



**A NEW  
UGANDA  
—NOW!—**

**MANIFESTO  
2026-2031**









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# PREAMBLE

**WHEREAS** Uganda has endured a turbulent political and constitutional history;

**WHEREAS** this turbulence has largely arisen from the absence of unity, justice, and equitable governance for all citizens;

**WHEREAS** the National Unity Platform (NUP) recognizes that successive governments have failed to unite Ugandans, protect their freedoms, and guarantee equal opportunities for all;

**WHEREAS** we firmly believe that national unity, democracy, accountability, and inclusive development are the foundations of a peaceful and prosperous Uganda;

**WHEREAS** the challenges facing Uganda today—such as corruption, abuse of power, exclusion, poverty, and inequality—are rooted in the absence of democratic leadership and respect for the rule of law;

**WHEREAS** the core mission of NUP is to foster national unity, reconciliation, good governance, the rule of law, social justice, and inclusive economic transformation that benefits every Ugandan;

**WHEREAS** NUP is committed to promoting equality, dignity, and opportunity for all Ugandans regardless of age, gender, region, ethnicity, religion, or social status;

**WHEREAS** we are dedicated to building A New Uganda Now—a Uganda that is democratic, just, inclusive, peaceful within itself, and respected among the nations of the world;

**NOW THEREFORE**, we the members of the National Unity Platform, in this Manifesto for the year 2026, DO HEREBY RESOLVE to present our vision, commitments, and program of action as a solemn contract with the people of Uganda.

**“People Power – Our Power, Our Power – People Power.”**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PARTY PRESIDENT



Fellow Ugandans,

Uganda has endured a turbulent political history defined by unfulfilled promises, corruption, division, and abuse of power. For nearly four decades, our people have been subjected to poverty, injustice, and despair under a regime that has overstayed its welcome. Successive governments have failed to unite our people, respect our freedoms, and guarantee equal opportunities for all.

Yet, amidst this pain, Uganda remains a nation of hope. We are blessed with vast resources, fertile land, a vibrant youth population, and an ambitious diaspora community. What we lack is not potential—it is leadership that listens, acts, and serves.

The National Unity Platform (NUP) has therefore come forward with this Manifesto as a bold declaration of intent to build A New Uganda Now—a Uganda where every citizen is treated equally, dreams are nurtured, and a solid foundation is laid for future generations. This Manifesto is not just a document; it is a covenant between us and the 48 million Ugandans yearning for freedom, dignity, and prosperity.

Our commitment is clear: we will reset Uganda by restoring democracy, ending corruption, healing

divisions, and guaranteeing equal access to opportunities. We will create jobs for our young people, feed our children in schools, stop land grabbing, and ensure that every Ugandan has access to quality healthcare, education, and infrastructure. We will place the diaspora at the center of our development, empower local governments, and transform Uganda into a modern, technology-driven economy.

This election is not about me. It is about us. It is about building a country that works for everyone—not just a privileged few. It is about reclaiming the dream of 1962 and delivering it to a new generation.

The time has come to break the cycle of betrayal and chart a new path. Let us rise together and declare with one voice: “People Power—Our Power, Our Power— People Power.”

The choice before us is simple: to continue in poverty, corruption, and dictatorship, or to stand boldly for A New Uganda Now. Not tomorrow. Not later. The time is NOW.

I invite you all—men and women, young and old, rural and urban, at home and in the diaspora—to join us in this struggle for transformation. Together, we shall win, and together, we shall build a free, just, and prosperous Uganda.

For God and My Country.

**Hon. Kyagulanyi Ssentamu Robert— BOBI WINE**  
Party President & Presidential Candidate, 2026



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Unity Platform (NUP) presents this Manifesto as a bold declaration of intent to build A New Uganda Now—a Uganda that treats all citizens equally, nurtures dreams, and lays a solid foundation for future generations. This is not just a policy document; it is our solemn contract with the people of Uganda.

This document serves as the blueprint for the work we will undertake upon receiving the mandate in January 2026. It marks a decisive step toward restoring hope for over 48 million Ugandans who, for nearly four decades under Gen. Yoweri Museveni's rule, have endured contested elections, gross human rights abuses, corruption, unlawful arrests, disappearances, and the erosion of democratic principles.

### Why A New Uganda Now?

Uganda's history reflects a cycle of hope and betrayal. At independence in 1962, Ugandans dreamed of unity, self-determination, and prosperity. Those hopes were derailed by years of instability, and although Museveni's regime entered in 1986 as a promise of redemption, today our people face despair:

1. **Poverty & Hunger:** Over 7.3 million Ugandans live below the poverty line (UNHS 2023/24), with rural areas most affected. Despite 80% of Uganda's land being arable able to feed over 200 million people annually, food insecurity affects the majority (57%) of Ugandans mostly in rural communities (NPHC 2024).
2. **Youth Unemployment:** Over 75% of Ugandans are under 30, yet half of them (50.9%) are not in education, employment, or training (NPHC 2024).
3. **Healthcare Gaps:** Uganda's healthcare system is wanting with 82 districts lack a fully equipped general hospital; 78% of sub-counties lack a Health Centre III. Uganda's Human Capital Index stands at just 0.39 meaning that under current health and education conditions, the average child will be only 39% as productive as they could be with full access to quality services.
4. **Infrastructure Deficit:** Only 3.9% of Uganda's 159,364 km road network is paved. Kampala, the economic heart, has just 29% tarmacked roads, most in poor condition.
5. **Debt & Corruption:** The total stock of public debt was Shs116.21 trillion (51.3% of GDP) by June 2025 up from Shs94.72 trillion as at the end of June 2024. This implies that to-date our per-capita debt stands at shs3 million, while corruption drains over Shs10 trillion annually.
6. **Dictatorship & Civic Space:** The Constitution has been manipulated to entrench Museveni's longer stay in power raising from the original 216 to 295 articles as of January 2021; Parliament and Judiciary are compromised; civil society and media freedoms are shrinking. Evidence from the World Justice Project's 2024 Rule of Law Index, indicate that Uganda ranked 126th out of 142 countries scoring just 0.39, reflecting serious deficits in legal integrity, fundamental rights, and government accountability. The sharp closure and ban of majority (57.1%) of the operations of the registered NGOs in Uganda towards the 2021 general elections—from over 14,000 in 2019 to around 6,000 today—underscores a broader trend of regulatory crackdowns and waning donor confidence in Uganda's civic environment.
7. **Land Insecurity:** Only 30.7% of adults have secure land tenure, undermining food security and wealth creation (NPHC 2024).
8. **Ethnic Imbalance & Nepotism:** Recruitment in public service is riddled with favoritism, undermining national unity and efficiency. A mini-survey of the 425 top government appointments to determine the level of ethnic

balance in government institutions and bodies by the independent paper revealed that Ugandans from the west hold 181 top government jobs almost double what their colleagues from the central hold (107), leaving only 68 and 69 jobs for those from the north and east respectively. Evidence by the Equal opportunities commission (EOC) report of FY2022/23 reveals that western Uganda accounts for 40% of top positions in government agencies, the central (26%), eastern (20%) and northern (12%). Specifically, when it comes to chief executive officers—those who make final decisions in government agencies, western Uganda takes up unmatched 47 percent. The northern (20%), central (18%), and eastern (15%) regions all find themselves playing catch-up.

9. **Unhealed Post-war Wounds:** Millions of victims of conflict remain uncompensated, unreconciled, and unheard. Evidence from the study by Center for civil and human rights at the University of Notre Dame revealed that majority (83.76%) of Victims of violence/armed conflicts in the affected parts of Uganda have not been adequately compensated for their suffering; majority (94.15%) of families/relatives of family members, or close friends have not received fair payment from the NRM government for their suffering; majority (77.9%) of the Leaders of organized armed groups that were involved in violence in affected parts of the country have not adequately apologized for wrongs they committed and majority (68.11%) of perpetrators of violence in these affected places of the country have not been held accountable for their crimes.
10. **Diaspora Neglect:** Uganda's diaspora community now exceeds 2 million people and remitted over USD 1.569 billion in FY2024/25 up from USD 1.403 billion in FY2023/24, representing the single largest source of foreign exchange and approximately 3% of GDP. Beyond financial remittances, the diaspora fuels entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment, skills transfer, and global advocacy. Yet, despite its enormous potential, the diaspora remains largely underutilized due to institutional neglect, weak policy frameworks, and an

adversarial political environment.

Despite these challenges, Uganda remains a nation of young, ambitious people and abundant resources. Progress is possible—but only with leadership that listens, acts, and serves all Ugandans.

### **Our Commitment: A Complete Reset**

This manifesto is not just a critique of failure; it is a roadmap to reclaim our future.

NUP's leadership is ready and committed to delivering a Uganda that works for everyone, not just a privileged few.

### **Our First Eleven Policy Priorities (2026 and beyond):**

1. Restore freedom, constitutionalism, and human rights (including gender equity).
2. End corruption and wasteful government expenditure.
3. Consolidate national unity, rebuild war-torn communities, and eliminate sectarianism.
4. Guarantee equal access to quality public services—clean water, healthcare, education, energy, and public infrastructure.
5. Create 10 million new jobs by 2032, on account of lowering the cost of doing business as well as leveraging tourism, manufacturing, sports, and the creative economy.
6. Establish a public-school feeding program to transform agriculture, ensure food security, enhance education outcomes and support a healthy population.
7. Stop land grabbing and guarantee secure land rights for all.
8. Empower regional and local governance through real devolution.
9. Position the diaspora as a strategic asset and strengthen foreign policy for Uganda's development and global competitiveness.



10. Ensure sustainable management of natural resources and climate resilience [including Climate Change detection, adaptation and mitigation].
11. Transform Uganda into a tech-driven economy through leveraging technology resources and innovation.

The first 6 are considered as high impact high frequency indicators and the last 5 are High impact Low frequency indicators. These are the indicators that Ugandans will use to measure NUP administration impact over the manifesto period. The first top 6 policy priorities are carefully selected to confront Uganda's most pressing challenges, and the bottom 5 are selected to unlock the vast potential of our people and resources, and lay the groundwork for a sustainable future where every Ugandan at home and abroad can thrive. Together, these priorities form the backbone of NUP's transformation agenda—bold, people-centered, and urgently needed.

**Our Call:**

**Let us build**

“

**A New Uganda  
Now.**

**Not tomorrow.**

**Not later. The time is  
NOW.**

**KYAGULANYI  
SSENTAMU ROBERT**  
**Bobi Wine**



**PROTEST  
VOTE**



**PRESIDENT**

**A NEW UGANDA NOW !**

PEOPLE POWER OUR POWER



# MANIFESTO PRIORITY



# RESTORE FREEDOM, CONSTITUTIONALISM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS (INCLUDING GENDER EQUITY).

## INTRODUCTION:

“Being democratic is not enough, a majority cannot turn what is wrong into right— In order to be considered truly free, countries must also have a deep love of liberty and an abiding respect for the rule of law.” ~ Margaret Thatcher. A picture currently portrayed in the 11th Parliament of Uganda.

### Uganda's Democratic Decline

Uganda's democracy is facing a severe decline, driven largely by Gen. Yoweri Museveni's prolonged rule of nearly four decades. Since taking power militarily in 1986, Museveni has progressively consolidated power, undermining political pluralism, civic freedoms, and institutional checks and balances.

**The 2024 Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) classifies Uganda as a defective democracy, citing the erosion of democratic institutions, suppression of dissent, and weakening of the rule of law.**

Key constitutional safeguards have been systematically dismantled: The 1995 Constitution, which once symbolized Uganda's rule of law, has been repeatedly violated; the intention (with which it was made) has been dropped. It is not what it was. It has been re-purposed to serve the interests of Gen. Museveni and his family against the interests of the rest of 48 million Ugandans. During the 29 years of the life of the October 8th 1995 Constitution of Uganda, a number of key and pro-people articles have been deleted completely and some amended in favour of the NRM regime- rising from the original 216 to 295 articles [as of January 2021]. Pertinent articles—originally intended to regulate presidential terms and age limits—have been deleted. The removal of term limits in 2005 and the age limit in 2017 paved the way for Gen. Museveni to run for indefinite re-election, despite strong public rejection.



A nationwide survey conducted by the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) and the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP) in 2017 before these amendments found that 85% of the 48million Ugandans opposed the removal of term and age limits. Despite this, Parliament passed the amendments, reflecting a growing disregard for popular will. Additionally, on May 20th 2025, Parliament passed the controversial UPDF (Amendment) Bill 2025, granting military courts powers to try civilians, a move that defied the supreme court ruling of January 31, 2025. Court ruled that it was not constitutional for civilians to be tried in Military courts but parliament with influence from Gen.Museveni passed the bill into law and later consented by Gen. Museveni, despite Article 92 of the Constitution, which prohibits Parliament from enacting laws that overturn specific court decisions.

### Erosion of the Rule of Law

**Uganda ranked 126th out of 142 countries in the World Justice Project's 2024 Rule of Law Index, scoring just 0.39, reflecting serious deficits in legal integrity, fundamental rights, and government accountability.**

State institutions—particularly the Judiciary, Parliament, and Electoral Commission—have lost their independence, and Museveni's authoritarian practices increasingly define the governance of these institutions. The use of security forces to stifle





dissent has intensified, often in violation of constitutional protections.

In November 2024, opposition figure Dr. Kizza Besigye was abducted in Nairobi, forcibly transferred to Uganda, and arraigned before a military court on charges of treachery and illegal possession of firearms—despite a January 2025 Supreme Court ruling affirming that civilians cannot be tried in military courts. His ongoing detention, amid deteriorating health, has drawn criticism from human rights organizations.

Similarly, in January 2025, human rights lawyer Eron Kiiza was sentenced by a military court—without access to a civilian trial—for “contempt of court,” raising further concerns about the abuse of military justice mechanisms.

Members of the opposition National Unity Platform (NUP) continue to face arbitrary arrest and detention. On April 27, 2025, Edward Ssebufu (Eddie Mutwe), Head of Security for NUP President Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine), was abducted in Mukono District and held incommunicado for several days. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, Commander of the UPDF and son of the Gen. Museveni, later publicly claimed responsibility for his detention in the basement at his home.

**Such acts  
of enforced**

**disappearance,  
torture, and the use  
of military courts  
to try civilians  
represent a direct  
assault on Uganda’s  
constitutional order.**

### **Due Process and the Legal Environment**

Article 28(1) of the 1995 Constitution guarantees the right to a fair, speedy, and public hearing before an independent and impartial court. However, the increased use of the General Court Martial to prosecute civilians—especially political opponents—violates this fundamental right.

Although Section 119(1)(h)(i) of the UPDF Act, 2005 allows military courts to try civilians found in possession of military equipment, the provision has been widely misused to target opposition supporters especially during election season.

A notable case is the December 30, 2020 arrest of 49 NUP supporters in Kalangala District during campaign event ahead of 2021 presidential general election. They were initially charged in the Masaka Chief Magistrate’s Court with incitement to violence and COVID-19-related offences. After being granted bail, they were immediately rearrested and charged by the General Court Martial with unlawful possession of ammunition—despite a lack of credible evidence. Their

ongoing detention has been widely condemned as a breach of due process.

Although the Supreme Court in *Uganda Law Society v. Attorney General* (2006) questioned the trial of civilians in military courts, Parliament has since amended the UPDF Act to entrench the military’s authority to try civilians—further weakening judicial independence and undermining the rule of law.

### **Human Rights**

Human rights are the foundation of any society committed to the rule of law, good governance, and democracy. These rights are universal, inalienable, and essential for protecting individuals from political, legal, and social injustices.

**Uganda is a  
signatory to key  
international human  
rights instruments,  
including the  
Universal  
Declaration of  
Human Rights,  
which declares in  
Articles 1 and 2 that  
“All human beings  
are born free and  
equal in dignity and  
rights,” and that  
“everyone is entitled**

## to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration.”

Domestically, Chapter Four of the 1995 Constitution enshrines fundamental rights and freedoms, obligating the State to respect, protect, and fulfil these rights for all citizens.

Uganda has, however, increasingly witnessed a disturbing pattern of human rights violations under Museveni’s rule. These include restrictions on freedoms of assembly, association, and expression, arbitrary arrests of opposition leaders, the targeting of independent media, and the unjustified suppression of online activity—particularly through repeated internet shutdowns and censorship during critical political moments.

Such actions, combined with the NRM government’s failure to ensure accountability for past abuses, have eroded public trust and undermined democratic participation, especially in the aftermath of the 2021 general elections.

### Media Freedoms and Broader Human Rights Violations

A free, independent, and vibrant media is the cornerstone of democratic governance, civic engagement, and accountability. Uganda’s Constitution affirms this principle. Article 29(a) guarantees freedom of speech and expression, including freedom of the press and other

media, while Article 41(1) affirms every citizen’s right to access information held by the State, except under narrowly defined security or privacy exceptions.

Yet, under the current NRM/NRA regime, these rights have been systematically undermined. Media freedoms in Uganda are under sustained attack through legal, physical, and digital means:

Laws such as the Press and Journalist Act of 2000, originally meant to professionalize journalism, have been weaponized to restrict who qualifies as a journalist, criminalize independent reporting, and control media content.

Broadcasting licenses have been arbitrarily revoked, and journalists face harassment, assault, detention, and even torture while covering political events—particularly opposition campaign activities.

Social media shutdowns, most notably in January 2021 ahead of the general elections, were ordered by the Uganda Communications Commission on the Gen. Museveni’s directive following Facebook’s closure of NRM-linked accounts. Platforms including Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, and Viber were blocked nationwide, severely curtailing citizens’ access to information during a critical electoral period.

### Violent suppression of media professionals has become disturbingly normalized:

On February 17, 2021, more than 20 journalists were brutally assaulted by military and police officers while covering President Robert Kyagulanyi’s attempt to deliver a petition to the United Nations Human Rights Office in Kololo, Kampala. More recently, journalists covering the Kawempe North by-election 2025 were similarly beaten by army personnel. These incidents reflect a persistent and systematic pattern of media repression in Uganda. To date, no perpetrators have been held accountable, and a climate of impunity continues to prevail.

Such actions violate both the Ugandan Constitution and international human rights obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which permits restrictions on free speech only under narrowly defined, lawful, necessary, and proportionate conditions. Uganda’s current actions fail to meet these standards.

### Other Abuses of Human Rights

The abuse of media freedom is part of a broader assault on fundamental human rights in Uganda:

Freedom of assembly and association has been eroded through arbitrary bans on peaceful protests, especially by opposition parties and civil society groups.

Political opponents and activists are frequently subjected to abduction, illegal detention, and torture, often without trial or legal representation.

Digital surveillance and censorship have expanded, with authorities using cyber laws to intimidate and criminalize dissent online.

Access to justice is routinely denied, particularly for victims of state violence, as courts remain heavily influenced by the regime.

## Corruption

**Corruption remains one of the most corrosive forces undermining Uganda's governance, development, and public trust. It is deeply entrenched across all levels of society, particularly within the state apparatus, where it has fuelled inefficiency, mismanagement of resources, and eroded institutional integrity.**

Despite the existence of a robust legal and institutional anti-corruption framework the gap between anti-corruption rhetoric and actual enforcement has widened, fuelling public disillusionment and obstructing

national progress.

Uganda loses an estimated UGX 10 trillion (approximately USD 2.7 billion) to corruption annually (IGG report, 2022)—equivalent to the budget allocated for key services such as education, health and water combined in financial year 2024/25. This massive haemorrhage of public funds severely undermines service delivery, delays critical infrastructure projects, and worsens poverty levels.

Key structural and political drivers behind this persistent corruption crisis include:

Lack of genuine political will, evidenced by selective prosecutions and the shielding of politically connected individuals;

Weak and under-resourced anti-corruption institutions, often lacking independence and saddled with overlapping mandates;

Over centralization of power, particularly within the presidency, which dilutes accountability and subverts constitutional checks;

A political economy dependent on corruption, sustaining a cycle of impunity and normalizing theft of public resources.

High-profile scandals—such as the #ParliamentExhibition revelations and the iron sheets scandal involving the Office of the Prime Minister—have laid bare the impunity with which public officials operate. These cases have sparked public outrage and attracted international condemnation, including sanctions from foreign

governments targeting implicated Ugandan officials.

Uganda is ranked 140th out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index, with a score of 26 out of 100—well below the global average of 43. This reflects the country's deteriorating governance environment and persistent failure to curb high-level corruption.

The impact of corruption is devastating and far-reaching:

It deprives citizens of access to quality healthcare, education, and public safety;

It undermines investor confidence, stifles entrepreneurship, and degrades the business environment;

It deepens inequality, erodes democratic institutions, and feeds political discontent and instability;

It weakens tax morale, as citizens become less willing to contribute to a state perceived as predatory and self-serving.

Ultimately, corruption is not just a governance issue—it is a national security threat. It perpetuates poverty, fosters inequality, and locks Uganda in a cycle

of underdevelopment. Without bold political reform and meaningful enforcement of anti-corruption laws, Uganda will continue to rank among the world's poorest nations, despite its potential.

## Conclusion

The endemic corruption, the systematic erosion of democratic institutions, the abuse of military courts, the suppression of the media, and the persistent violation of fundamental human rights reflect a regime solely committed to clinging to power. As the rule of law collapses under the weight of impunity, Uganda's future is held hostage by authoritarianism. This state of affairs must not only be resisted—but decisively rejected.

# Our Promise for a new Uganda Now

**We, the National Unity Platform Party, united in our pursuit of a just and equitable society, where good governance and democracy thrive. Recognizing the inherent value of every individual, we commit to restoring the principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation.**

### 1.1. *Restoring Constitutional Order*

- We will reinstate presidential term and age limits as originally enshrined in the 1995 Constitution.
- We will reverse amendments that undermine constitutional safeguards and ensure constitutional amendments require broad public participation, parliamentary and civil society scrutiny.
- We will guarantee judicial independence by transferring the power to appoint the Chief Justice,

Deputy Chief Justice, and other senior judicial officers from the presidency to an independent Judicial Appointments Commission comprising representatives from the Uganda Law Society (ULS), Parliament, and civil society organisations.

- We will reinforce judicial independence by increasing funding and operational autonomy for the Judiciary to ensure it functions free from executive interference.

### 1.2. *Amend the UPDF Act*

- We will amend the UPDF Act to prohibit the trial of civilians in military courts, in line with Supreme Court rulings and international human rights law.
- We will effect the transfer of all pending civilian cases in military courts to civilian judicial institutions.
- We will criminalize enforced disappearances, torture, and incommunicado detention through strict legislation and establish an independent Human Rights Accountability Commission.
- We will end arbitrary arrests of political opponents and civil society actors and ensure state actors involved in abuses are prosecuted.



### 1.3. Media freedoms

- We will stop all security interference in journalistic work. The UPDF and Uganda Police Force will be barred from harassing journalists or media personnel and their media houses.
- We will outlaw all arbitrary internet and social media shutdowns and ensure that digital rights are constitutionally protected.
- We will restructure the Media and Broadcasting councils into
- independent, professional bodies that promote press freedom, pluralism, and public access to information.

### 1.4. Protection of the civil society

- We will reverse restrictive laws and regulations that hinder the work of NGOs, CSOs, and grassroots movements.
- We will re-register all NGOs, CBOs and other civil society organisations previously banned due to unqualified political related reasons.
- We will allocate public funding to registered civil society organizations engaged in service delivery,

rights awareness, and democratic governance.

- We will create structured platforms for CSO engagement in public policy and budgeting processes at all levels of government.

### 1.5. Rebuilding Electoral Integrity

- We will transfer the power to appoint and approve Electoral Commission members from the president to Parliament and an independent vetting body involving the Uganda Law Society and civil society representation.
- We will audit and reform Uganda's entire electoral framework, including campaign financing, voter registration, and vote tallying, to ensure free, fair, and transparent elections.

### 1.6. Fighting Corruption and Promoting Integrity

- We will implement a zero-tolerance policy on corruption across all public institutions.
- We will digitize all government payments and revenue collection systems to eliminate leakages and stop cash-based transactions in ministries and agencies.

- We will correct managerial inefficiencies and empower anti-corruption bodies like the IGG, Auditor General, and PPDA with full autonomy, clear prosecutorial powers, and guaranteed budgets.
- We will establish a Public Integrity Court to fast-track corruption cases and recover stolen public assets.

### 1.6. Efficient and Accountable Governance

- We will promote merit-based appointments and strengthen performance-based evaluations across government ministries and departments.
- We will decentralize service delivery, ensuring that regional and local governments have adequate resources and decision-making power to meet the needs of their communities.
- We will publish annual transparency reports on resource use, procurement, and service delivery outcomes at all government levels and make them accessible to the public.



MANIFESTO  
PRIORITY

TWO



# END CORRUPTION AND WASTEFUL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

## INTRODUCTION

Uganda is currently facing a serious breakdown in her fiscal discipline, marked by unchecked supplementary budgets, excessive borrowing, extravagant spending, and chronic underfunding of essential social services such as health, education, and water and sanitation. These practices undermine the credibility of the national budget, weaken long-term planning, and create dangerous fiscal imbalances that threaten our country's economic stability and social development.

### SITUATION ANALYSIS

Millions of Ugandans are stuck in absolute poverty amidst the wasteful expenditures, growing appetite for corruption and skyrocketing debt. According to the Uganda National Household

Survey 2023/24, more than 7.3 million Ugandans—nearly one in six citizens—live below the absolute poverty line, defined as earning less than \$1 or Shs3,663 per day, per person. Put this in perspective, if somehow one is considered to be at Shs4,000/= per day, per person, that one is not included in the statistic! Think about this and consider that in real terms, 60%+ of the population may in fact be in real poverty and growing ... considering the birth rate of Uganda and the factors of disparity including corruption. Now, Shs3,663/= per day, per person, means about Shs100,000/= for a full 30-day month. Try to ration this average for: –Rent (shelter), Food (feeding), Transportation (commuting), Medical (healthcare) and Education (including skilling). No wonder millions of our youth have moved to middle east to find a way out.

### Wasteful Government Expenditure

The wastefulness begins with the office of president and his residence. Gen. Museveni and his family continues to enjoy presidential privilege since he ascended to power 40 years ago after leading a coup against Uganda's former ruler. It is only in Uganda where Museveni has more cars than ambulances attached to public hospitals. Gen. Museveni has over 600 vehicles at his disposal yet the total number of ambulances in public facilities is about 178. You cannot justify Gen. Museveni is keeping 400 vehicles under his office and 266 vehicles at his residence (State House). Notably, 71 of these are dedicated solely to Museveni's convoy for domestic travel raising from 33 in FY2018/19.

Gen. Museveni has over **600** vehicles  
at his disposal yet the total number of  
**AMBULANCES**  
in public facilities is about **178**

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While the State House policy statement provides a cost range for these vehicles—between Shs150 billion and Shs500 million—the actual costs of the president’s personal vehicles remain undisclosed. Moreover, annual expenses on vehicle maintenance are about (+) Shs7.2billion annually, while fuel costs—subsumed under inland travel expenses—total Shs80 billion each year. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the son to Museveni maintains a fleet of nearly a dozen vehicles, complete with amenities akin to those of his father’s convoy. Janet Museveni, the Museveni’s wife, also has her own convoy with similar facilities. This isn’t the representation of leaders governing an economically challenged country reliant on unpayable loans; rather, it resembles the grandiosity of kings, queens, and royalty.

Museveni’s staff roster includes 82 presidential advisors, 142 resident district commissioners (RDCs), 98 deputy RDCs, about 89 assistant RDCs, 27 senior presidential assistants, 40 private secretaries, a substantial workforce of 761 staff at the office of presidency, and a domestic staff of 996 at his

residence alone—comprising 59 waitresses, 14 room attendants, 80 gardeners, 129 drivers, 50 cleaners, 35 cooks, and 12 chefs, among others. This extensive payroll incurs a staggering annual cost of approximately Shs50 billion. Furthermore, Museveni’s office of the president employs an additional 761 individuals. Moreover, there is an apparent lack of clear guidelines for their recruitment, qualifications, and remuneration. In addition to these, we continue to remunerate former prime ministers as presidential advisors. Such spending if left unchecked it will deny the majority of Ugandans the basic necessities such as education, health, safe & clean water, and social protection.

With 529 MPs, our parliament is excessively large. Uganda ranks among the highest in legislator pay in Africa, surpassed mainly by South Africa. Every five years, Members of Parliament receive a car allowance—regardless of whether they are newly elected or returning. This means that re-elected MPs continue to receive funds for the same entitlement. For instance, the 11th Parliament includes 181 members who returned from

the 10th Parliament, with several having served more than two terms. This unchecked spending continues to erode the majority of Ugandans critical life servers.

Moreover, while wasteful spending soars, the health sector remains under-resourced: 82 districts still lack a fully equipped public general hospital. This glaring disconnect between budget allocations and on-the-ground need underscores a misalignment of priorities by the NRM government.

## National Debt

Uganda’s rising public debt and the growing burden of debt servicing continue to raise serious concerns about fiscal sustainability. Interest payments alone are projected to reach approximately UGX 9.24 trillion in FY2025/26, consuming over 25% of domestic revenue. This level of debt service significantly constrains the government’s ability to invest in essential sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure.

Our total debt (external and domestic) as of March 2023 was Shs85.2 trillion exceeding that year’s total budget of Shs52.7 trillion, according to the Bank of Uganda State of the Economy April 2023 Report exceeding the pre-pandemic levels tracked at 34.6% of GDP. By FY2021/22, it had risen above 50%, breaching the IMF’s 50% threshold for low-income countries—a warning sign of increasing debt vulnerability. As of June 2023, Uganda’s public debt reached Shs96.1 trillion (about USD 25.3 billion), equivalent to roughly 52% of GDP. Of this, shs.44.6



trillion was domestic debt, while Shs.51.5 trillion was external.

**According to the Bank of Uganda, debt servicing accounted for about 35% of domestic revenue in FY2024/25, meaning that Shs35 out of every Shs100 collected in revenue went toward debt repayment. This trend, if unchecked, could push Uganda toward debt distress and increase the risk of default.**

Today, the NRM government is celebrating the Shs.226.3trillion economy BUT however more than 54% of this celebration is in debt. This implies that to-date per capita debt stands at about shs3.5million. In the current financial year 2025/26, the NRM government plans to collect shs37.2 trillion in domestic revenues out of the shs72.3trillion nation budget. This suggests that the rest (more than 50%) of the budget will be financed through borrowing.

The decline in external aid and development support—especially following increased restrictions on civil society and

the suspension of over 9,000 NGOs in recent years—has deepened reliance on borrowing. The NRM government continues to acquire non-concessional loans to meet recurrent expenditures, reinforcing a cycle of debt rollover and rising fiscal pressure.

If this trajectory persists, Uganda risks falling into a “public debt safety trap,” where deceptive indicators mask deepening financial instability. High debt servicing crowds out investment in critical sectors, undermines economic growth, and worsens inequalities—ultimately threatening Uganda’s long-term development and social cohesion.

Corruption continues to distort public administration, with estimates indicating over Shs.10 trillion annually (an amount equivalent to the money needed to constructing and retooling 82 districts in Uganda without a single public general hospital; 1,112 parishes without a public primary school and 115 sub counties without substantial public secondary schools) lost due to administrative inefficiencies and graft. The current situation continues to live approximately 15,400,000 Ugandans (about 3% of the population) in extreme poverty [these ones continue to live below 1dollar a day].

### **National Budget**

Over the past decade, the cost of public administration has surged sharply without a corresponding increase in domestic revenue,

shrinking the fiscal space available for development. This has crowded out essential development

projects, whose funding has significantly declined. The high costs of managing the public sector—coupled with poor coordination and administration—undermine effective implementation of vital development initiatives.

Budget credibility has eroded due to excessive reliance on supplementary budgets. These rose from 6.7% of total expenditure in FY2017/18 to 9.7% in FY2021/22, far exceeding the internationally accepted 3% threshold.

Debt servicing now consumes over half (57%) of the national budget, totaling UGX 41.7 trillion in FY 2024/25. This amount even exceeds anticipated domestic revenue (UGX 32.3 trillion), meaning all domestic revenue is diverted to debt repayment. Uganda spends roughly UGX 114 billion daily servicing debt—more than combined budgets for health, education, and social protection.

**The FY 2025/26 budget for key services such as education, health and water combined is UGX 11.44trillion out of the 72.3**

## trillion national budget highlight a slight increase from UGX 10.204 trillion in FY 2024/25—raising serious concerns about the NRM government's capacity to save the lives of the 48 million Ugandans.

This contraction in fiscal space stems from lower external aid, a deliberate cutback in domestic borrowing, reduced inflows from the Petroleum Fund, and scaled-back refinancing. Meanwhile, statutory obligations—particularly debt servicing and interest—now absorb an increasing share, shrinking the discretionary budget from UGX 28.1 trillion to UGX 24.2 trillion.

Sectoral allocations in FY 2025/26 further expose a disconnect between ambition and funding. Although the Ten Fold Growth Strategy targets agro-industry, tourism, minerals, oil, science, and technology, these sectors are only allocated around UGX 2.67 trillion, far short of the UGX 4.7 trillion earmarked in NDP IV—raising serious concerns about the NRM government's capacity to deliver its ambitious development agenda.

### Domestic Revenue Generation

In FY 2024/25, the government collected UGX 27.7 trillion

in domestic revenue—significantly below the projected UGX 32.3 trillion, leaving a financing gap of UGX 39.7 trillion needed to support a UGX 72 trillion budget. This uncovered deficit accounted for 55% of total expenditure, meaning that only 45% of the budget was funded through domestic resources—a level insufficient to meet Uganda's development goals.

Yet, the previous FY 2024/25 budget revealed about UGX 2.27 trillion in wasteful expenditure, including:

- **Special meals and drinks - UGX 300 billion**
- **Welfare and entertainment - UGX 136 billion**
- **Workshops, seminars & meetings - UGX 237 billion**
- **Travel (inland & abroad) - UGX 761 billion**
- **Advertising & public relations - UGX 79 billion**
- **Light vehicle acquisition - UGX 56 billion**
- **Recruitment expenses - UGX 13 billion**

- **Postage & courier services - UGX 2.8 billion**

Together, these items accounted for approximately Shs2 trillion—far greater than Shs872.57 billion allocated to Water, Sanitation, Environmental Protection, and social protection combined in that financial year. These funds would be better redirected toward essential services.

For the Financial year ending June 2025, revenue collection is projected at Shs31.9 trillion, representing approximately 14.3% of GDP. This remains well below the internationally recognized benchmark of 30% tax-to-GDP needed to achieve sustainable development.

Emerging and low-income economies like Uganda typically have an untapped tax potential of 8–9% of GDP, according to the IMF. Tapping into this could provide more resources for public investment and strengthen private sector growth.

### Mineral & Natural Resource Revenue Potential

Uganda is richly endowed with diverse mineral resources—such as iron ore, limestone, gold, rare earth elements (REEs), graphite, cobalt, and copper—found across multiple regions of the country. These minerals hold significant promise for fiscal revenue generation, technology transfer, and job creation.

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)

2021/22 report indicates that Uganda's total value of mineral production soared from Shs19.9 billion in FY 2020/21 to Shs202 billion in FY 2021/22, driven by increased output in limestone (UGX 93 billion), iron ore (Shs72 billion), pozzolana (UGX 17.7 billion), wolfram (Shs6.8 billion), and gold (Shs3.4 billion)

That same report highlights that only 20 of the 558 licensed mining companies were responsible for 98.8% of total mining revenues (each remitting at least Shs6 billion).

However, transparency challenges persist. The EITI flags issues such as undisclosed contracts, incomplete data reporting from companies, and discrepancies in gold export figures—highlighting the urgent need for improved governance and monitoring systems

## Conclusion

Uganda's economic future hinges on restoring fiscal discipline, curbing reckless borrowing, and eliminating wasteful expenditure. The current trajectory—marked by budget shortfalls, rising debt, and misplaced priorities—undermines service delivery and entrenches inequality. Public financing must be reoriented toward transparency, efficiency, and national development.

# Our promise for a new Uganda Now

## 2.1. End Wasteful Spending

We will cut extravagant and non-essential public spending—starting with slashing the cabinet to a maximum 20 ministers, reducing the number of MPs and their bloated costs, scrapping redundant political appointments such as DRCs, RCSs and their deputies, and capping vehicle fleets. Lavish budgets for meals, entertainment, and travel will be reallocated to health, education, and social protection.

## 2.2. Strengthen Budget Credibility

We will end excessive supplementary budgets and limit this to the recommended 3% threshold. All public spending will be transparent, accountable, people-centered, and within the approved budgets. We will ensure that budget planning aligns with national and regional priorities.

## 2.3. Reduce the Debt Burden

We will halt reckless borrowing, prioritize concessional financing, and ensure that no new loan is approved without rigorous public scrutiny and a clear return-on-



investment plan. We will discuss and renegotiate our debts with our creditors to a level Ugandans can manage to repay within a short period of time without affecting key service delivery indicators.

## 2.4. Reform the Mineral Sector

We will enforce transparency in mining and oil contracts, ring-fence mineral and oil revenues for education, health, and infrastructure projects, and empower the Uganda National Mining Company to serve public—not private—interests. We will make sure all oil contracts are in the in the interest of Ugandans and disseminated for public scrutiny.

## 2.5. Promote Fair and Simple Taxation

We will simplify the tax system, eliminate taxes on essential items like menstrual products, scholastic materials and school data bundles, introduce a PAYE tax-free threshold of Ugx1000,000 regarded as low-income earners. Any Ugandan earning below 1million will not Pay PAYE and reward tax compliance with competitive incentives.

## 2.6. Expand Domestic Revenue without Burdening the Poor

Through smarter tax administration, digital technologies, and closing loopholes, we aim to raise Uganda's tax-to-GDP ratio by at least 6 percentage points—without raising tax rates for ordinary citizens.

## 2.7. Enforce Austerity and Lead by Example

We will ensure that salaries for top officials are within affordable range for the nation, and perks like car allowances for MPs and ministers' convoys will be abolished. Leadership must serve, not enrich.

## 2.8. Reprioritize Social Spending

Funds saved from cost-cutting will be redirected to build hospitals in underserved areas, improve school infrastructure, and expand access to clean water and social protection.

## 2.9. Restore Fiscal Rule of Law

We will uphold the Charter for Fiscal Responsibility, enforce expenditure limits, and ensure every public official is held accountable for how public funds are used.

## 2.10. Revive Confidence in Public Finance

All public contracts, mining agreements, and national budgets will be published and subjected to parliamentary and public review.

## 2.11. Expand Social Safety Nets

We will expand social safety nets like in-kind transfers and food subsidies to reduce poverty and promote decent living and inclusive growth. All individuals with physical and mental disabilities that hinder them from meaningful productivity will be 100 percent catered for by the government.









MANIFESTO  
PRIORITY  
**THREE**

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# CONSOLIDATE NATIONAL UNITY, REBUILD WAR-TORN COMMUNITIES, AND ELIMINATE SECTARIANISM.

## INTRODUCTION:

National unity, restoring war-torn communities and elimination of all forms of sectarianism are widely regarded as critical pillars for building sustainable democracy, peace, and regional development in a post war country. In Uganda, national unity, restoring war-torn communities and elimination of all forms of sectarianism are complex issues, particularly in the context of past conflicts and human rights abuses. Forgiveness is often viewed as a crucial aspect of community restoration and unity, with many Ugandans emphasizing its importance in co-existence and rebuilding relationships. However, the path to reconciliation is multifaceted, involving not only individual forgiveness but also broader societal efforts toward truth-telling, accountability, and justice.

**“An outstanding model is South African President Nelson Mandela, who forgave leaders and agents of the apartheid government after South Africa’s transition to multiracial democracy in 1994. Mandela did not directly forgive in the name of others or make**

**forgiveness into a formal program or procedure, but rather his example inspired many others to forgive.”**

Research indicates that forgiveness plays a significant role in community restoration in Northern Uganda, allowing for the reintegration of perpetrators and fostering co-existence with former tormentors. Many Ugandans view forgiveness as a way to construct better relationships with those who have wronged them, even when perpetrators are not present. Forgiveness of wrongs committed and past hurts is an important vehicle to achieve reconciliation and co-existence in a society



that is wrought with past social upheavals, fragile relationships and painful memories.

Despite progress, challenges remain in achieving lasting reconciliation and national unity in the country. These include tensions between state

institutions and traditional authorities, ethnic divisions, and the ongoing need to address the root causes of conflict. Fostering national unity requires open dialogue, collaboration between different actors, and a commitment to addressing historical grievances. This includes engaging with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, religious leaders, and traditional leaders. By addressing past injustices and fostering dialogue, Uganda can work towards building a more peaceful and unified future.

## **SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS.**

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### **Post-war Victims.**

Luwero, located in Central Uganda lies at the heart of the famous “Luwero Triangle” a geographically sparse land — consisting of Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Luweero, Mityana, Mubende, Nakaseke, Nakasongola, and Wakiso districts — that was the site of the guerrilla fighting between the National Resistance Army (NRA) and the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA), commonly known as the Bush War. Its peoples suffered countless atrocities at the hands of both sides of the conflict, leading to massive displacement



and plunging the region into poverty from which it still suffers today. Other armed groups, such as the Federal Democratic Movement of Uganda (FEDEMU) and the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM), likewise committed atrocities both before and after the Bush War.

Gulu is at the heart of the Acholi sub-region and northern Uganda. The over one million residents of the North-Central Acholi sub-region — consisting of the districts of Agago, Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum, Lamwo, Nwoya, and Pader — bore the brunt of the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Over 90 percent of the entire Acholi population was displaced at some point during the fighting, with many spending over a decade in IDP camps. In the aftermath of the conflict, there was significant secondary displacement caused by land disputes due in turn to acquisitions for national parks and reserves as well as for oil exploration. This displacement further fueled the historical neglect and violence experienced by the Acholi people on the national level.

Yumbe is in the West Nile sub-region. This sub-region, made up of Arua, Adjumani, Koboko, Maracha, Moyo, Nebbi, Terego, Yumbe, and Zombo districts, has been afflicted by numerous insurgency movements after the fall of Idi Amin, namely the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF) — both UNRF I and UNRF II — and the West Nile Bank Front (WNBK). Its over two million ethnically diverse inhabitants — consisting of the Alur, Jonam,

Kakwa, Kuku, Lendu, Lugbara, Madi and Okebu peoples — also suffered from the spillover effects of neighboring conflicts in the northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan (and formerly southern Sudan), and northern Uganda, all of which resulted in large influxes of displaced persons.

Amuria is on the edge of the Teso sub-region in Eastern Uganda towards the Karamoja sub-region. The Eastern sub-region of Teso consists of Amuria, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kumi, Ngora, Pallisa, Serere, and Soroti districts. Named for the Iteso people, the region's population of over one million suffered from several conflicts, including one between Force Obote Back Again (FOBA) and the Ugandan Peoples Front/Army (UPF/A); one caused by LRA incursions; and several fought between ethnic groups — Karimojong, Bagisu, Babuya, Bhatikhana, and Shana — that continue through today, fuelled by land disputes and land grabs and further exacerbated by environmental instability and food insecurity.

Kasese is in the southwestern part of the country, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Western Rwenzori sub-region, comprising Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kasese, Kyegegwa, Kyenjojo, and Ntoroko districts, has experienced instability and conflict since before Ugandan independence. Conflict between Bakonjo and Bamba militias (later forming the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU)) over claims regarding the recognition of

the Rwenzururu Kingdom and the Toro Kingdom have led to mass killings of civilians on both sides. The Allied Democratic Front (ADF), formed from NALU members and established as an Islamist militia front, has carried out a violent anti-civilian insurgency campaign in the sub-region that continues today.

Evidence from the study by Center for civil and human rights at the University of Notre Dame revealed that majority (83.76%) of Victims of violence/armed conflicts in the affected parts of Uganda have not been adequately compensated for their suffering; majority (94.15%) of families/relatives of family members, or close friends have not received fair payment from the NRM government for their suffering; majority (77.9%) of the Leaders of organized armed groups that were involved in violence in affected parts of the country have not adequately apologized for wrongs they committed and majority (68.11%) of perpetrators of violence in these affected places of the country have not been held accountable for their crimes.

No wonder, poverty statistics show that poverty in Uganda remains overwhelmingly rural, areas that have historically faced both economic hardship and conflict-related disruptions. Of the 7.3 million people living in absolute poverty, a staggering 5.3 million live in rural areas, compared to 1.7 million in urban centers. These figures highlight the persistent economic divide between Uganda's countryside and its growing towns and cities.



Among the hardest-hit regions is Karamoja, which recorded the highest number of people living in absolute poverty, with 937,500 individuals affected. This situation has left millions of affected families to building long lasting anger and vengeance awaiting the right timebomb.

Yet forgiveness over revenge has been widely suggested to help to quell the renewal of violence and allows people to interact with one another as citizens so that they can carry out the ordinary functions of economic and political cooperation, including economic development, commerce, and countless matters of governance. Cumulatively, forgiveness contributes to sustainable peace and economic development at the national level.

To-date, Uganda remains hobbled by weaknesses in its political system, disputes over land and other property, a lack of development aid, the breakdown of family systems, and a lack of implementation of appropriate transitional justice measures like trials, truth commissions, reparations, apologies, and memorialization. Within the international community –

international lawyers, human rights activists, officials of international organizations, and the staff of NGOs focused on peace-building – forgiveness is little understood, widely ignored, and often overshadowed by other activities thought to be more urgent.

Ugandans regard forgiveness not merely as a matter of

relinquishing claims against their perpetrators, but also as one of constructing a better relationship with them. The degree of restoration varies greatly. For instance, it is quite common for victims to speak of forgiving “in the heart” perpetrators who are not present. Ugandans voice support for forgiveness at high rates despite the fact that a range of other measures, including repentance, truth-telling, acknowledgment of wrongs, apology, accountability, compensation, reparations, and development aid are widely absent.

### **A highly contested recruiting process**

In Uganda, only 3 out of 10 University graduates will be able to find a job one year after graduation. As if this is not bad enough, jobs in both the private sector and public service are filled on the basis of nepotism, tribalism and patronage rather than competence. Even where it is not an issue of nepotism, corrupt public officers end up selling job openings to the highest bidder or fraudulently selling the same job to multiple individuals. Given the tribal diversity of Uganda—which has more than fifty tribes, the probability that one of ten qualified individuals is from the same tribe as the hiring manager is very low. Though in Uganda it is common to find public offices and private organizations where more than half of the employees come from the same tribe or region as the person in charge of hiring decisions.

In Uganda, only

**3 out of 10**

University graduates will be able to find a job one year after graduation.



The consequence of compromising the recruitment process to hire family members, friends and acquaintances include an incompetent and inefficient workforce that compromises service delivery. Where recruitment is based on nepotism and tribalism it increases tribal divisions and rivalry as a result of increased perceptions of favoritism and discrimination on the basis of tribe—that could one day lead to tribal wars and genocide. Tribal tensions lead to anger and hatred that breed divisions amongst Ugandans and lead to

secessionist tendencies. The NRM government and public agencies do themselves no favors by failing to be transparent about the diversity of their workforce. A tribalist therefore is a narrow-minded person who thinks that only his or her people should be accommodated at the dinning table. Once this happens to a country, then growth and development cannot happen.

The consequence of compromising the recruitment process to hire family members, friends and acquaintances include an incompetent and inefficient workforce that compromises service delivery. In public agencies compromised recruitments undermine public confidence in public offices as a result of the inefficiencies' and corruption arising from employing persons on the basis of suspect considerations rather than merit and competency. Where recruitment is based on nepotism and tribalism it increases tribal divisions and

rivalry as a result of increased perceptions of favoritism and discrimination on the basis of tribe.

We must all be reminded of this Banyankole saying that:

**“Yoor zoon toori kumanya**

**Erahige kurungi neha!”**

**It simply means that look after all (meaning dog puppies), because you don't know which one will hunt better!**

Therefore, it is wrong and immoral for any leader, at whatever level, to be promoting sectarianism and tribalism. It is actually blissful ignorance to think that your 'own' people are the only ones capable of doing things!

Yes it's true that some groups have benefitted immensely from 40 years of NRM leadership because of unfair distribution of state resources including scholarships and unfair recruitment programs.

It is not true that the Sabiny, for instance, can't have their people working in top government positions because are incompetent. It is also not true that the only competent people in Uganda are Banyankole, Baganda, Basoga and Acholis. It is also not true that northern people are generally good for “Askari-security guard” jobs and that ‘Chapati’ makers are Basoga.

All people are created equal and blessed with unique capabilities.

When you seat and make a plan to discriminate others, then you have half the capacity to develop.

**A wide range of Salary disparities in public service.**

Employment opportunities and fair remuneration are one of the important ways in which individual persons and their families can contribute and benefit from economic growth and access to basic services. Equal access to opportunities across all aspects of life is a major prerequisite for inclusive growth, socioeconomic transformation and sustainable improvement of both human welfare and the environment. It is therefore imperative that government ensures equitable remuneration to its workers in its various Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Despite the efforts by the current government, there are wide salary disparities between

the traditional civil service and statutory bodies established by Acts of Parliament (the other public service). For instance, a director in a Government Ministry earns Shs2,369,300 per month while a deputy director in KCCA earns Shs27,000,000 per month. Other observations reveal that some public officers earn two-to-six times more than their counterparts in other public Institutions.

**A director in a Government Ministry earns**

**SHS  
2,369,300**

**While a deputy director in KCCA earns**

**SHS  
27,000,000**

The salary disparities are so wide that public officers in some institutions are required to work for several years to be able to earn what their counterparts earn in one year. Similarly, at local government level, the results show a wide salary disparity of 50 percent between the Chairperson and the Deputy as well as between the Municipal Mayor and the Deputy. The difference between the annual salary of the highest paid LG political leader (Chairman LC V) and the lowest paid leader (Sub- County/ Town Council Chairperson) is UGX. 21,216,000 per annum. In other words, it

takes 7 years for the lowest paid political leader to earn what the highest paid political leader earns in 1 year.

There is also a wide disparity between the annual salaries of the top most paid

(U1S) and least paid civil servant (U8 Lower) equivalent to UGX. 57,172,778 (as of December, 2016). This is a substantial difference that became even bigger following salary reviews of specific civil servants in January, 2017 hence requiring redress. Despite the possible underlying causes of such a big difference, which may include experience, training, required standard of living, and job requirements, there is need to raise the threshold for the least paid civil servants. Whereas the Circular from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service communicated revision of salaries, the revision was only restricted to the Head of Public Service, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Justice and the Deputy Chief Justice, the above increment did not cut across all levels within the Public Service.

Additionally, some institutions had wide salary differentials compared with their peers elsewhere as well as significant differentials among their own staff. For example, there are institutions where the ratio of the highest earner and the lowest earner is 51:1 (Uganda Coffee Development Authority), 49:1 (Uganda Industrial Research Institute), 40:1 (Uganda Land Commission), 34:1 (National Information Technology Authority) and 33:1 (Uganda Road Fund). The variations observed

are likely to contribute to low employee motivation, morale and productivity among the lowest paid earners.

The study from equal opportunity commission revealed that the Salary disparities in the public service contribute negatively towards efficiency and effectiveness of services delivery. Among the direct consequences included absenteeism, low motivation, corruption and late coming among others.

## Our promise for a New Uganda Now

### 3.1. Truth, Reconciliation, and Justice

- We will establish a National Truth, Reconciliation, and Accountability Commission to document past atrocities, facilitate truth-telling, and recommend appropriate justice systems and forms of reparations.
- We will officially recognise all war-affected regions and subregions — including Luweero Triangle, Acholi, West Nile,

Teso, Rwenzori, and others — and implement tailored recovery programmes for each.

- We will support traditional justice systems, such as mato oput in Acholi, as powerful forums for promoting forgiveness and reconciliation.

### 3.2. Reparations and Support for War-Affected Communities

- We will create a War Victims' Reparations Fund to provide fair and transparent compensation to survivors and families of those affected by war and political violence since 1979.
- We will implement land dispute resolution mechanisms in war-affected areas to address displacement and restore livelihoods.
- We will provide psychosocial support services — including trauma counselling and community healing programmes — in all post-

conflict districts to help heal the psychological wounds of war.

### 3.3 Ending Sectarianism and Tribalism

- We will review and strengthen the Equal Opportunities Act (2007) to impose strict penalties on leaders or institutions that promote tribalism, nepotism, or discrimination.
- We will require all public institutions to reflect Uganda's ethnic diversity in staffing, with annual recruitment audits published for public accountability.
- We will introduce blind recruitment in public service and large private sector jobs to guarantee hiring based on merit, not connections.

### 3.4. Equal Pay for Equal Work

- We will narrow salary gaps in public service by capping the ratio between the highest- and lowest-paid employees at no more than 10:1.

- We will immediately raise the minimum civil service salary to a living wage that guarantees dignity and meets basic needs.

- We will carry out an annual salary equity review to remove unjustified pay disparities between ministries, agencies, and local governments.

### 3.4. National Unity Festival and Social Cohesion

- We will hold an annual National Unity Festival to celebrate Uganda's diversity and strengthen unity in that diversity.
- We will integrate peace education and anti-sectarianism modules into school curricula at all levels.
- We will empower existing cultural/traditional institutions and facilitate restoration of cultural heads in regions where they were weakened such as Ankole region and others.





MANIFESTO  
PRIORITY  
**FOUR**

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# GUARANTEE EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES— CLEAN WATER, HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

## INTRODUCTION

Uganda, like many developing countries, is in the early stages of its demographic transition, with a rapidly growing working-age population expected for the next decades. This presents a vital opportunity to harness a demographic dividend—but only if strategic investments and major policy adjustments and shifts are made in education, health, and skills development. By allocating resources wisely and increasing spending on human capital—the knowledge, skills, and mental and physical well-being of the population—

Uganda can unlock higher productivity, better health outcomes, and stronger economic growth.

### SITUATION ANALYSIS

#### Health

Uganda's health sector remains severely under-resourced in infrastructure, human resource and essential supplies. As of August 2024, the Prime Minister admitted during a parliamentary

session that 82 districts lack a single public general hospital, with UGX 6.74 trillion required to fill the gap. At lower levels, 1,696 out of 2,184 sub-counties and town councils lack a Health Centre III—leaving millions without access to basic healthcare.

In districts like Pader, Agago, and Lamwo (Acholi sub-region), there is not a single hospital. Most existing Health Centre IVs offer just 24-bed capacities, which are grossly dilapidated and inadequate for the needs of growing populations in this sub-region.

Meanwhile, healthcare workers across the country frequently report shortages of protective equipment and basic medical supplies.

Preventable diseases remain a national crisis: Uganda ranks 3rd globally in malaria cases and 8th in deaths, with rural subregions experiencing the highest transmission rates (WHO 2022).

At the same time, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are on the rise—posing a growing threat to public health and requiring urgent investment in preventive and long-term care services. Between 33 and 35% of all deaths in Uganda are now attributed to NCDs.

This reflects a broader crisis in Uganda's health system—one that is largely dysfunctional across the entire life cycle, from maternal care to adult and elderly health—undermining individual well-being and national productivity.

## Education

Uganda's education and health systems have fallen short in developing a skilled and productive workforce. The Human Capital Index (HCI) for Uganda stands at 0.39 (on a scale from 0 to 1), meaning that under current health and education conditions, the average child will be only 39% as productive as they could be with full access to quality services. This reflects significant gaps in both educational quality and health that constrain future workforce productivity.

While primary school enrolment rose from 2.6 million in 1995 to 8.7 million by 2017, the average Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling (LAYS) is only 4.3, compared to 6.8 years of actual schooling. This highlights the poor quality of learning outcomes despite increased access. Rural regions suffer significant infrastructure deficits. In Napak District, for example, none of the seven sub-counties nor 20 parishes have a government-aided secondary school—despite repeated official promises by the NRM government. The rest of Karamoja sub-region is in a severe state.

School attendance remains uneven and inequitable. Only 40% of children aged 3–5 attend early childhood education; 80% of those aged 6–12 are in primary school; and just 25% make it to secondary school. Secondary school

enrolment among the richest 20% districts in Uganda is 43.1%, five times higher than among the poorest 20%, which stands at just 8.2%. Enrolment is highest in Kampala (52%) and lowest in Acholi (7%)—signalling a deliberate failure by the NRM government to uplift the most vulnerable Ugandans—citing hard to reach areas.

The cost of educating a child in Uganda continues to strain family incomes, pushing many households into poverty. Some families are forced to sell plots of land to keep children in school—often without any guarantee of school completion or future employment.

**The NRM government celebrates its UPE programme yet it allocates a laughable UGX 20,000 per primary pupil per year. In FY 2024/25, only UGX 2.497 trillion (about 2.9% of the national budget) was allocated to education—significantly below the UN-recommended threshold of 15%. In comparison, health received only UGX 2.946 trillion (about 3.9% of the national budget), and social protection a mere UGX 355.79 billion (about 0.2% of the national budget)—compared to a roughly 57% spent on official meals, allowances and entertainment.**

Girls face systemic barriers. Poverty, teenage pregnancy and school-related abuse force many out of school—60% of dropouts cite costs, and 8% cite pregnancy as the main reasons. Boys, on the other hand, are often neglected partly due to a common cultural perception that “a man must struggle,” leading many to drop out prematurely due to lack of support.

In a nutshell, poor learning outcomes limit productive employment and economic growth. Infrastructure gaps leave entire regions underserved, reinforcing inequality. Weak financing and low public investment continue to fuel high dropout rates and persistent inequity.

### Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

Safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene are vital for societal wellbeing in countries at any income level. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes, protected wells and springs, and packaged or

delivered water. Globally, Sub Saharan Africa lags behind in access to safe water at 32%, compared to 98.2% in Europe. In Uganda, just 18.7% of people use drinking water from an improved source that is on premises, available when needed, and free from faecal and priority chemical contamination, according to Macrotrends data for 2022.

A separate source, Water.org, states that out of Uganda’s 48 million people, 38 million (80%) lack access to both safe drinking water and a safe toilet.

In terms of cost, Urban poor households sometimes spend more than 22% of their income buying water from vendors due to lack of reliable and affordable piped supply.

Many rural families still spend over 58 minutes walking to collect water, reducing time for productive work and school—consistent with regional WASH surveys. Only 11% of rural households have access to piped water, compared to 46% in urban areas, and 70% in Greater Kampala. More than 50% of households use pit latrines without a slab; 5% have no sanitation facility at all. In financial year 2024/25 only Shs516.78 billion was allocated for climate change mitigation, natural resources, environment including water resources management—a figure far below the need for the WASH facilities.



# Public Infrastructure

## Transport and Energy

### Introduction

Transport and energy sectors power the economy, connect communities, drive trade, and improve quality of life. Yet, today, millions of Ugandans remain disconnected—by poor roads, unreliable transport systems, and limited access to clean and affordable energy. The vast majority of people have to rely on neglected road network, while rail, water, and air transport are underdeveloped. In the energy sector, the majority of Ugandans rely on raw biomass, with electricity access still low and renewables like solar and wind grossly underutilized.

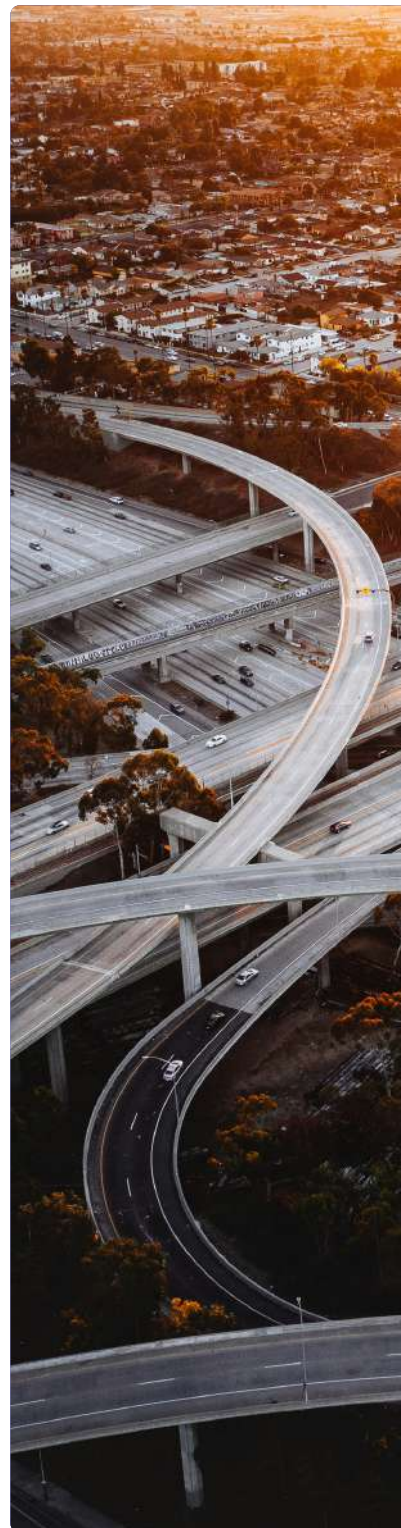
## SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Road Transport

Land transport is by far the most utilized in Uganda, handling over 96% of cargo and passenger traffic (IMF, 2024). Uganda's road network spans approximately 159,364 kilometres, but only 6,338 km is paved nationally, representing up to 3.9 percent of the total road network. The roads are classified into; National roads: ~20,854 km; District roads: ~38,603 km; Urban roads: ~19,959 km and Community access roads= ~79,948 km. Based on random assessment by the NUP Policy and research department,

of the paved roads, only 20% is in fair condition, while the rest, 80%, are in poor and deteriorating road conditions. Evidence from Kampala City scoping study by the African Cities Research Consortium and Kampala Capital City Authority indicated that Kampala which contributes up to 75% of the national revenue collection and 65% of the country's GDP has only 600km (about 29%) of the City's Road system being primarily paved or tarmacked out of the total length of 2100km. Most of the paved roads in Kampala, totalling 360km, are over 35 years old and have undergone multiple patching and repairs. A well-paved road will require reconstruction after 15-20 years.

Out of the total country's road network of 159,364 kilometres, central government only funds about 13% through UNRA/ Ministry of works and the remaining 87% responsible for local governments which are significantly underfunded. This is the reason why safety on Uganda's roads remains a major concern. The Uganda Police recorded over 12,000 road traffic accidents annually, with an average of 10 people dying per day from crashes, according to the Office of the Auditor General's 2022 report. While there are several factors contributing to these accidents, mostly the structure and design of our roads.





## Railway Transport

More than 60 years after getting independent, Uganda running on a railway network inherited from the colonial era. Even then, this network is largely

underutilized. Of the 1,250 kilometres of metre-gauge railway, only about 321 kilometres are operational today—mainly the line from Malaba through Tororo to Kampala, with links to Port Bell and Jinja.

Only recently, in May 2025, did Uganda sign an \$800 million loan agreement with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in to fund the construction of its long-delayed Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), to connect to Kenya's SGR and increase efficiency in transporting goods from Mombasa port (Reuters, May 2025).



## Water Transport

Uganda is endowed with large water bodies, including Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and Lake Kyoga, which present big opportunities for inland water transport. In total, water bodies cover approximately 15% of Uganda's surface area.

Like railway, water transport has been neglected by the NRM regime. The government operates only a few ferries while privately-owned risky boats dominate Uganda's water transport for both passenger and freight services.





## Air Transport

Uganda remains poorly connected by air, with a national aviation system that falls far short of its economic and geographic potential. While Entebbe International Airport has recently shown signs of revival—handling 2.24 million international passengers in 2024, a 16% increase from 2023—this growth has been largely attributed to loss-making Uganda Airlines’ expanded routes and the entry of new regional carriers like Kush Air and Premier Airlines. Cargo activity also rose, reaching 67,731 tonnes in 2024, up from 59,073 tonnes in 2023, according to media reports. But behind these figures is a crisis.

Entebbe remains Uganda’s only fully functional international airport, and even it is operating below its full potential. The rest of the country is virtually cut off by air. A network of 13 upcountry aerodromes—including Arua, Gulu,

Kasese, Kisoro, Jinja, Soroti, Moroto, Tororo, Masindi, Lira, Mbarara, Pakuba (in Murchison Falls National Park), and Kidepo—has been neglected for years. These regional airports should have served to connect Uganda’s diverse regions to the capital and to each other. Instead, they suffer from chronic underfunding, poor maintenance, and extremely low air traffic.

Meanwhile, the Uganda Air Cargo Corporation (UACC)—established to support export logistics and regional cargo transport—has become a symbol of state failure. According to the 2024

Auditor General’s Report, UACC is among the worst-performing public enterprises, alongside Uganda Airlines and the Uganda Railways Corporation. Its fleet is largely grounded, revenues are far below targets and not breaking even for years, assets are grossly underutilized, and it holds massive unpaid receivables, some outstanding for over five years. These indicators paint a stark picture of mismanagement, financial inefficiency, and lack of accountability.

The problem goes deeper. Under the NRM government, air transport has never been treated as a strategic priority for national development. The Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA)—mandated to oversee and promote air transport—has been mired in incompetence and scandal. Gen. Museveni himself recently acknowledged irregularities in UCAA’s recruitment process, going so far as to order the dismissal of over 150 staff. This is symptomatic of a broader governance failure that continues to undermine the aviation sector.

## Energy Sector

Uganda’s energy sector falls far short of its potential to transform lives, drive industrialisation, and power equitable economic development. Millions of Ugandans still lack access to affordable and reliable energy, despite large infrastructure investments that have been dogged by high costs due to corruption. Less than 20% of rural households are connected to the national grid, and in urban areas, frequent power outages and high tariffs make electricity





unreliable and unaffordable for most households and businesses.

Uganda enjoys now four large hydro power plants at Nalubaale, Kiira, Isimba and Karuma, with a combined generation capacity of 1,163.2 megawatts. Other sources such as Kigwabya, XsaboNkongwe solar power in Mubende, etc have added another 888.8 megawatts. This brings Uganda's total installed electricity generation capacity to 2,052 megawatts. Despite this sharp increase in electricity generation, many Ugandans struggle to access it in terms of connection to grid and cost. For instance, both grid and off-grid connections account for 42% of access to electricity in Uganda. So why doesn't everyone have access to electricity yet it is generated here?

A critical challenge is the distribution of the electricity grid. Given that a significant portion, over 70%, of Uganda's population resides in rural and remote areas, the existing grid infrastructure doesn't reach them, resulting in a substantial portion of the population being without access to electricity. The Uganda National Household Survey 2019/2020 stated that the Ugandan electricity grid reached 18.9 % of Ugandans, mainly in urban areas. Off-grid access describes alternatives to the national grid, such as Solar Home Systems, Mini grid systems, or smaller power-generating devices.

### **The per capita electricity consumption in**

**Uganda was only 75 kWh/a in 2019, while in Germany it is 6787 kWh/a.**

Notably, Uganda's power sector is primarily driven by renewable energy sources, accounting for an impressive 98% of electricity generation. Fossil fuels contribute only 2% to the electricity mix, reflecting a strong commitment to sustainability as well as a high potential of resources. The solar resources are enormous and delivered access to electricity for 38% of the population throughout the country in 2019.

### **Biomass**

Biomass—mainly firewood and charcoal—accounts for over 85% of Uganda's total energy consumption. This heavy



reliance is fuelling deforestation and exposing millions, especially women and children, to health risks from indoor air pollution. The lack of investment in clean cooking alternatives remains a public health and environmental crisis.

## Solar Energy

Solar energy offers a clear, decentralised solution to Uganda's rural electrification challenge. Yet, despite strong potential, the sector has remained underfunded and marginalised in national planning. There is no coordinated

national push to scale up off-grid solar for schools, health centres, and households.

## Wind Energy

Wind energy remains an untapped opportunity. Viable wind speeds have been identified in regions such as Karamoja and the Lake Victoria basin, but no meaningful investments or pilot projects have followed.

## Conclusion

Uganda has a young, dynamic population full of potential—but without serious investment in

education, health, skills, and jobs, that demographic dividend and potential will remain wasted. Our schools are underfunded, our health system is crumbling, and millions of youths are stuck in low-paying, and insecure work. This is not just a development failure—it is a national emergency. We can only build a prosperous Uganda by first investing in its people. Human capital development is the foundation for economic growth, social justice, and national transformation. Without it, the demographic dividend will become a demographic disaster.



# Our Promise for a New Uganda Now

## 4.1 Health Is a Right, not a Privilege

- We will progressively increase health spending to 15% of GDP to deliver quality, accessible care for all.
- We will recruit 16 times the current number of doctors and triple all other health workers to match population pressures.
- We will place a doctor and a fully equipped Health Centre III in every parish, prioritizing underserved areas.
- We will procure helicopter ambulances for regional hospitals and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan systems to enhance emergency and diagnostic care.
- We will ensure every LC1 is within 5 km range of a functioning health facility.
- We will equip and pay Village Health Teams (VHTs) and empower them to manage preventable diseases at village level
- We will launch nationwide telemedicine and mental health tele-counselling platforms to reach remote areas.
- We will build a national mental health facility in each of Northern, Eastern, and Western Uganda.
- We will reform National Drug Authority and Joint Medical Stores to fix chronic supply issues.
- We will provide housing, power, and incentive packages to attract and retain health workers in rural areas.
- We will strengthen postgraduate medical education and regional medical school infrastructure in all regions.





## 4.2 Clean Water for All

- We will ensure universal access to safe drinking water, including free piped water, solar-powered and motorized boreholes.
- We will provide at least 10 improved water sources per LC1/village, prioritizing underserved rural areas.
- We will cut urban water costs to as low as 10 shillings

per 20-liter jerrycan through public investment and targeted subsidies.

- We will make safe sanitation and hygiene a national standard, with regular inspections, awareness drives, and facilities.
- Toilet access will be free for all. We will require city, municipal, and town authorities to provide

sufficient and clean public toilet facilities at no cost to users in all public places and melting urban areas.

- We will require city and municipal governments to enforce solid waste and sewage management laws.
- We will support private sector innovations in recycling and renewable energy from waste.





### 4.3 Every Child Deserves a Decent Education

#### 4.3.1 Early Childhood Development (ECD)

- We will review and reform all ECD policies to align with international standards.
- We will make ECD free and compulsory in all public primary schools and establish a public ECD center in every LC1/village.
- We will assess, accredit, and monitor private ECD providers to meet government standards.
- We will prioritize ECD access for working mothers, especially in the informal sector, through affordable childcare solutions.
- We will absorb at least 90% of trained ECD teachers into the government payroll

and expand teacher training programs.

#### 4.3.2 Primary & Secondary Education

- We will make primary education completely free and compulsory, including meals, scholastic materials, and uniforms.
- We will implement a practical, skills-focused curriculum that reduces exam-driven cramming.
- We will build classrooms, hire more teachers, equip schools, and ensure that teachers are well-paid.
- We will ensure a maximum 1:40 teacher-student ratio to guarantee quality learning for every child.
- We will provide free sanitary pads to all girls in schools and run nationwide retention campaigns.

- We will evaluate and increase resources for learners with special needs and strengthen institutions that serve them.

- We will embed market-oriented technical and vocational skills in secondary education to prepare learners for real jobs.

#### 4.3.3 Tertiary & Vocational Education

- We will make Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) a first-choice path, not a fall back—equipping all regional BTVEs with modern tools and experts.
- We will introduce mandatory TVET electives in primary and secondary schools to build skills for production early.



- We will implement scholarship and retention programs for underserved regions and vulnerable youth.
- We will provide 1:1 access to digital tools (tablets, laptops) in public institutions.
- We will revise university curricula to align with market needs and public policy development.
- We will upgrade health and teacher training institutions to increase the supply of skilled professionals.

#### 4.4 Transport

##### 4.4.1 Build and Maintain Roads that Last

- We will increase local government funding for road construction and maintenance, raising the paved share of the national road network from 3.9% today to at least 20% by 2031.
- We will provide every district with a full set of road construction and maintenance machinery (graders, rollers, tractors, dump trucks).
- We will establish a National Road Safety Authority to enforce safety standards and reduce road deaths by 50% within three years. The Authority will operate as an independent, statutory body with clear legal powers to enforce national

road safety standards, oversee driver licensing, regulate vehicle fitness, and monitor compliance with traffic laws. It will coordinate with the Uganda Police, the Ministry of Works and Transport, and local governments to identify and address high-risk road segments, implement public education campaigns, and conduct regular audits of road infrastructure. The Authority will also collect and publish comprehensive road safety data to inform policy decisions, guide investment in safer roads, strengthen accountability, and foster a culture of safety and responsible road use nationwide.

- We will launch a “Reconstruct Kampala Roads” programme to rebuild the city’s 360 km of aged paved roads and expand tarmacking to at least 70% of the network by 2030.

##### 4.4.2 Modern Rail for Trade and Jobs

- We will fast-track construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) with strict anti-corruption safeguards, ensuring freight trains run from Malaba to Kampala within five years.
- We will launch a major modern railway project connecting the four major regions of Uganda to the capital city. This railway





will reduce transport costs, improve the movement of goods and people, and unlock regional economic potential. By linking all major regions, we will strengthen trade, enhance access to markets, and promote inclusive national development, ensuring that no part of Uganda remains isolated from the opportunities of a connected economy.

#### **4.4.3 Safe, Affordable, and Reliable Water Transport**

- We will modernise key ports and landing sites on Lake Victoria, Lake Albert, and Lake Kyoga, including the construction of passenger terminals and cargo handling facilities.
- We will acquire state-of-the-art ferries to provide safe, efficient, and reliable public water transport services.
- We will Support private water transport operators in acquiring modern boats and ferries, enhancing safety, efficiency, and service quality across Uganda's waterways.

#### **4.4.4 Connect Regions, Boost Tourism through Air Transport**

- We will upgrade at least five regional airports (Gulu, Arua, Kasese, Soroti, and Mbarara) to handle commercial passenger flights by 2030.





- We will reform Uganda Airlines and UACC into transparent, accountable, and commercially viable entities with strict performance audits.
- We will establish a substantial Domestic Air Travel Fund to incentivise private operators to open safe, affordable domestic routes.
- We will position Uganda as a regional air cargo hub for agricultural exports by investing in cold storage and cargo logistics at Entebbe and upgraded regional airports.

#### 4.5 Energy to Powering Homes, Businesses, and Industry

##### 4.5.1 Expand Grid Access

- We will connect all major trading centres, schools, and health facilities across the country to reliable electricity—through the national grid, mini-grids, or solar systems—within five years, ensuring consistent power for economic growth and service delivery.
- We will ensure that at least 60% of rural households have access to electricity—through the national grid, mini-grids, or solar systems—by 2030.
- We will lower electricity tariffs by renegotiating costly contracts and expanding affordable renewable energy generation.

- We will delete connection costs to grid for all users including domestic consumption.

##### 4.5.2 Reduce Biomass Dependence

- We will implement a national programme to expand biogas and improved cookstoves, aiming to reduce household reliance on firewood and charcoal by 40% within five years.
- We will promote tree planting and community woodlots to restore forest cover and provide a sustainable supply of biomass, while expanding alternative clean cooking energy sources.

##### 4.5.3 Scale Up Solar

- We will make solar the centrepiece of rural electrification, aiming to increase access from the current 12% to at least 40% of off-grid rural households within five years.
- We will invest in research and development to establish a vibrant solar energy subsector, harnessing Uganda's equatorial advantage to expand solar energy use and create green jobs.

##### 4.5.4 Unlock Wind Energy

- We will establish pilot large-scale wind farms in Karamoja and the Lake Victoria basin by 2028, targeting the generation



of at least 50 MW of clean energy for the national grid.

- We will offer tax incentives, grants, and low-interest financing to private investors to develop at least 20 wind-solar hybrid mini-grids for rural communities by 2030, expanding access to affordable electricity.

#### **4.5.5 Scrapping Value Added Tax on electricity domestic consumers**

- We will, introduce an amendment to the VAT Act to remove VAT on electricity consumers, effective 1st July, 2026. The effect of this, shall be to reduce the tariff for the category of consumers from almost Shs. 900 (US\$ 25 cents) to Shs. 750 (approximately US\$ 20) cents.
- We expect the immediate reduction in the tariffs to support many Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to employ more workers as business cash flows improve on account of a reduced tariff.

#### **4.5.6 Renegotiating the Bujagali generation tariff in order to reduce the end user tariff.**

- Our Government will invite the owners of Bujagali hydropower dam for a negotiation to lower the generation tariff from US\$ 8.4 cents to \$ 6.0 cents. We will be offering them an opportunity to develop another power dam like Ayago Power Station at better terms than Bujagali dam.
- A lower tariff for Bujagali is expected to lead to a lower generation tariff and ultimately a lower end user tariff.

#### **4.5.7 UEDCL will have an opportunity to issue a publically guaranteed diaspora bond.**

- UEDCL will have access to investment resources to invest in rehabilitating, expanding and modernising the electricity distribution network. This is expected to increase

electricity access, reliability of supply and affordability of electricity since the company will be receiving investment finance at relatively better terms than the current market rates.

- Overall, the scrapping of VAT on domestic consumers, a renegotiated Bujagali tariff and UEDCL benefiting from investment funds from diaspora bonds is expected to lower the end user tariff from the current Shs. 956/= to utmost Shs. 500.
- With domestic consumers paying not more than Shs. 500 per unit, it is expected that the cost for using electricity for cooking would have come down to outcompete Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and biomass like charcoal.



# MANIFESTO PRIORITY **FIVE**



# CREATE 10 MILLION NEW JOBS BY 2032, LEVERAGING TOURISM (25.3%), MANUFACTURING (60%), SPORTS, AND THE CREATIVE ECONOMY (14.7%).

## INTRODUCTION:

Uganda has one of the world's most youthful and fastest-growing populations. Uganda has one of the youngest and fastest-growing populations in the world and is among the top four (4) globally. Yet, our economy is failing to create adequate and decent jobs for the youthful population. Economic growth registered in the past has not resulted in a sufficient structural transformation in employment. Over 75% of our population is under 30, but millions of youths are trapped in unemployment, underemployment, or informal

work with little pay, no job security or uncertain future prospects. The demand for wage workers in the private sector has not kept up to speed with the growth in the labour force. The low job creation in the formal private sector is a critical factor behind Uganda's lack of job transformation. Evidence from Uganda's Census report 2024 highlights that majority (50.9%) of youth (aged 18–30 years) are not in education, employment or training [by gender 57.5 % for female and 42.7% for Male].

The high cost of doing business has continued to hamper Uganda's economy from generating enough productive and decent jobs. Although Uganda has made a 16 percent improvement in doing business in the last five years, more still needs to be done, especially regarding easing access to construction permits, electricity access, trading across borders, registering property, paying taxes and access to affordable credit. Despite the reforms made in the financial sector, interest rates in Uganda remain high, standing

at between 20 percent and 23 percent; hence, the majority of micro, small and medium enterprises, which represents about 74 percent, are constrained by access to affordable credit. This leaves about 85% of actively working Ugandans trapped in the informal sector—as boda riders, street vendors, casual labourers, or unpaid family workers—according to the National Labour Force Survey of

2016-2017. According to Women in Informal Employment Globalising and Organising (WIEGO) report 2025, this figure is at 90%.

Recent decent work and economic growth metrics indicate that unemployment rate for the persons between aged (14-64 years) is 14.5% for female and 10.7% for male (Census, 2024 results). But this hides the true crisis: people are working, but not earning adequately compared to increasing standards of living, inflation and fragility of the market prices.

University graduates continue to roam the streets because their skills don't match market needs. In recent years, many have been forced to seek work in the Middle East as domestic workers or security guards—often under exploitative and abusive conditions that border on modern-day slavery. Facts from the Uganda Bank's Association indicate that each year, more than 110,000 Ugandans go out to look for jobs, with the biggest destinations being Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Yemen, and other parts

in Europe and the Americas. Labor externalisation has potential source for revenue generation with Shs25b received from migrate workers in the years 2022&2023 in form of expression of interest fees, fines, accreditation, job orders (local & foreign) and license fees. Compared to countries like Egypt which gets nearly Shs90trillion from it migrate workers, the Ugandan figure is too low. This could be explained by the fact that the Ugandan skill sets are not competitive on global scale thus end up engaging in casual and low paying jobs which end up exploiting them.

Low survival rate of businesses in Uganda despite being one of the most entrepreneurial countries in the world has also limited job growth. According to the World Bank Group jobs strategy for inclusive growth report 2019, Ugandan firms do not suffer from barriers to entry, there are signs that they may suffer from barriers to growth. Firm survival rates are declining in Uganda. Only one out of four firms remain operational after the first five years of existence. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor survey identifies Uganda as the country with the most entrepreneurial culture in the world regarding how business opportunities are viewed and cherished.

Our economy remains overly dependent on subsistence agriculture, which employs more than 60% of Ugandans but offers low productivity and

income, while industries and services are not growing fast enough to absorb the swelling youth population. Slow pace of urbanization has resulted into sluggish rural-urban migration leaving a huge proportion of the labour force trapped in low-productive agriculture. The slow reduction in the agricultural labour force explains Uganda's relatively slow urbanisation process. Urban centres, towns and cities offer a collection of more wage jobs in higher value-added sectors and off-farm informal sector opportunities. The World Bank Group jobs strategy for inclusive growth report 2019 notes that the low agricultural yields are responsible for reduced opportunities for urbanization by reducing resources for diversification and migration.

The quality of jobs in Uganda remains low, with 78% of the labour force engaged in vulnerable employment. Most jobs in the country are in the informal sector with majority characterized by low pay and job insecurity which remains a strong hindrance to the country's jobs transformation agenda. The informal sector in Uganda employs about 13.3 million people out of the 15.8 million working population representing about 85 percent of total employment. Labour relations in the informal sector are primarily based on casual employment, kinship and social relations rather than contractual arrangements with formal guarantees.





**The following sectors are targeted areas for producing 10million new jobs.**



#### **Tourism Sector and related value chain.**



Tourism is one of the world's largest and fastest-growing industries, accounting for roughly 10% of global GDP and generating one in every five new jobs worldwide over the past five years (World Travel & Tourism Council, 2023). In

Uganda, tourism is a critical pillar of the economy, contributing approximately 7.5% of GDP and earning about USD 1.5 billion in foreign exchange annually (Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, 2023).



Uganda's rich natural endowments—such as the endangered mountain gorillas of Bwindi and Mgahinga, the source of the Nile, vast lakes, and extensive biodiversity—position it as a unique destination within East Africa. Despite this, much of Uganda's tourism potential remains underexploited and less commercialized compared to regional peers like Kenya and Tanzania. Eco-tourism and community-based tourism offer substantial growth opportunities, given Uganda's conservation and cultural heritage.

With targeted investment in infrastructure, marketing, and sustainable tourism practices, The NUP government will significantly increase visitor numbers, boost revenue, and create jobs, ultimately becoming a leading destination in Africa.

## SITUATION ANALYSIS.

Uganda is internationally recognized among the top 10 countries globally for its exceptional tourist attractions, including the iconic mountain gorillas, the source of the Nile, diverse wildlife, and rich cultural heritage (World Travel & Tourism Council, 2023). Despite this global crown, significant tourism opportunities remain underexploited.

In 2019, tourism contributed approximately 7.7% to Uganda's GDP, but the sector was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, dropping to around 2.5% in 2020. This decline

led to a loss of roughly 40% of tourism-related jobs, with employment in the sector falling from 536,600 in 2019 to about 321,960 in 2020 (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2021). In the year 2023, international tourist arrivals increased by 56 percent to 1.274 million tourists compared to 814,085 arrivals in 2022 and the peak of 1.52 million in 2019. The international tourism receipts reached USD 1.03 billion in 2023. By 2024, the broader services sector—which includes tourism, trade, transport, and finance—accounted for 42.6% of GDP. Tourism receipts rebounded to an estimated USD 1.47 billion in 2024, signalling gradual recovery (Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, 2024).

**Despite its economic importance, the tourism sector remains chronically underfunded. In the FY2024/25 national budget of UGX 72 trillion, only about 289.6 billion was allocated to the tourism development programmes and its promotion programmes. Only Shs 55 billion was allocated to**

**Uganda's Missions Abroad to support the Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) to market Uganda to potential tourists, market our exports and attract more investors— an amount insufficient to fully unlock Uganda's tourism potential (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 2024).**

Marketing challenges are significant. According to the International Growth Centre (IGC), 60% of foreign tourists learn about Uganda's attractions primarily through word-of-mouth, indicating low international consumer awareness, especially in key markets like Europe, Australia, and China. Marketing efforts remain fragmented and sporadic, limiting Uganda's brand visibility. Additionally, the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (GKMA), the main gateway for tourists, faces issues such as congestion, pollution, petty crime, and an unattractive urban environment, which diminish the country's overall appeal (World Bank, 2023).

Moreover, while Uganda possesses abundant natural and cultural tourism assets, value addition and commercialization remain limited, leaving much of the sector's potential untapped. Despite efforts by the players, evidence indicates that there is a decline in lion populations, from 373 to 275, suggesting ongoing challenges in predator conservation; the average length of stay decreased from 8.3 nights to 7.6, and the proportion of leisure tourists dropped from 19.3% to 15.7% by end of FY2023/24, underscoring a shift in tourist behavior.

Incidences of human-wildlife conflicts increased from 3,436 to 4,414, signaling the need for better strategies to manage interactions between wildlife and local communities. Strategic interventions are essential to revitalize Uganda's tourism industry, focusing on upgrading infrastructure, conservation efforts, strengthening marketing efforts, and enhancing the visitor experience through professional customer service.

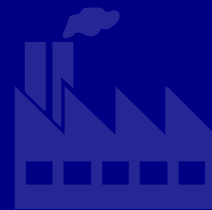
Tourism has high transformative power to Uganda's economy if fully harnessed. For example, according to the World Bank survey for Uganda in 2013, Attracting 100,000 additional leisure tourists would add 11 percent to exports and 1.6 percent to GDP; Persuading a tourist to spend one additional night in Uganda would add 7 percent to exports and 1.0 percent to GDP; 8 percent annual growth in leisure and conference tourists would generate an additional USD 220 million in receipts per annum.

These facts make a compelling case for us to prioritise the funding and implementation of strategies focusing on attracting tourists, make them stay longer and spend more in the country and drive its growth.

In terms of contribution to employment in the economy, Tourism will generate 239,000 jobs directly each year for the manifesto period. This includes employment by hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation services including commuter services. The total contribution of Tourism to employment (including wider effects from investment, the supply chain and induced income impacts is projected at 2,527,500 jobs by 2030 (of total employment).

Uganda's tourism sector is well poised to be the leading growth and development sector in the country over the manifesto period. This is in part due to the expansive array of tourist attractions the country is blessed with including ten national parks that boast a cocktail of fascinating wildlife species, various mountains, waterfalls and cultural sites, including 12 Wildlife Reserves; 5 Community Wildlife Management Areas; and 13 Wildlife Sanctuaries. The ten National Parks include Queen Elizabeth, Lake Mburo, Murchison Falls, Kidepo Valley, Kibale, Mount Elgon, Rwenzori Mountains, Semuliki, Mgahinga Gorilla, and Bwindi Impenetrable National Parks. These parks display the best in East Africa. Their Rift Valley landscapes and tropical forests make dramatic

backdrops to an extensive variety of flora and fauna.



### **Firms and the related value chain**

Manufacturing plays a crucial role in economic growth and development, reflected in its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and overall development. The multiplier effect of manufacturing is exciting – every shilling of output in the sector generates levels of economic activity across society through its ecosystem, related value chains and job creation. No sector in Uganda does more to generate broadscale economic growth and, ultimately, higher living



standards than manufacturing. Uganda's manufacturing sector is composed mainly of food processing, beverages, and tobacco, saw milling, paper and printing, bricks and cement, steel and metal products, textile clothing and footwear, chemicals, petroleum and other chemical products, non-metallic minerals, among others.

According to the National Development Plan III (NDP III), manufacturing is essential for the growth of the country. It has a high potential for enhanced economies of scale for factor productivity and deeper, more dynamic, and stronger forward and backward linkages with other sectors. In addition, it has a greater diversification into a variety of economic activities - a robust manufacturing sector is expected to accelerate Uganda's industrialization agenda.

The manufacturing sector is a key engine of growth in Uganda due to its strong linkages and spill-over effects. In Uganda, the sector consumes a staggering 66.7 percent of all the power generated, contributes 18.6 percent to the GDP, 19 percent of the total exports to the global market and 14 percent of the tax revenue collected. The number of industrial establishments in Uganda increased from 80 in 1986 to 4,920 in 2019 and over 1.3 million people are employed in the Industrial Sector.

According to a report by the Uganda Manufacturers

Association, the manufacturing sector is dominated by small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which make up 93.5% of firms operating in the sector. SMEs are the drivers of the Ugandan economy for they make up close to 90% of the businesses in Uganda. When the SMEs in Uganda, especially those in the manufacturing sector ecosystem are well supported and enabled to realize their potential, the

employment levels of the country will improve, economic development of the country will be enabled, and financial inclusion as a goal will be achieved.

The sector has the potential to do better but needs to be deliberately supported in its efforts and on its journey. Although the manufacturing sector in Uganda has undoubtedly gone through a leap of developments in the last three decades, it has the potential to do better and needs to be supported to thrive leading to economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication which are key priorities in NUP Manifesto 2026. The manufacturing sector is seen as a key driver for economic growth and employment over the manifesto period, with the potential to absorb a large number of the 600,000 people who enter the Ugandan job market annually.

Industrial Parks and Investment Promotion. Uganda has increasingly adopted industrial parks as a policy tool for

stimulating economic growth. The existing industrial parks include the Namanve Park (with 190 companies operating); Liao Shen Park in Kapeeka (19 companies); Sino-Uganda Industrial Park in Mbale (18 companies); Luzira Park (11 companies); Bweyogerere Park (8 companies); and MMP in Buikwe (6 companies). Other operational industrial parks include: Jinja, Soroti, Kasese, Mbarara, and Tian Tang-Mukono Industrial Parks. These parks are geographically designated zones planned for manufacturing, trade, and service industries. The Kampala Industrial and Business Park (KIBP) is the largest and most developed, and hosts a significant portion of the country's industrial activity.

According to the International Growth Centre (IGC), firms located within industrial parks consistently outperform those outside the parks in key performance areas such as sales, purchases, wages, employment, exports, taxes, and capital investment. This performance underscores the potential of industrial parks as catalysts for enhancing productivity and competitiveness in Uganda's private sector. The total contribution of firms and related value chain to employment (including wider effects from investment, the supply chain and induced income impacts) is projected at 6,000,000 jobs by 2030 (of total employment).







## Sports and the entire entertainment sector

Uganda's rich cultural heritage—with 56 officially recognized indigenous communities, and estimates extending up to 65—offers vast potential for the growth of creative enterprises. A mapping of cultural and creative industries by the UNESCO National Commission of Uganda in 2009, although dated and in need of an update, highlighted that the culture sector contributes significantly to economic growth, job creation, export earnings, and promotes social inclusion, cultural diversity, and human resource development.

Uganda has also consistently participated in and excelled

at various sports on the global stage, particularly in athletics. From the athletics track to the netball court, cricket pitch, boxing ring, basketball court, and football field, the country's athletes continue to raise Uganda's profile internationally. This momentum presents a unique opportunity to harness the power of sports for holistic economic development.

Beyond medals and individual accolades, these sporting achievements generate both direct and indirect socio-economic benefits for Ugandan society. Sporting victories serve as powerful unifiers, helping

to bridge cultural, social, and political divides—and fostering a sense of national pride and unity that strengthens social cohesion. In fact, participation in sports and cultural activities—at any level—has long proven effective in uniting people from diverse traditional backgrounds.

Sports also provide a constructive outlet for youth, equipping them with essential life skills, offering positive engagement, and helping reduce the risk of crime and negative influences.

Economically, sports contribute to job creation across multiple sectors. These include:

Direct employment for athletes, coaches, team staff, and administrators;

Media and broadcasting opportunities for journalists, camera crews, producers, and technical staff;

Roles in hospitality and tourism—from hotels and restaurants to transport services during events; and opportunities in the sports business sector, including equipment manufacturing, marketing, merchandising, and facility management.

The situation. The global rise of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) has demonstrated that investing in creativity yields substantial economic and social returns. Countries that actively support their artists, filmmakers, musicians, and designers reap benefits not only through increased tourism but also through boosts in innovation, entrepreneurship, exports, and job creation. Uganda stands on the threshold of a similar transformation, with a vibrant cultural and sporting landscape that could drive inclusive national development.

Music festivals, for instance, are more than entertainment—they stimulate tourism, a critical pillar of Uganda's economy, while also serving as marketplaces for creative goods and services. They attract investment, inspire innovation, and foster skill development. Local musicians gain platforms to grow their careers; artisans connect with broader markets; and

young entrepreneurs discover new business opportunities. Uganda's music, film, and arts sectors, particularly youth-led, show enormous promise. But only a handful of internationally recognized talents have emerged, supported by access to home studios and digital platforms.

Festivals such as Bayimba, Roast and Rhyme, and Nyege Nyege have gained traction, attracting both domestic and international audiences, and creating ripple effects across the creative value chain—from performance to hospitality. Similarly, the sports and tourism sectors are closely intertwined. Sporting events, both local and international, bring in spectators who engage with the country's broader tourism offerings—from national parks to cultural heritage sites. This creates a strategic opportunity to market Uganda as a complete cultural and sports tourism destination.

Despite these emerging opportunities, Uganda's government has historically underinvested in the creative and sports sectors, limiting their potential to contribute meaningfully to national development. While individual artists and sports figures continue to shine through personal effort, there remains a lack of consistent state support, coordinated policy frameworks, and dedicated public funding for creative industries and grassroots sports development. National budgets have often allocated minimal resources to

these sectors, viewing them as peripheral rather than central to economic transformation.

The few thriving cultural festivals and international sports successes in Uganda have largely depended on private sponsors, development partners, or individual efforts—rather than a clear, deliberate government strategy. Infrastructure to support culture and sports—such as community theatres, arts hubs, and sports fields—remains limited, unevenly distributed, or poorly maintained. Notably, the Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC), which should be central to cultural development, has steadily declined and grown increasingly invisible in national discourse.

This lack of investment undermines talent development—particularly in rural areas where access to facilities, mentorship, and opportunities is severely limited. There is an urgent need for strategic and sustained public investment in both sports and culture as pillars of national development in order to unlock the full potential of Uganda's cultural richness and youthful population. The total contribution of sports and entire entertainment sector to employment (including wider effects from investment, the supply chain and induced income impacts is projected at 1,472,500 jobs by 2030 (of total employment).



# Our Promise for a new Uganda Now



## 5.1 Tourism pacts.

### Increase Tourism Funding Threefold

**We will increase the current tourism funding from the current approximately Shs289.6 billion in FY2024/25 by 10 times within the first year of our**

administration as guided by tourism experts for sector optimization. This increase will fund critical infrastructure development within the tourist sites, construction of tourism roads, road rehabilitation and upgrades, support product development, and expand marketing efforts, driving sustained growth and enhancing Uganda's global competitiveness.

### Streamline Visa Processes Using Technology

We will leverage digital platforms to simplify online visa applications, reducing processing time from three days to one, and introduce visa-on-arrival for most countries to ease entry and attract more visitors.

### Boost Visitor Experience and Satisfaction

We will invest in customer service training, regulate hotel grading, and improve air transport access to ensure seamless, high-quality experiences for all tourists.

We will improve visitor satisfaction levels from 70% in 2019/20 to 98.9% by 2030, reflecting enhanced service delivery and tourist experiences.

### Promote International Leisure and Conference Tourism

Launch targeted campaigns and partnerships to attract high-spending international tourists and business travellers, capitalizing on Uganda's unique attractions including Lake Victoria Islands

### Expand Domestic Tourism

We will encourage Ugandans to explore local destinations through awareness campaigns and affordable packages, recognizing domestic tourism as a foundation for a resilient industry.

### Lower Gorilla and Chimpanzee Trekking

We will review fees charged on gorilla and chimpanzee trekking to stimulate visitor volumes, leveraging Uganda's unique position as a leading gorilla and chimpanzee trekking destination in Africa.

### Protect Wildlife Areas from Oil Drilling

We will enforce strict environmental protections in national parks. We will not support mineral exploitations such as oil drilling in national parks balancing conservation with economic activities, to preserve Uganda's natural heritage and tourism appeal.





### **Develop Iconic Infrastructure Projects**

We will construct high-end glass bridge and eco-friendly high-end facilities at different falls along Uganda's rivers such as the Karuma Bridge to increase tourist stays and spending, rejecting destructive projects such as large hydro power dam construction.

### **Invest in Bird-Watching Tourism**

We will commission research and develop bird-watching trails and services, tapping into Uganda's extraordinary bird biodiversity to attract niche and longer-stay tourists.

### **Upgrade the Source of the Nile Site**

We will develop world-class amenities, information centers, and hotels at Jinja's Nile source, supported by a comprehensive master plan for the entire hinterland to enhance visitor experience.

### **Restore and Protect Key National Parks**

We will strengthen anti-poaching measures and manage invasive species in national parks.

### **Improve Road Access to Tourism Hotspots**

We will allocate targeted funding to upgrade critical roads leading to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest and Mgahinga National Parks, ensuring safer and faster travel for visitors.

### **Simplify Trekking Permit**

We will implement an online, transparent permit system modeled after Rwanda's to reduce bureaucratic delays and improve coordination between permits, hotels, and tour operators.

### **Develop Adventure Tourism Offerings**

We will promote and brand adventure activities like white-water rafting and mountain





climbing, enhancing Uganda's profile as a premier adventure destination.

### **Empower Tourism Workforce**

We will invest in professional training and capacity building to equip tourism staff and others in the service industry with skills for delivering world-class visitor experiences.

### **Ramp Up Strategic Marketing and Branding**

We will significantly increase the marketing budget with a focus on international sports events, athletics, and digital campaigns to position Uganda as a top travel destination.

### **Forge Public-Private Partnerships**

We will collaborate closely with private tourism entrepreneurs to align government policies and investments with industry insights, fostering innovation and efficiency.

### **Leverage Cultural and Heritage Sites**

We will partner with cultural institutions to develop historic sites, beaches, and parks into attractive tourism products, broadening Uganda's appeal.

### **Reinstate Seasonal Pricing Policies**

We will reintroduce lower off-season rates and prioritize longer-stay tourists for permit allocation, ensuring better tourist distribution and maximizing revenues throughout the year.

We will promote home-grown innovation and entrepreneurship through targeted SME support programs. [Improve welfare for public servants especially medical officers, Police and teachers]

## **5.2 Firms and the entire value chain.**

### **5.2.1. Lowering the Cost of Doing Business**

We will reform Uganda's business environment to reduce the cost of doing business by lowering taxes, simplifying licensing procedures, and promoting digital solutions to cut bureaucratic delays.

We will operationalise and expand the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre (UBFC) to streamline business registration and licensing.

We will establish transparent, consistent regulatory frameworks and negotiate lower electricity tariffs and lending rates to make Uganda more investor-friendly.

We will revise electricity tariffs, especially for industrial users, and negotiate lower interest rates and affordable financing modalities to reduce the cost of capital and support long-term investments.

### **5.2.2. Expanding Access to Finance**

We will promote financial inclusion by working with the financial sector to increase access to affordable, long-term capital, particularly for SMEs

and informal sector businesses.

We will negotiate with financial institutions to lower interest rates and develop financing products suitable for Uganda's development needs.

### 5.2.3. Digital Transformation and Innovation

We will promote the uptake of digital technologies to improve productivity, drive innovation, and enhance service delivery in both public and private sectors.

We will support digital platforms that streamline business procedures and reduce costs associated with inefficiencies.

### 5.2.4. Investment in Industrial Parks

We will influence increased employment in the industrial sector through establishment and promotion of industries that create large-scale employment opportunities, ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development.

We will design and implement policies that promote industrial parks as complete value chains with industrial clusters. There is sufficient evidence and consensus in the literature that when production, manufacturing and service industries cluster together, they generate more productivity gains and job creation by attracting new initiatives into a sparse industrial landscape. For foreign investors, no

single firm is incentivised to locate in a new area without others. Governments can foster industrial clusters by concentrating quality institutions, social services, and infrastructure in particular areas as common special economic zones to boost foreign investment.

We commit to developing at least 30 industrial parks by 2030 with capacity to generate a minimum of 6,000,000 jobs [across the value chain] by 2030. We aim at least of 200 companies per industrial park each generating about 200,000 jobs. We will deploy up to shs1.05trillion in developing these 30 industrial parks to support regional industrial hubs and clusters.

We will provide core infrastructure, utilities, and land access to serious domestic investors to remove barriers to productive investment.

We will support clustering of firms in industrial parks to enhance linkages, productivity, and innovation through agglomeration effects.

We will award government scholarships and grant students' loans under the current student's loan scheme based on qualifications and skills in shortage

### 5.2.5. Enhancing Impact of Industrial Parks

We will commission a comprehensive evaluation of the economic impact of Uganda's industrial parks and

# 6,000,00

Jobs by 2030.

# 200

Companies per industrial park each generating about 200,000 jobs.

adjust policies to maximize their effectiveness.

We will work with existing park-based firms to identify barriers to exports and align incentives with infrastructure development and basic services.

We will offer fiscal incentives such as tax breaks to park-based firms, prioritizing domestic investors who have been historically overlooked.

We will ensure that new park investments are guided by evidence of what works to promote competitiveness and export potential.

### 5.2.6. Fiscal and Tax Reforms

We will attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to Uganda while eliminating discretionary tax exemptions. Foreign investment is needed in sectors and industries with the potential to generate formal sector and export-led



jobs and to foster linkages with domestic producers and service providers. Attracting foreign investment is necessary for creating more export jobs. Large firms provide better jobs in Uganda, and whereas small and medium-sized enterprises grow organically, FDI brings large-scale investment into the country.

We will implement progressive tax reforms to simplify the tax system, ensure fairness, and stimulate business activity.

We will introduce targeted tax incentives for priority sectors such as tourism, mining, real estate, and manufacturing—especially for large and local investors.

### 5.2.7. Promoting Local Content and Inclusive Procurement

We will enforce a local content strategy to prioritize Ugandan firms in public procurement.

We will introduce preference and reservation schemes for SMEs, especially those owned by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), women, and youth.

### 5.2.8. Supporting SMEs and the Informal Sector

We will provide SMEs and informal businesses with access to affordable credit, business development services, and entrepreneurship training to transition them into the formal economy.

We will launch Youth Employment Zones in all regions with apprenticeships, enterprise hubs, and capital support.

We will reform and expand the Skilling Uganda initiative to match real market demand.

We will formalize the informal sector, with legal recognition, credit access, and social protection.

We will enforce ethical labour export standards and establish a government-run External Labour Bureau to ensure fair pay for Ugandans working abroad and protect them from exploitation and abuse.

### 5.2.9. Competing in Regional and Continental Markets

We will support Ugandan firms to increase their competitiveness under the East African Community (EAC) and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by improving standards, quality, and productivity.

### 5.2.10. Cover Gaps in skills mismatch

We will award government scholarships and grant students' loans under the current student's loan scheme based on qualifications and skills in shortage.

We will Produce and publish quarterly national scarce skills and occupation report

to highlight critical scarce qualifications and skills needs in the country. The report will inform, inter alia: human resource planning and development; resource allocation and prioritization of development of critical skills; the development of relevant qualifications programmes and curricula review and development; and international recruitment strategies.

## 5.3 Steering the Sports and entire entertainment sector

### 5.3.1. Rebrand Uganda as a Global Talent and Culture Hub

We will rebrand Uganda as a destination for talent, arts, and culture. We will start





with developing regional athletics and cultural centres of excellence and hand them over to private operators under structured agreements, ensuring high-quality service delivery and long-term sustainability. These centres will nurture elite talent, boost regional economies, and promote Uganda on the global cultural map.

### 5.3.2. Boost Public Investment in Sports Infrastructure

We will significantly increase budgetary allocation to the sports sector, prioritizing the development of regional stadiums with a seating capacity of at least 20,000 people. These facilities will meet international standards, enabling Uganda to host continental and international events—unlocking economic benefits while ending the costly and embarrassing practice of playing “home” matches abroad.

### 5.3.3. Partner with the Private Sector for Sustainable Sports Growth

We will expand public-private partnerships in sports infrastructure. This will include incentives for building, operating and maintaining sports facilities, with clear cost-recovery frameworks



and shared revenue models to ensure sustainability.

### 5.3.4. Create a National Creative Industries Development Fund

We will first track the approval of copyright and intellectual law to support musicians, filmmakers, fashion designers, visual artists, and other entrepreneurs/innovators. Our government will make sure people own and benefit from their talents and creativity from inception.

We will establish a dedicated Creative Industries Fund to support musicians, filmmakers, fashion designers, visual artists, and cultural entrepreneurs. This fund will build necessary infrastructure, provide grants, low-interest loans, and capacity-building support to grow Uganda's creative economy.

### 5.3.5. Support Grassroots Sports and Youth Talent Development

We will invest in upgrading existing sports infrastructure across districts, support grassroots clubs and academies, and launch elite athlete training programs.



Special focus will be placed on youth engagement, gender equity in sports, and promoting traditional games as part of cultural heritage preservation.

### 5.3.6. Promote Culture and Creative Tourism

We will position culture as a driver of tourism growth, supporting annual festivals, arts markets, and cultural showcases that attract visitors, generate revenue, and celebrate Uganda's rich heritage. We will integrate cultural tourism into national marketing campaigns and support local communities in developing authentic experiences for tourists.





# MANIFESTO PRIORITY **SIX**



# ESTABLISH A PUBLIC-SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM TO TRANSFORM AGRICULTURE, ENSURE FOOD SECURITY, ENHANCE EDUCATION OUTCOMES AND SUPPORT A HEALTHY POPULATION.

## INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture remains the most important sector and pillar of Uganda's Economy, employing about 79% of Uganda's working age population and contributing about 46% of the total export earnings and providing a large share of raw materials for the industry, and employing 65% of the total population. The sector

comprises approximately 65% crop production, 25% livestock, and 10% fisheries. Key crops include coffee, bananas, oil seeds (sesame, soybean, sunflower), tea, cotton, cereals, fresh produce, and vegetables. Livestock encompasses cattle, goats, pigs, and poultry.

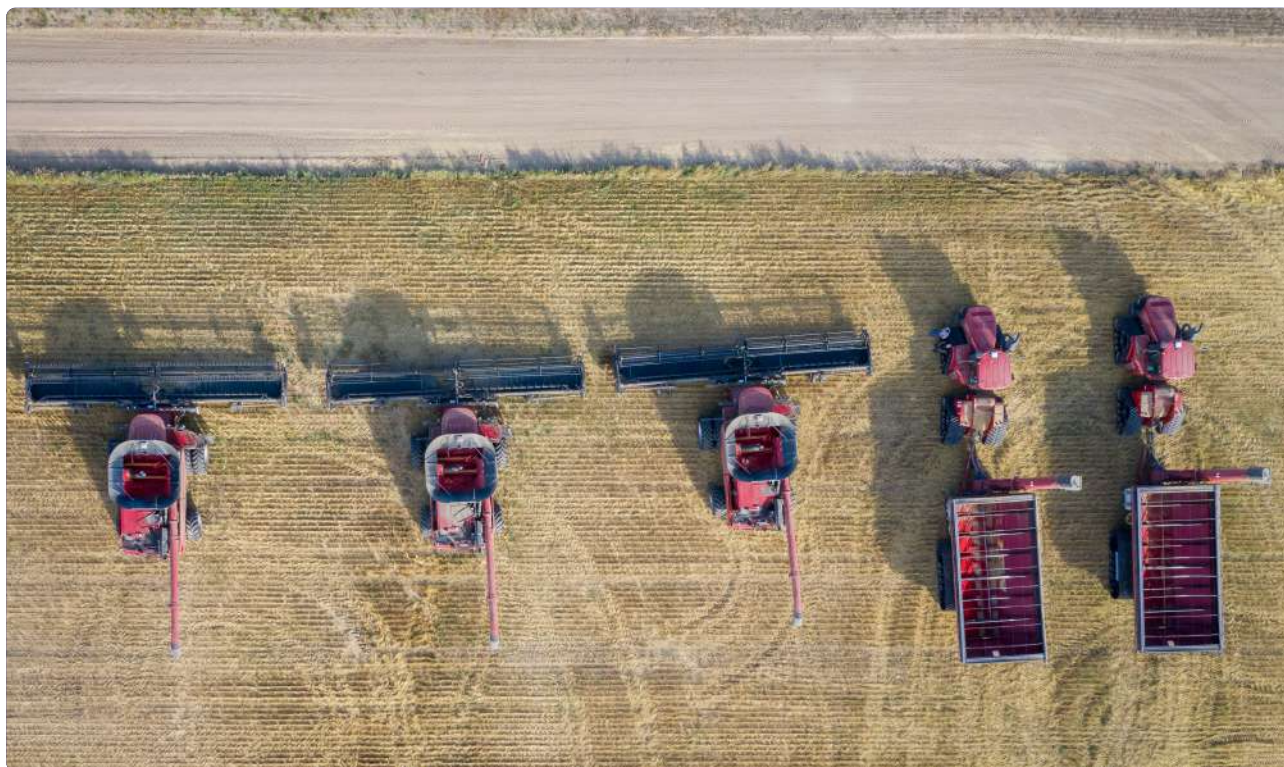
Uganda is blessed with fertile lands and diverse climates. Eighty(80%) percent of the land is arable, yet only 35% is cultivated, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The country is rich in freshwater reserves, and two rainy seasons support continuous agricultural production.

# AGRICULTURE

Remains the most important sector and pillar of Uganda's Economy, employing about

**79%**

Of Uganda's working age population



Uganda's agriculture landscape is classified into nine agro-ecological zones, each adapted to different crops—from bananas and coffee around Lake Victoria to drought-resistant grains in the north and east

## The nine zones include:

**Lake Victoria Crescent:** This zone covers areas around Lake

Victoria and experiences a tropical rainforest climate. It is characterized by high rainfall and fertile soils, suitable for growing crops like bananas, coffee, tea, and cocoa.

**Central 1:** Located in the central part of the country, this zone experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern with two distinct rainy seasons. It is suitable for growing

a wide range of crops, including maize, beans, bananas, and coffee.

**Central 2:** Like Central 1, this zone also experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern. It is suitable for growing crops like maize, beans, bananas, and coffee.

**Eastern:** This zone covers the eastern part of Uganda and





experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern. It is suitable for growing crops like maize, millet, sorghum, and beans.

**West Nile:** Located in the north-western part of the country, this zone experiences a unimodal rainfall pattern with a single rainy season. It is suitable for growing crops like maize, sorghum, millet, and groundnuts.

**North-East:** This zone covers the north-eastern part of Uganda and experiences a semi-arid climate with low and unreliable rainfall. It is suitable for growing drought-resistant crops like sorghum, millet, and groundnuts.

**Western:** This zone covers the western part of Uganda and experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern. It is suitable for growing crops like bananas, coffee, tea, maize, and beans.

**South-West:** This zone covers the south-western part of Uganda and experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern. It is suitable for growing crops like bananas, coffee, tea, maize, and beans.

**Northern:** This zone covers the northern part of Uganda and experiences a unimodal rainfall pattern with a single rainy season. It is suitable for growing crops like sorghum, millet, and groundnuts.

“Economic growth and poverty move with the fortunes of Uganda’s agriculture sector, which, in turn, depends on the whims of the weather. Farmers will not invest in commercial agriculture while counterfeit and

poor-quality inputs dominate the market. They need to be able to trust the distribution system and have tenure security and access to finance. This requires effective policies and regulations, and that politics steers clear of the agriculture sector”.-Christina Malmberg Calvo, World Bank Country Manager for Uganda.

## **SITUATION ANALYSIS: UNLOCKING UGANDA’S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL LAND & CULTIVATION**

Uganda is richly endowed with arable land—about 80% of the country is suitable for farming—but only 35% of this land is currently under cultivation. This means that two-thirds of potentially productive land lies dormant, waiting to be activated. The production of some key crops and their value, however, has been growing over the years.

Official figures indicate that maize production has surged from 3.4 million MT in 2018 to 5 million MT in 2024, reflecting increased farmer activity. Maize exports have correspondingly grown, rising from \$63.5 million (FY 2018/19) to \$195.3 million (FY 2023/24) —a strong indicator that Uganda is scaling up commercial production. Coffee is leading export valued at \$1.14 billion (FY 2023/24). Agriculture accounted for 24% of GDP and 35% of export earnings in FY 2022/23

While agricultural output has increased, productivity is still heavily grounded in nature and tradition. Farming remains rain-fed, mechanization is minimal, and many farmers rely on outdated tools and low-yield seed varieties. Only about 10% of commercial farms use irrigation, leaving yields vulnerable to rainfall variability. Mechanization levels are low, and market links remain underdeveloped—resulting in wasted opportunities and poor profitability.

Despite the capacity of Uganda's arable land to feed 200 million people per year, according to Uganda Agri-Economic Outlook 2024, Uganda continues to face serious food-insecurity issues. According to the recently released Uganda Census 2024 report, majority (57%) of 48 million Ugandans are food insecure.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicates that 2.3 million Ugandans are in full food crisis, 11.9 million (26%) are under high stress, and 31.7 million (69%) experience minimal food insecurity.



### **Fisheries & Aquaculture: A Growth Frontier**

**Fisheries contribute at least 12% of agricultural GDP, supporting approximately 3.2 million fishers and their families.**

Uganda has for long relied on its Capture fisheries, supported by its major lakes including Victoria, Kyoga and Albert. However, production has declined—exports fell by nearly 28% (from 28,861 tonnes in 2023 to 20,818 tonnes in 2024) and export revenues dropped by 22% (from UGX 514.5 bn to UGX 395.7 bn). This sub-sector is threatened by overfishing, the use of illegal fishing gear which capture premature fish, and weaknesses in law enforcement.

Aquaculture production has increased in the recent past, from 800 t (2000) to 120,000 t (2018). According to the World Aquaculture Society, in 2021 Uganda produced 139,000 t, representing approximately 6% of Africa's aquaculture output, placing it third after Egypt (~68%) and Nigeria (12%).

There is a lot of room for growth for the fisheries sector with enforcement of laws and boosting aquaculture.







### Fruits and vegetables

The combined market for vegetables in Eastern Africa is expected to be US \$21.7 billion in 2024, according to Statista, with a projected growth rate of 12.6% annually. Similarly, the fresh fruits market in the region is estimated at US \$15.6 billion in 2024, growing at 11.5% annually.

### Access to Seeds and seeds production

National Agriculture and Research Organisation (NARO) is responsible for production of improved crop varieties that stimulate high yields for both household consumption and commercialization. To date NARO has produced over 20 licensed varieties of crops including maize, beans, soya beans, Sorghum, rice among others. According to the study by NARO, the seed yield of a hybrid is higher and so more income and profit.

Yet according to another assessment undertaken by NARO on the bean and maize varieties released over the years revealed that the uptake rate for bean was below 20% while that of maize only ranged between

30% to 52%. The reason for low uptake is tagged on the high cost of these improved varieties.

At least 8 out of 10 farmers say the hybrid is better than the local but it is too expensive for them. They prefer low yield seeds at 3000 a kg instead of buying at 8000 to 10,000 a kg for a hybrid. If the cost can go as low as by 50%. It could help boost uptake. This could explain why many of our farmers especially in rural setup produce not beyond their household level/subsistence.

In terms of budget allocations, NARO and its institutions were allocated Shs116 billion in FY2022/2023 as compared to Shs.1trillion to NRM's PDM program allocated to parishes annually ~ with most this money misappropriated by the fund administrators.

### Livestock & Dairy

Uganda's livestock sector contributes about 5–8% of the national GDP and employing over 30% of the agricultural labor force (FAO, 2022). The sector includes a diverse population of cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, and poultry, which support both subsistence farmers and commercial enterprises.





**Cattle:** Uganda has approximately 17 million cattle (UBOS, 2023), mainly indigenous breeds used for both meat and dairy. The dairy sub-sector is growing, supplying domestic milk and dairy products, but faces challenges such as low productivity, poor animal health services, and limited access to quality feed (FAO, 2021).

**Goats and Sheep:** These small ruminants are important for rural livelihoods, especially in semi-arid and pastoral areas. Uganda has an estimated 15 million goats and sheep combined, which are crucial for meat production and serve as a source of income and food security (ILRI, 2020).

**Pigs and Poultry:** The pig population is growing, estimated at over 4 million, and poultry farming is widespread, mostly smallholder and backyard systems, providing meat and eggs for local consumption (UBOS, 2023).

The livestock sector has strong growth potential. Increased investment in improved breeds, veterinary services, feed supply, and market infrastructure could significantly boost productivity and income for farmers. There is a regional meat and dairy products markets, mainly to neighboring East African countries. But value addition and cold chain infrastructure must be developed to tap into this market.

### Value Addition & Agro-Processing

Uganda's food-processing sector already accounts for approximately 60% of the country's total manufacturing output, according to the Uganda Manufacturers Association and UNDP. In 2020, the food sales market was valued at around USD 10.5 billion, and it was projected to jump to USD 16 billion by 2024, driven by rapid urbanization, a growing population, rising incomes, and

increasing consumer demand for processed and packaged

foods. This growth trajectory signals enormous potential not only for value addition and agro-industrial expansion but also for job creation and rural transformation.

### Water for production

Uganda's irrigation potential totals approximately 3.03 million hectares, but only 0.5% (roughly 15,000 ha) is currently cultivated under irrigation (National Irrigation Policy 2018). Additionally, just 2% of farms in Uganda use any form of irrigation, with only 1% being formally irrigated (IFPI 2024). This reflects the extremely low use of productive water systems in Uganda's agriculture sector, underscoring a significant opportunity for expansion. Hindrances to irrigation include the cost of procuring the necessary equipment, lack of access to reliable water sources for farmers, lack of technical support, major policy gaps, and lack of political goodwill to support irrigation by the NRM government.

### Conclusion

Uganda holds immense agricultural promise—fertile land, freshwater abundance, and a climate that supports year-round production. Yet, this potential remains underutilized due to fragmented land use, outdated farming methods, poor irrigation, and underinvestment in agro-industrial transformation





and unwilling NRM government. With 80% arable land and the capacity to feed over 200 million people annually, Uganda must now decisively shift from subsistence to commercial agriculture. This means modernizing irrigation, investing in aquaculture and enforcing fisheries regulation, boosting livestock productivity, and building robust agro-processing value chains. To drive inclusive growth and food security, strategic investment in water for production and value addition must move from rhetoric.

# Our Promise for a new Uganda Now

## 6.1 Working with Parents Teachers Associations to establish a school feeding program.

We are committed to establishing a Home-Grown School Feeding Program that will provide hot meals to primary school pupils in public schools. The food will be sourced locally from smallholder farmers by the empowered Parents Teachers Association, coordinated by the Community Development Office in every district.

This commitment aims to address the longstanding issue of hungry learners, which hinders their ability to concentrate and learn effectively. This is expected to boost enrollment, enhance learning experience and ultimately raise completion rates.

We are committed to investing in our Home Grown School feeding is motivated by the expected short, medium- and long-term benefits to our economy. When food is purchased locally, farmers benefit from enhanced access to more stable markets, women - especially those small and medium-sized businesses benefit

from providing services to school feeding programs, and local communities and our country stands to benefit from better human capital and improved socio-economic development.

Our school feeding is an inter-sectoral program that brings into play the education, agriculture, health, trade and rural development sectors to interact and benefit one another. Every one of us will have a role to play in school feeding.

## 6.2 Re-establish farmer cooperatives

We will re-establish and modernise farmer cooperatives as engines of agricultural transformation and rural prosperity. These cooperatives will give smallholder farmers collective power to access affordable credit, quality inputs, modern machinery, and fair markets. These strong member-owned institutions we will effectively cut out exploitative middlemen, improve bargaining power, and ensure farmers benefit from value addition.

## 6.3 Drive Structural Transformation

We will secure smallholder farmers' access to land and affordable finance, while promoting agro-processing industries in rural areas to create decent jobs, increase household incomes, and accelerate rural industrialization.

## 6.4 Empower Youth in Agriculture

We will establish youth-focused innovation hubs, agribusiness incubators, and digital platforms, providing tailored training, startup grants, and incentives that position young Ugandans as leaders in modern agriculture.

## 6.5 Invest in Infrastructure & Research

We will expand rural road networks, invest in both small and large-scale irrigation, and strengthen partnerships between research institutes and universities to accelerate the development and dissemination of improved crop varieties and modern farming technologies.

## 6.6 Support Modern Farming Practices

We will scale up extension services using digital platforms, subsidize access to mechanized equipment, and facilitate farmer cooperatives to boost productivity, reduce costs, and guarantee profitable markets for farmers.

## 6.7 Champion Climate-Smart Agriculture

We will fast-track the supply of drought-tolerant and disease resistant seeds, and affordable irrigation kits, while rolling out nationwide conservation agriculture programs to build resilience against climate change.

## 6.8 Reduce Post-Harvest Losses

We will construct strategically located cold storage facilities, promote affordable on-farm storage, and incentivize private sector investment in agro-processing to cut post-harvest losses and raise farmer incomes.

## 6.9 Ensure Quality Inputs

We will strengthen local seed and fertilizer production through public-private partnerships, enforce strict regulation of the agro-input market, and eliminate counterfeit products to guarantee farmers access to genuine, affordable inputs.

## 6.10 Strengthen Supply Chains

We will invest in rural transport infrastructure and cold chain corridors linking production zones to urban and export markets, while building reliable farmer market information systems.

## 6.11 Expand Financial Services

We will partner with financial institutions to design microcredit, savings, and crop insurance products, leveraging mobile money to expand access to affordable financial services in rural communities.

## 6.12 Scale Seed Multiplication

We will invest in NARO and its institutions to produce and distribute hybrid seeds at

affordable costs through parish-based extension workers, while supporting seed producer groups and commercial farmers to expand certified seed availability.

## 6.13 Boost Research & Innovation

We will promote joint research programs with global centers of excellence to develop pest-resistant crops, climate-smart practices, and locally adapted mechanization technologies.

## 6.14 Build Capacity

We will work with vocational schools, NGOs, and international partners to deliver practical training, business management courses, and agripreneurship programs tailored to farmers and rural youth.

## 6.15 Promote Mechanization & Processing

We will establish regional machinery service centers to provide affordable equipment rental and maintenance, and revive stalled agro-processing plants through private investment and government support.

## 6.16 Support Staple Crop Production

We will provide targeted subsidies and extension services for banana, rice, wheat, and other staples, while investing in milling and processing facilities to reduce Uganda's reliance on imports.



### **6.17 Enhance Extension Services**

We will digitalize agricultural advisory systems, standardize measurement units for commodities, and establish community-based information hubs to improve farmer access to reliable data and markets.

### **6.18 Implement Regional tailored Agric Strategies**

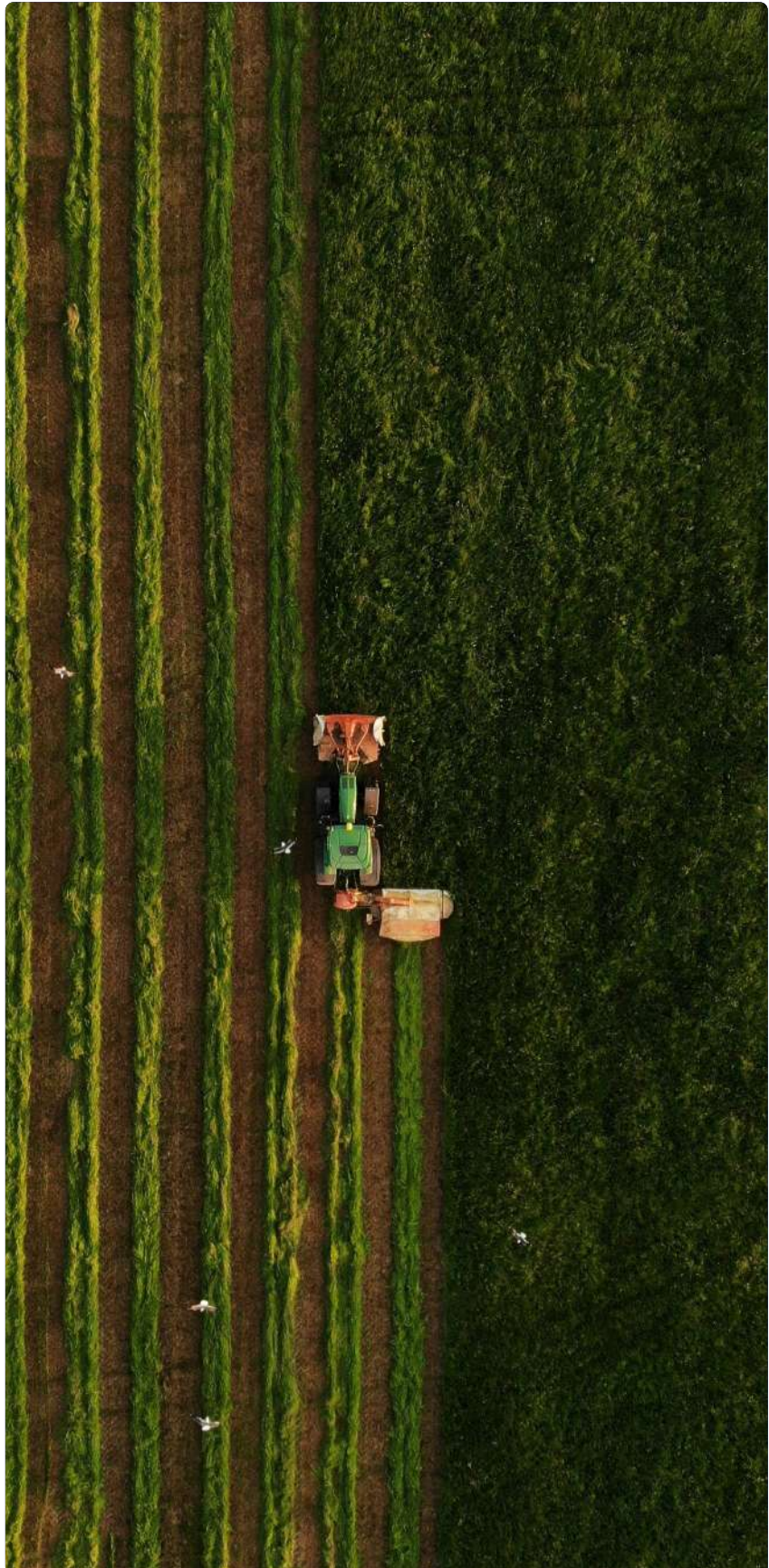
We will design regional agricultural plans based on regional comparative advantages—such as coffee in the Lake Victoria Crescent and drought-tolerant crops in the North-East—to maximize productivity and resource use.

### **6.19 Support Agribusiness Growth**

We will create incubation programs for small and medium agribusinesses, expand access to affordable credit, and strengthen market linkages to grow value chains from farm to market.

### **6.20 Promote Agricultural Diversification**

We will incentivize mixed farming systems, promote high-value and nutrition-sensitive crops, and diversify production to ensure food security and resilience against market shocks.





MANIFESTO  
PRIORITY  
**SEVEN**

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# STOP LAND GRABBING AND GUARANTEE SECURE LAND RIGHTS FOR ALL.

## INTRODUCTION:

The existence of Ugandans depends majorly on land. Despite managing this land for a long time, Many Ugandans generally do not have documented or recognized rights. Despite customary land being the biggest share of land tenure system in Uganda, the NRM government has not recognized legitimate customary rights: Land grabbing is widespread. About 33 million people around the world have lost their livelihoods through systematic violation of land rights by large foreign investors and influential national actors. Research indicates that Land grabbing occurs mostly in countries with dysfunctional and corrupt governments. Without arable land, small farmers cannot produce any food, and fair compensation, jobs, and appropriate wages for hard work on the new plantations turn out to be empty promises.

All over the world Land has been known to be vital aspect of human life since all humanity depends on it for its existence. Land is what describes people as a community, gives them a live hood and is a source of food and income when used for agri-cul-ture and other purposes of de-vel-op-ment. Globally, es-pe-cially in African countries there is in-creas-ing need for agri-cul-tural land that will sus-tain food pro-duc-tion to cover the food in-se-cu-ri-ties that has caused land fights. In Uganda, Agriculture accounts for just under a third of land use, and the country's main exports are coffee, fish, tea, tobacco and cotton. Some 15% of the country is covered by forest (U.S Department of State, 2012). Society's fights over land has become a very normal phe-nom-ena in an in-creas-ing pop-u-lated to-day's world of Globalization where cul-ture, eco-nomic and so-cial as-pects rule.

It is from this arisen need that "Land grab-bing" was born where few pow-er-ful in-di-vid-u-als both multi-na-tional and do-mes-tic in-vestors grabs, lease or re-place com-mu-ni-ties and ac-quire land that right-fully

be-longs to the poor for their own interest. So-ci-ety land has been taken over force-fully by re-place-ment, leas-ing or be-ing bought in a very low price or with no value at all. This prob-lem has evolved over the years all over the world and it's no ex-cep-tion in Uganda. We have heard a lot of cases where in-vestors and gov-ern-ment force-fully re-move and re-place lo-cal com-mu-ni-ties in the name of de-vel-op-ment, hence vi-o-lat-ing the hu-man rights of ex-is-tence of the lo-cals and right of own-er-ship of land stip-u-lated in the Ugan-dan con-sti-tu-tion.



Po-lit-i-cal elites have acted as an um-brella for these land grab-bers hence mak-ing many Ugan-dan com-mu-ni-ties to suf-fer not only due to lit-tle or lack of knowl-edge in re-gards to their rights but also be-cause the laws and poli-cies in mostly African coun-tries does not cater for pro-tec-tion and reser-va-tion of these rights.

Sto-ries of land evic-tions, land grab-bing and en-croach-ment of farm lands, forests, wa-ter bod-ies and dis-cov-ered ar-eas of oil and other valu-able min-er-als are every-where. Few in-dividu-als voices have been able to sur-pass in-tim-i-da-tion and open up through me-dia or by pe-ti-tion-ing parliament. But there are also those in-di-vid-u-

als who still face intimi-da-tion hence hin-der-ing their voices to be heard.

Par-lia-ment through its com-mit-tee of physical in-fra-struc-ture has been presented with over 40 pending petitions on irregular allo-ca-tion of Land from both multinational in-vestors and government and encroachments

in the name of development that have been piling over the years. In Uganda, estimates suggest between 4 and 8 per cent of land is under foreign land deals (GRAIN, 2011a).

The rules and laws guiding ownership of land is not well stipulated and its being manipulated by the few powerful elites and foreigners- this continues to be a sad occurrence in Uganda. Although rural communities' customary land rights are protected under the Ugandan constitution, in practice, these rights are being violated. As a result, communities are being

displaced and losing vital access to natural resources, including land for farming, firewood, forest products and in some places, water supplies.

In Uganda, the Government, keen to attract foreign investment, has allowed foreign companies to move onto large areas of land for a range of projects, including the development of a large-scale oil palm plantations, carbon offset tree plantations and following the recent discovery of oil, for drilling. Culturally important sites have been destroyed and local traditions and customs are being lost as the local population migrates and diversifies. Forests have been cleared to make way for the plantations and wetlands have been drained, damaging the rich natural biodiversity.

The reduction in local food supply has meant more food has to be imported to the island,

leading to increased food prices. As the plantation only offers low paid casual work, local people struggle to make ends meet. As a result there is a greater risk of food insecurity.

In the oil rich Albertine region, local communities are losing their land to oil companies and land speculators. The tree plantations being developed to seek carbon credits are replacing native forest with monoculture plantations of non-native species such as eucalyptus and pine. Land conflicts and intertribal / ethnic clashes have occurred in some communities where land grabbing has occurred.

## Land grabbing in Uganda is intensifying and spreading throughout the country.

The development of industrial scale agriculture projects to supply global commodity markets is depriving local communities of access to natural resources, exacerbating rural poverty and aggravating the risk of food crises.

Action is needed to support the development of small-scale, agro-ecological local agriculture projects, which allow local people to grow food for their communities and improve local food security.

### 7.1 Secure Customary Land Rights

We will review current and past land transactions and take concrete steps to restore land to rightful owners from whom it was unfairly taken, using transparent and accountable processes.

We will fast track the establishment and operationalization of a National Customary Land Registry to document and protect all customary land holdings.

We will promote and subsidize the uptake of Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs) to formalize community, individual and family land rights.

We will strengthen awareness campaigns to educate rural communities on their land rights and processes for registration.

### 7.2 Protect Mailo Land and Tenants

We will enforce legal safeguards for **Mailo landowners and tenants (bibanja holders)** to prevent exploitation and illegal evictions.

We will introduce mechanisms for dispute resolution between owners and tenants that are fast, fair, and accessible.

We will ensure government oversight on all large-scale transactions involving Mailo land to prevent abuse by investors or politically connected actors.



### 7.3 Secure Freehold Land Ownership

We will close legal loopholes and strengthen enforcement to protect freehold landowners from coercion, corruption, and irregular acquisition.

We will establish a transparent registry of land transactions to prevent manipulation and ensure vulnerable landowners are safeguarded.

### 7.4 Prevent Land Grabbing by Politically connected individuals

We will mandate transparent, participatory land acquisition

processes for all commercial, agricultural, and infrastructure projects.

We will ensure fair compensation, resettlement support, and livelihood restoration for all displaced communities.

### 7.5 Use block chain technology to register all land in Uganda.

We shall support our young graduates to establish a home grown IT system using block chain to establish fraud proof land registration.

All land in Uganda irrespective of land tenure will be surveyed

and registered, securing rights to all persons including squatters, landlords, communal land owners as well as identifying what is left of public land.

We shall undertake a 50-year master physical plan to guide land, housing and urban development over the whole country.

Our Government will undertake feasibility studies on profitability of investment in Housing in Uganda. This is intended to attract large scale investors into the housing market with potential to create millions of jobs.

We will introduce strict penalties for illegal land grabs, including





prosecution of investors, government officials, or elites involved.

### **7.5 Support Smallholder and Community-Based Agriculture**

We will prioritise local agro-ecological farming projects to strengthen food security and reduce dependency on land-displacing industrial plantations.

We will provide technical support, access to finance, and market linkages for smallholder farmers in order to boost their productivity.

We will promote community land trusts and cooperatives to maintain collective control over productive land.

### **7.6 Safeguard Cultural and Environmental Heritage**

We will protect culturally significant sites, forests, wetlands, and biodiversity hotspots from commercial exploitation.

We will ensure displaced communities retain access to cultural, spiritual, and natural resources.

### **7.7 Strengthen Civil Society and Advocacy**

We will guarantee protection for land defenders and community leaders who report illegal land activities.

We will create safe and accessible channels for citizens to submit petitions and seek redress through Parliament and the local courts, without fear of intimidation or retaliation.





MANIFESTO  
PRIORITY  
**EIGHT**

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# EMPOWER REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE THROUGH REAL DEVOLUTION.

## INTRODUCTION:

Uganda's administrative history reflects both colonial legacies and post-independence political restructuring. In 1945, Uganda was divided into four provinces: Buganda, Eastern, Northern, and Western. By 1959, these provinces were further subdivided into districts. Some areas—Buganda, Tooro, Bunyoro, and Ankole—retained semi-autonomous status as kingdoms, while others were designated as districts, including Acholi, Lango, Bugisu, Bukedi, Karamoja, Kigezi, Madi, Teso, Sebei, Busoga, Bombo, Mubende, Mpigi, Masaka, and West Nile. (New Vision, October 5, 2017)

**At the time of independence on October 9, 1962, Uganda**

**had 17 districts. The country was structured into Federal States—namely the Kingdoms of Buganda, Ankole, Tooro, and the Territory of Busoga—as well as the Districts of Acholi, Bugisu, Bukedi, Karamoja, Kigezi, Lango, Madi, Sebei, Teso, and West Nile. The concept of a “district” as an**

**administrative unit had been introduced by the British colonial administration to facilitate governance and resource control.**

In 1966, following the abrogation of the 1962 Constitution, President Milton Obote abolished the kingdoms through a new republican constitution. Busoga's status changed from a territory to a district, and the Buganda Kingdom was fragmented into new administrative units, including Mpigi, Masaka, Mubende, and Bombo districts.

Subsequent governments, including the current one, have maintained a highly centralised system of governance, concentrating economic and administrative powers at the national level. This centralised approach has limited the autonomy of local governments in setting development priorities, allocating resources, and delivering public services in their regions.

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

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In 1992, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government adopted a decentralisation approach to governance, aiming to bring services and decision-making closer to the people. To operationalise this shift, a Decentralisation Policy was formulated, and in 1993, the Local Governments Statute was enacted. The policy sought to empower citizens, democratise state power, and modernise communities — addressing the failures of the centralised governance model inherited at independence, which had not effectively reduced poverty, improved public welfare, or delivered good governance. In 1997, the Local Governments Act replaced the 1993 Statute, consolidating and strengthening the legal framework for decentralised governance in Uganda.

Ugandans and development partners widely welcomed decentralisation as a tool for

empowering local populations to plan and manage their own development. It was also seen as a mechanism to promote transparency, accountability, and participatory democracy at the local government level.

However, the NRM regime did not actually decentralise power. Its approach has increasingly served to entrench political control rather than promote good governance. The proliferation of districts and administrative units (from 39 in 1997 to over 135 today) is politically motivated—intended to win votes rather than improve service delivery. Local leaders are often co-opted into the NRM patronage system, undermining their independence. This has inflated public administration costs and contributed to a bloated, inefficient bureaucracy.

Key ministries and departments at the centre have retained control of major financial decisions. Over time, there has been a gradual recentralisation of the limited powers previously devolved to local governments—undermining the spirit of decentralisation. Recent legal amendments and presidential directives have shifted key functions such as procurement, human resource management, and revenue collection back to central government. This has weakened local planning, accountability, and responsiveness, reducing district authorities to mere implementers rather than autonomous decision-makers.

Another significant failure has been the chronic underfunding of local governments and their excessive dependence on conditional grants. Over the years Local governments have been under funded which hinders service delivery. Evidence from the FY2025/26 budget indicates that out of the Shs.72.3trillion national budget, local governments have been only allocated Shs.5.56 trillion. Just 7.6% yet they are responsible for implementing more than 70% of government services.

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**Service delivery at the grassroots remains poor due to limited human and institutional capacity. Many districts face critical shortages of qualified technical staff, including engineers, health workers, and planners. Reports from the Inspectorate of Government and Ministry of Local Government highlight recurring issues of poor accountability,**



**fund misuse, and weak supervision. Citizens—especially in rural and remote areas—continue to experience low-quality or completely absent services.**

Implementation of the Local Government Act has also been hampered by inadequate monitoring, weak citizen participation, and ineffective performance assessments. Annual Local Government Performance Assessment Reports frequently highlight low compliance with planning and budgeting standards. Village and parish councils are often inactive, with no funding. Citizens have limited opportunities to demand transparency or shape local priorities, further eroding public trust.

The NRM government's failure to fully implement the Local Government Policy and Act stems from a combination of political manipulation, recentralisation of power, chronic underfunding, institutional capacity gaps, and weak accountability mechanisms. While the decentralisation framework initially promised to democratise governance and improve service delivery, its implementation has consistently fallen short—often serving political interests rather than the public good.

## Our Promise for a New Uganda Now

### 8.1 Facilitate a National Dialogue on Regional Governance

We will establish a *National Devolution Dialogue Council* in 2026 and initiate an inclusive and transparent dialogue on devolution with a view of creating four regional governments based on Uganda's major regions of Central, East, North and West. This will involve all stakeholders including regional, cultural, religious, and civic leaders.

### 8.2 Scale Up local government funding

We will progressively increase the share of the national budget allocated to local governments—where real services are delivered—from 8.2 % in FY2025/2026 to 40% by 2030 as part of the devolution agenda. To make these resources effective, we will:

- Institutionalise participatory budgeting and citizen-led monitoring at parish and district levels. Every budget cycle will include town hall forums and digital feedback platforms, while local governments that meet performance targets in health, education, roads, and transparency will receive performance-based funding incentives.

We will establish

## A NATIONAL DEVOLUTION DIALOGUE COUNCIL

In 2026

- Eliminate delays in disbursements that constrain service delivery in key sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and infrastructure.

Equip districts and town councils with essential machinery, including full road construction and maintenance units (graders, rollers, tractors, and dump trucks) and at least five tippers for solid waste management per town council.

Provide regular conditional grants not only for capital development but also for routine maintenance to ensure sustainable service delivery.

### 8.3 Abolish the offices of RDCs and RCCs

We will delete the offices of Resident District Commissioners (RDCs) and Resident City Commissioners (RCCs), which are costly, duplicative, and politically biased structures that undermine local democracy.

Instead of serving the people, these offices act as agents of control and consume public resources without measurable impact.

### 8.4 Address Regional Inequality with Tailored Interventions

We will confront regional disparities with targeted solutions, such as:

- Assessing and connecting all off-grid communities to electricity within two years, prioritising renewable energy solutions.
- Expanding secondary schools, hospitals, and clean water systems in underserved areas.
- Accelerating affirmative action in employment and public procurement for marginalised districts.









# MANIFESTO PRIORITY **NINE**





# POSITION THE DIASPORA AS A STRATEGIC ASSET AND STRENGTHEN FOREIGN POLICY FOR UGANDA'S DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS.

## INTRODUCTION:

Uganda's diaspora community now exceeds 2 million strong and remits over USD 1.42 billion per year (Bank of Uganda), representing the single largest source of foreign exchange and approximately 3% of GDP. Beyond financial remittances, the diaspora fuels entrepreneurship, foreign direct investment, skills transfer, and global advocacy. Yet, despite its enormous potential, the diaspora remains largely underutilized due to institutional neglect, weak policy frameworks, and an adversarial political environment.

NUP is committed to reversing this trend by adopting and operationalizing a National Diaspora Policy as a central pillar of its 2026 governance platform.

## Our Promise for a New Uganda

### 9.1. Political Participation and Governance

- **Diaspora Voting & Representation Act**

Legislate the right of Ugandans abroad to vote in presidential and parliamentary elections. This includes electoral infrastructure in embassies, biometric registration, and mail-in or digital voting systems.

- **NUP Global Diaspora Council**

Formalize an elected council within the NUP Constitution to coordinate diaspora policy, chapter alignment, and global mobilization.

## 9.2. Economic Empowerment and Investment

- **Diaspora Investment Fund (DIF):**

Launch a regulated, government-guaranteed fund enabling diaspora contributions to infrastructure, agribusiness, housing, and healthcare. Operated under the Ministry of Finance, with diaspora board representation.

- **Diaspora Bonds**

Introduce high-yield diaspora bonds with tax incentives and sovereign guarantees to fund key national priorities (energy, ICT, education, infrastructure).

- **One-Stop Diaspora Investment Center**

Establish a fully digitized center under the Ministry of Trade offering:

- Tax incentives
- Risk insurance
- Business registration and land acquisition support

- **Land Ownership Protection Act**

Enforce land rights for diaspora members through a fraud tribunal, blockchain title verification, and digitized land registry systems.

## 9.3. Identity, Citizenship, and Social Services

- **Dual Citizenship Optimization**

Remove all bureaucratic and financial obstacles to acquiring dual citizenship.

Automatically grant Ugandan citizenship to diaspora-born children under 18.

- **Diaspora National ID and Passport Fast Track**

Establish 7-day issuance systems at embassies and consulates with real-time digital authentication.

- **Diaspora Family Services Program**

Offer psychosocial support, repatriation assistance, and services for elderly or distressed diaspora members, especially returnees.

- **Youth Reconnection Program**

Launch annual, government-funded cultural and innovation immersion trips for diaspora youth.

## 9.4. Education, Health, and Skills Transfer

- **Reverse Brain Drain Fellowship Program**

Facilitate temporary professional return fellowships, academic sabbaticals, and public service attachments for skilled diaspora Ugandans.

- **Diaspora Professorial and Medical Network**

Structure return missions for Ugandan experts abroad to teach, mentor, and collaborate with institutions back home.

- **NUP Diaspora Civic & Innovation Academy**

Build a virtual academy to deliver online civic education, entrepreneurship training, and policy innovation targeting both diaspora and Ugandan youth, Human Rights and Global Advocacy

- **Legal Aid and Justice Fund**

Create a diaspora-supported fund to offer legal support to detained activists, survivors of abuse, and at-risk groups.

- **Annual Diaspora Human Rights Scorecard**

Publish a comprehensive report assessing Uganda's democratic and human rights performance.

F. Party Building and Chapter Development

- **Global Chapter Fund**

Allocate performance-based grants to diaspora chapters to support outreach, organizing, and events.

- **Unified Global Governance Framework**

Adopt standardized protocols for diaspora chapter operations, reporting, and democratic leadership selection.

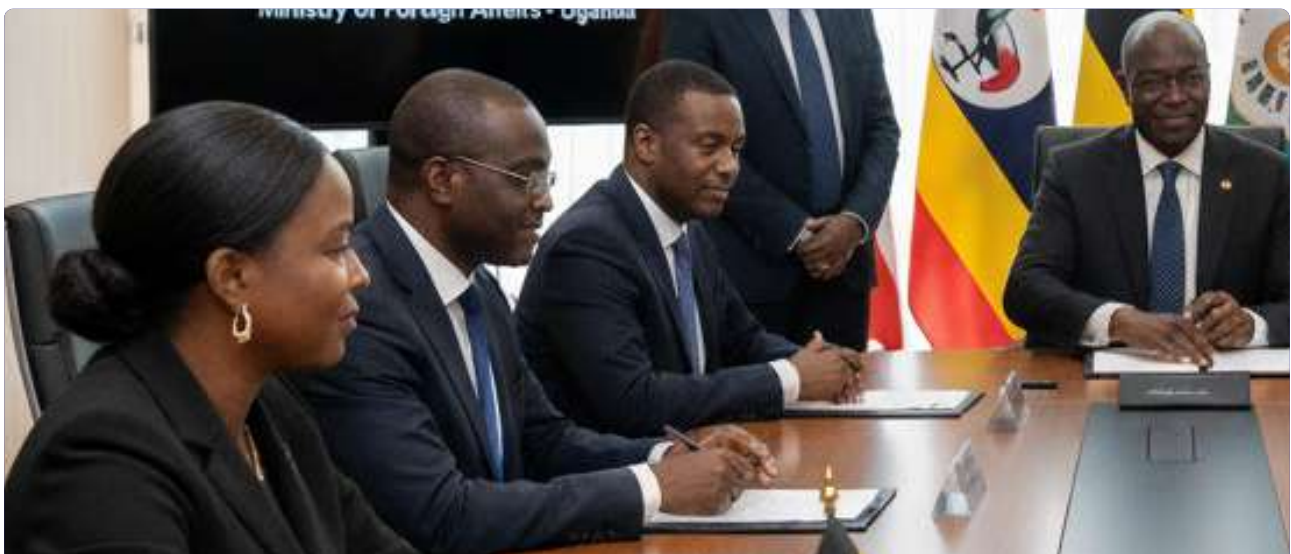
- NUP Digital Diaspora Portal
- Launch a centralized online platform for:
  - Member registration and dues
  - Event coordination
  - Digital voting and communication
  - Global NUP Diaspora Convention Charter

Institutionalize an annual rotating convention to gather diaspora voices and align global strategies.

### Our foreign policy Commitment

- We will Withdraw all non-career diplomats from our foreign missions.
- We will empower the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take lead in our country's foreign relations instead of serving army officers determining how we relate with other countries.
- We will renegotiate agreements that front our interests especially where Ugandan products are not taken in a reciprocal beneficial rights and duties from our partners.
- Establish publically funded consular support services dedicated to Ugandans working in the Middle East.

- We will re-construct all-inclusive foreign policy that fronts the interests of Ugandans at home and abroad in harmony with the EAC, African Union and the Global community. We anticipate; Benefits:
  1. Economic Growth: Trade, diplomacy, and international relations will promote economic growth, increasing trade, investment, and revenue.
  2. Global Influence: A strong diplomatic presence will promote Uganda's interests and influence globally.
  3. Cultural Exchange: Cultural exchange will promote people-to-people diplomacy, increasing understanding and cooperation between nations.
  4. National Development: International relations will promote national development, including access to technology, expertise, and resources.





# MANIFESTO PRIORITY **TEN**





# ENSURE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE [INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE DETECTION, ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION]

## INTRODUCTION

Uganda is already experiencing some of the most severe impacts of climate change, despite contributing less than 0.1% of global carbon emissions, according to Climate Watch by the World Resources Institute.

The country is among the most vulnerable to climate change due to its heavy reliance on natural resources and rain-fed agriculture. High exposure to

climate variability, unsustainable land use, and ecosystem degradation threatens both individual livelihoods and national development ambitions.

Uganda is already witnessing a gradual but persistent rise in average temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, and more frequent and intense weather events, including floods, droughts, and landslides.

These climate changes affect macroeconomic stability by reducing agricultural productivity, increasing water stress, and exacerbating health and infrastructure challenges. Agriculture — which employs the majority of the population — is particularly vulnerable to temperature and rainfall shifts.

Such impacts are likely to slow productivity growth by

undermining the availability and quality of essential inputs such as labour (due to health risks and displacement) and capital (due to damage to infrastructure and productive assets). These stresses increase fiscal risk by reducing tax revenues and driving up public spending on relief, health, and infrastructure repair.

Extreme weather events further strain government budgets through emergency response, reconstruction efforts, and potential contingent liabilities related to public-private partnerships and loan guarantees.

In this context, timely and well-coordinated policy action is critical to strengthening climate resilience and safeguarding development progress.

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

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Uganda is increasingly experiencing the effects of climate change, manifested in the growing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods, landslides, and prolonged droughts. The country's high dependence on climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, coupled with limited adaptive capacity, makes it highly vulnerable to the economic and social impacts of climate change.

According to the World Bank's Country Climate and Development Report (2022), Uganda's nominal GDP could decline by up to 4% by the end of the century due to climate-induced shocks under a pessimistic "hot" climate scenario—characterized by higher global warming and lower levels of adaptation.

In addition, the Ministry of Water and Environment estimates that without adequate adaptation, annual economic losses due to climate change could range between USD 3.2 billion and USD 5.9 billion between 2025 and 2050. These losses reflect damages across key sectors such as agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, and health.

Climate change disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable. Globally, the World Bank projects that 68 to 132 million people could fall into extreme poverty by 2030 as a result of climate-related shocks, with low-income countries like Uganda among the most affected. This could reverse hard-won development gains and significantly increase social protection needs.

Uganda's public finances are also increasingly at risk under more severe climate scenarios. An IMF fiscal stress model indicates that by the end of the century, under a hot scenario:

## Public debt could rise by more than 18% of GDP relative to a baseline;

The already unsustainable 54% debt-to-GDP ratio could worsen beyond jumping beyond the unsustainable trajectory;

And the primary fiscal deficit is projected to worsen by 0.7% of GDP compared to the baseline due to climate change.

This suggests that climate change is not only an environmental and social challenge, but also a serious fiscal risk, with long-term implications for Uganda's debt sustainability.

While climate adaptation can significantly reduce long-term economic and fiscal damage, it cannot eliminate these impacts entirely. Moreover, delayed adaptation increases macro-fiscal vulnerability, worsening the effects on economic growth, public debt, and service delivery.

At present, Uganda lacks robust econometric models and country-specific datasets that clearly link adaptation investments to macroeconomic and fiscal outcomes. This data gap limits the government's ability to optimize climate policy and financing decisions.



# Our promises for a New Uganda Now

## 10.1. Strengthen International Climate Finance Partnerships

We will deepen collaboration with international development partners and private investors to unlock new streams of climate finance, ensuring funding for Uganda's adaptation and mitigation priorities.

## 10.2. Adopt a Climate-Responsive Budgeting Framework

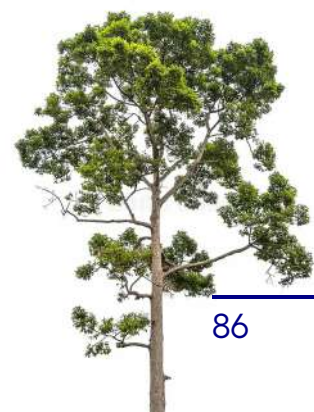
We will introduce a climate-responsive fiscal policy framework to ensure public spending reflects climate risks. This will include:

- Integrating climate risk forecasts into annual and medium-term budget planning.
- Establishing a contingency mechanism to manage fiscal pressures from extreme weather and disasters.
- Tagging and tracking all climate-related expenditures to ensure transparency, efficiency, and measurable impact.

## 10.3. Establish a Dedicated National Adaptation Fund

We will create and ring-fence a National Adaptation Fund to support community-level climate adaptation, protecting livelihoods in vulnerable districts. Priority areas will include:

- Climate-smart agriculture
- Sustainable water access
- Strengthening health system resilience
- Disaster risk reduction initiatives





#### 10.4. Commission Long-Term Climate-Fiscal Analysis

We will carry out long-term fiscal modeling under varying climate change scenarios to guide sustainable economic planning.

An Annual Climate Fiscal Risk Report will be published to inform Parliament, policymakers, and the public.

#### 10.5. Accelerate Early Warning and Early Action Systems

We will invest in predictive climate risk tools and community-based early action strategies to safeguard lives, livelihoods, and public infrastructure.

#### 10.6. Promote Green Jobs and Climate-Smart Enterprises

We will create opportunities for green employment and sustainable enterprises by:

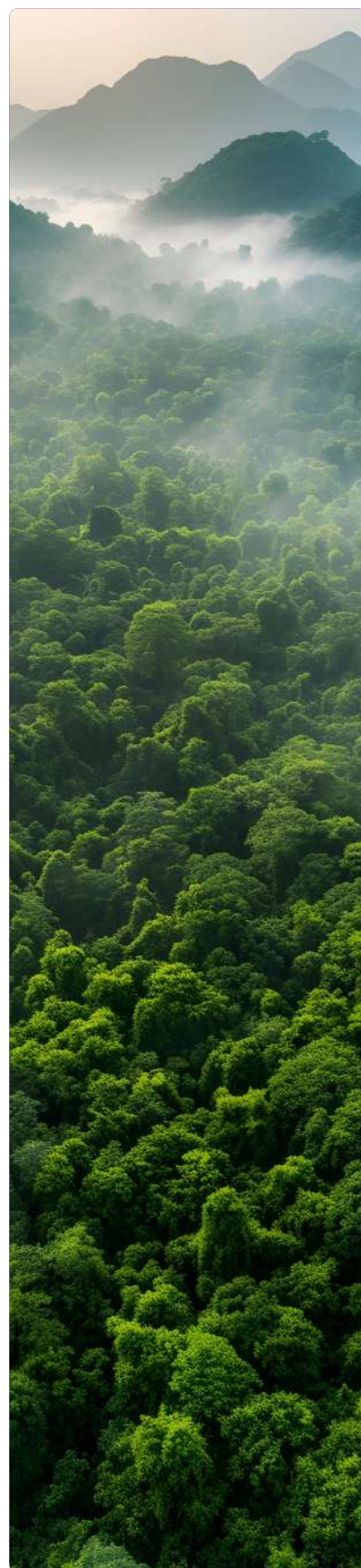
- Providing start-up capital and technical support to youth- and women-led businesses in renewable energy, organic agriculture, waste recycling, and eco-tourism.

- Expanding vocational training in climate-resilient construction, solar technology, and forest-based livelihoods.
- Partnering with financial institutions to develop green credit lines for MSMEs investing in low-carbon solutions.

#### 10.7. Scale Up Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem Restoration

We will invest in nature-based solutions to restore degraded ecosystems and enhance climate resilience. Key targets include:

- Promoting agroforestry among farming communities.
- Restoring at least 3 million hectares of degraded forests, wetlands, and rangelands by 2030.
- Implementing community-based watershed management programs nationwide.
- Integrating ecosystem valuation into national planning and infrastructure decisions.









MANIFESTO  
PRIORITY  
**ELEVEN**



# TRANSFORM UGANDA INTO A TECH-DRIVEN ECONOMY THROUGH LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES AND INNOVATION.

## INTRODUCTION:

Technology is evolving at an unprecedented rate. It is changing the way we learn, work, and live. Emerging trends indicate the trajectory of transformative technologies. These innovations are not only shaping the future but also disrupting various industries. Staying informed about these trending technologies is essential for accelerating business success and acquiring the necessary skills to remain competitive.

The development agenda for Uganda heavily relies on the role of technology and innovation in promoting businesses, trade, relationships and reducing

barriers among state boundaries. Harnessing the power of technology and innovation is essential to unlocking Uganda's full potential in the 21st century. Notably, the AfCFTA Protocol[ii] on digital trade recognizes e-commerce and innovation as critical drivers for enhancing the competitiveness of African businesses in the regional and global markets. The African Union[iii] suggests that the digital trade protocol seeks to provide AfCFTA state parties with an opportunity to reach a mutual position on digital trade and foster the harmonization of their digital economy policies.

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) [iv], the establishment of e-commerce platforms and digital trade processes can foster intra-regional trade by facilitating cross-border payments, streamlining customs procedures, and empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to identify and access new markets.

Furthermore, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) [v] suggests that technology adoption and innovation play a critical role in promoting intra-African trade by lowering

transaction costs and offering new opportunities for job creation and entrepreneurship. However, the usage of e-commerce and digital trade in African economies remains low. In particular,

the Global E-commerce (2020) Report[vi] reveals that Africa has the lowest share of the population (30 per cent) actively engaged in digital trade, in comparison to 50 per cent and 45 per cent in Asia and South America.

Like many other African countries, A New Uganda Now government has recognized the potential of technology and innovation in enhancing trade and economic growth. Several strategies will be undertaken to develop and leverage the country's digital economy to maximize the benefits of deepening integration.

The rapid development of digital infrastructure and applications alongside cheaper devices have made digital technology the prime driver of technological advances across the globe. Digital trade has the potential to open new markets for developing countries and overcome economic constraints such as market distance.

For Uganda, fostering digital transformation could unlock a wide range of untapped potential for growth. According to the International Growth Center(IGC), for low-income countries digitalisation has a vast potential to catch up to the productivity frontier as it lowers communication costs, and enhances access to information and services. In particular, it

promotes entrepreneurship by opening new ways to engage in digital trade. Beyond mere online purchases, digital trade encompasses four pillars: trade in digital and ICT goods, value-adding online services, investments in pivotal sectors like cloud computing, and data movement and utilisation. Overcoming physical barriers, this offers a wide range of new market opportunities such as digital trade of educational and health services.

Despite efforts to increase penetration and use of appropriate technology for social and economic development in Uganda with the latest being the adaptation of the Digital Uganda Vision as a pathway to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication through digital innovation, Uganda continues to experience several technologically related challenges that significantly deter its effective participation in Intra-African and global trade. These include inadequate trade-related ICT infrastructure, low levels of digital

literacy, and limited access to affordable and reliable broadband internet. Uganda's ICT exports stand at only 0.15%, lagging behind regional counterparts with digital services witnessing intermittent growth.

The Uganda Communication Commission (UCC) stresses that the cost of internet access in Uganda remains comparatively higher than in other AfCFTA state parties. More succinctly, the cost of accessing one gigabyte of

internet stands at nearly \$2.67 in comparison to \$2.41, \$2.18, and \$2.18 in Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania respectively.

By leveraging technology and innovation, Uganda can enhance productivity, reduce transaction costs, and improve its intra-African market connectivity. However, Widespread adoption of digital technology requires an efficient government and effective regulatory environment and key public sector investments.





# Our promise for a New Uganda Now

## 11.1. Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Halve the cost of internet within five years by reducing taxes on data and investing in regional internet exchange points.
- Expand affordable broadband to every sub-county, with priority to schools, health centers, and trading centers.
- End politically motivated internet shutdowns through a Digital Freedom Act.
- Integrate ICT rollout with rural electrification programs.

## 11.2. Education and Skills Development

- Make digital literacy a core competence in all primary, secondary schools and higher learning institutions.
- Equip schools with ICT labs and affordable devices, prioritizing underserved districts.
- Establish regional Tech-Skills Hubs offering coding, robotics, AI, and digital entrepreneurship training.

- Partner with universities and industry to modernize STEM and technology curricula.
- Launch a Digital Skilling for All program—from farmers using apps to professionals mastering data analytics.

## 11.3. Health

- Roll out a national e-Health system with electronic records, telemedicine, and digital drug tracking.
- Train health workers in comprehensive digital diagnostics and patient management.
- Use data analytics for epidemic preparedness and targeted interventions.

## 11.4. Agriculture

- Launch a national digital agriculture platform with weather updates, market prices, and extension services via mobile.
- Support precision farming tools such as drones and sensors.
- Expand mobile-based financing and insurance products for farmers.
- Create an AgriTech Innovation Fund to support rural startups.

## 11.5. Governance and Public Service Delivery

- Digitize key public services (licenses, land titles, taxes, health records) for efficiency and accountability.





- Introduce e-procurement to curb corruption and save public funds.
- Integrate the national ID system with service delivery platforms.
- Open up government data for transparency and innovation.

### 11.6. Economy and Innovation

- Cut taxes on smartphones, computers, and internet devices to expand access.
- Establish a National Innovation & SME Fund to

finance startups, especially in e-commerce and digital trade.

- Develop regional tech parks and incubation centers linked to regional universities.
- Position Uganda as a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) hub, training 200,000 youth for global service jobs annually.
- Liberalize digital trade under AfCFTA commitments, making Uganda a competitive player in intra-African e-commerce.

### 11.7. National Security and Digital Rights

- Strengthen cyber security capacity to combat fraud, hacking, and online crime.
- Train law enforcement and the judiciary in handling cybercrime cases.
- Run public campaigns on digital safety, data protection, and privacy.
- Reform cyber laws to focus on protecting citizens, not silencing dissent.







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