

By Victoria Bugembe Nampala

In many Ugandan wardrobes, kitenge is folded for a celebration waiting to happen — clothing reserved for special occasions.

However, more office-working women are discovering that kitenge can make stylish and polished workwear. The versatile fabric can be turned into modern designs suitable for office wear.

"Tailoring is everything," Ann Baligasima says. "A structured kitenge blazer or dress allows a professional woman to celebrate African print while still looking polished in corporate spaces. When the cut is right, the outfit speaks before you even introduce yourself."

How to wear kitenge for work

In offices where dark suits often dominate, a touch of kitenge can bring freshness and personality. However, fashion experts say the secret is moderation.

Fashion designer Innocent Tamale advises women to maintain balance.

"Pair strong prints with neutral colours like black, cream or navy. That way, the fabric becomes the highlight without making the outfit look too busy," he says.

Accessories also play an important role. Designer Josephine Nakafeero says simplicity is key.

"When the kitenge print is bold, keep the accessories simple," she says. "Elegant bags, clean designs and classic shoes help maintain a smart corporate appearance."

Beyond style, wearing kitenge to work also carries a deeper meaning.

"Many kitenge prints are inspired by stories, traditions and everyday life across the continent. Wearing it in the workplace is a way of celebrating African creativity and identity," Nakafeero says.

Kitenge also offers practical advantages. The fabric is durable

and comfortable, making it ideal for Uganda's climate. The material also allows the skin to breathe, remaining comfortable throughout the day.

A well-designed kitenge outfit can easily take a woman from morning meetings to evening events without requiring a full change of clothes.

Ultimately, the most important element of wearing kitenge at work is confidence.



Good tailoring is key for a polished look