

FOREIGN LEADERS ARRIVE FOR MUSEVENI'S

Ethiopian president Taye Atse Selassie Amde (right) being received by the energy minister Ruth Nankabirwa at Entebbe Airport yesterday ahead of Museveni's swearing-in ceremony today



By John Odyek

Several heads of state, representatives of foreign governments, diplomats and international delegations have arrived in Kampala ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Yoweri Museveni at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds today.

The ceremony is expected to draw more than 30 foreign delegations from Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world.

They include President Salva Kiir of South Sudan, who arrived on Sunday with a high-level delegation.

The inauguration for the 2026-2031 term will mark President Museveni's seventh elected term in office since he came to power in 1986 following a five-year guerrilla war.

A 10-member delegation from Algeria, led by Vice-President Azouz Nasri, has likewise arrived. The swearing-in ceremony at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds is scheduled to run from 8:00am to 2:00pm, with thousands of guests expected to attend. Government declared today a public holiday to enable Ugandans to participate in the national ceremony.

The inauguration ceremony is expected to feature military parades, cultural performances and speeches by visiting leaders.

Senior leaders of Burundi's ruling party, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy - Forces for the Defence of Democracy (NCDD-FDD), also arrived, led by Secretary General Révéren Ndikuriyo.

Ndikuriyo said the NCDD-FDD and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) share a long history rooted in the struggle for

development, stability and democracy.

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) delegation from South Sudan was led by Bol Makueng Yuo, the party's secretary for external affairs, who described the NRM as a friendly and Pan-African force committed to regional cooperation and liberation ideals.

"We came to congratulate President Yoweri Museveni and the NRM party for overwhelmingly winning another term, which reflects the confidence and trust the population has placed in their leadership," Yuo said.

Additional dignitaries who arrived in Kampala include: President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia, President Félix Tshisekedi of the DR Congo and a delegation from the US led by Nicholas Checker, the senior bureau official for African affairs.

Rwanda's delegation, headed by prime minister Justin Nsengiyumva, also arrived, as well as former prime minister of Ethiopia Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe.

The vice-president of Zimbabwe, Gen. Nyikadzino Chiwenga, President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Brahim Ghalil and the President of Ethiopia, Taye Atse Selassie Made, also arrived in Kampala yesterday.

Awino Kafeero, the head of public diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said they had confirmed the attendance of 50 foreign dignitaries from outside Uganda.

Between 10 and 15 heads of state are included. Some have already arrived, while others are expected at varying times," Kafeero said.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH MUTT



The President of the Council of the Nation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Azouz Nasri (right), received by Uganda's State Minister for Co-operatives, Ederick Nqobi Gume (left) and Algeria's Ambassador to Uganda, Mourad Amokrane, on arrival at Entebbe International Airport on Sunday ahead of the ceremony

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY



The President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (second-left) being received by the Prime Minister of Uganda, Robinah Nabbanja as he arrived at Entebbe Airport yesterday ahead of Museveni's swearing-in ceremony

The President of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Brahim Ghalil arriving at the VIP Entebbe Airport yesterday

DR Congo president Félix Tshisekedi (right) being received by former prime minister Amant Mbaze at Entebbe Airport yesterday

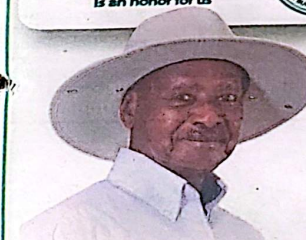
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