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UGANDA BLEEDS BEYOND ITS NERVES

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President Museveni Celebrates Women's Day, Highlights Progress in Gender Equality and Empowerment



On March 8, 2025, Uganda commemorated International Women's Day with celebrations held at Bukwiri Church of Uganda Primary School in Kyankwanzi District. President Yoweri Museveni, accompanied by First Lady Janet Museveni and Vice President Jessica Alupo, graced the event, emphasizing the government's deliberate efforts to empower women since the National Resistance Movement (NRM) came into power.

President Museveni highlighted Uganda's progress in women's representation, noting that women occupy 33.8% of parliamentary seats and 45.8% of cabinet positions. He also pointed out the reduction in gender-based violence,

with physical violence against women decreasing from 51% in 2016 to 23% in 2022. Additionally, he mentioned initiatives like the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP), Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP), and the Parish Development Model (PDM) aimed at empowering women economically.

The First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Janet Museveni, reflected on the strides made in achieving gender equality in education. She noted that enrollment in primary schools has reached parity, with a 50-50 gender

split, and in higher institutions of learning, women constitute 46% of the student population.

Vice President Jessica Alupo praised President Museveni as a champion of women's emancipation, highlighting the conducive environment for women's growth under his leadership. She pointed out that women now participate in various fields previously dominated by men, including aviation and engineering.

The celebrations featured an all-female joint security parade, showcasing women's active involvement in national security.

These events underscore Uganda's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women across various sectors.

Dr.Kiiza Besigye Returns to Nakawa Court,Faces



Dr.Kiiza Besigye Returns to Nakawa Court,Faces Trision Charges

Nakawa-Kampala

Dr. Kizza Besigye, a prominent opposition leader in Uganda, has returned to Nakawa Chief Magistrates Court to face treason charges. Besigye, alongside his aide Hajj Obeid Lutale and UPDF officer Captain Denis Oola, is accused of engaging in activities aimed at overthrowing the government of Uganda by force of arms between 2023 and November 2024 .

The charge sheet details a series of meetings held in Switzerland, Greece, Kenya, and Uganda, where the trio allegedly conspired to execute a coup. Specifically, they are accused of traveling to foreign nations to coordi-

nate meetings, holding discussions with various individuals to advance their plot, and facilitating logistical support for Ugandan citizens to receive military training in Kisumu, Kenya .

The primary charge of treason is contrary to Section 23 (1)(c) of the Penal Code Act, Cap 128. The trio also faces an alternative charge of misprision of treason, under Section 25 of the Penal Code Act, for allegedly failing to report knowledge of an impending treasonous act to the authorities .

During the court session, the accused were remanded to Luzira Prison until March 14, 2025, pending further proceedings at the High Court, which has jurisdiction over this matter ². The prosecution argued that the nature of the charges warranted continued detention while investigations continue.

This latest development is expected to spark renewed political debate and tension in the country, especially ahead of the 2026 elections. Dr. Besigye, a longtime critic of President Yoweri Museveni, has previously faced multiple treason charges, often linked to his political activism and opposition to the ruling government .

According to his lawyer Erias Lukwago, he stated that Dr.Besigye has also suspended the hunger strike that had terribly aggravated the state of his health.

By Mukama Phillip Kahigiriza



Condemnation Grows Over Security Forces' Brutality in Kawempe



Opposition, warned that the violence witnessed in Kawempe is a precursor to what Ugandans should expect in the 2026 general elections. He also questioned the rationale behind deploying the military in a by-election, emphasizing that such actions undermine democracy .

The People's Front for Freedom (PFF) has also weighed in, threatening

The recent meeting between the Uganda Electoral Commission (EC) and security forces has brought to the forefront the escalating violence in Kawempe, with many condemning the excessive force used against unarmed civilians. The brutal conduct of security personnel has sparked widespread outrage, with leaders and citizens alike calling for accountability .

Archbishop Samuel Kaziimba, the head of the Church of Uganda, has been vocal in his criticism, comparing the treatment of Ugandans to that of animals in more developed nations. "Even cows are not treated like that," he remarked during an Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service at Parliament .

The government has attempted to distance itself from the violence, with Trade Minister David Bahati stating that the acts of violence were not state-sanctioned and that individuals responsible should be held accountable . However, opposition leaders have dismissed these claims, citing a pattern of impunity and rewarding those implicated in election-related violence.

Mathias Mpuuga, the former Leader of the

to rally opposition parties to boycott the Kawempe North by-election if state-backed violence against opposition supporters persists. PFF President Erias Lukwago condemned the escalating attacks, alleging that security forces have failed to intervene .

Calls for Accountability

As tensions continue to rise, Ugandans are calling for an end to the brutality and impunity. The Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT) has faced widespread condemnation for its brutal treatment of civilians, with many pointing out that JATT operatives are trained to combat terrorism, not to manage elections or interact with civilians ¹.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, has strongly condemned the attacks on journalists covering the campaign period, raising concerns about their impact on press freedom and the government's reputation ².

What's Next?

With the Kawempe North by-election looming on March 13, 2025, it remains to be seen how the government and security forces will respond to the growing condemnation. Will they take concrete steps to address the violence and ensure a free and fair election, or will the brutality and impunity continue? Only time will tell.

"KAMPALA'S ROAD REVOLUTION: NEW HIGHWAYS LAUNCHED TO EASE TRAFFIC CONGESTION"



In a significant boost to the city's infrastructure, the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has launched new road highways in Kampala, aimed at improving traffic flow and reducing congestion.

The launch was officiated by Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja, who emphasized the need for timely completion of the road construction works. "We urge the contractors to work diligently to ensure that the roads are completed within the six-month deadline," she said.

The Kampala City Roads Rehabilitation Project (KCRRP) is one of the key initiatives aimed at improving the city's infrastructure. The project, which commenced in 2022, aims to construct 100 kilometers of roads within the city.

Some of the roads that are currently under construction or have been completed include: Kyebando Ring Road: Part of the KCRRP, this road is expected to improve traffic flow in the area. Sir Apollo Kaggwa Road: This road is one of the several roads in Kampala that are being upgraded to improve mobility. Luwafu Road: The construction of this road is part of the efforts to improve the city's infrastructure. Kampala Northern By-Pass: This 18-kilometer road is expected to reduce traffic congestion in the city.

The government has also announced plans to close off some roads under construction in Kampala to expedite work and meet the completion deadline. The construction of roads, including the Ring Road in Kyebando, Sir Apollo Road, Mutesa 1 Road, Sentema Road, Zanna, and roads around the industrial area, spans a total of 90 kilometers and has an investment of sh149 billion.

Overall, the launch of the new road highway in Kampala is a significant

step towards improving the city's infrastructure and reducing traffic congestion

UEC and Security Officers Meet to Discuss Election Preparedness and Security Concerns



The Uganda Electoral Commission (UEC) held a crucial meeting with security officers on the 06th March 2025 to discuss election preparedness and address growing security concerns ahead of the upcoming polls.

The meeting, which took place at the UEC headquarters, brought together top officials from the electoral body and senior security personnel, including representatives from the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF), and the Internal Security Organisation (ISO).

According to sources privy to the discussions, the meeting focused on the need for enhanced security measures to ensure a peaceful and credible electoral process. The UEC officials expressed concerns over the rising

tensions and violence in some parts of the country, which they warned could undermine the integrity of the elections.

The security officers, on the other hand, assured the UEC of their commitment to maintaining law and order during the electoral period. They pledged to deploy adequate personnel and resources to ensure the safety of voters, candidates, and electoral officials.

One of the key issues discussed during the meeting was the role of the military in maintaining security during the elections. While the UEC officials emphasized the need for the military to remain neutral and avoid any actions that could be perceived as partisan, the security officers assured them that the military would only intervene in situations where there was a clear threat to public safety.

The meeting also touched on the issue of election observers and the need for their safety and security to be guaranteed. The UEC officials expressed concerns over reports of harassment and intimidation of elec-

tion observers in some parts of the country, which they warned could undermine the credibility of the electoral process.

In a statement released after the meeting, the UEC Chairman, Justice Simon Byabakama, expressed his satisfaction with the discussions and the commitment shown by the security officers to ensuring a peaceful and credible electoral process.

"We are pleased with the assurances given by the security officers and their commitment to maintaining law and order during the electoral period," Justice Byabakama said. "We urge all stakeholders to remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with the electoral officials and security personnel to ensure a successful electoral process."

The meeting between the UEC and security officers comes at a time when the country is gearing up for a crucial electoral period. The elections are expected to be highly contested, with several candidates vying for the top seats.

As the electoral process heats up, the UEC and security officers will be under intense scrutiny to ensure that the elections are free, fair, and peaceful. Today's meeting was a crucial step in that direction, and all eyes will be on the UEC and security officers to see how they will work together to deliver a credible electoral process.

Uganda Communications Commission Warns Media Outlets Over Spread of Fake News



The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) has issued a stern warning to editors and media outlets regarding the spread of fake news and misinformation as the country prepares for the 2026 general elections.

Speaking at the 3rd Annual Convention 2024/2025, Susan M. Atengo, Director of Legal Affairs and Communications Secretary, cautioned against economic sabotage and extortion, emphasizing the need for responsible and ethical journalism.

"Misinformation and disinformation not only erode public trust in the media but also undermine democracy, distort public perception, and hinder informed decision-making," Atengo said. "Media outlets are obligated to ensure the

accuracy and truthfulness of the information they disseminate."

Atengo also warned the public to be cautious when consuming information on social media, highlighting its potential to spread false information quickly. "Fake news thrives in the digital space, where social media platforms and online networks rapidly amplify and disseminate content, often without verification," she said on the 06th March 2025 during the convention.

In a related development, Electoral Commission Chairman, Justice Simon Byabakama, condemned the violence meted out against citizens by the Joint Anti-Terrorist Taskforce (JATT) during the Kawempe North

election campaigns. Byabakama urged political actors to avoid acts of provocation and emphasized the need for a peaceful and lawful electoral process.

Byabakama also expressed concerns over the excessive monetization of the electoral process, warning candidates against commercializing elections and engaging in voter bribery. "This undermines the integrity of the electoral process. Our democracy should not be auctioned through repeated acts of commercialization," he said.

The EC has been working closely with the police to ensure a peaceful and lawful electoral process, and has urged all political actors to adhere to the laws and guidelines issued by the EC.

The Kawempe North by-elections are scheduled for March 13, where voters will elect a new Member of Parliament to replace the late Muhammad Ssegirinya.

KATGONDO NATIONAL MAJOR SEMINARY CELEBRATES 114 YEARS OF FORMING FUTURE CATHOLIC PRIESTS



March 7, 2025, marked a significant milestone for Katgondo National Major Seminary, as it celebrated 114 years since its establishment by the Missionaries of Africa Fathers. This esteemed institution has been dedicated to training future Catholic priests, shaping the spiritual leaders of tomorrow.

Founded in 1911, Katgondo National Major Seminary has a rich and profound history that spans over a century. The seminary's inception was a response to the growing need for indigenous priests in Uganda, as the Catholic Church continued to expand its presence in the region. The Missionaries of Africa Fathers, driven by their commitment to evangelization and education, took on the task of establishing an institution that would provide comprehensive training for future priests.

Throughout its 114-year history, Katgondo National Major Seminary has undergone significant transformations, adapting to the changing

needs of the Church and the world. The seminary has expanded its facilities, updated its curriculum, and incorporated modern teaching methods to ensure that its students receive a well-rounded education. Despite these changes, the seminary's core mission has remained unwavering: to form future priests who are intellectually, spiritually, and pastorally equipped to serve the Church and humanity.

Katgondo National Major Seminary has played a pivotal role in shaping the Catholic Church in Uganda and beyond. The seminary has produced numerous distinguished alumni, including bishops, priests, and religious leaders who have made significant contributions to the Church and society. The seminary's commitment to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and pastoral formation has earned it a reputation as one of the premier institutions for priestly formation in Africa.

As Katgondo National Major Seminary celebrates this milestone anniversary, it does so with a sense of pride, gratitude, and hope. The seminary's rector, Fr. [Rector's Name], expressed his appreciation for the institution's rich history and its continued commitment to forming future priests. "We are grateful for the sacrifices and dedication of our founders, the Mis-

sionaries of Africa Fathers, and all those who have contributed to the growth and development of our seminary. As we celebrate 114 years of priestly formation, we look forward to continuing our mission of shaping the spiritual leaders of tomorrow."

The celebration of Katgondo National Major Seminary's 114th anniversary serves as a testament to the institution's enduring legacy and its continued relevance in the modern world. As the Catholic Church continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of humanity, Katgondo National Major Seminary remains committed to providing a comprehensive and holistic education for future priests, empowering them to serve the Church and the world with wisdom, compassion, and integrity.

Katgondo National Major Seminary is a Catholic institution dedicated to the formation of future priests. Founded in 1911 by the Missionaries of Africa Fathers, the seminary has a rich history of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and pastoral formation. With a strong commitment to shaping the spiritual leaders of tomorrow, Katgondo National Major Seminary continues to play a vital role in the Catholic Church in Uganda and beyond.

***FROM PITCH TO PULPIT:* FORMER MANCHESTER UNITED STAR PHILIP MULRYNE'S JOURNEY TO PRIESTHOOD**



In a remarkable tale of transformation, former Manchester United and Northern Ireland midfielder Philip Mulryne has traded in his football boots for a life of prayer, study, and preaching. Born on January 1, 1978, in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Mulryne's journey from the football pitch to the pulpit is a testament to the power of faith and redemption.

Mulryne's football career was marked by notable achievements, including an FA Youth Cup win with Manchester United in 1995 and a full international debut for Northern Ireland against Belgium in February 1997. However, despite his success on the pitch, Mulryne struggled to find fulfillment, making only five appearances for Manchester United and eventually joining Norwich City in March 1999.

After retiring from football in 2008, Mulryne began to question his lifestyle and eventually found solace in his faith. He started his studies for the priesthood in 2009, enrolling at

the Pontifical Irish College in Rome, where he studied philosophy. Mulryne later undertook a theology degree at Queen's University in Belfast.

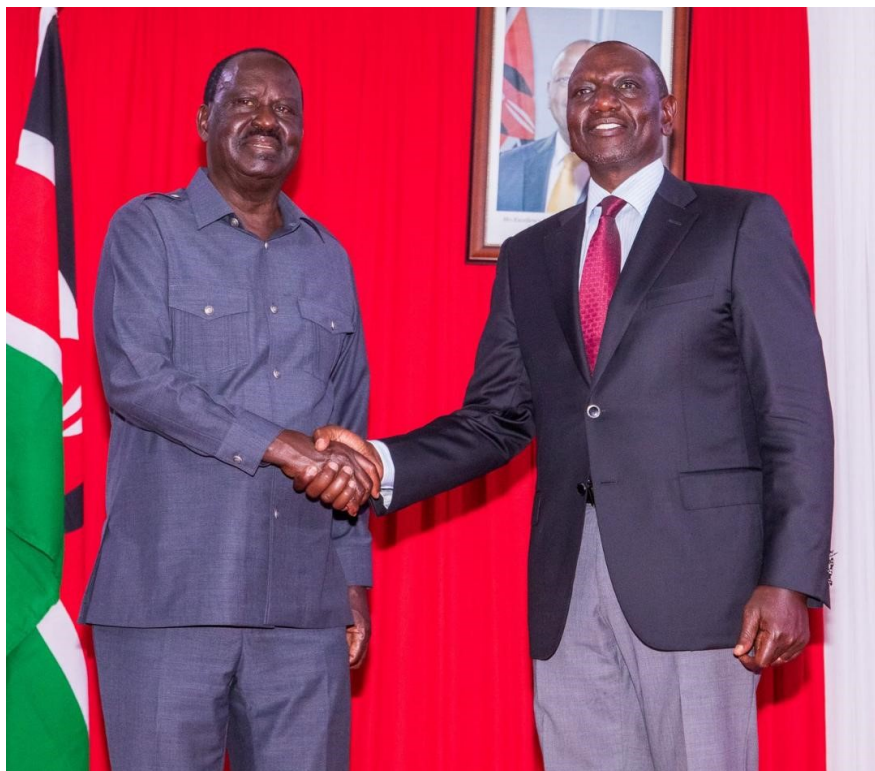
In 2016, Mulryne was ordained as a deacon, and in 2017, he became a priest, serving the Dominican Order, specifically the Province of Ireland. As a member of the Dominican Order, Mulryne is committed to a life of prayer, study, and preaching, overseeing a congregation at St. Mary's Priory Church in Cork.

Mulryne's remarkable transition has been an inspiration to many, and his story serves as a testament to the power of faith and redemption. As he himself noted, his journey has given him a sense of fulfillment and contentment that he didn't find

in his football career.

In a world where sports and faith often intersect, Philip Mulryne's story is a shining example of how one can find purpose and meaning beyond the playing field.

Raila Odinga and William Ruto's Political Pact: Understanding the Motivations and Circumstances



Nairobi-Kenya

In a surprising turn of events, Raila Odinga, the former Prime Minister of Kenya, signed a political agreement with William Ruto, the current Deputy President. This unexpected alliance has raised eyebrows across the country, leaving many wondering what prompted this union.

To understand the motivations behind this pact, it is essential to delve into the complex web of Kenyan politics. Raila Odinga, a veteran politician, has been a key player in the country's political landscape for decades. His relationship with William Ruto, however, has been tumultuous, to say the least.

The two leaders were previously on opposite sides of the political di-

vide, with Ruto supporting President Uhuru Kenyatta and Odinga leading the opposition. However, in a shocking move, Odinga and Ruto put aside their differences and signed a political agreement.

Although the exact details of the agreement are unclear, sources suggest that it was facilitated by a series of closed-door meetings between the two leaders. The pact is believed to be a strategic move by both parties to consolidate their power and influence in the run-up to the 2026 general elections.

Odinga's decision to sign the agreement with Ruto has been met with skepticism by some of his supporters, who view it as a betrayal of their trust. Others, however, see it as a pragmatic move that could potentially strengthen Odinga's chances in the upcoming elections.

As the Kenyan political landscape continues to evolve, one thing is clear: the alliance between Raila Odinga and William Ruto will have far-reaching implications for the country's future.

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Germany Freezes Aid To Rwanda: A Diplomatic Blow Over Al- leged Support for Rebel Group M23



Germany has suspended its new development cooperation commitments with Rwanda, citing Kigali's alleged role in the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This move marks a significant shift in the traditionally strong relationship between Berlin and Kigali.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) condemned Rwanda and M23's actions in the DRC, stating that the violation of the ceasefire and sovereignty is "unacceptable". Germany's decision to freeze new financial commitments and review ongoing bilateral cooperation is a clear message that Rwanda's support

for M23 comes with consequences.

Rwanda faces growing diplomatic isolation, with Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States imposing sanctions over its role in escalating the conflict in eastern DRC. The US specifically targeted James Kabarebe, Rwanda's Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, accusing him of overseeing M23's operations.

In response to mounting international pressure, Rwanda preemptively suspended its development cooperation with Belgium, aiming to control the narrative and mask its growing diplomatic isolation.

The international community is taking a tougher stance against Rwanda's ambitions in the DRC, accusing Kigali of seeking to annex resource-rich territories under the pretext of protecting Congolese Tutsis. Germany's decision to freeze development aid sends a clear message: Rwanda's actions will no longer go unpunished.

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Manchester United vs Arsenal: A Draw That Dents Arsenal's Title Hopes

In a thrilling Premier League clash at Old Trafford, Manchester United played out a 1-1 draw with Arsenal, a result that severely dampened the Gunners' hopes of securing the title this season.

The match started with high intensity, and it was United who drew first blood. Bruno Fernandes scored with a brilliant free-kick in the 44th minute, just before halftime. His curling effort beat Arsenal keeper Ramsdale, sending the Old Trafford crowd into a frenzy. It was a deserved lead for United after a balanced first half, where both teams had their chances.

However, Arsenal wasn't going down without a fight. After an hour of frustrating possession, Mikel Arteta's side found the equalizer in the 74th minute. Declan Rice, who had been influential throughout the match, struck a thunderous shot from just outside the box. The ball whizzed past United keeper David de Gea, drawing the Gunners level. It was a much-needed goal for Arsenal, who had been struggling to break through United's defense.

The final stages of the game saw both sides pushing for a winner, but despite several close calls, neither team could capitalize. Arsenal's frustration grew as the final whistle blew, leaving them sitting 15 points behind Liverpool at the top of the table with precious little time left to mount a title challenge.

The match wasn't just about the football. There were visible protests from Manchester United fans against the ownership of the Glazer family, with banners criticizing the state of the club, rising ticket prices, and the ongoing financial concerns. Despite the on-field drama, the Glazers remain a con-



tentious issue for many United supporters.

For Arsenal, the draw was a bitter pill to swallow. With only a handful of matches remaining, their hopes of lifting the Premier League trophy seem to be slipping away. Mikel Arteta was visibly disappointed after the match, expressing his frustration with the dropped points. "We can't afford to lose any more ground," he said in the post-match interview.

The draw also highlights the growing competitive nature at the top of the Premier League, where every point matters in the chase for European football and, of course, the title. As Manchester United continue to work under Erik ten Hag's rebuilding project, they showed their resilience, but for Arsenal, the result marks another missed opportunity to close the gap at the summit.

With the title race growing tighter and the clock ticking down, Arsenal will need to regroup quickly if they are to avoid being out of the running altogether. Meanwhile, Manchester United will take some solace in securing a point against one of their top competitors.

