

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Uganda Monthly Briefing February 2026

Uganda Summary 10 February 2026

Widespread claims of kidnappings, torture and murders are recorded in Uganda following the disputed 15 January presidential elections. Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) chief of defence forces, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, sparks a diplomatic row with the United States (US) over the whereabouts of opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi (also known as Bobi Wine). Wine went into hiding after the presidential elections. Uganda's economy begins 2026 in cautious stride following a tense election season.

Police arrest over 2,000 opposition supporters following disputed election

Widespread [claims](#) of kidnappings, torture and murders have been recorded in **Uganda** following the 15 January presidential election, in which President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present) won with 71.65%. A day after the elections, the **Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF)** launched a targeted [crackdown](#) on members of the opposition particularly those belonging to the **National Unity Platform (NUP)**, the party led by second runner-up **Robert Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobi Wine**). Wine won 24.72% of the vote.

Wine [went](#) into hiding immediately after casting his vote but police detained his three deputies - **Jolly Jacklyn Tukamushaba**, Dr. **Lina Zedriga Waru** and **Muwanga Kivumbi**. They remain in [detention](#). Wine's wife and other family members also remain under house arrest. Political commentators have concluded the elections was the most violent in Uganda's history.

Wine has rejected the election [results](#), alleging ballot stuffing and military take-over of the electoral process. In addition, UPDF chief of defence forces, who is Museveni's son, General **Muhoozi Kainerugaba**, confirmed the [killing](#) of 22 supporters of Wine. He also revealed the arrest of over 2,000 supporters whom he described as "hooligans" and stated that he has banned Wine from participating in the electoral exercises in Uganda:

"Whether Robert Kyagulanyi is in the country or not, I as CDF, I the interests of national security and for the good of the commonwealth ban him from any further participation in the electoral exercises of Uganda".

The international community has cautiously responded to the announcement of Museveni as the winner stating that it shares the [concerns](#) highlighted in the **African Union (AU)–Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)–Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Election Observation Mission's** preliminary statement of 17 January, in particular about the uneven playing field in the run-up to the elections, arbitrary arrests of civil society actors and the internet shutdown:

"We regret pre- and post-electoral violence and threats, particularly against opposition leader Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine), and call on all parties to exercise restraint and on the authorities to ensure the safety of all political actors".

A climate of repression, routine state [violence](#), allegations of vote manipulation, and an unprecedented internet shutdown had already shaped the political landscape in the build-up to the election. Museveni will be sworn in for his seventh term on 12 May.

Kainerugaba in diplomatic spat with the United States

Kainerugaba has also sparked a diplomatic row with the **United States (US)** over the whereabouts of Wine, after a series of social media [posts](#) in which he accused the US embassy in **Kampala** of aiding the escape of Wine. Kainerugaba posted:

“Because of the present situation where an opposition leader kidnapped himself and is missing; and according to our best intelligence did all this in co-ordination with the current administration at the US Embassy in our country (...) we as UPDF suspend ALL cooperation with the current administration at the US Embassy in Kampala.”

Kainerugaba threatened in the tweet to suspend all [cooperation](#) with the US including in **Somalia** where the UPDF has since 2007 deployed to fight against **Al-Shabab** militants.

Barely an hour after posting, Kainerugaba deleted the post and apologised to the US, saying he was acting on wrong intelligence:

“I want to apologise to our great friends, the United States, for my earlier tweets that I have now deleted. I was being fed wrong information. I have spoken with the US Ambassador to our country, and everything is okay. We are going to continue our military cooperation as usual.”

The posts and its accompanying apology did not go down well with the US, prompting the **US Senate Foreign Relations Committee** chair **Jim Risch** to [post](#) a rebuttal that Kainerugaba had crossed a red line. Risch added that the US will reevaluate its security partnership, which includes sanctions and military cooperation with Uganda:

“The president’s son, and likely successor, cannot just delete tweets and issue hollow apologies. The U.S. will not tolerate this level of instability and recklessness when American personnel, U.S. interests, and innocent lives in the region are at stake.”

Wine whereabouts remain unknown. The US provides substantial, multi-faceted [support](#) to Uganda, with total annual assistance exceeding \$970m, focusing heavily on health, development, and security. Direct military-specific aid includes equipment, such as a \$1.5m vehicle maintenance facility and a \$5.5m hospital for peacekeeping, aiming to professionalise the UPDF and enhance regional stability.

Business confidence hits 16-month low

Uganda’s [economy](#) began 2026 in cautious stride as markets slowed and investment committees postponed decisions following the tense election season. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) figures released on 6 February indicate that the **Business Tendency Index (BTI)** [dropped](#) to 55 in January, marking the lowest reading since September 2024, amid declines in sub-indices for present business situation (51.3 vs 53.1 in December), current employment (48.2 vs 50.3), financial situation (51.4 vs 53.1), access to credit (40.2 vs 42.7), and order books (52.9 vs 55.9). Among [sectors](#), confidence fell in construction (44.7 vs 47.8), manufacturing (56.8 vs 57.9), agriculture (53 vs 55.2), other services (57.2 vs 57.8), and financial services (70.1 vs 77.1), while increased in wholesale trade (52.3 vs 51.8).

The BTI measures the level of optimism that executives have about current and expected outlook for production, order levels, employment, prices, and access to credit. The index covers the major sectors of the economy, namely construction, manufacturing, wholesale trade, agriculture and other services. An overall BTI above 50 indicates an improving outlook, and below 50 a deteriorating outlook. Local commentators have noted that in the run-up to the election, [investor](#) sentiment waned, a classic phenomenon in emerging markets where political risk eclipses policy clarity:

“Private equity officers, multinational corporations, and even local firms delayed capital expenditure decisions, not because fundamentals were weak, but because policy continuity, regulatory certainty and institutional stability were in doubt.”

Kato notes that in Africa, where [trust](#) in electoral transparency informs credit ratings and even foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, such risk aversion is real. The lingering internet blackout and security deployments compounded this by interrupting economic data flows, payments, and digital services on which new businesses increasingly depend.

Planner

14 - 15 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) 10th Energy Convention** (formerly oil & gas convention)
 12 May 2026 Presidential swearing ceremony in Kololo Ceremonial Grounds
 Jul 2026 ((**Uganda**) Oil production set to begin

Chronology

6 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. The **Tilenga Oil Project**, operated by France-headquartered **TotalEnergies**, exceeds the minimum requirement of 170 oil wells, placing Uganda on track to achieve first oil by July;

5 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Observer**. President **Yoweri Museveni** inaugurates **PRO Industries**, the largest ethanol plant in **East Africa**, highlighting the \$100m investment as a significant advancement for Uganda's agro-industrialisation, clean energy production, and job creation;

4 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. **Kalungu East** member of parliament (MP)-elect **Yusuf Jr Kiluluuta Nkeretanyi**'s teams says he has survived an alleged assassination attempt;

3 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Reuters**. A court drops the case against the first man in the country to be charged with aggravated homosexuality under the **Anti-Homosexuality Act**;

2 Feb 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. **Uganda Airlines** CEO **Jenifer Bamaturaki** steps down from her role under pressure with President **Yoweri Museveni**, who is said to be considering appointing former **Ethiopian Airlines** CEO **Girma Wake**;

1 Feb 2025 **Kampala (Uganda) OPM**. Opposition politicians accuse President **Yoweri Museveni** of attempting to quash dissent by prosecuting opponents on politically motivated charges in military courts in the run-up to elections;

30 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Reuters**. Finance ministry says Uganda's economy is projected to expand between 6.5% and 7% in the financial year starting July, sharply down from a previous estimate of 10.4%, without citing an explanation for the revision;

28 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Deep Earth Int**. Energy minister **Ruth Nankabirwa** says first oil is now firmly targeted for 31 July 2026;

25 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) New Vision**. Government is set to interface with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) whose operations were temporarily suspended ahead of the 2026;

24 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Watchdog Uganda**. Prominent **United States (US)** Senators **Jeanne Shaheen** and **Cory Booker** have sharply criticised Uganda's 15 January election, describing them as a setback for democracy and urging strong accountability measures from the US government;

23 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) HRW**. Military says that authorities have detained 2,000 opposition supporters, killed 30, and were "hunting" for more following the disputed presidential election;

22 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Nile Post**. Finance ministry reports Uganda's economy maintained positive momentum in the months leading to December 2025, buoyed by improving business confidence, stable prices, and strong export performance;

21 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Independent**. **United States Department of State** pauses all immigrant visa issuances to nationals of countries, including **Uganda**, citing these immigrants "have a high rate of collecting public assistance at the expense of the US taxpayer";

18 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Parliament**. President **Yoweri Museveni** calls the opposition "terrorists" who had tried to use violence to overturn the election results;

17 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Al Jazeera*. President **Yoweri Museveni** is re-elected for a seventh term;

15 Jan 2025 **Kampala (Uganda)**. *New Vision*. As Uganda's gold exports soar to record levels, industry players warn that weak regulation, fraud and smuggling threaten sustainable gains;

13 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *EWN*. Uganda shuts down internet access nationwide before the 15 January general elections, citing the need to prevent misinformation and violence amid a crackdown on the opposition;

13 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) data shows the gold sector has moved to the centre of the country's export economy, with earnings hitting a record \$5.8 billion in the year to November 2025;

12 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *News24*. Opposition leader **Bobi Wine** warns of potential protests if upcoming elections are rigged, signalling rising political tensions;

12 Jan 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Government begins the process to institute a new board of director for the **Uganda Airlines Company Ltd**, following the expiry of the current board;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

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