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UPDF SECURITY BALANCE SHEET UNDER GEN. MUHOOZI



Gen. Museveni (left) interacting with Gen. Muhoozi during the commissioning of 352 officer cadets at the Uganda Military Academy Kabamba in Mubende district, on October 4, 2025

By Nelson Kiva

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has been a key pillar in not only guaranteeing inland security, but also broader regional security. Uganda's security instrument is well embedded in its Commander-in-Chief's (President Yoweri Museveni) ideals that strategic security is not only paramount for the survival of Africa, but also for the socio-economic transformation of the continent.

Therefore, in the two years of Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba as the Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF), he has not only concentrated on the security apparatus securing the inland and the borders, but has also insisted on interventions that have secured the region and beyond.

Apart from the countries where Ugandan military contingents are pursuing bilateral and multilateral active operations – such as the DR Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea – the military chief has held several strategic discussions with military leaderships, presidents and diplomats from Rwanda, Egypt, Ethiopia, the US, Russia, China, the UK and Algeria, among others.

Ugandan troops continue to serve in Somalia under the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia, contributing to regional stability and counter-terrorism efforts.

The UPDF has also remained active in regional security operations such as Operation Shujaa, conducted jointly with the armed forces of the DR Congo to combat insurgent groups, including the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The ADF staged deadly attacks against Uganda for decades before being flushed across the border into the DR Congo jungles, where the group has continued to wreak havoc.

Additional operations such as Mlinzi wa Kimya in South Sudan and Mlinzi wa Wanyonge in northeastern DR Congo have reinforced Uganda's role in safeguarding peace and protecting vulnerable communities within the region.



Gen. Muhoozi (third-left) with the Ethiopian Ambassador to Uganda, Etsegenet Bezabih Yimenu (second-left), who was accompanied by the head of political affairs, Robel Admassu (left); defence attaché Col Yirga Gebremariam (third-right); deputy defence attaché, Col Tesfaye Guta (second-right) and at the back is Col Christopher Muwumba, the assistant to the CDF. This was after a high-level meeting at the Special Forces Command Headquarters in Entebbe on Monday, March 16

SECURING THE 2026 ELECTIONS

In his address during the 45th edition of Tarehe Sita celebrations in Kabale in January, Gen. Muhoozi observed that the 2026 general election was the most peaceful in the history of Uganda.

"Save for a few isolated cases, security was observed in most parts of the country throughout the electoral process. Voters went about the business of electing their leaders in a serene, calm and secure environment. As a consequence, the 2026 general election is already being called the most peaceful election on record," he said.

Despite prior threats by some actors to undermine the security of the country during and after the elections, Gen. Muhoozi celebrated that the country remained peaceful from north to south and from east to west.

"Contrary to the threats peddled by some hostile actors in the lead-up to the polls, the country has had the most peaceful and decisive election since 1996. The electorate largely heeded our advice to vote and then go home without causing any trouble."

He reported that criminal gangs that had tried to stir trouble due to incitement by some opposition actors had been dealt with in Kampala, Butambala, Mukono, Ssembabule, Jinja and Luwero.

"The security forces dealt with the troublemakers promptly, arresting and charging scores of suspects in the courts of law accordingly. Many were remanded to prison and are awaiting trial in the courts of law," Gen. Muhoozi said.

He added: "There were credible threats to instigate violence by some misguided political actors during the elections, but the threats have been well contained and overcome. We thank the people of Uganda for working closely with the security forces to keep the country peaceful and secure throughout this period. The country is peaceful, and we will continue working to keep it that way now and in the future."

PACIFICATION OF KARAMOJA

Gen. Muhoozi said the UPDF 3rd Infantry Division continued with its core mandate of disarming armed *Karacunas* and discouraging others from acquiring illegal arms, which has bolstered peace and consequently boosted investment opportunities in the region.

The 'Usalama kwa Wote' operation, launched in July 2021 by President Museveni, aimed at restoring peace and stability in Karamoja.

The joint security agencies have since seized hundreds of illegal firearms, while others have been voluntarily surrendered, marking significant progress in the region's disarmament programme.

"Our peace support and stabilisation missions in Somalia, South Sudan and eastern DR Congo are also progressing well. The ongoing external operations have a direct knock-on effect on the overall peace in our country, and, therefore, by helping to stabilise the region, Uganda benefits directly," Gen. Muhoozi said.

SOLDIERS' WELFARE

On the welfare front, the defence ministry has ensured that soldiers are equipped with improved, purpose-fit uniforms designed for comfort, durability and professional appearance. The upgrades, according to the ministry, reflect a renewed emphasis on dignity and identity within the force.

A new uniform outfit for women soldiers has been introduced, recognising their growing contribution to the defence forces whilst ensuring functionality and professional representation.

According to the ministry, feeding standards across units have been improved, moving beyond the traditional routine diet and ensuring more balanced and nutritious meals that support health, stamina and operational readiness.

Accommodation facilities in several barracks, per the ministry, are being renovated and expanded to provide safer, cleaner and more dignified living environments for troops.

This is in addition to the modernisation of office spaces and working environments across services, divisions and units to improve productivity, co-ordination and the overall working experience for officers and soldiers.

"The feeding, clothing and accommodation facilities for our officers and men have continued to improve tremendously. This is partly because of our emphasis on close supervision of projects and ensuring value for every shilling spent. We are making sure that all the services, divisions, independent and brigade formations throughout the UPDF receive support to address office and housing deficits in those formations," Gen. Muhoozi said.

He saluted the National Enterprise Corporation, Operation Wealth Creation, the UPDF Engineers' Brigade and the UPDF welfare and production departments for uplifting the standards of production in the country.

"They are doing a good job and have the potential to do even better," Gen. Muhoozi said.

The UPDF has a multi-tiered healthcare referral structure to

Inspection tour of the UPDF