairperson of the NRM party electoral commission, addressed the press at the commission's headquarters, highlighting that the early commencement of the process aims to address concerns about insufficient campaign time, a frequent complaint from party members.

With a budget of Shs 1.3 billion, the elections will adopt a lining-up method, known for its cost-effectiveness, simplicity, and transparency

## 2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Electoral Commission in August, 2023 unveiled the roadmap for the upcoming 2026 General Elections, emphasizing early preparations and securing

adequate funding for all related activities.

Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja urged all stakeholders to accurately review the outlined timelines in the roadmap and collaborate closely with the Electoral Commission to ensure a seamless implementation of the electoral plan for the 2025/2026 general elections

## IN VARIOUS GLOBAL POLITICAL ARENAS

On the global stage still, several other nations are gearing up for elections in 2024. Bangladesh is set for January 7th, followed by Indonesia on February 8th, and Pakistan also on February 8th. The Russian Federation is scheduled for March 15th-17th, while India is expected to elect its leaders between April and May. The European Union's elections are slated for June 6th-9th, and Rwanda is set to go to the polls on July 15th, among others. The world watches as political landscapes unfold in these separate arenas around the globe.

## UGANDA'S ECONOMY DRIVERS TO LOOK AT

1. The Parish Development Model
2. The construction of the Oil Pipeline and Oil refinery
3. Recovery of the tourism sector
4. Agriculture Growth

## UNCERTAINTIES TO CROSS FINGERS ABOUT THIS YEAR

Experts predict more fight back from the environment due to increased climate crisis

Uganda Opposition Politics direction with the so many infights that prevailed in 2023  
Muhoozi Project

Trumps bid to return to the white house  
The Hamas- Isreal war and the question of whether Benjamin Netanyahu will be unseated as Prime Minister of Isreal.

The influence of Open Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the technology world.





# cartoon

