

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Uganda Summary 13 November 2024

A dispute over the rationalisation of the Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA) threatens President Yoweri Museveni's (1986-present) support base in Buganda sub-region (central Uganda). The leading opposition politician Robert Sentamu Kyagulanyi (also known as Bobi Wine) resumes his countrywide mobilisation tours on 7 November with a visit to the eastern districts. The United States has provided \$4m to Uganda to help to contain the outbreak of Mpox despite the earlier decision to suspend funding to Uganda over the anti-LGBTQ law.

Coffee bill threatens Museveni's support base

The Bill on the rationalisation of the **Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA)** has drawn a backlash that threatens President **Yoweri Museveni's** (1986-present) support base in coffee-producing regions of **Buganda** and **Elgon**.¹ The **Coffee Amendment Bill**, which parliament passed on 6 November, has drawn anger from farmers in the countryside and pitted Museveni against opposition parliamentary caucus members that he accuses of spreading misinformation on the rationalisation of **Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA)**, which has overseen the sector for the last 33 years.²

The bill seeks to abolish the UCDA and revert its activities back to the agriculture ministry. The Bill drew outrage from opposition members of parliament (MPs), who claim it will affect coffee production, and accuse Museveni of threatening MPs to pass the bill.³ Led by Leader of Opposition in Parliament **Joel Ssenyonyi**, the MPs have framed the abolition of the UCDA as a broader attempt by the government to stifle economic independence, fearing that a weakened coffee sector would lead to greater economic dependency on the government:

"Government has made it, as if their policy is that Ugandans should not be empowered economically because they will be complicated, they will speak out for themselves and that is why they are fighting coffee now, because coffee has empowered Ugandans. They are making a good living out of it and now, they want to go after it, that is their plan."⁴

Museveni has been at the forefront of pushing for the rationalisation of the UCDA and has warned that he will deal with those who are opposed to the rationalisation:

"We are going to have a showdown; they are liars and criminals playing with fire. They will not like the counterattack."⁵

A chaotic session of parliament witnessed a fistfight between two members of parliament.⁶ However, the Bill passed on 6 November without the participation of the 12 members of parliament suspended due to the chaos that engulfed the session.⁷

¹ ARC Source, 6 Nov 2024

² ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

³ Chimpereports 5 Nov 2024

⁴ Chimpereports 5 Nov 2024

⁵ Nile Post, 2 Nov 2024

⁶ Daily Monitor, 6 Nov 2024

⁷ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

Coffee farmers from Buganda region, where Museveni launched the five-year guerrilla war that brought him to power, have been joined by those in Elgon and **Bunyoro** sub-regions in threatening to withdraw their support from the ruling party over the coffee amendment bill.⁸

Uganda is Africa's largest coffee exporter and the world's seventh-largest coffee producer. Coffee is a crucial export for Uganda, making up 20–30% of its total export earnings.⁹ According to figures from the UCDA, in 2022, Uganda exported approximately 6.26 million 60-kg bags of coffee, earning about \$862m.¹⁰

Bobi Wine resumes countrywide mobilisation tours ahead of 2026 elections

Leading opposition politician **Robert Sentamu Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobi Wine**) has defied the police ban and plans to resume his countrywide mobilisation tours on 7 November.¹¹ Inspector general of police **Abbas Byakagaba** suspended the **National Unity Platform (NUP)** party's public meetings in a 23 July notice to the party, citing alleged violations of agreed-upon traffic guidelines:

"The police observed several incidents where NUP supporters were observed violating traffic laws, including passengers riding on the rooftops of vehicles, people seated in vehicle windows, and supporters directing traffic – a mandate reserved for the police."¹²

The NUP reacted to the notice by accusing the police of being partisan in preventing opponents of the ruling **National Resistance Movement** party from reaching out to the voters in rural areas ahead of the 2026 general elections.¹³ NUP leader Bobi Wine told **Africa Risk Consulting** in **Kampala** that the party has defied the ban and will proceed with planned grassroots mobilisation schedule beginning on 7 November:

*"The phase 3 of National Unity Platform nationwide Tour returns this Thursday [7 November] in **Kamuli** and from there the revolutionary train will then head to **Abim, Soroti** before returning to Kisoro next week. The aim is to mobilise, agitate and organise our supporters for change."¹⁴*

Bobi Wine has also struck a deal with a group of war reparation claimants from **Teso** ahead of his visit to Soroti on 9 November.¹⁵ The lawyer representing Teso war claimants **Richard Anguria Omongole** told ARC that the claimants had decided to turn to the NUP after unsuccessfully pursuing compensation from the government:

"Our team will seriously engage in determining the voting pattern in Teso in all positions. We will engage NUP in an alliance and agreeable working relationship for mutual benefits and for the good of Teso."¹⁶

According to the revised roadmap for the 2025/2026 general elections, the nomination of candidates for parliamentary elections will take place on 16-17 September 2025, while the nomination of candidates for presidential elections is scheduled for 2-3 October 2025.

US resumes funding to Uganda as Mpox spreads

The **United States (US)** has provided \$4m to **Uganda** to help to contain the outbreak of **Mpox** despite its earlier decision to suspend funding over the anti-LGBTQ law.¹⁷ The US announced on 11 December 2023 that it was curtailing direct government-to-government funding to programmes implemented

⁸ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

⁹ UCDA report, 2024

¹⁰ UCDA report 2024

¹¹ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

¹² Uganda police, 23 Jul 2024

¹³ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

¹⁴ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

¹⁵ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

¹⁶ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

¹⁷ US Embassy Kampala 6 Nov 2024

with Uganda over the anti-LGBTQ legislation.¹⁸ This included new restrictions and redirections of impacted assistance, including through the Department of Defense and the **President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)**:

*"The Department of Defense is pausing approximately \$15 million for all biological threat reductions activities with the Ugandan Ministries of Health."*¹⁹

However, following the outbreak of Mpox in Uganda, the US has given the Ugandan government \$4m in funding to help to control the outbreak.²⁰ Public Affairs Counselor of the United States Mission in Uganda **Ellen Masi** told ARC that the US is committed to supporting the Ugandan people with life-saving assistance and will continue to provide development assistance through non-governmental partners to support the most vulnerable communities:

*"This includes funding to support HIV prevention and treatment services, testing and laboratory support, and essential medicines through [PEPFAR] to combat HIV/AIDS as well as support through our various health agencies to address the current mpox outbreak including ..with \$4 million in funding, 10,000 test kits, and consumables such as medical gowns, masks, and other items."*²¹

Masi says the US government will continue to assess and make decisions about its assistance in accordance with the laws of the US.²²

According to the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, Uganda had recorded a total of 448 cases of Mpox and one death by 13 November.²³

Planner

28 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Uganda) Bank of Uganda Monetary Policy Meeting (MPC)**

Jan 2025 **(Uganda) National Voters' Register** update

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

Chronology

11 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. Foreign affairs minister **Odongo Jeje Abubakher** tells **Russia's TASS** news agency that Uganda has received an invitation to become a **BRICS** partner country;

5 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. Presidential advisor on minerals **Luisa Moreno** says Uganda needs to become a significant player in the global supply of essential minerals such as lithium, cobalt and rare earth elements, calling on international mining giants to invest in Uganda's rich deposits of critical minerals to drive its clean energy ambitions and economic growth;

4 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Kampala) Daily Express**. **Dubai-based fuel contractor MixJet Flight Support** issues a 48-hour ultimatum to national flagship carrier **Uganda Airlines** to clear at least \$6m of the \$10m (about US\$37 billion) the airlines owes it;

3 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Uganda) Anadolu**. Police report that at least 13 children were among 14 people killed when lightning struck the metal roof of a makeshift church in the **Palabek** settlement camp in northern Uganda, which primarily houses refugees from **South Sudan**;

2 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Uganda) East African**. **France-headquartered TotalEnergies** says it is committed to supporting Uganda's energy security agenda, as demonstrated by its numerous

¹⁸ White House 11 Dec 2024

¹⁹ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

²⁰ US Embassy 6 Nov 2024

²¹ ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

²² ARC source, 6 Nov 2024

²³ Relief Web, 6 Nov 2024

renewable energy projects following an agreement in 2022 between **TotalEnergies Uganda**, developer of the **Tilenga** oil project, and the Ugandan government to deploy over 120 MW of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology;

1 Nov 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. **International Crimes Division** of the **High Court** deputy head Justice **Susan Okalany** grants US\$2m (\$543) cash bail to each of the 36 former **Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)** members charged with terrorism following their arrest in **Kisumu (Kenya)** and subsequent extradition to Uganda in August;

31 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) states in its October monetary policy report that in the three months to September 2024, the shilling appreciated by 1.9%, indicating that Uganda's domestic financial market has continued to remain stable;

31 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. **Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development** is finalising preparations for the launch of the **Domestic Gold Purchase Program (DGPP)**, aimed at enhancing the nation's benefits from its gold sector, which mines commissioner **Agnes Alapa** says will integrate artisanal miners into a formal framework, using digital tracking and strengthened regulations to boost transparency;

30 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Ug business*. **Uganda Bureau of Statistics** reports Uganda's inflation fell to 3% in September, strengthening the case for the **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) to cut interest rates at its meeting next week, with core inflation falling to 3.7% from 3.9% and other goods inflation holding steady at 2.1%, while services inflation fell to 5.8% from 6.2% in August;

29 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. Energy and mineral development ministry permanent secretary **Irene Bateebe** says the government has completed drafting the **Building Substances Bill**, which aims to establish regulatory oversight for the extraction and sale of non-metallic material and will submit it soon to Cabinet for approval;

28 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *CNBC Africa*. Traders report the Ugandan shilling traded flat on Monday, on the back of a general slump in appetite for hard currency across both importers and players in the interbank market with commercial banks quoting the shilling at 3,660/3,670;

27 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Crisis 24 news*. Two more new confirmed cases of **Mpox** have been reported in **Kasese** and **Maracha** districts, bringing total confirmed cases to 222, with one death registered;

26 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. Members of parliament debate and vote on advancing the **National Coffee (Amendment) Bill, 2024**, which proposes the dissolution of the **Uganda Coffee Development Authority (UCDA)** after 32 years of operation, with 159 legislators supporting sending the Bill to the Committee of the Whole House for clause-by-clause consideration, and 77 legislators, primarily from the opposition, voting against it;

25 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. Energy minister **Ruth Nankabirwa** says partners developing the \$5-billion **East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)** are injecting more cash into the project to prevent it stalling as debt financing proves elusive following successful pressure from climate activists on six Western banks, including **BNP Paribas**, **Société Generale** and **Barclays**, not to finance the pipeline;

24 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *UBC*. **Ugandan** government and **Serbian** government, during the first session of the Joint Commission for Trade Cooperation in **Nis** (Serbia) agree to revive the trade agreement signed between the government of the **Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia** and Uganda, seeking to enhance and develop economic cooperation and bilateral relations;

23 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. Leader of Opposition in Parliament, **Joel Ssenyonyi**, questions the lack of progress at **Atiak Sugar Factory**, despite government investment of over US\$553.71 billion (\$150m), noting that the factory remains non-operational and that the government is planning to request more funding for the factory.

22 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *VOA*. Police spokesman **Patrick Onyango** reports at least 11 people were killed after a fuel truck exploded next to a highway in Kampala;

21 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Commissioner of transport regulation and safety at the works and transport ministry, **Winston Katushabe**, calls for the government to reduce the importation of second-hand and aging vehicles, emphasising the urgent need to shift towards new and electric cars, as the transport sector has emerged as the leading contributor to Kampala's worsening air pollution;

20 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. Government's proposed rationalisation and merger of various government bodies have triggered widespread opposition from multiple stakeholders, including institutions like the **Uganda Road Fund (URF)**, **Law Development Centre (LDC)**, and advocacy groups representing marginalised communities;

19 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee members have expressed concerns over the government's proposal to merge the **Tax Appeals Tribunal** and the **Electricity Disputes Tribunal** into a single National Tribunal, with **Erute South MP Jonathan Odur** questioning noting that the merger doesn't align with the traditional definition of a merger;

18 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *EACOP*. A delegation from the foreign affairs ministry, led by Ambassador **Santa Mary Laker Kinyera**, head of the **International Economic Cooperation (IEC) Department**, visits Pump Station 1 (PS1) of the **East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)** to view the progress of the EACOP;

17 Oct 2024 **Amsterdam (Netherlands)** *Bloomberg*. The Dutch government has floated deporting rejected **African** asylum seekers to Uganda, as the Netherlands explores ways to limit the flow of immigrants;

16 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. Police say they have summoned former **Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)** executive director **Dorothy Kisaka**, former deputy executive director **David Luyimbazi**, and former director of public health and environment, Dr **Daniel Okello**, all recently dismissed by President **Yoweri Museveni** over the **Kiteezi** landfill, which collapsed on 10 August, killing dozens of people, burying houses, killing livestock, and destroying other property;

14 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. **Standard Gauge Railway** project coordinator **Perez Wamburu** says Uganda's government and **Turkish** construction firm **Yapi Merkezi** have signed a contract to build a 272-kilometre (169 miles) section of railway, the first section of a planned 1,700-km electric rail line, at a cost of 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion);

8 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. State minister for finance, planning and economic development **Henry Musasizi** says Uganda's coffee exports to the **European Union (EU)** will not be affected by the December 2024 deadline of the **EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR)** policy, approved by the EU on 5 December 2022 and requiring that coffee, cocoa and other agricultural commodities exported to the EU be sourced from land that was not deforested after 31 December 2020;

7 Oct 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) trims its key lending rate by 25 basis points for the second consecutive time, lowering it to 9.75%, saying that inflation was expected to remain below its target in the near term after easing to 3% year-on-year in September, below the central bank's 5% medium-term target;

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