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Shilling remains weak: The Shilling opened yesterday at Shs3,751.41 Bank of Uganda data indicates, showing early weakness as dollar demand rose. By midday it slipped to Shs3,761.32, before closing at Shs3,760, failing to recover and remaining on the back foot amid sustained pressure. Traders stayed cautious as liquidity conditions offered little support.

Fuel. |

Uganda puts on tough face amid dwindling fuel supply

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The Ministry of Energy, together with Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), has moved to allay fears that the country could run out of fuel as the war in the Middle East continues.

The ministry says that although the current fuel stock in the country can last for less than a month, plans are underway to import additional supplies in April to boost availability.

More than a week ago, Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz, a key route that accounts for up to 20 percent of global oil supply.

The Ministry of Energy said the situation has affected the movement of shipments through the strait, which handles about 20 percent of global oil consumption, including supplies from the Middle East.

On Monday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the war in the Middle East is disrupting lives and livelihoods in the region and beyond, while also dimming the economic outlook for many countries that had only began to recover from previous crises.

The IMF noted that economies heavily dependent on oil imports in Africa and Asia are increasingly struggling to access supplies, even at higher prices.

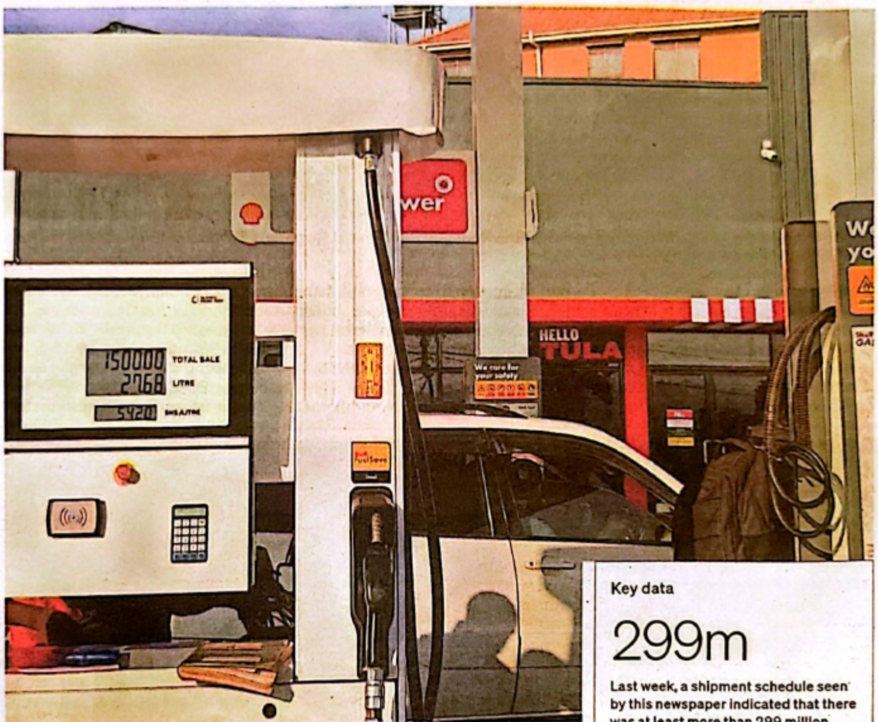
Regions including parts of the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America are also facing additional pressure from rising food and fertilizer costs, as well as tighter financial conditions.

However, Uganda says the situation, while uncertain, is not as severe as it may appear.

"As of March 27, 2026, Uganda's fuel stock levels and inland supply chain remain stable and sufficient to meet short-term national demand," the Ministry said, adding that available stocks for distribution include approximately 81 million litres of petrol, 80 million litres of diesel, and 18.5 million litres of Jet A-1 fuel.

"These volumes translate to approximately 22 days of stock cover for petrol, 23 days for diesel, and 30 days for Jet A-1, meaning that these stocks will last until the end of April 2026," a joint statement from the Ministry of Energy and UNOC noted. Uganda is also scheduled to receive confirmed fuel shipments from the end of March through April 2026, mainly via the port of Mombasa, indicating a stable supply chain.

"These deliveries will be complemented by supplies through Tanzania, using the ports of Tanga, Dar es Salaam, and Mtwara to enhance supply security. Additional quantities expected from early April 2026 include about 195 million litres of petrol, 155 million litres of diesel, and 24 million litres of Jet A-1. This will extend stock cover by 52 days for petrol, 44 days for diesel, and 39 days for Jet A-1," the Ministry said.



Government reassures the public of stable fuel supplies despite Middle East tensions, with new imports expected in April to boost reserves. PHOTO / FILE

Key data

299m

Last week, a shipment schedule seen by this newspaper indicated that there was at least more than 299 million litres of fuel expected in the country this month.

22 days

The available fuel volumes for now translate to approximately 22 days of stock cover for petrol, 23 days for diesel, and 30 days for Jet A-1.

The statement, therefore, comes as a reassurance, amid rising pump prices that had by yesterday closed in on an average of nearly Shs5,400.

The transportation sector, aviation industry, business community, and the general public have remained cautious even as government says fuel supply remains secure, stable, and continuous despite the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Last week, a shipment schedule seen by this newspaper indicated that there was at least more than 299 million litres of fuel expected in April, in addition to volumes already in the system, which makes Uganda's supply outlook strong, for now.

Government has also indicated that the steady supply is supported by UNOC's supply partners that are able to source fuel from alternative global markets outside the affected region.

The Ministry of Energy yesterday noted that while supply remains stable, it will continue to monitor factors such as foreign exchange rates and international oil prices, which may affect pump prices.

"UNOC, with the support and guidance of the Ministry of Energy, continues to work closely with its supply partners to ensure a steady supply of petroleum products to Uganda, maintaining resilience despite global market uncertainties," the statement said.

Local fuel prices are largely determined by several fundamentals that include international fuel prices, movement of the dollar against the shilling and the rate of inflation, among others.

Government has, however, reaffirmed its commitment to safeguard national energy security and ensure a reliable supply of petroleum products across the country.