

President's swearing-in heralds \$500b economy by 2040

On Tuesday, all roads lead to Kololo Independence Grounds,

Kampala, for the swearing-in of Gen. (rtd) Yoweri Museveni as President of Uganda following his landmark re-election on January 15.

The inauguration and associated merriment are justified, given that President Museveni and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) have salvaged our motherland from total collapse since January 1986. He affirmed this in his inauguration speech in May 2016, when he recounted: "The NRM brought Uganda from the abyss of insecurity and despair."

To drive Uganda out of the abyss, President Museveni anchored his administration on the four cardinal principles of NRM: Patriotism, Pan-Africanism, socio-economic transformation and democracy. As a result, positive outcomes began to manifest.

On democracy, for instance, Uganda is now a powerhouse. The 1995 Constitution has since entrenched the mandate

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of Ugandans in choosing their leaders from the village level to the presidency. The electoral processes are fair and transparent. In case there is an aggrieved party, the Judiciary delivers judgment.

It is out of the democracy NRM ushered in that even the once marginalised groups are now catered for: women, youth, persons with disabilities and the elderly. The aforementioned now have representation at all governance levels.

It is also a resolved issue that after five years, Ugandans elect their leaders under free and fair polls organised by the Electoral Commission.

The disciplined and focused leadership of NRM has transformed every aspect of our economy.

As the President keeps reminding us, at independence

in 1962, Uganda inherited an enclave economy of the 3Cs (coffee, cotton, copper) and 3Ts (tobacco, tea, tourism). He adds that by the time Idi Amin was deposed in April 1979, the enclave economy had nearly collapsed. By 1986, when he became President, two of the 3Cs (cotton and copper) had disappeared, while two of the 3Ts (tourism and tea) had either disappeared or radically shrunken.

With President Museveni at the helm, all the economic sectors are on a positive trajectory. Available statistics prove this.

In 1986, for instance, Uganda's economy stood at sh42.6b. It has since expanded nearly

15 times.

Uganda's revenue stood at sh5b. By June 2025, it was projected at sh31.9 trillion.

In 1986, Uganda was a country bogged down by shortages of essentials. Now, Uganda is a country of plenty. By the end of 2024, milk production stood at 5.4 billion litres; fish at 658,000 metric tonnes per annum and coffee at 8.2 million 60kg bags.

A much better economy is on the way, considering that the President has identified four anchor sectors to increase the size of the economy to \$500b by 2040.

The four anchor sectors are agro-industrialisation, tourism development, mineral development, as well as science, technology and innovation.

In my assessment, the four anchor sectors will propel us to a \$500b economy by 2040 in view of the firm foundation the NRM Government has put in place.

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