



**PRESS STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOR PRESIDENCY
BABIRYE MILLY BABALANDA**

**IN REGARD TO THE 39TH NRM/NRA VICTORY DAY
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

January 22, 2025

Ugandane
Good morning members of the press.

Today, I am here to announce to the country that the **39th NRM/NRA Victory Day** Anniversary Celebrations will take place on the **26th January 2025**.

The venue for this year's celebrations is Mubende District, at National Teachers College Grounds, Mubende Town Council.

The Theme for this year's celebrations is, '**39 Years of NRM/A: Salutations to Those Who Re-sanctified Our Homeland**'.

The Chief Guest will be **H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**, the President of the Republic of Uganda who will be accompanied with many other invited dignitaries.

Ugandans are therefore invited to join the H.E President to celebrate this fundamental day in our history.

On this very day, President Yoweri Museveni will award **61 medals** to distinguished Public Servants who excelled during the preparations of Non-Aligned Movement and G77 plus China summits that were held in Kampala in January 2024.

These two summits gave Uganda a global recognition.

As a country, we received accolades because of our meticulous approach in organizing these two global summits.

Therefore, H.E the President found it prudent to award medals to those that committed their extra time and brains to make these summits successful.

The Office of the President in conjunction with Bazungu e.v and Prince Kimbugwe Foundation has organized an Eye Care

Medical Camp running from Wednesday 22nd- and ending on Friday 24th 2025 at Mubende Regional Referral Hospital where people with eye diseases in Greater Mubende area will receive free treatment.

Up to six hundred eye glasses will be given out free of charge to those that require them. The foundation will also conduct free eye surgeries to those in need at the Mubende Referral hospital.

Therefore, Ugandans especially those in the Greater Mubende area are encouraged to come and have this treatment on the days mentioned.

Why do we celebrate this day?

This year will make 39 years since the National Resistance Movement/ Army (NRM/NRA) bush war ended.

This war carried such a heavy price and it was a great sacrifice to each individual soldier, who dreamt of seeing victory against the bad regimes.

As Ugandans we celebrate this day because of what inspired us to liberate our country in the first place. These circumstances helped us to start the journey of building a nation worth our identity.

On this day we stop to acknowledge and appreciate all the Ugandans who have sacrificed in one way or the other for a better Country. We recognize their tenacity and commitment in nation building.

The peace and security ushered in by the NRM government has made a tangible and positive difference in the lives of our people.

Uganda now has a system of laws and institutions that guarantees justice for all and creates an environment that gives Ugandans the confidence to pursue their potential unhindered.

By investing heavily in socio-economic development, we have encouraged a mindset shift away from a passive attitude of dependency to one of self-sufficiency, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

The lesson there for us, as Ugandans, and broadly as Africans, is that we must do what is right and genuinely own our decisions and actions, to maintain our dignity for the better future we all seek.

We have to stay the course of self-determination and although we will continue to be challenged, history has shown that we can triumph against these odds.

The story of our liberation is intrinsically linked to other struggles on the continent because of the commonalities and kinship we share. Note that no country can achieve sustainable socioeconomic transformation in isolation, and without addressing issues of shared concern.

Just as other African liberation efforts impacted our thinking and ultimately played a part in shaping the destiny of our nation, Uganda will continue to make its contribution towards efforts that seek to improve the lives of many others on our continent.

Several generations have already been raised on the examples of steadfastness, patience and courage displayed by the heroes of the National Resistance War.

The children and grandchildren of the victors know their history, take pride in its glorious traditions and value them as their most precious inheritance.

H.E President Yoweri Museveni during his Inaugural Speech as president of Uganda on January 29th 1986, told Ugandans that this was not a mere change of guard but a fundamental change.

Indeed, Uganda has seen positive changes that have transformed the lives of Ugandans across broader spectrum.

Since then, over the last 39 years, Uganda has witnessed socio-economic transformation indicators never seen before; guided by the correct philosophy, ideology and strategy of the NRM which enabled the economy and society of Uganda to go through five phases since 1986.

These phases are:

- (i) **The minimum economic recovery phase** of restoring aspects of the small, colonial enclave money economy of the 3Cs and 3Ts (Cotton, Coffee, Copper, Tea, Tobacco and Tourism);
- (ii) **Expanding that enclave** with more production of coffee, tea, etc.
- (iii) **The diversification of the enclave economy** by commercializing the production of bananas, cassava, milk, fruits, palm oil, cocoa, fish, beef, etc.;
- (iv) **Adding value to some of these raw-materials** such as cotton, fruits, milk, tea, timber, sugar, etc.;

(v) **The knowledge economy**, through the production of vaccines, the auto-mobile industry, etc.

These measures, have enabled the economy to grow from USD 1.5 Billion in 1986 to now USD 55 Billion by the Forex Exchange method and USD 180.29 Billion by the Public-Private Partnership method – which we intend to grow to USD 550 Billion through the ten-fold growth strategy over the next ten years.

Presently at USD 1,182 per capita, Uganda has entered the lower middle-income status.

Finally, with the roll out of many poverty alleviation initiatives in the country namely; the Four-Acre Model for smallholder farmers, Emyooga, Parish Development Model and Youth Livelihood Programme among others; many of our people in the rural setting will definitely join the money economy and thus ensure the dividends of growth are shared by all.

I congratulate all Ugandans upon getting to this year's celebrations and in a special way wish all our gallant men and women in uniform continued vigilance and professionalism to completely secure all the corners of the country for prosperity and development.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY



BABIRYE MILLY BABALANDA
MINISTER FOR THE PRESIDENCY