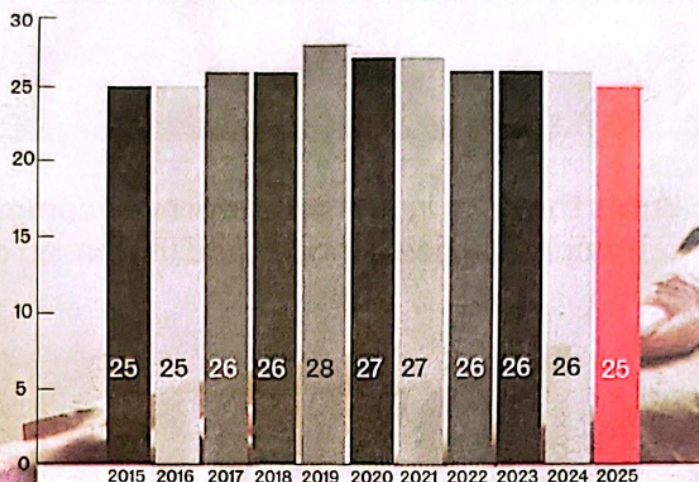


Uganda drops further in corruption ranking

UGANDA'S CORRUPTION RANKINGS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS



In the latest report, Uganda scored 25 out of 100 points, down from 26 in 2024.

BY ISMAIL MUSA LADU

Uganda's fight against corruption has suffered another setback, with the country registering a lower score in the 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), further entrenching its position among nations struggling with high levels of public-sector corruption.

The index, published annually by Transparency International, ranks countries based on perceived levels of corruption in the public sector, draw-

ing on expert assessments and business surveys. In the latest report, Uganda scored 25 out of 100 points, down from 26 in 2024, continuing a decade-long trend of stagnation and decline.

Over the past 10 years, Uganda's score has fluctuated between 23 and 27 points, consistently below both the Sub-Saharan Africa average of 32 and the global average of 42. The latest ranking places Uganda at position 148 out of 182 countries, underscoring persistent governance challenges.

Within the East African region, Uganda continues to lag behind its peers. Rwanda remains the top performer, scoring 58 points and ranking 41st globally. Tanzania follows with 40 points, placing 84th, while Kenya scored 30 points, ranking 130th. Uganda trails behind these countries, ahead only of the Democratic Republic of Congo, which scored 20 points, and Burundi at 17.

South Sudan and Somalia remain among the lowest-ranked globally, each scoring just 9 points.

According to Transparency International Uganda Executive Director Peter Wandera, the index highlights critical governance gaps while also providing a roadmap for reform.

Speaking on the sidelines of a national multi-stakeholder retreat in Entebbe, Mr Wandera said Uganda cannot afford complacency. "No country is perfect, but we should not be comfortable with a score of 25. Improving this score is essential for attracting investment and strengthening public trust," he said.

Citing Afrobarometer findings, Transparency International Africa Regional Advisor Paul Banoba noted that seven in 10 Ugandans believe the government is performing poorly in tackling corruption.

Of concern, more than 80 percent of

respondents said they fear retaliation if they report corruption, pointing to weak whistleblower protections and limited public confidence in enforcement systems.

Former Ombudsman Augustine Ruzindana acknowledged the importance of the CPI but urged greater inclusion of local data sources such as Afrobarometer surveys to better reflect on-the-ground realities. He also argued that comparisons with smaller countries like Seychelles, which topped Africa with 68 points, may not fully capture the governance complexities faced by larger populations like Uganda's.

At the institutional level, the Inspectorate of Government identified greed as the leading driver of corruption in Uganda, followed by weak supervision, low or delayed salaries, and declining ethical standards. The agency's Director of Research, Education and Advocacy, Gerald Gwaira, said while the CPI reflects perceptions, it does not fully capture ongoing anti-corruption efforts.

"There is significant work happening behind the scenes," Mr Gwaira said, noting that the government is targeting an improved CPI score of 31 by 2030. "We recognise that investors rely on this index, and we are working to address the gaps it highlights," he added.

Transparency International recommends strengthening independent and transparent institutions, curbing undue political influence, and expanding access to justice for victims of corruption.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The CPI evaluates a wide range of corruption indicators, including bribery, diversion of public funds, abuse of office, nepotism, state capture, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption laws. It also assesses issues such as money laundering, tax fraud, illicit financial flows, and the role of private sector actors in enabling corruption.