

KOLOLO SET FOR MUSEVENI'S SWEARING-IN

PHOTO BY EDDIE SSEJJOBA

By Mary Karugaba
and Eddie Ssejjoba

Uganda is today poised for a defining political and ceremonial milestone as President Yoweri Museveni takes oath for a seventh term at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds.

This is, in a tightly choreographed event that officials describe as both a national and international spectacle.

According to the chairperson of the National Organising Committee, Hajji Yunus Kakande, they had invited 7,000 VIPs and 6,000 delegates from the expanded National Resistance Movement (NRM) committees, from 150 districts plus over 50,000 ordinary people who will not need invitation cards to access the venue.

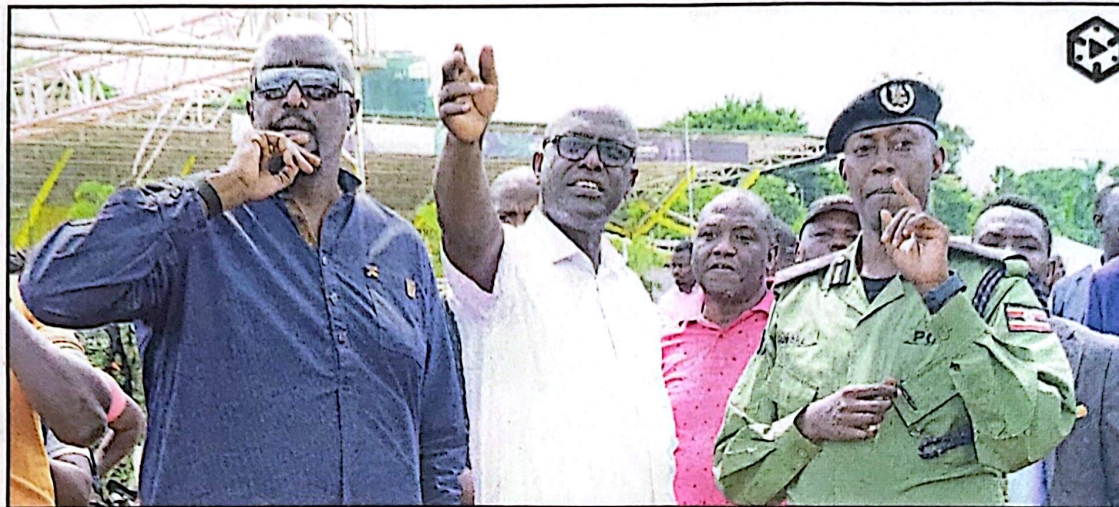
MUSEVENI TO ARRIVE AT 10:40AM

After chairing the final meeting at Kololo, which was attended by the head of Civil Service, Lucy Nakyobe, Kakande said President Yoweri Museveni is expected to arrive at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds at 10:40am.

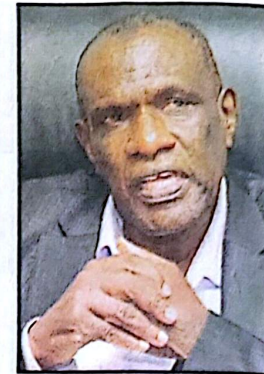
The guests are expected to start arriving at 7:00am and the function will run up to 2:30pm. Kakande said the committee has prepared enough food and drinks for all their guests.

"We are fully set for tomorrow's ceremony, it is going to be colourful with everything put in place to receive our guests," he said.

By yesterday afternoon, the organising committee was still making final adjustments



L-R: Allan Kasujja, the executive director of the Uganda Media Centre, Obedi Katureebe from UMC and Rusoke, addressing members of the press during a dry-run yesterday ahead of the President's swearing-in today (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)



Hajji Yunus Kakande

Barbara Nekesa Oundo, the NRM treasurer and member of the organising committee, noted that accommodation arrangements had been decentralised across Nakawa, Millennium and UMI facilities.

"We even provided mobile showers at Nakawa because people sometimes prefer sleeping in tents, despite having accommodation," she said.

HEALTH SCREENING

The Ministry of Health has conducted screening for food handlers ahead of the event, with a small number identified for isolation after testing positive for conditions including COVID-19 and Hepatitis B.

Uganda Media Centre executive director Allan Kasujja described the inauguration as a moment of global attention.

"This is a national event, a regional event and an international event. The whole world will be watching us," he said.

TIGHTENED SECURITY

Security has been tightened across Kampala and Entebbe, with strict access controls around Kololo.

Maj. Dennis Omara of the Special Forces Command cautioned journalists and attendees against breaching security protocol.

"This will not be the usual Heroes Day or Labour Day celebration. It will be very unique. Nobody will be allowed into the presidential tent. That is a strict no-go area," he said.

He also warned against disruptive media behaviour during the parade. "Some people usually run onto the parade ground and lie down to take dramatic pictures. This time around, that will not be allowed."

across security, transport, accreditation, health services, and protocol arrangements, as the city prepared for an influx of foreign delegations, heads of state and invited guests.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

The organising committee has placed strong emphasis on order and capacity management, citing lessons from previous national events.

"We do not want the situation we had in 2021 where people were legally allowed to come, but there were no seats. In the VVIP tent we have 1,500 seats and in the VIP tent we shall have 2,000, making a total of 3,500. Do not estimate the seating capacity. Count the physical seats manually," Kakande, who is also Permanent Secretary in the Office of the President, directed the heads of various sub-committees organising the swearing-in ceremony yesterday.

OPEN BUT MANAGED ROADS

Officials said demand for invitations had surged. They noted that the red and blue accreditation cards nearly exhausted as access requests increased.

Uganda Police spokesperson ACP Rusoke Kituuma reassured the public that roads would be open, but managed.

"People should not imagine that roads have been closed. They are not closed; they are simply being managed," he said, noting that only VVIP convoy movements would trigger temporary stoppages.

LOGISTICS

Organisers have set up three public feeding centres at Uganda Management Institute (UMI), Housing Finance Bank grounds and Kololo High School to support guests and members of the public.

Transport logistics have also been expanded, with 48 co-ordinated vehicle movements arranged to shuttle attendees to and from the venue.