

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Polling day agents of President Yoweri Museveni's (1986-present) main challenger, Robert Kyagulanyi (also known as Bobi Wine), go into hiding as security forces seek to arrest them ahead of the 15 January presidential elections. There is also a looming fear that the government will shut-down internet connectivity in Uganda ahead of the elections, impacting opposition's ability to verify results. Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) deregisters over 50,000 companies for non-compliance, one of its most significant enforcement actions ever carried out.

Crackdown on Wine's campaign continues ahead of 15 January election

Polling day [agents](#) of leading opposition presidential contender, **Robert Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobi Wine**), have gone into hiding as security forces seek to arrest them ahead of the 15 January general election. Polling day agents are representatives from political parties that can be present at each polling station for the purposes of safeguarding the interests of the candidate with regards to the polling process.

Wine's party, the **National Unity Platform (NUP)**, had trained a team of ten [agents](#) from each village in the country to act as what it calls a vote protecting unit, to safeguard against alleged vote rigging in favour of President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present). However, security officials have actively sought to dismantle the opposition vote protection unit by arresting and detaining its members.

The development prompted [Wine](#) to issue a call to all the agents in **Kampala** and neighbouring districts to go into hiding to evade arrest. He urged members of the vote protection unit to disable live location sharing on their phone and all apps that track location as a precautionary measure to avoid arrest. In his statement, Wine also alleged that security operatives are targeting [polling](#) agents in other urban areas in the country, having been divided into groups, with each group ordered to abduct at least ten leaders/activists in their areas of operation.

The police have denied the claims and noted that any arrests of opposition [activists](#) are carried out in accordance with the law and does not target a particular party:

"Our effort is geared to facilitate tranquil [elections](#) and [we] call on every political actor to promote non-violence. All apprehensions occur strictly in line with legal guidelines, with detainees processed in full compliance with the law."

The NUP has accused the **Electoral Commission (EC)** of removing several opposition candidates for parliamentary and local government positions from the electoral roll, leaving ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** candidates as unopposed. The latest to be denominated on 5 January, are all eleven opposition candidates for the mayoral position of **Makindye** in Kampala that has left the ruling party candidate running unopposed.

Fears of internet shutdown ahead of elections

In addition to the clampdown on the opposition, there is the looming threat that the government plans to shut-down [internet](#) connectivity in Uganda ahead of the elections. The **Uganda Revenue Authority (URA)** on 19 December issued a [directive](#) restricting the importation and customs clearance of **United States (US)**-headquartered **Starlink**'s equipment and related communication hardware. Under the directive, any importation of [Starlink](#) gadgets or associated components now

requires clearance from the **Uganda Peoples' Defence Force** chief of defence forces, placing the technology under direct military oversight.

The customs [restriction](#) introduced just weeks before the elections, a period during which internet access has historically been a sensitive issue in Uganda's electoral process, has raised fears that it could play a role in managing information flows during and after polling. [Starlink](#) responded in a letter dated 2 January and addressed to **Uganda Communication Commission (UCC)** executive director **Nyombi Thembo**, confirming that it had implemented what it described as a "new service restriction tool" for Uganda, resulting in a complete shutdown of Starlink services within the country:

"Any individuals who were operating Starlink terminals in Uganda prior to 01 January 2026 had purchased and activated the terminals in countries where Starlink is live and authorized, but then illegally imported them into your country"

Satellite-based services such as [Starlink](#) operate independently of national fibre and mobile networks, raising concerns among observers that their regulation or restriction could play a role in managing information flows during and after polling. Wine has called on his supporters to download a social media app [Bitchat](#) to use to bypass any internet shutdown and still be able to send pictures of Declaration of Result (DR) forms to the NUP's electoral servers:

"As we all know, the regime is plotting an internet shutdown in the coming days, like they have done in all previous elections. They switch off the internet in order to block communication and ensure that citizens do not organise, verify their election results and demand for accountability over the massive election theft."

Thembo denied the claims, telling [media](#) on 6 January that the reports were rumours and that the UCC's mandate is to ensure uninterrupted connectivity. However, the concerns are not misplaced as during the 2021 [elections](#), the government suspended social media and internet access, preventing opposition parties from carrying out their independent vote tallying centres as they could not receive results from upcountry polling stations.

Uganda Registration Bureau Deregisters over 50,000 companies

The **Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB)** scrapped a total of 50,003 companies from the official registry on 30 December, citing non-compliance with requirements provided for by the law, marking one of the most significant enforcement [actions](#) the URSB has ever taken. URSB deregistered dormant companies for failing to file annual returns for five consecutive years, with the deregistration taking effect in January 2026. The companies had been notified to apply for restoration in 2023, but failed to do so within the legal timeframe, affecting sectors like trade, real estate, and service.

For many business owners, this announcement came unexpectedly as some of the affected companies were still operating normally, paying rent, holding bank accounts, and engaging clients. However, under Ugandan law, registration status determines legal existence. Once a company is deregistered, it ceases to exist as a legal entity.

A source at URSB told **Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** that its common practice for Ugandan businessmen to incorporate companies for a one-off business deal or in anticipation of a business deal and after securing the deal, they leave the company dormant without filling the statutory annual returns. Once deregistered, companies cease to be legal entities and cannot lawfully conduct business, enter contracts, or enjoy legal protections while any assets held by the deregistered companies may require a vesting order to be transferred to rightful beneficiaries. The real estate and property sector was heavily affected with the [list](#) also showing a significant number of real estates, property development and property holding companies, often structured as special purpose vehicles.

Planner

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

15 Jan 2026 **(Uganda)** Presidential and parliamentary election

22 Jan 2026 (**Uganda**) District/city chairpersons, lord mayor, mayors and councillors elections
 Jul 2026 ((**Uganda**) Oil production set to begin

Chronology

8 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Monitor**. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) indicates that exports reach a record US\$ 46 trillion (\$12.9 billion) in 2025, driven mainly by a 44% surge in gold exports to \$5.8 billion and strong coffee sector performance;

7 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. **Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)** presidential candidate **Nathan Nandala Mafabi** has strongly criticised the **Electoral Commission (EC)** for what he described as a failure to comply with the law by not providing candidates with the national voters' register within the legally stipulated timeframe;

6 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) The Citizen**. Information, communication, and technology ministry bans live broadcasts of riots and what it calls "unlawful processions" ahead of the 15 January general elections, citing security concerns, as authorities detain hundreds of opposition supporters;

6 Jan 2026 **Mityana (Uganda) Chimpereports**. Police in **Mityana** arrest two **Electoral Commission (EC)** staff and a civilian over alleged neglect of duty and unlawful possession of voter location slips and related election materials, raising fresh concerns about the handling of sensitive electoral items ahead of the 15 January general elections;

4 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Chimpereports**. President **Yoweri Museveni** says **Uganda** is considering allowing **United States (US)**-headquartered **Starlink** to operate in the country if it proves cheaper than existing underground fibre-optic connections;

2 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. **United States (US)**-headquartered **Starlink** has blocked **Uganda** from accessing its global satellite network after a complaint from the **Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)**, effectively disabling all Starlink terminals in the country as of 1 January;

1 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile post**. **Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)** reports annual inflation remained unchanged at 3.1% in December;

31 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Reuters**. Police detain prominent human rights activist **Sarah Bireete** amid a broader government crackdown on dissent ahead of the 15 January general election, where President **Yoweri Museveni** faces opposition leader **Bobbi Wine**;

30 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) CEO East Africa**. **Uganda Registration Bureau** deregisters 50,003 companies that failed to comply with statutory filings of annual returns;

29 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) New Vision**. President **Yoweri Museveni** cautions the electorate against voting for inexperienced politicians, especially from the opposition, stating their focus is frustrating government's development initiatives;

28 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Cooperator**. **World Bank** forecasts **Uganda's** economic growth to reach 6.3% in the 2024/2025 financial year, up from 6.1% the previous year, driven by a recovery in household consumption, accelerated government spending and continued investment growth;

26 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Parliament Watch**. Governments warns that the disruptions in the global export markets, escalating regional conflicts, and climate related shocks pose significant risks to the implementation of its US\$ 69.399 trillion (\$19.1 billion) national budget for the 2026/2027 financial year;

23 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) Reuters**. Government restricts imports of **United States (US)**-headquartered **Starlink's** satellite internet equipment weeks before the 15 January election, raising opposition fears the government will again impose an internet blackout;

22 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *NTV*. Opposition **National Unity Platform (NUP)** presidential candidate **Robert Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobi Wine**) rallies his supporters to always carry Uganda's national flag, saying it symbolises patriotism;

21 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *WHO*. Uganda hosts a special summit on the security situation in **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, chaired by President **Yoweri Museveni**;

20 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Chimpreports*. Opposition **National Unity Platform (NUP)** presidential candidate **Robert Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobi Wine**), has alleged a fresh plot to disrupt NUP campaign rallies in eastern Uganda, as political tensions rise ahead of the 2026 general election;

18 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. A finance ministry report indicates that Uganda's export earnings nearly doubled in October to \$1.5 billion from \$769.6m in the same month last year, driven by higher revenues from coffee, cocoa and gold;

18 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Government releases regulations on how gold should be legally bought, traded, imported, and exported in Uganda, now requiring a formal process for legal gold trading, a Mineral Dealer's Licences (MDLs), registration on the portal, strict due diligence (verifying sellers' licenses and gold source), proof of purchase, and payment of taxes/fees;

17 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. State-owned **Uganda National Oil Company** plans to borrow \$2 billion from a unit of global commodities trader **Vitol** to fund construction of infrastructure projects, including a crude refinery;

27 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. **Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA)** outlines an ambitious growth path, underpinned by major infrastructure upgrades, strategic international partnerships, and a strong commitment to sustainable and safe air transport during the annual Stakeholders' Engagement Breakfast;

16 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. A parliament document shows Uganda plans to borrow \$608m from lenders such as the **Korea Export-Import Bank** and **South Africa's Rand Merchant Bank (RMB)** to finance infrastructure development;

15 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)**. *NTV*. Opposition **National Unity Platform (NUP)** presidential candidate **Robert Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobi Wine**), says security forces physically assaulted him alongside his aides and supporters by while campaigning in the country's north;

13 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *New Vision*. President **Yoweri Museveni** assures nobody will create chaos in Uganda, saying the ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** has all necessary infrastructure to ensure peace during the and after the 15 January elections;

11 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. The **Electoral Commission** receives the third consignment of ballot papers at **Entebbe International Airport** as preparations intensify for the 15 January elections;

10 Dec 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. Uganda and **United States (US)** sign a five-year, nearly \$2.3 billion bilateral health cooperation agreement;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

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