

Uganda Holds Peaceful and Orderly Presidential Elections

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Last Thursday, Ugandans went to the polls in peaceful and orderly presidential elections, marking another significant milestone in the country's political evolution. Incumbent President Yoweri Museveni, who has governed Uganda since 1986, was declared the winner with 71.65 percent of the vote. His principal challenger, Robert Kyagulanyi, widely known as Bobi Wine of the National Unity Platform, received 24.7 percent.

President Museveni's campaign, anchored in the theme "protecting the gains," emphasized continuity, political stability, and the preservation of Uganda's economic and institutional progress. The results were formally announced by Simon Byabakama, Chairman of Uganda's Electoral Commission.

"Having obtained the highest number of votes in the election, and with votes cast in his favor exceeding 50 percent of the valid votes, the commission hereby declares the elected President: Tibuhaburwa Kaguta Museveni," Byabakama stated.

Museveni first assumed office after a five-year civil war, becoming Uganda's ninth president. His early years in office focused on restoring national cohesion, rebuilding state institutions, and stabilizing an economy devastated by decades of conflict and autocratic rule. Over time, his leadership has been associated with sustained economic growth, governance reforms, and increased regional influence.

Today, Uganda is widely regarded as one of the most stable countries in East Africa and possesses one of the strongest and fastest-growing economies in the region. Uganda's diversified economy is anchored in agriculture—particularly coffee, tea, nuts, and pineapples—alongside expanding extractive industries, including gold mining. The country also holds significant copper and rare earth mineral deposits, positioning it strategically within global critical-minerals supply chains.

In the energy sector, Uganda has substantial oil reserves in the Lake Albert basin and is on track to begin exporting crude oil next year via a regional pipeline to Tanzania, a development expected to materially increase government revenues and strengthen long-term fiscal stability.

Uganda also plays a central role in regional security cooperation. It is working constructively and collaboratively with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to combat the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a U.S.-designated terrorist organization operating in central Africa. This cooperation underscores Uganda's importance as a regional security anchor.

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More broadly, Uganda remains a key strategic partner of the United States, particularly in counterterrorism efforts targeting ISIS-affiliated networks and Al-Shabaab in East Africa. Ugandan forces continue to play a leading role in peacekeeping and stabilization missions across the region.

In addition to his economic and security agenda, President Museveni is internationally known as a strong advocate of traditional family values, a stance that has shaped Uganda's domestic policy discourse and global political positioning.

The election outcome reinforces leadership continuity in Uganda at a time when much of the surrounding region remains politically and economically fragile.

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