

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Uganda Monthly Briefing November 2022

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#### Uganda Summary 11 November 2022

*General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, son of President Yoweri Museveni (1986-present), declares he will contest the 2026 presidential elections, stirring controversy in both the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party headed by his father and the military. The capture by M23 rebels at a major customs point on Uganda's border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), alongside a ban by the rebels on cross-border commerce, has left Ugandan exporters counting their losses. The M23 rebels, whom DRC accuses neighbouring Rwanda of backing, captured Bunagana border post, a key official entry point linking Uganda and DRC in July and have since banned cross-border trade. The decision to end the school semester two weeks early due to the current Ebola virus outbreak will affect millions of Ugandan students in primary and secondary schools.*

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#### First Son threatens Museveni's grip on power

General **Muhoozi Kainerugaba**, son of President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present), has declared he will contest the 2026 presidential elections. Kainerugaba's announcement has stirred controversy in both the ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** party headed by his father and the military.<sup>1</sup> While the announcement violates the army's code of conduct, which requires members to be non-partisan and subordinate to civilian authority, no action has been taken against Kainerugaba.<sup>2</sup>

Museveni strongly relies on the army to maintain his grip on power. With coup d'états back in style on the **African** continent, he appeared to be clipping his son's wings when he dismissed his son from his position as commander of **Uganda's Land Forces** after posting a tweet in October threatening to invade **Kenya** (see *ARC Briefing Uganda Oct 2022*).<sup>3</sup>

Kainerugaba declared on 27 October that he wants to be president of Uganda to honour his mother:

*"The only way I can repay my great mother is by being President of Uganda! And I shall definitely do it!!"*<sup>4</sup>

Although Museveni has not yet indicated whether he will contest the 2026 presidential elections, his supporters have stepped up efforts to counter his son's ambitions by endorsing Museveni as their sole candidate.<sup>5</sup> A senior NRM cadre from the eastern district of **Soroti** told **ARC Briefing** that fellow senior cadres prefer Museveni and not the first son to contest the 2026 presidential elections:

*"I have told these guys time and time again, that NRM has deep-rooted structures, and you don't come and hold birthday parties and declare yourselves loved. Voters deep in the villages know two things on the ballot; the bus [NRM party symbol] and the man with a hat [Museveni] and that will take time to change."*

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<sup>1</sup> Source, Uganda analyst

<sup>2</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>3</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>4</sup> Twitter@Mkainerugaba 27 Oct 2022

<sup>5</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

The source noted that most NRM cadres are not comfortable with the way Kainerugaba declared his candidature without passing through the party structures.<sup>6</sup> NRM party mobiliser **Ibrahim Kitatta** says Kainerugaba's declaration and the NRM's silence on the matter has forced party cadres to speak out and guide the country to avoid future confusion:

*"We support President Museveni as our permanent power source, but we also support Muhoozi as a standby generator, waiting to be turned on in case the main power source falters or bows out."*<sup>7</sup>

However, any talk of Museveni bowing out appears to be wishful thinking. The lifting of presidential term and age limits in December 2017 (see *ARC Briefing Uganda Jan 2018*) allows Museveni to legally contest the presidency any time elections are held.<sup>8</sup> NRM district chairpersons from across Uganda endorsed Museveni on 7 November as their sole candidate for the 2026 presidential elections.<sup>9</sup> This follows the endorsement by vice president **Jessica Alupo**, internal affairs minister **Kahinda Otafiire**, defence minister **Vincent Sempijja** and a host of senior NRM cadres of Museveni as the sole candidate for the 2026 elections.<sup>10</sup>

The move may not have surprised Kainerugaba and his supporters but it signals the generational contrast at the heart of Museveni's succession<sup>11</sup> While early endorsements of Museveni by members of the ruling NRM party are not new, the extent of fiercely competing factions in the NRM is a recent development.<sup>12</sup>

### Ugandan traders counting loses following closure of Uganda-DRC border

The capture by **M23** rebels of a major customs point on the Uganda-**Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** border, alongside a ban by the rebels on cross-border commerce, has left Ugandan exporters counting their losses.<sup>13</sup> The DRC accuses neighbouring **Rwanda** of backing the M23 rebels, who in July captured **Bunagana** border post, a key official entry point linking Uganda and DRC. The rebels have since banned cross-border trade.<sup>14</sup>

The DRC, with a population of about 90 million people, had been a major market for Ugandan products ranging from biscuits to cement before the re-emergence of M23 rebels.<sup>15</sup> In January, data from the **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) indicated that **Kampala's** exports to DRC were \$74.3m that month, up from \$29.9m in December 2021, representing a 44% increase.<sup>16</sup> However, renewed fighting between the M23 rebels and government troops in the eastern DRC has disrupted trade.<sup>17</sup>

The flare up in violence is threatening the future of the **East African Community (EAC)**, as Rwanda and the DRC risk engaging in an open war over alleged backing of the M23 rebels.<sup>18</sup> DRC officially became a member of the EAC on 11 July after submitting instruments of ratification to the bloc secretariat, a move that was celebrated across **East Africa** because of the large untapped market the DRC offers.<sup>19</sup> The DRC accuses Uganda of backing the M23 rebels, who have captured large areas of territory and are currently threatening **North Kivu** provincial capital **Goma** in the restive mineral-

<sup>6</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>7</sup> Citizen, 6 Nov 2022

<sup>8</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>9</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>10</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>11</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>12</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>13</sup> Chimpreports, 6 Nov 2022

<sup>14</sup> East African, 4 Nov 2022

<sup>15</sup> East African, 4 Nov 2022

<sup>16</sup> East African, 4 Nov 2022

<sup>17</sup> Chimpreports, 6 Nov 2022

<sup>18</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>19</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

rich eastern DRC.<sup>20</sup> The **East African** reported on 4 November that Kampala had been briefed that **Kinshasa** (DRC) was contemplating blocking **Uganda Airlines'** lucrative flights to DRC because of Uganda's alleged support for M23 rebels.

### **Uganda to close schools early over Ebola virus outbreak**

State education minister **Joyce Moriku** announced on 1 November the government's decision to end the school semester two weeks early in response to an increasing number of **Ebola** virus infections.<sup>21</sup> The decision will impact millions of students in primary and secondary schools. Since the outbreak was declared on 20 September, the highly contagious virus has surfaced in six rural districts clustered in the centre of the country – **Mubende, Kassanda, Kagadi, Bunyangabu, Kyegegwa, Wakiso** as well as Kampala, a city of 3.6 million people.<sup>22</sup> The outbreak has affected 23 students, and eight children have died.

The number of contacts listed for follow-up had ballooned to over 2,100 as of 31 October, with reports of logistical failures including a lack of vehicles hampering tracing.<sup>23</sup> The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is appealing for \$88.2m to contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity associated with the current Ebola outbreak in Uganda caused by **Sudan Virus**, and to prevent the spread of the virus to other districts of the country, as well as to neighbouring countries, with minimum disruption of social and health systems.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Source: Uganda analyst

<sup>21</sup> VOA, 1 Nov 2022

<sup>22</sup> The Humanitarian, 1 Nov 2022

<sup>23</sup> The Humanitarian, 1 Nov 2022

<sup>24</sup> WHO, 9 Nov 2022

## Planner

2026 (**Uganda**) Presidential elections

## Chronology

8 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Regional referral hospitals across Uganda have experienced a significant setback in delivering medical care to patients as interns strike over unpaid fees;

8 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. A plane crash in dense **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** forests has claimed the lives of a **Ugandan** pilot and a **Russian** national;

7 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Since the outbreak of **Ebola** in September, 132 people have tested positive, 61 have recovered and 53 have succumbed to the disease, with 18 confirmed cases still receiving treatment in **Mubende** and **Entebbe** hospitals;

6 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. The **Ugandan People's Defence Force** launches another airstrike against **Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)** hideouts in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**;

5 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. President **Yoweri Museveni** rules out an **Ebola** lockdown, urging the public to concentrate on work;

4 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. **European** ambassadors to **Uganda** have voiced cautious support of **Uganda** in development of the oil and gas sector, noting that while Uganda must get the resource out of the ground for its development, it should prioritise protection of the environment;

3 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. The death toll from an **Ebola** outbreak in **Uganda** has risen to 48, with 131 confirmed cases;

2 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Aljazeera*. Authorities say **Uganda** aims to start commercially pumping its oil reserves in April 2025, with **China** being considered as a potential source of funds to develop an export pipeline;

1 Nov 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Kampala-based **British High Commission** development director **Phillip Smith** says the **United Kingdom** has contributed £2.2m (\$2.5m) to support **Uganda's** response to the **Ebola** outbreak, and the funds will be channelled through the **World Food Programme (WFP)**, **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)**, and the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** to cater for logistics, community engagement, water and sanitation and coordination of the response;

31 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Seatini news*. Civil society organisations ask the government to issue regulations for the implementation of beneficial ownership laws in Uganda.;

28 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Relief Web*. Health authorities are following up 1,844 **Ebola** contacts in nine districts, with a follow-up rate of 99%;

27 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Mining Review*. The **National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA)** approves the **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment** for Australia-headquartered **Iconic Rare Earth's** majority owned (51%) **Makuutu Rare Earth** project, operated by **Rwenzori Rare Metals Limited**, a Ugandan company 51% owned by **IonicRE**;

26 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *KFM Radio*. **European Union (EU)** has allocated 37.2 billion shillings (\$9.9m) to **Uganda** to finance food production and resilience of food systems as part of a \$604.8m allocation to support the most vulnerable **African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)** countries

to cope with the food crisis and related economic shock resulting from **Russia's** military operations in **Ukraine**;

25 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Uganda's health ministry reports 95 confirmed **Sudan Ebolavirus (SUDV)** cases, 28 deaths and 34 recoveries;

24 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Africanews*. **Ugandan** health authorities announce that at least 15 people have contracted **Ebola** in the capital, **Kampala**, which becomes the sixth district to confirm the presence of the virus after the outbreak was first identified in the central district of **Mubende**;

23 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Mineral development minister **Peter Lokeris** states that the transition to green energy is a key factor on which Uganda will base the development of its mineral sector;

22 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *URN*. **Buganda Road Magistrate Court** has acquitted the former **Uganda Airlines** CEO **Cornwell Muleya** of charges of disobedience of lawful orders by the government inspectorate requiring him to record a statement on matters related to corruption;

20 Oct 2022 **Johannesburg (South Africa)** *Xinhua*. **Africa CDC** acting director **Ahmed Ogwel Ouma** says there is a risk that the **Ebola** outbreak in **Uganda** could spread but it is still manageable and emergency measures are not necessary;

19 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Energy and minerals minister **Ruth Nankabirwa** says **United States** energy companies have expressed interest in investing in **Uganda's** minerals and energy sector;

17 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *UIA Press release*. **Uganda Investment Authority (UIA)** begins full operations from its newly built state-of-the-art permanent home at the **Uganda Business Facilitation Centre (UBFC)**;

16 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *BBC*. President **Yoweri Museveni** declares a three-week lockdown in two districts of central Uganda as the country battles an **Ebola** outbreak, with bars, nightclubs, places of worship and entertainment venues closed in **Mubende** and **Kassanda** district;

15 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. The Ugandan shilling maintains trading within a narrow band as pockets of corporate demand are matched with inflows from NGOs and commodity exporters;

14 Oct 2022 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *Parliament*. Some members of parliament are planning to introduce a bill prohibiting Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) following neighbouring **Kenya's** legalisation of the introduction of GMOs in the country;

13 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Observer*. President **Yoweri Museveni** signs into law the **Computer Misuse (Amendment) Bill, 2022** recently passed by parliament;

12 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *New Vision*. Investors in the mining sector attend Uganda's 11<sup>th</sup> **Mineral Annual Wealth Conference**, asking the government to emphasise the exploration and quantification of Uganda's vast minerals;

11 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. President **Yoweri Museveni** claims he initiated the controversial coffee agreement signed between **Italian** businesswoman **Enrica Pinetti's** company and the government, which coffee farmers describe as "*a bad deal done in bad faith*";

10 Oct 2022 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Opposition **Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)** urges the **Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF)** to dismiss four-star general **Muhoozi Kainerugaba** with disgrace over what it terms "*scandalous*" behaviour;

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