

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Uganda Monthly Briefing September 2026

Uganda Summary 9 September 2026

In an unprecedented move, President Yoweri Museveni's (1986-present) son, Chief of Defence Forces, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba, declares his intention on 28 August to run for president in 2031, continuing the succession battle that has emerged within the first family over who will replace Museveni. Uganda is set to become the world's newest oil exporter, with commercial shipments of its Pearl Sweet grade to start in December and increase to 230,000 barrels a day within three years. The controversy surrounding Uganda's digital number plates has intensified as Joint Stock Company Global Security (JSCGS), the Russian contractor behind the multi-million-dollar project, faces widespread allegations of corruption, extortion, and operational incompetence.

Succession struggle continues within first family

In an unprecedented move, President **Yoweri Museveni's** (1986-present) son, **Chief of Defence Forces, General Muhoozi Kainerugaba**, declared his intention on 28 August to run for president in 2031, continuing the [succession](#) battle that has emerged within the first family over who will replace Museveni. The announcement sparked tensions within the first family, with Muhoozi launching severe public warnings against his brother-in-law and potential opponent, **Odrek Rwabwogo**. Rwabwogo is [rumoured](#) to be positioning himself as a technocratic alternative to Muhoozi and has been increasingly critical of the so-called first son (*see ARC Briefing Uganda Jul 2026*).

Muhoozi's declaration that he will run in 2031 is viewed as a move to put him ahead of Rwabwogo, despite a constitutional provision that bars Muhoozi from partisan politics as he is a serving army officer. Muhoozi followed the announcement with a tirade of threats and abuses on X aimed at [Rwabwogo](#), some of which he has since deleted. He described Rwabwogo as a criminal and claimed that he will arrest him "to bring peace to our people".

Muhoozi also [announced](#) that he is officially dissolving the **Presidential Advisory Committee on Exports and Industrial Development (PACEID)**, which Rwabwogo is the head of. Muhoozi said the functions, budgets and responsibilities that PACEID carried out will be taken over by **Operation Wealth Creation**, another government agency, adding:

"This is my last warning to that fool Odrek. From now on it will be actions. I hope Ugandans understand me. Arresting Odrek is the simplest thing I have ever done I will do it"

Muhoozi made [good](#) on his threats by ordering the arrest of Rwabwogo's personal assistant and PACEID's head of the secretariat, **Mathew Bagonza**, on 25 August. Muhoozi publicly confirmed Bagonza's [detention](#) by posting a photo of Bagonza on X on 26 August with the caption "we have this one. Learning Kiswahili." Muhoozi frequently refers to the torture that detainees go through in ungazetted military detention centres as learning either Kiswahili or his native Runyakole language.

Rwabwogo, who is married to Museveni's daughter **Patience Museveni Rwabwogo**, publicly [questioned](#) the legality of the operation to arrest his aide and reportedly reached out directly to Museveni, who claimed to have no prior knowledge of the arrest, exposing a major coordination fracture within the state security apparatus.

A prominent **Kampala**-based lawyer told **ARC Briefing** that it's increasingly becoming hard to know if Museveni is still in charge of the day-to-day running of the country. He says Muhoozi has taken the powers of the president as he seeks to consolidate the takeover:

"How can a serving military officer declare he is joining active politics and the President remains silent, yet the law doesn't allow army officers from participating in elective positions"

With independent institutions weakened and mainstream opposition heavily repressed, Uganda's future is no longer being decided in parliament, but inside the presidential palace, threatening a country that has never witnessed a peaceful transfer of power since independence in 1962.

Uganda to become the world's newest oil exporter in December

Uganda is set to become the world's newest oil exporter, with commercial shipments of its [Pearl Sweet](#) grade to start in December and increase to 230,000 barrels a day within three years. Museveni on 2 September unveiled the name Pearl Sweet. During the ceremony, he added that Uganda still has significant petroleum potential in the **Lake Albert** region, noting that only about 40% of the lake has so far been explored.

Energy minister, Dr. **Monica Musenero**, and other senior officials are currently [attending](#) the **S&P Global Energy Asia Pacific Oil Conference** in **Singapore** from 7-10 September to market Pearl Sweet crude to buyers. **Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC)** CEO **Proscovia Nabbanja** [stated](#) at a briefing on 8 September that this medium-heavy, low-sulphur crude will be priced against the global benchmark, Brent crude. Permanent secretary in the energy ministry, **Irene Pauline Batebe**, also indicated that initial supplies of [Pearl Sweet](#) will come from the **Kingfisher** oil field, operated by **China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC)**, with production starting at 25,000 barrels per day in December and rising to 40,000 barrels per day within six months.

The larger **Tilenga** project, operated by **France**-headquartered **TotalEnergies**, is scheduled to commence operations in the first quarter of 2027. Uganda also plans to construct a [refinery](#) with a capacity of 60,000 barrels per day, with a final investment decision expected around February. Musenero noted that during the refinery's development phase, most or all the country's crude oil will be exported. She added that once the refinery becomes operational, it will receive priority access to domestic crude supplies.

Traders ask Parliament to end contract of Russian firm behind digital number plates

The controversy surrounding Uganda's digital number plates has [intensified](#) as **Joint Stock Company Global Security (JSCGS)**, the **Russian** contractor behind the multi-million-dollar project, faces widespread allegations of corruption, extortion, and operational incompetence.

Originally pitched by the government as a definitive, high-tech solution to track criminals and curb motor vehicle-related crime, the ten-year mandatory [contract](#), signed in July 2021, has instead fuelled national debate over procurement transparency and the firm's actual capacity to deliver on its promises.

Rather than undergoing a traditional competitive public bidding process, the [deal](#) was directly single-sourced, following a direct presidential directive aimed at implementing severe security tracking measures across the country.

JSCGS, operating locally under **Intelligent Transport Monitoring System (ITMS)**, has to date only [issued](#) about 95,000 digital number plates for both motor vehicles and motorcycles, leading to anger among traders and other vehicle owners whose applications for digital number plates have not been worked on for several months.

Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA) leadership [appeared](#) before Parliament's Committee on Physical Infrastructure on 2 September, seeking to petition lawmakers to terminate the contract due to chronic plate shortages, distribution delays costing the economy billions, and allegations of extortion.

A car dealer owner in **Kabowa** told ARC Briefing that the delays in the issuance of digital number plates have affected their business as new cars cannot leave without registration number plates. He also alleged that it takes up to three months for a vehicle to be registered unless one is willing to pay a USh 700,000 (\$185.45) bribe up from the official USh 150,000 (\$39.74) cost for the number plates. The dealer says the money is paid to middle men and clearing agents who work jointly with JSCGS officials for the process to be faster.

[ITMS](#) is targeting the production and installation of one million digital plates to aggressively clear the remaining fleet, as motorists have been given until January 2027 to fully comply. The total national vehicle fleet in Uganda required to transition to the new [digital number plates](#) is between 2.1 million and 2.4 million vehicles. This total figure includes all registered motor vehicles, trucks, buses, and the country's massive population of motorcycles (boda-bodas).

Planner

7 – 10 Sep 2026 (**Singapore**) **S&P Global Energy Asia Pacific Oil Conference**
 28 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** **Uganda International Oil & Gas Summit (UIOGS)**;
 29 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** The 7th Edition of the **Uganda Economic Forum**;
 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff visit expected

Chronology

8 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Monitor*. Uganda's oil regulator, the **Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU)**, is awaiting the appointment of a substantive executive director following the departure of its long-serving head, **Ernest Rubondo**;

7 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. Ugandan biotechnology and pharmaceutical manufacturer **Dei BioPharma Ltd** has been registered as a supplier under the **African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM)**, a continental procurement platform coordinated by the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)**;

6 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Nile Post*. **JESA Farm Dairy**, the leading dairy company in Uganda, announces a temporary shortage of its milk products on the Ugandan market, citing reduced production caused by the prolonged dry season;

5 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. A sweeping parliamentary probe has laid bare a pattern of structural corruption, regulatory collapse and brazen asset-stripping at the **Uganda Railways Corporation (URC)**, turning a \$33.63m **Spanish** concessional loan intended to revive East Africa's oldest trade artery into a vehicle for ghost training schemes, illegal scrap sales and insider deals;

4 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Ugandan officials pitch the country's estimated \$4 trillion to \$12 trillion mineral endowment at the 24th **Africa Down Under Conference**;

3 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament website*. The **Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL)** is weighed down by 136 court cases with a contingent liability of USh 777 billion (\$205.85m), raising concern among members of parliament (MPs) over the potential impact on public finances and electricity service delivery;

2 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. President **Yoweri Museveni** officially unveils Pearl Sweet as the trademark name for Uganda's blended crude oil;

1 Sep 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Energy news*. The state-run **Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL)** is heavily upgrading its network a year after Umeme's concession expired, installing a new transformer at the **Kampala South Substation** to supply 108,000 households and 650 commercial clients;

30 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *UIA*. The state minister for privatisation and investment **Amina Mukalazi** visits the **Sino-Mbale Industrial Park** as part of the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen investment, address challenges faced by investors and accelerate the full operationalisation of industrial parks across the country;

29 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. **Tooro Kingdom's King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV** dies age 34;

28 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Press release*. President **Yoweri Museveni** reaffirms Uganda's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with **Italy**, particularly in coffee development, trade, investment, infrastructure and skills development;

26 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *WHO*. **World Health Organisation (WHO)** declares Uganda **Ebola-free**, confirming that the country had passed the mandatory 42-day monitoring period without any new cases;

25 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament*. Parliament calls on government to take over the operations of the **Kampala-Entebe Expressway** and investigate alleged failures in its management, arguing that this will reduce expenditure on private contractual arrangements and protect revenue needed to repay the loan used to finance the road;

24 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Works and transport ministry and police start a 100-day operation targeting unroadworthy commuter taxis (locally known as Ghana Genya) in the greater Kampala area;

23 Aug 2024 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Parliament Watch*. The idea of shifting Uganda's political and administrative heart from **Kampala** to **Nakasongola** has once again entered the national conversation, reviving a debate that has flickered in and out of planning circles for more than a decade;

21 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. **Bank of Uganda** (central bank) reports the Uganda shilling depreciated by 3.2% against the **United States (US)** dollar year on-year in July as renewed tensions in the **Middle East** and increased demand for the foreign currency put pressure on the local unit;

20 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *UBC*. Health ministry announces that current medical interns are set to earn a monthly net allowance of US\$ 1m (\$264);

19 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Government outlines stricter criteria and procedure for companies for company seeking tax waivers saying remission of tax liabilities should only be granted in exceptional circumstances and after all other recovery options have been exhausted;

18 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Chimpreports*. Uganda and the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** sign an agreement to establish a UNODC office in Kampala, which officials said is expected to become one of the agency's three largest operations globally;

17 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Reuters*. An **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff team plans to visit Uganda next month for more negotiations on a new support programme;

16 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Daily Monitor*. Health authorities note that while Uganda remains Ebola-free, illegal cross-border movements near the **Democratic Republic of Congo** border complicated ongoing regional surveillance;

15 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *UBC*. The **Bank of Uganda** maintained its central bank rate at 9.75% to preserve price stability and monitor global inflationary pressures, with rediscount and bank rates held at 12.75% and 13.75%;

13 Aug 2026 **Kampala (Uganda)** *Observer*. Ride-hailing giant **Uber** officially closes its operations in both **Uganda** and **Nigeria** following a thorough strategic review of its business models, ending a 12-year presence in the competitive local market;

About Africa Risk Consulting:

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

About ARC Briefing:

ARC Briefing is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

ARC Briefing is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

Getting in touch

Please contact us by email info@africariskconsulting.com

Africa Risk Consulting (ARC) Pty Ltd expressly forbids the collection of information and content from ARC Briefing as data to train generative artificial intelligence models.