

# UPC shaken as Lango warms to NRM

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BY BILL OKETCH

**T**he Lango Sub-region is undergoing a significant political shift, with the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) gaining ground while the Opposition Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) faces mounting challenges.

In the 2026 General Election, Lango voters overwhelmingly supported President Museveni, who secured an impressive 84.49 per cent of the total votes cast in the sub-region.

Support in Lira City was even more remarkable, with 85 per cent of voters backing the President, surpassing support levels in his home area of Mbarara.

The NRM's growing popularity in Lango was further reflected in the recent LC3 chairperson and councillors' elections, where the party secured 68 out of 116 seats. This decisive victory marks a significant departure from Lango's traditional status as an Opposition stronghold.

Political analysts attribute the shift to voters increasingly prioritising performance-based politics over long-standing party loyalties.

In districts such as Kwania, Otuke, Dokolo, Alebtong, and Amolatar, NRM LC3 candidates swept the polls, dislodging entrenched Opposition figures.

However, Oyam District told a different story, with UPC emerging victorious



Some of the NRM leaders from across Lango raise their hands during a meeting with President Museveni in Lira in December last year. The leaders raised a number of issues, especially poor connectivity. PHOTO/MUSEVENI X HANDLE

after securing eight positions against NRM's six, while an Independent candidate claimed one seat.

Elections are still pending in two sub-counties: Akwon in Amolatar and Agweng Town Council in Lira District.

## LC5 and mayoral polls

The ruling party also made significant strides in the LC5 chairperson and mayoral elections across Lango.

Results from eight out of nine districts and one city show the NRM winning six seats, UPC securing three, and an Independent candidate taking one.

Several incumbent LC5 chairpersons vacated their seats to contest parliamentary positions. They include Mr Geoffrey Ocen (Amolatar), Mr Andrew Moses Awany (Kole), and Mr Geoffrey Alex Ogwal Adyebo (Kwania). Mr Adyebo's bid was unsuccessful after losing the UPC primaries, while Mr Awany, an NRM member, contested as an Independent in Kole South but lost to NRM's Henry Boniface Okot.

NRM victories were recorded in Kwania, Kole, Lira, Apac, and Alebtong districts, while UPC won in Dokolo, Amolatar, and Oyam districts.

An Independent candidate triumphed in Otuke.

Incumbent LC5 chairpersons who lost their seats include Mr David Kennedy Odongo (Alebtong), Mr Benson Walter Dila Oyuku (NRM, Oyam), Mr Asante Ikomba Odongo (UPC, Apac), and Mr James Otto Apili (NRM, Dokolo).

In Oyam, former LC5 chairperson Nelson Adea Akar of UPC reclaimed the seat he had lost to NRM's Dila in 2021. Adea garnered 45,914 votes against Dila's 24,041, securing a margin of victory of 21,873 votes. Independent candidate Peter Emuna received 1,078 votes.

Mr Sam Atul of NRM retained the Lira City mayoral seat after defeating seven contenders. He polled 16,905 votes, followed by UPC's Mike Ogwang Veve with 11,752 votes, and Independent candidate George Okello Ayo with 3,221 votes.

In neighbouring Kwania District, NRM flag bearer George Akaca won with 26,612 votes, narrowly defeating UPC's Patrick Ogwang Obia, who garnered 24,108 votes.

## Parliamentary polls

In the 2026 parliamentary elections, Lango Sub-region delivered a modest recovery for UPC, which secured 12 seats in the 12th Parliament.

The UPC's winning seats are: Woman MP Dokolo (incumbent Sarah Aguti Nyangkori), Amolatar (newcomer, Ms Janet Auma Okao), Oyam (incumbent, Ms Santa Sandra Alum Ogwang), and Kwania (incumbent, Mr Kenny Auma).

Directly-elected: Dokolo South (Mr Vincent Opito), Oyam North (incumbent, Dr Eunice Apio Otuko), Kioga County (Ms Colline Angwech), Kioga North (Mr Geoffrey Ocen, Amolatar incumbent LC5 chairman), Maruzi County (Mr Peter Obong Acuda), Moroti County (newcomer, Mr Leo Elem), Ajuni County (newcomer, Mr Fred Jalameso), and Lira City West Division (incumbent, Mr Vincent Shedrick Obong).

## ELECTION RESULTS

### Parliamentary

NRM: 18 seats  
UPC: 12 seats  
Ind: one seat

### LC5 council

NRM: six seats  
UPC: two seats  
Independent: two seats

### LC3 council

NRM: 68 seats  
UPC: 33 seats  
FDC: two seats  
Independent: 11 seats