

Busoga, Bulyoro, and Tooro secured five slots each, while Bukedi and Lango received four appointments apiece.

Ankole, Kigezi, and Busoga each secured four Cabinet positions. Bunyoro received three Cabinet slots,

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Sebei, and West Nile did not get any full Cabinet positions. President Museveni retained Jessica Alupo from Teso as vice president and

“However, what is important to me is not numbers. It is the weight in the numbers. Do they have a ministry that is relevant and the person appointed there

BY ELIZABETH KAMURUNGI

KAMPALA. President Museveni introduced more than 20 new faces in his Cabinet, drawing in children of the revolutionaries, historicals and members of the Opposition.

While some are first-time members, a number of high-profile individuals made a comeback.

Among the seniors who have bounced back is Dr Crispus Walter Kiyonga, who was appointed 2nd deputy prime minister and deputy leader of government business in Parliament.

The 74-year-old held different portfolios from the start of the NRM government in 1986, before 1986, he was dropped in 2016. In the January 2026 election, Kiyonga won the vote as MP for Bukonzo West. This political victory marked the beginning of his return to the echelons of the NRM government.

Other historical figures who made a comeback are Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde Kakurugu, as minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, and Prof Ephraim Kamuntu as minister of Internal Affairs.

But while he brought back some members of the old guard, Museveni also introduced a class he labelled descendants of the revolution. Some include, Sharts Kutesa Musherure as minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Micro-Finance. She is the daughter of former Foreign Affairs minister Sam Kuteesa. Ms Justine Nameere, the Woman MP for Masa-

Who are the new faces in Museveni's Cabinet?

ka City, and daughter to former minister Vincent Ssempiija, has been posted as State minister for Labour. Ms Desire Muhooza is the minister of State for Agriculture.

Others are Mr Asiimwe Jonard Minister, Office of the President, in-charge of Science, Technology, and Innovation. Mr Asiimwe is the NRM Central Executive Committee vice president for the western region. He is also a member of the Patriotic League of Uganda, a pressure group under the chairmanship of the CDF, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba.

Amb Adonia Ayebare, who has been serving as Uganda's Permanent Representative at the UN, also makes his entry into the Cabinet as minister of Foreign Affairs. Following the news of his appointment, he posted on the social media platform X, “I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the confidence and trust you have placed in me by appointing me Foreign minister of the Republic of Uganda.”

He added: “This is to thank @mkainerugaba in a special way for his friendship and support over the years. I look forward to working together as we pro-

tect and serve the vital interests of our country.” Ayebare has decades of experience in diplomacy and international relations.

In appointing the younger people, analysts say a transition is taking shape gradually. Ms Mercy Lakisa, the Woman MP for Alebtong, makes an entry as one of the youngest ministers in the incoming Cabinet. She has been posted to the Ministry of Gender in-charge of Youth and Children Affairs.

Mr Museveni also appointed Sanjay Tanna as minister of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives. The former Tororo Municipality MP is the second Cabinet minister of Asian descent in Uganda's history.

Museveni also tapped UPC's Alum Sandra Santa, the Woman MP of Oyam District as the minister of State, Office of the President, Economic Monitoring.

Other new entrants include Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Lokii John Baptist, Migadde Robert Ndugwa as minister of State for Fisheries, and Akifeza Grace Ngabirano as minister of State for Defence and Veteran Affairs. Ms Phyllis Chemutai, the only minister from the Sebei Sub-region, will serve in the Ministry of Education and Sports, in-charge of Primary.

They are now awaiting vetting by the Parliament Appointments Committee, which will assess their suitability to oversee the different ministries.

The new people in Cabinet

1. Crispus Kiyonga – 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament
2. Jonard Asiimwe – Minister, Office of the President in charge of Science, Technology, and Innovation
3. John Baptist Lokii – Minister for Karamoja Affairs
4. Adonia Ayebare – Minister of Foreign Affairs
5. Henry Tumukunde – Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development
6. Ephraim Kamuntu – Minister of Internal Affairs
7. Sanjay Tanna – Minister of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives
8. Sandra Alum Santa – Minister of State for Economic Monitoring
9. Desire Muhooza – State Minister for Agriculture
10. Robert Migadde Ndugwa – State Minister for Fisheries
11. Grace Akifeza Ngabirano – State Minister for Defence
12. Phyllis Chemutai – State Minister for Primary Education
13. Cissy Mulondo – State Minister for Finance (General Duties)
14. Amina Mukalazi – State Minister for Privatization and Investment

The new people in Cabinet

15. Sharts Kutesa Musherure – State Minister for Microfinance
16. Calvin Echodu – State Minister for International Affairs
17. Mary Kuteesa Kamuli – State Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development
18. Mercy Faith Lakisa – State Minister for Youth and Children Affairs
19. Simon Mulongo – State Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations
20. Joyce Acan Okeny – State Minister for Disability Affairs
21. Jacqueline Mbabazi – State Minister for Elderly Affairs
22. Justine Nameere – State Minister for Local Government
23. Lydia Wanyoto – State Minister for Public Service
24. Susan Nakawuki Nsambu – State Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
25. Alioni Yorke Odria – State Minister for National Guidance
26. Lawrence Muganga – State Minister for Internal Affairs
27. Siraji Musa Ali – State Minister for Works
28. Julius Maganda Wandera – State Minister for Transport

