

National News

The High Command resolved to intensify UPDF operations beyond Uganda's borders by boosting manpower, both boots on the ground and intellectual firepower.

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President Museveni on Monday reaffirmed the government's commitment to bolstering Uganda's defence capacity, ensuring the country remains secure and steadfast in its pursuit of social and economic transformation.

He made the remarks while chairing the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) High Command at State House Entebbe, the first of such a gathering since the recently concluded 2026 General Election.

Mr Museveni, who also serves as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, led discussions reviewing the nation's security situation and ongoing UPDF operations both within Uganda and across the region.

According to officials familiar with the meeting, the High Command resolved to intensify UPDF operations beyond Uganda's borders by boosting manpower, both boots on the ground and intellectual firepower.

"The UPDF should utilise the officers who got specialised training and education from the National Defence College (NDC) and deploy them in areas where technical knowledge is needed, and also improve on methods of analysing

Museveni pledges security support



President Museveni (right) meets the High Command of the UPDF to review the security situation and the strategic priorities of the country. PHOTO/MUSEVENI X HANDLE

the source said.

The meeting also discussed the plight of soldiers caught off guard in surprise attacks in Somalia and the DR Congo under the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) and Operation Shujaa respectively.

AUSSOM, with more than 4,000 troops on ground. The Ugandan contingent comprises three battle groups; 39, 40, and 41.

The source explained that these operations have left the force exposed, with vulnerabilities reflected in attacks such as the one last year when several convoys were struck by an Improvised Ex-

plosive Device (IED).

"A UPDF senior officer and about a dozen other soldiers were injured in an attack that demonstrated the omnipresent threat posed by Al-Shabaab. The ambush was akin to the one staged by the same militants in May 2024 when 54 UPDF were killed," the source said.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Mr Museveni commended the UPDF leadership and rank and file for their discipline and professionalism. "Today I met with the High Command of the UPDF to review our security situation and the strategic priorities of our country. I thank the CDF and all officers and men of the UPDF and commend them for their discipline, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to safeguarding Uganda's peace and sovereignty. Our stability is built on vigilance, unity and patriotism."

He added that the government will continue strengthening defence capacity to ensure Uganda remains secure and focused on social and economic transformation.

The meeting was attended by top UPDF leadership, including Chief of Defence Forces Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba; Deputy CDF Lt Gen Sam Okiding; Commander of Land Forces Lt Gen Kayanja Muhanga; Commander of Reserve Force Lt Gen Otema Awany; Commander of Air Force Lt Gen Charles Okidi; and Commander of the Special Forces Command (SFC) Maj Gen Dayo Mugisha, among other service commanders and chiefs.

Representatives from the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, included Defence minister Jacob Oboth-Oboth, Defence State minister Huda Oleru, and Defence Permanent Secretary Rosette Byengoma, also attended.

During the recently concluded Tarehe Sita celebrations, Gen Kainerugaba praised security forces for maintaining a peaceful election environment and thanked Ugandans for working hand in glove with them to safeguard stability.

"Beyond Uganda's borders, the UPDF is involved in several operations, including in the DRC, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and Somalia," he said.