

From Lango to Kigezi to Bugisu, reactions to President Museveni's new Cabinet appointments ranged from celebration of increased representation to anger over continued regional marginalisation.

BY MONITOR TEAM

President Museveni's latest Cabinet appointments have triggered mixed reactions across several parts of the country, with some regions welcoming what they describe as increased political recognition while others complain of marginalisation and underrepresentation in government.

In Lango Sub-region, many leaders and residents welcomed the appointments as a sign of renewed confidence and political relevance for the region in national affairs.

The sub-region, which is home to more than 2.6 million people, secured several ministerial positions, including Dr Jane Ruth Aceng as minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance, and Mr Sam Engola as minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees.

Others appointed from the region include Ms Santa Sandra Alum Ogwang as State minister for Economic Monitoring in the Office of the President, and Dr Mercy Faith Lakisa as State minister for Youth and Children's Affairs.

However, the appointment of Ms Alum immediately sparked political controversy after the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) publicly distanced itself from her appointment.

In a statement, UPC president Jimmy Akena said the party had neither been consulted nor engaged regarding the appointment.

"UPC wishes to make it clear that the party was neither consulted nor engaged regarding this appointment," Mr Akena said.

He added that Ms Alum's acceptance of the position should be treated as a personal decision rather than a formal position of the party.

"UPC further clarifies that while the party has submitted a proposed framework for possible future structured political engagement and discussions with the National Resistance Movement (NRM), no active cooperation agreement, governing arrangement, or formal working partnership presently exists between the two parties," he added.

Despite the political disagreement, several opinion leaders in Lango described the appointments as a source of pride for the sub-region.

Mr Tonny Opio-Opio, a former parliamentary aspirant for Otuoke County in the 2026 General Election, said the appointments symbolised hope and recognition for Lango.

"It is a great honour and recognition for the people of Lango sub-region. These appointments symbolise hope, trust and the growing relevance of Lango in the national political and development agenda," he said.

Mr Opio-Opio, however, cautioned leaders from the sub-region against divisions and urged them to work together irrespective of political affiliation, religion or clan differences.

"At this critical moment, I wish to em-

Regions show cheers, unease over Museveni's new Cabinet



Santa Sandra Alum Ogwang

phasise the importance of unity, collaboration, inclusiveness and collective responsibility among all leaders from Lango regardless of political affiliation, religious background, clan, ideology or social status," he said.

West Nile

In West Nile, however, some leaders described the Cabinet appointments as disappointing, arguing that the region remained underrepresented despite its large population of more than 3.7 million people. Dr William Anzo Adiga, a lecturer at Muni University, said the region had lost ground politically compared to other parts of the country.

"We acknowledge and welcome Mr Siraji Musa Ali as State Minister for Works; Dr Charles Ayume as State Minister for Primary Healthcare; Tom Aza Aleru as State Minister for Trade in charge of Cooperatives, and Yorke Odria Alioni as State Minister in the ICT docket," Dr Adiga said.

"But these appointments do not solve the problem of critical underrepresentation, where we only have junior ministers," he added.

However, Mr Fadhil Lemeriga, the prime minister of the Aringa Cultural Institution, adopted a more conciliatory tone, saying the region would appreciate the available appointments while continuing to push for more Cabinet representation in future.

Teso

In Teso Sub-region, reactions largely centred on the removal of several influential political figures from Cabinet. Among those dropped were Gen Jeje Odongo, who had served as minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Musa Ewero, the former State minister for Works and Transport. Others include Ms Helen Adoo Abeku, the former State minister for Fisheries, and Ms Hellen Grace Asamo, the former State minister for Disability Affairs.

Mr William Ebiacu, a teacher in Orungo County, Amuria District, said many residents were surprised by the removal of Gen Odongo, whom he described as a key historical figure in the ruling government.

"I will remember him as a sober and level-headed leader who never engaged in unnecessary political fights. His presence in Cabinet had helped protect Teso's interests within the government," he said.

Ms Grace Apiding from Obur in Omatere Asamuk Sub-county said Mr Ewero deserved another chance despite losing his parliamentary seat.

Mr Ewero, who played a significant role in the fight against the Lord's Re-



Siraji Musa Ali

sistance Army insurgency in Teso before joining elective politics in 2006, lost the NRM primary elections in 2025 but reportedly chose not to stand as an independent candidate in the hope of being retained in Cabinet.

Meanwhile, Mr Alex Okello, a resident of Soroti City, argued that Ms Adoo's political downfall stemmed largely from public anger over military operations on Lake Kyoga during her tenure in the Fisheries ministry.

"That ministry trapped our sister into being disliked because everything that happened on the lake was blamed on her," he said.

Kigezi

In Kigezi Sub-region, leaders largely welcomed the appointments. The region secured several influential positions, including Mr Henry Musazi in Finance, Dr Chris Baryomunsi in Health and Gen Jim Muhwezi in charge of Security.

Others include Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde in Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ms Grace Akifeza Ngabirano as State Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs, Mr David Bahati as State Minister for Industry, and Jacqueline Mbabazi as State Minister for Elderly Affairs.

Kabale District chairperson Denis Nzeirwe Ndyomugenyi praised President Museveni for appointing seven ministers from the sub-region but urged them to focus on addressing pov-



Lydia Wanyoto

erty and malnutrition.

Mr Issa Tindyebwa, the Kabale District Muslim chairperson, also welcomed the appointments, noting that several Muslims had been appointed to Cabinet.

"We appeal for more political appointments targeting Muslims because we have well-educated Muslims who can serve this country in different capacities," he said.

Bugisu

Meanwhile, Bugisu Sub-region was greatly disappointed, with a section of residents accusing President Museveni of once again sidelining the region in Cabinet appointments.

The sub-region only secured two State ministerial positions, with Ms Lydia Wanyoto Mutende, the Mbale City Woman MP, appointed State Minister for Public Service, while Mr Simon Mulongo was named State Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development in charge of Employment and Industrial Relations.

Several opinion leaders argued that Bugisu continues to lose political influence compared to previous administrations when the region enjoyed both full Cabinet ministers and multiple State ministerial positions.

"We are not happy as Bagisu. We have again been neglected by the President," Mr Yusuf Masaba, an elder and resident of Mbale City said.

Bugisu played a key role during the

struggle for independence and in shaping post-independence politics. The region produced prominent leaders such as the late Prof Dani Nabudere, one of the architects of Uganda's 1995 Constitution, and the late James Wapakhabulo Wambogo, who served as the first Speaker of Parliament under the current constitutional dispensation.

Mr Samuel Sakwa Napokoli, an opinion leader and Minister for Local Government and Clan Affairs in the Bugisu Cultural Institution, attributed the region's declining political influence to internal divisions and weak leadership.

"The sub-region has suffered in recent years under the NRM government due to internal political fights and lack of leadership, unity and strategic engagement," he said.

Busia

In contrast, celebrations erupted in Busia District after President Museveni appointed Julius Wandera Maganda as State Minister for Works and Transport.

"We voted material to Parliament and that is why the President has rewarded him with a ministerial appointment," Mr Emmanuel Ogono, one of Maganda's supporters, said.

Supporters said they had camped in Samia Bugwe South Constituency during the campaigns because they believed Mr Maganda was destined for higher office. Many residents expressed optimism that Mr Maganda would use his new office to push for key infrastructure projects in the region, including reopening the Mulwada border and construction of better roads.

"We are here to celebrate the appointment of Maganda. We hope he will push for the opening of the Mulwada border and construction of a tarmac road," one resident said.

Others described the appointment as an answered prayer and thanked President Museveni for recognising their son.

Compiled by Bill Oketch, Felix Waro Okello, Clement Aluma, Simon Peter Emwamu, Robert Muhreza, Fred Wambede and David Awori.

WINNERS

Kigezi - retained powerful ministries like Finance, Health and Security. Buganda - bounced back strongly after losing influence in 2021. Busoga - secured top political offices like Deputy Prime Ministers. Bunyoro - consolidated influence with Prime Minister.



KALANGALA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

P.O. BOX 2 KALANGALA

BID NOTICE FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FRAMEWORK CONTRACTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026/2027. ABRIDGED BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN BIDDING

- Kalangala District Local Government Procuring and disposing entity invites competent firms/ companies for pre-qualification to provide goods, services, and works in FY 2026-2027.
- Interested bidders may purchase a complete set of bidding documents in English on the submission of a written application to the address below and Payment of a Non-Refundable Fee of UGX 100,000/= (One Hundred Thousand Uganda Shillings). The method of payment shall be by obtaining a Payment Reference Number (PRN) from Kalangala District Local Government, Finance Department, and submission of a general receipt to the Procurement and Disposal Unit after payment.
- Each item shall be bid for separately
- The bidding documents shall be inspected and issued at the procurement and Disposal Unit from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during working days.
- Bids must be delivered to the procurement and Disposal Unit at or before 11:00 AM on 23rd June 2026.

The detailed bid notice is available at the entity's website at www.kalangala.go.ug

ACCOUNTING OFFICER
KALANGALA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT