



Motorists drive along the Northern by-pass. President Museveni has advocated for a shift in National Social Security Fund investment strategy, urging the Fund to move away from government bonds toward high-impact infrastructure projects. PHOTO/MICHAEL KAKUMIRIZI

NSSF's bet on big projects: What's in it for savers?

National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is mandated to pursue high-yielding, risk-free returns for its members, rather than funding national development, or low-margin investments.



INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS
ISMAIL MUSALADU

Calls for the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to finance public projects are gaining momentum, with President Museveni leading the charge.

In recent weeks, President Museveni has urged the NSSF to invest in public projects, raising concerns among some contributors that the government could alter the Fund's investment strategy, which has delivered consistent returns.

Currently, guided by the law, NSSF invests workers' money primarily in low-risk, high-return assets to ensure capital safety and consistent returns, with assets in the range of Shs 26 trillion as of last year.

The President, however, is skeptical of keeping funds in passive investments, such as treasury bonds, at the expense of direct investment into infrastructure projects like toll roads.

He has criticised the strategy of lending money back to the government, preferring what he describes as a 'strengthening the bone marrow of the economy' approach, which focuses on building infrastructure, such as the planned Kampa-

la-Jinja Expressway, and other productive facilities. By issuing an infrastructure bond—a long-term debt or loan leveraging workers' savings to fund projects like roads and energy utilities, the NSSF directly participates in the country's development.

NSSF investments

Recent developments make it clear that President Museveni disapproves of the lack of NSSF investment in infrastructure development, a desire he has harboured for a long time.

During the Labour Day celebrations in Buikwe District on May 1, 2026, President Museveni advocated for a shift in NSSF investment strategy, urging the fund to move away from government bonds toward high-impact infrastructure projects to stimulate economic growth.

About a week before that, while speaking at a high-level summit hosted by the Africa Finance Corporation and the Government of Kenya, President Museveni emphasized the urgent need for coordinated infrastructure development across the continent. He explained that this feat can be financed either by the government—whose interest is not typically driven by profit—or with cheap, patient capital.

For all intent, in the case of Uganda, this cheap, long-term patient capital points to none other than the NSSF, which, as of September 2025, reported that its total assets under management have grown to Shs26 trillion. →