

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Uganda Monthly Briefing June 2025

Uganda Summary 10 June 2025

Tensions run high in the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) ahead of the party's primaries, scheduled for 17 July, with two candidates even involved in a physical altercation at a local election on 6 May. Uganda suspends all military cooperation with Germany, citing "credible intelligence reports" of the German ambassador, Matthias Schauer, engaging in "subversive activities". Two suspected terrorists die in a suicide bombing after security forces intercept them enroute to the Munyonyo Catholic Martyrs shrine in Kampala on 3 June.

Tensions in ruling party ahead of primaries

Tensions are high in **Uganda's** ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** party ahead of the party's primaries in which it will elect its parliamentary candidates for next year's general election. Nominations for candidates are due between 17 and 30 June, after which candidates will conduct campaigns ahead of the primaries on 17 July. Tensions are high in several constituencies, around the country as older politicians face off against new entrants who are backed by the younger population, many who were born after the **Ugandan Bush War** that brought President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present) to power.

The hotspots where unrest is likely to breakout from during the joint party campaigns includes **Lwemiyaga County in Lwengo District (Central Region)** where Brigadier General **Emmanuel Rwashande** is running against current member of parliament (MP) **Theodore Ssekikubo**.¹ On 6 May, the two were involved in physical altercation at a polling station during local council elections, forcing the exercise to be suspended.² In **Rukungiri District (Western Region)**, security minister Major General **Jim Muhwezi** and former security minister, Lieutenant General **Henry Tumukunde**, are also contesting for the same position of district ruling party chairperson which could also heighten tensions.

Records from the NRM **Electoral Commission** indicate that as of 4 June 1,740 candidates have expressed interest in running for the parliamentary candidate positions.³ The NRM's primary elections have in the past been marred by widespread reports of rigging and violence and is a high pressured contest as the elected candidates enjoy significant advantages during official campaigns, including the use of state resources. The tensions are also indicative of the change in demographic of NRM supporters, and even politicians, and the ruling party needs to adapt to this reality or risk ongoing tensions between its older and younger politicians which could signal instability in the party.

Uganda suspends cooperation with Germany

Uganda's acting military spokesperson **Chris Magezi** confirmed via social media on 25 May that the army was suspending all military cooperation with **Germany**, citing "credible intelligence reports" of the **German** ambassador, **Matthias Schauer**, engaging in "subversive activities".⁴ Germany's foreign

¹ ARC source, MP, Western Region

² Kampala Post, 12 May 2025

³ Uganda Radio Network, 3 Jun 2025

⁴ X, 25 Jun 2025

ministry rebuked the accusations in a press conference on 26 May, calling them "*absurd and without any merit*".⁵

Magezi gave no details of any existing cooperation but Uganda and Germany have enjoyed a longstanding security and development partnership, which has included military training and advisory missions, joint counterterrorism efforts, especially in the **East African** region, development assistance and institutional support to Uganda's armed forces.⁶

The abrupt halt marks a significant deterioration in bilateral relations and could impact regional cooperation, especially as Uganda continues to play a leading role in regional peacekeeping missions, including in Somalia under the **African Union Transition Mission (ATMIS)** which Germany supports through the **European Union (EU)**.⁷ There are also concerns that the deterioration in relations could impact trade – trade between Uganda and Germany amounted to \$335m in 2024, with Uganda's exports earning \$214m.⁸

The suspension has also generated political debate within Uganda, with members of the opposition criticising the government's handling of the situation and its implications for national security, nothing that under normal circumstances the suspension should have been communicated to the German government through a diplomatic channel not the army posting the communication on social media.⁹

While seemingly random, the decision reportedly resulted from remarks Schauer made to General **Salim Saleh** during a meeting that Saleh held with EU officials on 22 May - Saleh is Museveni's brothers and uncle to chief of the defence forces, General **Muhoozi Kainerugaba**. At the meeting, Schauer reportedly criticised Kainerugaba over his "*reckless posts*" on social media and his alleged human rights records.¹⁰ Kainerugaba is still widely considered to be Museveni's successor and if true, this suspension of cooperation is indicative of how he could one day wish to run the presidency.

Kampala terror attack leaves two dead

Two suspected terrorists on 3 May detonated a suicide belt that killed them after security forces intercepted them enroute to **Munyonyo Catholic Martyrs** shrine in **Kampala**, where hundreds of pilgrims had gathered to celebrate Martyrs' Day.¹¹ Shortly after the foiled terror attack, the army released a photograph of one of the suicide bombers, revealing links to previous terror incidents.¹²

Magezi told the local media in Kampala that the female bomber who was intercepted and killed in the attempted attack is the daughter of the suicide bomber who targeted Kampala central police station **during** the coordinated terror attacks of November 2021.

In the 2021 attack, the bomber had approached the entrance of the central police station in Kampala, detonating his explosive belt at close range, killing himself and several others. The bombing was one of three coordinated explosions that morning, including another attack near **Parliament Avenue**. The 2021 attacks marked one of the deadliest terror incidents in Uganda in recent years and signalled an escalation in the **Allied Democratic Forces' (ADF)** urban operations beyond its traditional strongholds along the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**-Uganda border.¹³

A coalition of rebel forces including the **Uganda Muslim Liberation Army** and the **National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU)** formed the ADF in 1995 to fight against Museveni's

⁵ Reuters, 26 May 2025

⁶ All Africa, 25 May 2025

⁷ All Africa, 25 May 2025

⁸ UBOS report, Jun 2024

⁹ ARC source, opposition MP, Kampala

¹⁰ Daily Monitor, 22 May 2025

¹¹ Reuters, 3 Jun 2025

¹² X, 3 Jun 2025

¹³ Police press release, 16 Nov 2021

government. They first set up camp in western Uganda before moving into the DRC.¹⁴ Uganda, which borders conflict-prone nations such as **South Sudan** and the DRC, has experienced periodic attacks blamed on the ADF, which has been designated a terrorist group by both Uganda and the **United States (US)**. The latest attack confirms the existence of ADF terrorist cells within Kampala and its ability to carry out attacks.

Magezi told the media that the female terrorist had been under the surveillance of the security agencies moments before she left her home to travel to the shrine, seeking to allay any concerns around Uganda's safety:

"Uganda is relatively secure, you can't say the same about our neighbours, for 40 years, we've protected Ugandans and will continue to do so, even better now with our growing capabilities and cooperation with locals and international partners."¹⁵

In November 2021, Uganda deployed soldiers to DRC under **Operation Shujaa**, a joint military offensive against the ADF. In February, Uganda deployed an additional 1,000 soldiers, bringing the total deployment to 5,000.

Planner

17 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) National Resistance Movement (NRM)** parliamentary candidate elections

Sep 2025 to Jan 2026 **(Uganda)** Election campaigning

20 – 25 Sep 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Uganda International Oil & Gas Summit**

Nov 2025 **(Uganda) Bank of Uganda** (central bank) **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting

12 Jan – 9 Feb 2026 **(Uganda)** General election

Chronology

6 Jun 2024 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. President **Yoweri Museveni** rebukes senior **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** leaders, whom he says have been interfering in internal party elections, criticising what he describes as self-serving behaviour among some top party figures, warning that such conduct threatens to undermine the party's integrity and long-term unity;

5 Jun 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. An impressive wave of interest hits the ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** as the party continues to register aspirants for various political positions ahead of the 2026 general elections;

4 Jun 2025 **Kampala (Kampala) Independent**. Agriculture ministry's **Coffee Development Department** report indicates **Uganda's** annual coffee export earnings grow almost 95% over the year ended April 2025 to \$1.97 billion, mainly boosted by higher international prices;

3 Jun 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Chimpereports**. Agriculture ministry's **Coffee Development Department** report reveals **Italy** remains the largest importer of Uganda's coffee, accounting for 42.02% of total exports in April alone;

3 Jun 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Reuters**. An explosion kills two suspected terrorists near the **Munyonyo Martyrs' Shrine** in **Kampala**;

30 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Daily Monitor**. Government announces intentions to license one million artisanal miners under a new mining law that will help expand its revenue base while enhancing monitoring, regulation, and environmental management of small-scale mining activities across the country;

¹⁴ Al Jazeera, 30 Nov 2021

¹⁵ Daily Monitor, 3 Jun 2025

29 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. President **Yoweri Museveni** sees of the first consignment of powdered milk to **Algeria**, valued at \$8m, marking a significant milestone for Uganda's agricultural sector;

28 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. **Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBS)** reports annual inflation stood at 3.8% in May compared to 3.5% in April, attributed to annual core inflation rising to 4.2% in May compared to 3.9% in April;

27 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *The Guardian*. **United States**-headquartered **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** alleges that Ugandan authorities have “*unleashed abuse*”, perpetrating widespread discrimination and violence against LGBTQ+ people in the two years since the world's harshest anti-gay laws were enacted in 2023;

26 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *DW*. Parliament passes a law that permits military tribunals to try civilians, prompting protests from the opposition, who say the move violated a Supreme Court ruling in January that banned such trials, which the opposition claims silences opponents.

25 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Uganda Chamber of commerce*. **Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)** together with the energy and mineral development ministry and the **National Renewable Energy Platform (NREP)** initiate the development of new standards aimed at regulating and promoting the adoption of clean and renewable energy systems on both local and international markets;

23 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Rights group **Agora Discourse** says human rights activist **Agather Atuhairre**, who was arrested in **Tanzania** after travelling to support opposition leader **Tundu Lissu**, on trial for treason, has been found tortured and dumped the border;

22 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *New Vision*. Foreign affairs minister of state **John Mulimba** reveals that the ministry will reduce the number of diplomatic missions abroad from the current 38 to about 15 according to a president directive citing cost concerns and questions around their effectiveness;

20 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. Parliament passes the **Political Parties and Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, conditioning government funding for political parties on their commitment to democratic principles such as tolerance, dialogue, and peaceful co-existence;

18 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Relief Web*. Despite a ceasefire declared in late April, fighting continues in several parts of **North** and **South Kivu** provinces in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, forcing thousands to flee to Uganda;

17 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Parliament approves a proposal to borrow \$456.37m from **Export-Import Bank of China** for road upgrades;

16 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Observer*. As the **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) intensifies its gold purchases to boost national reserves, **Africa Centre for Energy and Mineral Policy (ACEMP)** director **Don Bwesigye Binyina** raises concern about the origin of gold being traded within the country, warning that without strict traceability, the central bank risks being entangled in the illicit minerals trade of the **Great Lakes Region**;

15 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. Parliament passes the **Stamp Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2025** introducing a ‘near-duty’ classification and effectively scrapping the longstanding Ush 15,000 (\$4) duty on agreements and mortgage deeds;

14 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. Government reveals plans to establish a **National Commodities Exchange** aimed at securitising the country's mineral resources and facilitating their trade on the stock market, a move expected to formalise the mineral trade, attract foreign direct investment (FDI), and spur economic growth;

13 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Observer**. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) maintains the key monetary rate at 9.75%, noting that inflation at 3.5% remains below its projected forecast;

12 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)**. *Independent*. Head of the **European Union (EU)** delegation to Uganda, ambassador **Jan Sadek**, expresses concern about increased reports of human rights abuses and extrajudicial actions by security forces;

11 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. The **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** writes to President **Yoweri Museveni** to note concern about human rights violations in Uganda, singling out the arrest and detention of human rights lawyer **Eron Kiiza** in January 2025;

9 May 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Chimpereports**. The **National Lotteries and Gaming Regulatory Board (NLGRB)** is stepping up enforcement efforts to combat illegal gaming operations across Uganda, with a focus on protecting the public from the negative effects of gaming;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

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