

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Uganda Summary 12 May 2026

President Yoweri Museveni (1986-present) is sworn in for his seventh term in office on 12 May in a ceremony believed to be his last as the transition shapes up for his son, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, to take over in 2031. Parliament passes the controversial Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026. Prior to this, the central bank and World Bank's release warnings that the bill will impact the country's economic foundations, prompting amendments to be made. State-owned Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) is in turmoil following months of mismanagement, leading the energy ministry to launch an investigation.

Museveni to be sworn in as speaker of parliament race continues

President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present), aged 81, was sworn in for his seventh [elective](#) term on 12 May at the **Kololo Ceremonial Grounds**, in a ceremony believed to be his last as the transition to his son, Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) for the **Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF)**, General **Muhoozi Kainerugaba** takes shape. The [ceremony](#), attended by over 35 heads of states, follows his victory in the disputed 15 January general election, in which he won 71.65% of the vote.

His main challenger was former pop star turned politician, **Robert Kyagulanyi** (also known as **Bobbi Wine**), who won 25% of the vote. Wine has condemned what he described as "*fake results*" and "*ballot stuffing*". He has since fled into exile following a military [raid](#) on his home in the outskirts of **Kampala**. The [election](#) process was marred by violence and Wine has reported that security forces killed at least 21 people during the election period.

The **European Union (EU)** parliament on 12 February [condemned](#) the violence security agencies inflicted on opposition supporters, adopted a resolution on the post-election situation in **Uganda** and threats against opposition leader Wine:

"As a reminder, the elections in Uganda on 15 January 2026 were marred by abuses, severe restrictions on civic space, widespread intimidation of opposition figures, fraud, violence, and a nationwide internet blackout".

The resolution adopted by EU Parliament notes that [Museveni](#) was declared elected for his seventh term in a process that failed to meet fundamental democratic standards. However, government officials in Uganda have described the upcoming seventh term as a "*generational transition*" phase expected to focus on [economic](#) transformation, regional trade integration, and youth leadership development.

Speaking ahead of the President's swearing-in ceremony, senior presidential advisor on trade **Phillip Kakuru** [said](#) Museveni's continued electoral victories reflect public confidence in the ruling **National Resistance Movement (NRM)** and its long-term development agenda. Kakuru added that Uganda's next phase of development will prioritise [trade](#), industrialisation, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and infrastructure expansion as the country seeks to transition into a middle-income economy. He noted that Uganda has intensified efforts toward [value](#) addition in sectors such as coffee, dairy, mining, and agriculture, arguing that exporting finished products is key to job creation and increased export earnings.

Despite this, ARC's analyst in **Kampala** said that the swearing in ceremony has been overshadowed by the contentious race for the speaker of [Parliament](#) that has drawn the incumbent **Anita Among** –

who the **United Kingdom (UK), United States (US) and United Arab Emirates (UAE)** sanctioned for corruption - against the opposition **Nobert Mao** (backed by a section of influential ruling party leaders).

Pressure has been piling on Among following a 10 May revelation in the local daily newspaper that she recently bought 2025 [Rolls Royce](#) for US\$ 3.4 billion (\$900,000) on top of other luxury cars that. On 11 May, Muhoozi took to the social media warning that he will not allow the country to be taken over by thieves. In a post aimed at Among, he expressed his disdain for a flashy [lifestyle](#):

"I have been Mzee's (old man's) son for 52 years, but I have never sat in a Rolls Royce ever. I don't think Mzee has sat in one either."

Muhoozi says the wasteful expenditures in [parliament](#) should be checked so that the money can be re-directed to help the poor. Members of parliament will elect the speaker on 26 May.

Parliament passes Protection of Sovereignty Bill

Parliament on 5 May [passed](#) the controversial **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026**, ignoring the **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) and the **World Bank's** advice that it will impact the country's economic foundations. The bill, which now awaits presidential assent to become law, seeks to regulate 'agents of foreigners', impose registration requirements, criminalise activities deemed to advance foreign interests against Uganda's, and cap certain [foreign funding](#) above US\$ 400m (\$100,000) annually (*see ARC Briefing Uganda Apr 2026*).

[Central](#) bank governor **Michael Atingi-Ego** and his deputy, **Augustus Niwagaba**, on 28 April appeared before parliament and warned that what is billed as a shield for Uganda's sovereignty may instead negatively impact the economy, citing risks of capital flight, reserve depletion, and rising debt costs. Atingi-Ego cautioned that restricting financial inflows could undermine Uganda's external [reserves](#) and destabilise the broader economy:

"The potential of this bill to destabilise Uganda's balance of payments is our primary concern as a central bank for example, last financial year, the overall balance of payments surplus was \$1.5 billion. That's how we were able to increase our reserve coverage by \$1.5 billion".

The World Bank also [expressed](#) its opposition to the bill, arguing that the proposed legislation to regulate people and organisations that receive foreign funding will hinder its work in the country. In a letter addressed to [Uganda's](#) parliament dated 23 April, the bank said the law could expose to criminal liability a broad range of its "routine development activities", including organising meetings in which alternative policy ideas are discussed:

"By classifying international organisations as 'foreigners' without qualification, the bill subjects them ... to all of its substantive restrictions, registration requirements, financial reporting obligations, and criminal penalties,"

The World Bank is a major donor to [Uganda](#), and currently has a project portfolio in the country of approximately \$4.57 billion. The bank halted new lending to Uganda in 2023 after the government enacted a harsh anti-homosexuality law but resumed funding two years later after authorities agreed to some compromises.

Following significant public outcry and stakeholder consultations, several amendments were made to the initial [draft](#) before its final passage. In the amendments, the law now strictly applies to agents of foreigners formally acting to influence policy or national security, rather than any individual. Ugandan citizens living abroad (the diaspora) are no longer classified as 'foreigners' under the [act](#), and requirements for prior ministerial approval for foreign funding were replaced by a declaration regime in which individuals required to must declare funds instead of seeking permission. The [amendments](#) also exempted financial institutions, academic and research bodies, health facilities, and individuals receiving money for legitimate commercial or domestic use. While still significant,

maximum prison terms were reduced from 20 years to ten. Offenses now also require proof of [criminal](#) intent.

UEDCL in turmoil following operational failures and poor performance

State-owned **Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL)**, which took over the management and distribution of the country's power supply from the **South Africa**-headquartered **UMEME** in April 2025, is in turmoil following months of mismanagement. A year after taking over from UMEME, the energy ministry and security agencies have [launched](#) an investigation into UEDCL's management, with top managers taking forced leave.

Managing director, **Paul Mwesigwa**, went on forced leave in April, while board chairperson **Lydia Oengo** was relieved of her duties. The shake-up followed a government [audit](#) that revealed incompetence in management, poor performance, and failures in recruitment following its takeover from UMEME.

Local media has reported that management is accused of failing to meet targets set by the regulator, leading to public complaints regarding power [outages](#). They are also accused of irregular recruitment of staff. The energy and mineral development ministry on 2 May released a [statement](#) noting that the move is intended to strengthen governance, accountability, and service delivery within the country's electricity distribution sub-sector:

"In this regard, the services of the Chairperson of the Board have been terminated, and the Managing Director has been placed on forced leave to allow for a comprehensive review of the company's management and operations,"

The statement issued also sought to allay public concern, assuring Ugandans that [electricity](#) supply and distribution services will remain uninterrupted despite the leadership changes.

Planner

12 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Bank of Uganda** (central bank) **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting

12 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** Presidential swearing in ceremony at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds

13-15 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** New members of parliament (MPs) take oath

Chronology

9 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Observer**. Security agencies have warned of traffic disruptions and heightened security across Kampala ahead of President **Yoweri Museveni**'s swearing-in with police spokesperson **Kituuma Rusoke** noting that comprehensive security and traffic management plans have been finalised to ensure the orderly conduct of the ceremony;

8 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Soft Power**. Energy and mineral development minister, **Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu**, flags off the feasibility study and environmental assessment for the 400 MW **Kiba Hydro** power project, warning that the country must fast track new generation to avoid a looming power crisis;

7 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) NBS TV**. State minister for internal affairs **David Muhoozi** says the **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026** encompasses designating a department within his ministry that will regulate agents of foreign interests and handle related matters on the protection of sovereignty;

6 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda) Reuters**. **National Insurance Corporation (NIC) Holdings Limited**, one of the oldest insurance companies in Uganda, is on the verge of divesting its entire stake in Uganda, in a transaction that could reshape the insurance landscape;

5 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Observer*. Parliament passes the **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026**, adopting amendments that significantly narrow its scope, remove contentious provisions, and introducing safeguards aimed at aligning the law with the constitution and existing regulatory frameworks;

4 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Press release*. Police arrest two suspects following a break-in at the **Bank of Uganda** (central bank);

3 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Uganda is ramping up efforts to attract more international visitors, with a renewed focus on **Türkiye** as a high-potential tourism source market, concluding a ten-day familiarisation trip for Turkish tour operators, capped off with a business-to-business (B2B) engagement;

2 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *New Vision*. **National Citizens and Immigration Control (NCIC)** says it has arrested 231 illegal immigrants following two major enforcement operations in Kampala and **Adjumani** districts;

1 May 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Guardian*. Ugandan opposition figures, human rights organisations, and legal experts have condemned the **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026** that proposes up to 20 years in prison for promoting 'foreign interests', and imposes restrictions on a broad range of people and organisations that work with or receive funding from overseas partners;

30 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. Government makes sweeping amendments to the controversial **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026**, ahead of a plenary sitting scheduled 6 May, including ditching of the proposal that would have classified Ugandan citizens living abroad as foreigners and narrowing clauses critics said were broad enough to criminalise ordinary association with foreign entities;

29 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) governor **Michael Atingi Ego** urges the government to slow down on the **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026** to avoid economic fallout;

28 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Government moves to end uncertainty over the future of Kampala's trade enforcement drive, insisting that the ongoing crackdown on street vending and urban disorder will continue without interruption as authorities push to consolidate what they describe as gains in city order and economic discipline;

27 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Independent*. Parliament passes a record Ush 84.3 trillion (\$22.5 billion) budget for the 2026/27 financial year, focusing on increased spending;

26 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *ReliefWeb*. Health ministry declares the end of the **Sudan virus disease (SVD)** outbreak after two consecutive incubation periods (a total of 42 days) since the last person confirmed with SVD tested negative for the virus on 14 March 2025;

24 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Africa 24 TV*. State minister for trade **David Bahati** announces the suspension of the nationwide crackdown on roadside vendors and kiosks following outcry from traders and religious leaders regarding the methods used by local authorities, including **Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)**, with a final decision on a "*refined way of operating*" expected by the end of June;

23 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. Parliament passes the **Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, rejecting a government proposal to tax income earned and sent home by Ugandans living and working abroad;

22 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Ugandan firms have secured over \$2.3 billion in contracts as of April 2026, marking a significant milestone in local participation as the country prepares for first oil production in the second half of 2026;

21 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) launches a three-year pilot **Domestic Gold Purchase Programme** to diversify its foreign exchange reserves, boost local value addition, and strengthen financial resilience against global economic shocks;

20 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Press release*. **Uganda Law Society** warns that the proposed **Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026** could create a constitutional crisis, with leadership calling it an “*anti-sovereignty bill*” that skips necessary referendum requirements;

16 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. Parliament rejects the energy and mineral development ministry’s request for an additional Ush 300 billion (\$80.2m) to expand rural electrification, citing persistent implementation failures and growing public frustration over unfulfilled promises;

15 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)**. *Independent*. **Kampala City Traders Association** warns that proposed tax amendments for the 2026/27 financial year could increase the cost of doing business, constrain cash flow, and push more enterprises into informality if not revised, noting that although traders appreciate government’s efforts to boost revenue, the timing of the proposals is challenging for businesses still recovering from economic shocks;

14 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. **Uganda Manufacturers Association (UMA)** urges government to scrap the mandatory 30% deposit required before taxpayers can challenge assessments at the tax appeals tribunal, arguing that the provision is stifling businesses and limiting access to justice;

13 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Chimpreports*. President **Yoweri Museveni** issues one of his strongest warnings yet against corruption within Parliament, declaring that graft at the highest legislative level poses an existential threat to the country’s development and governance;

12 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Chimpreports*. A nationwide power outage triggers widespread public anger, as authorities confirmed the disruption and launched investigations into its cause;

10 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Soft Power*. Technical studies for the 400 MW **Kiba Hydro Project** are initiated following a technical kick-off meeting;

9 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Parliament passes the **Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, increasing duty, with the finance ministry maintaining its long-term tax strategy;

7 Apr 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Agence Ecofin*. Media reports that the **East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)** has reached 82% completion as of April, confirming the project is moving closer to its 2026 launch, with officials highlighting a July 2026 technical start-up and October for the first shipment;

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