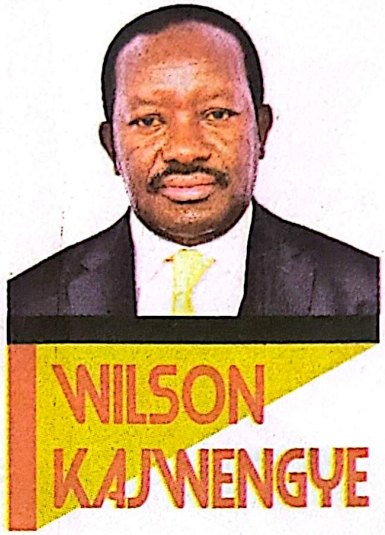
A new dawn: Reflections on Museveni's new term



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EDITOR: Uganda stands once again at a defining moment, a moment that demands not only reflection but decisive action. As President Yoweri Museveni begins another five-year term, leaders, policymakers and implementers must move beyond rhetoric to results. This is not merely a moment for continuity; it is a call to deliver the tenfold growth strategy to grow our economy to $500b by 2040. This is achievable. This strategy focuses on four pillars: agro-industrialisation, tourism, and mineral-based industrialisation (including oil). Others are science, technology, engineering, and innovation that touch every Ugandan household. The responsibility before us is immense, but it is also an opportunity to transform our nation in ways that will be remembered for generations.

At his swearing-in, Museveni set the tone unmistakably, declaring this a "*kisanja* of no more sleep". This phrase was not a casual remark but a rallying cry, a reminder that complacency has no place in leadership. It is a call to urgency, to discipline, and to execution. The message is not directed at the Government alone. It is a shared national mission. Yet, as those entrusted with public responsibility, we carry the first obligation to act. The people of Uganda expect delivery, not declarations, and it is our duty to rise to that expectation.

The President has laid out a clear agenda centred on wealth creation, job creation, and full participation in the money economy. He reminded us that Uganda already has the fundamentals of peace, infrastructure, and markets. He challenged us to translate these into a qualitative leap into higher middle-income status. For those of us in leadership, this is a moment of accountability. The commitments are clear: no more sleep, no more corruption, and discipline in public service. These are not slogans; they are guiding principles that must shape every decision and every action we take.

Job creation must be recognised as the single most important measure of success in this term. The President has consistently emphasised that jobs are a product of wealth creation across sectors. Our task, therefore, is to ensure that policy translates into real employment opportunities for our people. This requires accelerating industrialisation and manufacturing, supporting small and medium enterprises with accessible and patient capital (financing), aligning education and skills with market needs, and incentivising private sector-led employment. We must move from discussing unemployment as a statistic to addressing it as a daily reality for our youth. Every young Ugandan who wakes up searching for work is a reminder that our policies must be practical, inclusive, and transformative.

The Parish Development Model (PDM) is one of the most important instruments for inclusive growth. The President has called upon all Ugandans to actively participate and ensure its success. As government leaders, we must ensure that PDM is not reduced to a financial disbursement exercise but becomes a transformational platform for household wealth creation. This means strengthening accountability at the parish level, ensuring funds reach intended beneficiaries, linking them to markets and value chains, and continuously monitoring outcomes rather than inputs. The success of PDM will depend not only on policy design, but on our discipline in implementation. If we fail to supervise, if we allow corruption to seep in, then the model will collapse under its own weight. If we remain vigilant, PDM can be the cornerstone of Uganda's economic transformation.

This term also coincides with a historic milestone: Uganda's transition into oil production. The President has been clear — oil revenues are not for consumption but for strategic investment that builds a self-sustaining economy. This places a profound responsibility on the Government to invest revenues in infrastructure, energy, and industry, to channel resources into education, science, and skills development, and to prevent leakages or misuse. Oil must catalyse job creation and industrial growth.

If we squander this opportunity, we will condemn future generations to regret. But if we invest wisely, oil can become the engine that powers Uganda into prosperity.

To meet the expectations set by the President and the aspirations of our people, implementation must focus on five strategic pillars. The first is jobs and enterprise expansion, driving employment through industrialisation, small and medium enterprises and private sector growth. The second is agricultural transformation through PDM, ensuring every parish becomes a centre of production and income generation. The third is oil-led development, investing oil revenues into long-term national priorities. The fourth is the digital and innovation economy, creating new opportunities for youth through technology and innovation. And the fifth is governance and accountability, delivering on the promise of "no more corruption" through transparency and performance. These pillars are not abstract ideas; they are practical pathways that must be pursued with urgency and discipline.

One of the greatest tests of this term is whether policies translate into visible improvements in people's lives. The President has made an unmistakable diagnosis of our society, and rightly pointed out that Uganda already has the "medicine" for poverty. What remains is to ensure that the medicine reaches the patient and works effectively.

For those of us in leadership, this term is a defining test. It is an opportunity to translate the President's vision into reality and to leave behind a record of delivery, not declarations. A "new dawn" must represent a change in action, not just a continuation of routine.

A new dawn has arrived, and it must be marked not by promises but by the transformation of Uganda.

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