

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Uganda Monthly Briefing August 2025

Uganda Summary 6 August 2025

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) political party's parliamentary primaries on 16 July exposes fractures within the ruling party. Uganda re-opens its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in M23 rebel-controlled areas, a move that has angered the Congolese government. President Yoweri Museveni (1986-present) blames corrupt individuals for being behind the introduction of the Express Penalty System (EPS) fines system that caused recent uproar among motorists in Uganda.

Electoral grievances aired during ruling party primaries

The ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** [held](#) its parliamentary primaries on 16 July which were marred by allegations of irregularities and has exposed increasing fractures among members. The NRM's [elections tribunal](#) confirmed receipt of at least 381 parliamentary election petitions filed from across the country following the primaries, covering a wide range of electoral grievances, including allegations of vote rigging, multiple voting, obstruction or intimidation of polling agents, claims that ineligible individuals were allowed to contest, and procedural irregularities in both voting and tallying processes. The NRM election tribunal chairperson **John Musiime** noted that the petitions were submitted from various constituencies, reflecting both the intensity of competition and the growing public interest in internal party democracy.

President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present) [has](#) since ordered for the arrest of all those accused of masterminding illegalities during the elections:

"The state structures such as Internal Security Organization (ISO) and Criminal Investigations Department (CID) have already helped us by arresting the criminals and charging them. What remains are the political and legal aspects".

Ten cabinet [ministers](#) - including some of Museveni's closest allies, such as works minister **Musa Ecweru**, trade and industry minister **David Bahati**, and ICT minister, **Godfrey Kabbyanga** - were also defeated in the primaries. The ministers have all rejected the results and vowed to stand as independent candidates in next year's elections. Other party loyalists are also warning that the party risks disintegrating unless the president takes firm stand that helps in eliminating electoral irregularities.

Museveni has also reportedly been shaken by the widespread electoral chaos, which may for the first time in his nearly 40-year-rule lead to parliament dominated by independent members of parliament (MPs). He has promised to rectify the mistakes that happened during the party's primary elections:

"Those affected by the [mistakes](#) of the mistake-makers, should know that their grievances are already being addressed. Everything will be rectified. It is just the facts and evidence that will conclude the matter.

In a rare criticism, labour, gender and social development minister **Balaam Barugahara** warned that the party is falling under the influence of wealthy individuals who have taken control of key positions in the party. Barugahara's allegations include **David Echodu** who is seeking to become the NRM's vice chairperson in eastern Uganda, and **Sanjay Tanna** who is vying for ruling party entrepreneurship chairperson.

The NRM currently has 336 seats in parliament, out of a possible 529, followed by independents, who hold 74 seats. If this number grows, the independents in combination with opposition parties – which currently hold a combined 109 seats – could see a rebalancing in parliament and result in more challenges to the NRM.

DRC angered by Uganda's unilateral decision to trade with M23 rebel-controlled areas

Uganda [announced](#) on 9 July that it would officially re-open the **Bunagana** border post which sits between **Kisoro** district and **Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Rutshuru** territory (**North Kivu Province**), which enters into **M23** rebel controlled-areas in DRC, a move that has angered the Congolese government.

DRC's government has described the reopening of the land border as a unilateral decision. DRC's [council of ministers](#), during its meeting on 11 July, instructed its foreign affairs ministry to urgently seek clarification from Uganda on the decision. However, Ugandan military assistant **Chris Magezi**, who made the 9 July announcement, stated that Museveni directly ordered the reopening, adding that Ugandan officials who initially closed the border when M23 captured Bunagana in June 2022 will be investigated:

"It was a criminal and counter-productive move to block meaningful trade between two neighbouring communities whose survival and prosperity depends on it. Those who did it are being investigated."

Magezi said the Museveni has ordered that all border crossings into areas controlled by the M23 rebels must be reopened. However, on 4 August, [local media](#) trade between Uganda and DRC at the Bungana post has remained stagnant a month after the reopening of the border. In 2023, Uganda exported \$411m in goods to DRC and imported \$17.2m, signalling the importance of maintaining open trade routes. This figure also excludes informal cross-border trading, which is a key economic lifeline for many of the communities living in border towns.

Museveni blames high Express Penalty Scheme fines on corrupt individuals

Museveni has [alleged](#) that corrupt individuals are behind the introduction of the **Express Penalty Scheme (EPS)** fines system that caused recent uproar among motorists in Uganda over the high penalties. Notably, Museveni did not comment on the government bodies responsible for oversight but only said the implementation was rushed without consulting other stakeholders.

The EPS was introduced in June by the works and transport ministry and was intended to issue electronic fines for traffic violations. Under the EPS, speeding motorists were fined as high as Ush 600,000 (\$167), while failure to pay the fine within three days attracted a further 50% surcharge. Amidst public uproar, including threats by taxi operators to embark on nationwide strikes, the government on 12 June suspended the implementation of the EPS indefinitely to allow for consultation with key stakeholders.

The EPS system was also reliant on the **Russian-owned Joint Stock Company Global Security Limited**, which was awarded a contract in 2021 to introduce a digital monitoring system of all motorcycles and vehicles in Uganda. Museveni alleged that the Russian company was manipulated by the corrupt individuals to inflate the penalties, [commenting](#):

"The Express Penalties were too high, and they did it at the last minute. They didn't do it before, and I will tell you later who did it."

However, reports revealed that the Russian company would actually stand to benefit approximately \$408m from the projected \$510m in fines, while the government would only earn \$76.5m and the remaining \$25.5m would benefit the state-owned **National Enterprise Corporation (NEC)**. The scandal has not only exposed, once again, that Museveni does not have a handle on corruption despite continuously promising to address rampant corruption.

Planner

7 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Bank of Uganda** (central bank) **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting

16-17 Sep **Kampala (Uganda)** Nomination of candidates for parliamentary election

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

23 - 24 Sep 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** Nomination of candidates for presidential election

4 Oct -12 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** Presidential election campaign

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

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

Chronology

4 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) URN**. Ugandan lawyer **Steven Kalali** petitions the **East African Court of Justice (EACJ)** over a new **Tanzanian** law that restricts non-citizens, including **East African Community (EAC)** nationals, from engaging in specific business activities;

3 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Softpower**. **Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)** reports annual headline inflation slowed slightly to 3.8% in July, down from 3.9% in June;

2 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. **KACITA Uganda**, a business support association, has asked power supplier **Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL)** to replace the bulk metering currently being used in Kampala arcades, reporting it is being abused by landlords to charge higher rates for power;

1 Aug 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. **MTN Uganda** shareholders approve the structural separation of **MTN Mobile Money (U) Limited** by 99%, paving the way for its transformation into an independent fintech entity;

31 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. A section of Uganda’s artisanal miners express relief following the launch of the **Euro Gold Refinery** in Kampala, a move they say will help curb the widespread fraud by fake gold dealers and scammers;

30 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Daily Monitor**. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) says it will only buy locally mined gold under its Domestic Gold Purchase Programme as it seeks to rebuild the country’s foreign reserves by purchasing between seven and ten tonnes of gold annually;

29 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Media Centre**. President **Yoweri Museveni** denounces the taxation of hotels, saying the tourism sector is an export industry that should not be burdened with domestic-style taxes;

29 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Business Times**. **Uganda Business Climate Index (UBCI)** report indicates the private sector experienced a modest improvement in business sentiment during the second quarter of 2025, rising to 92.5, up from 88.8 in the first quarter, reflecting cautious optimism among businesses, but remaining below the neutral benchmark of 100;

28 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) NSSF**. **Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)** reports year-on-year real GDP growth stood at 5.3% in the second quarter of the 2024/2025 financial year, down from 6.7% in the first quarter, resulting in an average of 6% for the first half of the fiscal year;

27 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Parliament**. Works minister **Katumba Wamala** confirms at least 27 major road and bridge projects across Uganda have been suspended or drastically slowed down due to a government funding shortfall, affecting projects like the **Masindi-Biiso** and **Kabale-Kiziranfumbi** oil roads, **Kampala-Mpigi Expressway**, and **Kampala-Jinja Highway**;

25 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Press release*. President **Yoweri Museveni** calls for the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** to give **Africa** not less than two permanent seats with veto power as well as two non-permanent seats;

24 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. As **Uganda** moves closer to COP 2025, its deepening collaboration with the **United Kingdom**—particularly in areas of clean energy, cooking technologies, and mineral development;

23 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Chimpreports*. Finance ministry indicates Uganda earned \$1.91 billion from gold exports in the first five months of 2025, reaffirming the precious metal's position as the country's top foreign exchange earner;

22 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *New Vision*. The **State House Anti-Corruption Unit (SHACU)** has intensified the probe into allegations that District Service Commission (DSC) members ask job seekers for money as a prerequisite for recruitment;

21 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *WHO*. **Personal Data Protection Office (PDPO)** finds that **United States**-headquartered **Google LLC** is in breach of Uganda's data protection law and orders the tech giant to register with the local data protection office within 30 days;

20 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *State House press release*. President **Yoweri Museveni** vows to act against perpetrators of electoral malpractice within the ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** party to protect what he describes as "*party's legacy and integrity*";

18 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Aljazeera*. **Rwanda** is in "command and control" of M23 rebels in the eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Uganda** has "unilaterally doubled its military presence" in the DRC, and armed groups – including those aligned to the **Congolese** government – are committing rights violations against civilians, according to a group of **United Nations** experts;

17 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. The Ugandan Shilling solidifies its status as one of **Africa's** strongest currencies, gaining 1.3% against the **United States** dollar in June 2025 and holding firm into July, driven by booming exports, steady remittances, and disciplined monetary policy, showcasing economic resilience amid global volatility;

16 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Press release*. **United States (US)** embassy in Kampala issues a security alert to its government personnel in Uganda advising them to return home by 6:00pm on 17 July, ahead of ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** party primary election results announcements and to avoid polling sites and other public areas involved in election administration;

15 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Press release*. As part of the implementation of the **Buy Uganda Build Uganda** policy, government organises a campaign to promote locally made products in western **Uganda**, in an effort to support local producers and service suppliers with a view of increasing the domestic market share of their products;

13 Apr 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *URN*. The **United States (US)** reduces the validity of non-immigrant visas for Ugandan nationals from two years to a maximum of three months for single entry, citing concerns over abuse of the US visa system;

11 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. Finance, planning and economic development ministry's permanent secretary **Ramathan Ggoobi** says Uganda can grow the size of its economy ten times in the next 15 years, but things have to be done differently; and the economy, saying the country cannot develop unless it is cleared of the mess it is in;

10 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. Uganda reopens its border posts with the **Democratic Republic of Congo** in areas under the control of **M23** rebels;

9 Jul 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. The **Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC)** says it is seeking a joint venture partner to help operate the **Kasuruban** exploration block it acquired in 2023;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

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