

moment to acknowledge a comprehensive electoral outcome in favour of the NRM and to appreciate

PREPARATION DETAILS

Providing details of the preparations, the Minister for the Presidency and

of Uganda's continued democratic tradition. Babalanda cited reductions in poverty levels from 56.4% in 1992 to 16.1% in 2024, alongside growth in the size of the economy despite global

the category of Least Developed Countries, signalling progress toward middle-income status.

"In the past five years, as a case in point, the size of our economy

Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) of Tanzania, and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) are among those expected to be represented, underscoring the event's continental significance.

Mayiga asks the President to prioritise harmony in new term

By Dickson Kulumba

The Katikiro of Buganda Kingdom, Charles Peter Mayiga, has appealed to both the Government and the Opposition to maintain peace and uphold the law as the country prepares for President Yoweri Museveni's swearing-in ceremony.

Mayiga said that without harmony and peace, there will be no development. He made the remarks while delivering the state of the Kingdom address at its headquarters at Bulange-Mengo, Kampala, on Monday.

Mayiga condemned what he described as unlawful arrests, saying they drag the country back to the days of Idi Amin.

"As the President starts his new term, those practices should be abandoned because we want harmony. Without harmony and peace, there will be no development. Nobody is going to invest in a country where tension is evident," Mayiga said.

He appealed to the President to release all prisoners who were arrested over election-related issues as a sign of the maturity of Uganda's democracy.

"A number of people were arrested following the elections we had in January 2026. Many people are still in detention; many have not been tried. We think that they should be released, especially those who were arrested on matters related to the election process. Those who are supposed to be tried should be brought to the courts of law," noted Mayiga.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Katikiro also implored the Government to focus on uplifting the economy of the country to progress.

"We commend the Government for the construction of roads, but we think the focus should be on roads that lead to densely populated areas with significant economic activities. There are some roads that have been built where the populations

BETWEEN THE LINES

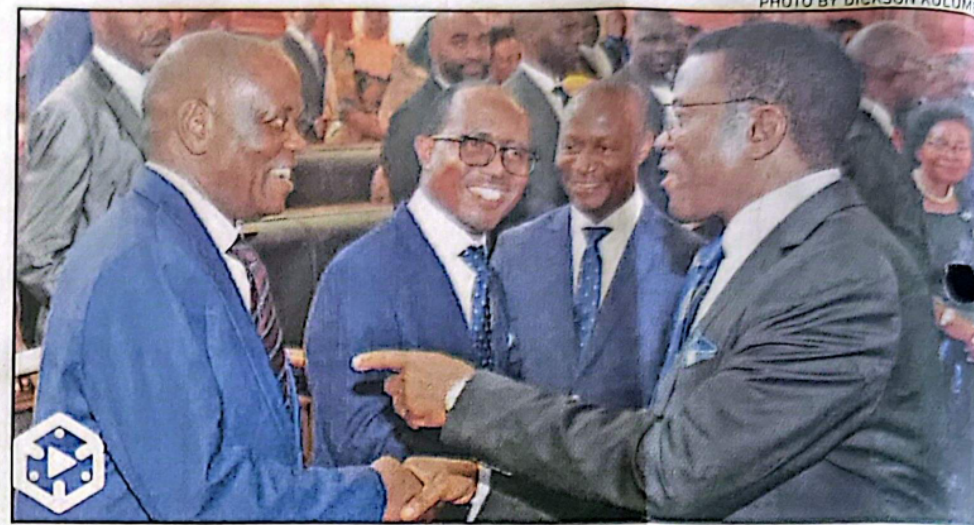
Mayiga also appealed to the Government to pay the arrears it owes Buganda kingdom.

are very small and have no significant economic activities. This is not spurring economic development," he said.

Mayiga also appealed to the Government to intensify the fight against corruption, further suggesting that it should begin with the bigwigs in government before turning on the small fish.

He also appealed to the Government to pay the arrears it owes the Buganda kingdom.

"The Government owes us a lot of money. We call upon the Government to pay up because several government agencies operate in the Kingdom's installations. They owe us rent, but they also owe us outright compensation. They paid some money last financial year, but



Mayiga (right) interacting with some of the Lukiiko members at the Buganda Kingdom headquarters in Bulange-Mengo, Kampala, on Monday. (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

we call upon them to pay this financial year," Mayiga appealed.

LUKIIKO PROCEEDINGS

The Lukiiko sitting was chaired by its speaker, Patrick Mugumbule, who was assisted by his deputy, Hajj Ahmed Lwasa.

Mayiga gave a number of highlights of what has been done in the kingdom in the past year. He thanked the Kabaka's subjects for turning in big numbers to celebrate the Kabaka's birthday at St Nicholas Cathedral,

Namungoona, where prayers were led by the Orthodox church.

In the health sector, Mayiga said the Uganda Aids Commission thanked Kabaka for his endless efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS, where he uses his birthday run to create awareness. He added that the Kingdom is planning to collaborate with Rotarians to acquire a boat hospital to aid the island's population.

Regarding education, Katikiro Mayiga reported that the kingdom now has 20 nursery schools and is planning

a multi-storeyed building at Muteesa I Royal University's campus in Kakeeka, among other academic developments.

He also announced that the Kingdom is going to roll out one-stop agricultural business centres (*Ssemaduuka*) in all counties. In February, it started with a centre in Mubende providing farmers with high-quality agricultural inputs.

The Lukiiko members passed nine resolutions, including one about congratulating Mayiga as he marks 13 years as the Katikiro of Buganda Kingdom (on May 12).