

MUSEVENI'S INAUGURATION DECLARED PUBLIC HOLIDAY

By Nelson Mandela Muhoozi

The Government has declared May 12, a public holiday to enable Ugandans to fully participate in the inauguration of President Yoweri Museveni.

The inauguration will be held under the theme: *Protecting the gains, making a qualitative leap into high middle-income status.*

Speaking to journalists at the Uganda Media Centre yesterday, the party's secretary general, Richard Todwong, said the inauguration represents the culmination of a nationwide democratic exercise that reaffirmed the ruling party's mandate across different levels of leadership.

Todwong commended government institutions, particularly the Office of the President, for conducting detailed and co-ordinated preparations to ensure a smooth ceremony.

Todwong further stated that the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) secured a strong electoral outcome of 71.65% of the presidential vote and a commanding majority in Parliament, with 372 out of 529 MPs.

"This is not simply about inaugurating a president. It is a moment to acknowledge a comprehensive electoral outcome in favour of the NRM and to appreciate



L-R: David Serumaga Public Affairs Assistant Uganda Media Centre; Todwong, Babalanda and Emmanuel Walari under-secretary at the Office of the President after a press conference at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala, yesterday. (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

the citizens who participated in the democratic process," Todwong explained.

PREPARATION DETAILS

Providing details of the preparations, the Minister for the Presidency and

Budiopie West Member of Parliament-elect, Milly Babirye Babalanda, described the inauguration as part of Uganda's continued democratic tradition. Babalanda cited reductions in poverty levels from 56.4% in 1992 to 16.1% in 2024, alongside growth in the size of the economy despite global

economic disruptions.

She added that Uganda has recently met criteria for graduation from the category of Least Developed Countries, signalling progress toward middle-income status.

"In the past five years, as a case in point, the size of our economy

PHOTO BY NANCY NANYONGA

71.65%

NRM's presidential win, plus 372 out of 529 MPs in the 2026 general elections.

doubled, despite the global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions in external markets.

ANTICIPATED GUESTS

Babalanda confirmed that at least 30 foreign delegations are expected to attend, including several heads of state and representatives from across Africa and beyond.

Todwong also noted that delegations from political organisations such as the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, Frente de Libertação de Moçambique (FRELIMO), Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) of Zimbabwe, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) of Tanzania, and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) are among those expected to be represented, underscoring the event's continental significance.