SERVICE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR SUSPENDED, PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS



Renovation of Namboole stadium is one of the projects the army has undertaken under Gen. Muhoozi as the CDF

QUOTES

- "UPDF will always maintain its combat effectiveness, professionalism and discipline."
- "No amount of hardship or unforeseen circumstances will derail us from our mission."
- "The UPDF, without doubt, remains the foundation upon which democracy and socio-economic transformation in our country will be realised."
- "The historical mission of the UPDF which predates the laws being debated today could not have been achieved without a highly disciplined force."
- "We cannot and shall not abandon or compromise the UPDF historical mission under any circumstances."
- "We have been strengthening ties with our African brothers and sisters across the continent, and even beyond the continent. We are nurturing long-standing friendships and forging new partnerships through military co-operation agreements, which are all aimed at building a shared future of safety and prosperity."

GEN. MUHOOZI SCOOPS AFRICAN CONTINENTAL AWARD

By Nelson Kiva

The African Leadership Organisation honoured the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) and Senior Presidential Advisor for Special Operations, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, with the Special African Leadership Award for Defence and National Security Excellence.

This was during the 15th African Leadership Magazine Persons of the Year Awards ceremony held in Accra, Ghana, between February 27-28, 2026, under the theme; *Leadership for a New Africa: Forging Our Peace, Owning our Narrative.*

The founder and executive chairman of the African Leadership Organisation, Dr Ken Giami, the London-based Nigerian, described Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba as a "rising and shining star of Africa."

The award to Kainerugaba, Giami said, was in recognition of the General's distinguished service, military reforms, and strategic contributions to Uganda's national and regional security over the past two decades.

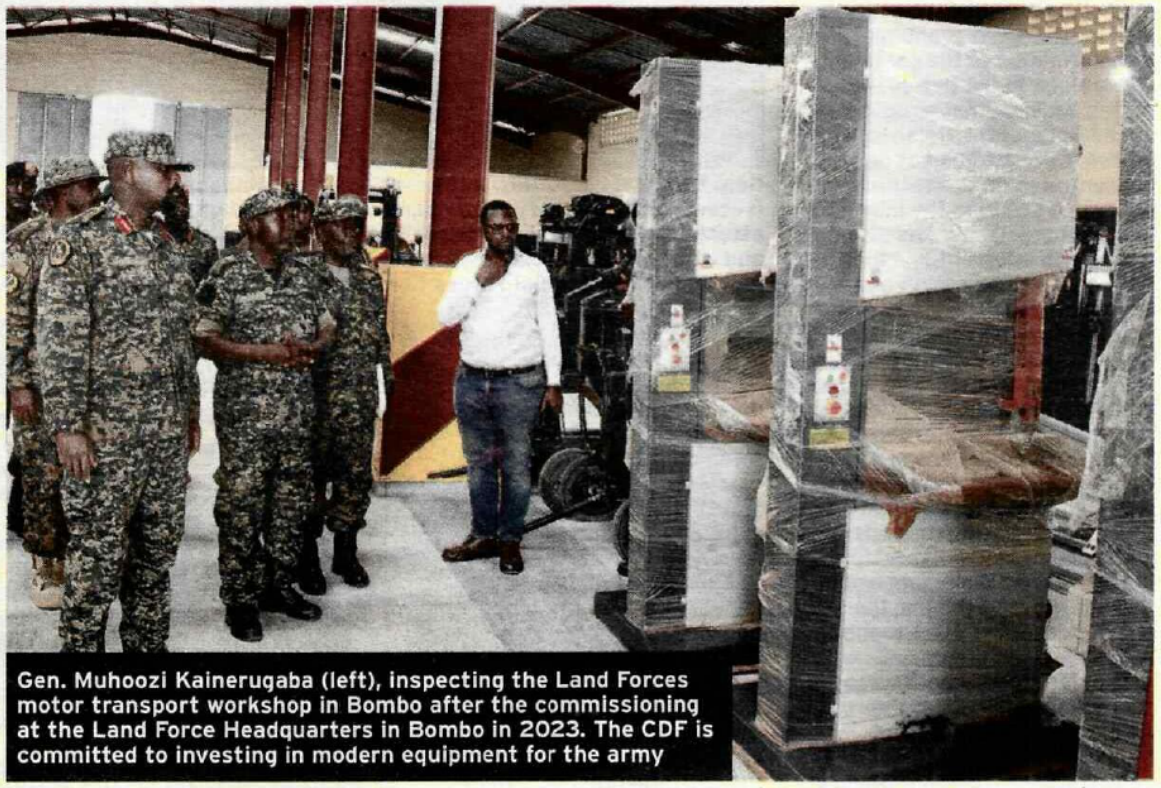
Giami said Kainerugaba was a long-serving commander of the UPDF, including earlier tenures as the commander of the Special Forces and commander Land Forces, where he strengthened Uganda's counterterrorism capacity, professionalised elite military units, and enhanced regional security cooperation frameworks.

Uganda's military chief was particularly hailed for his significant role in pacifying Somalia under the almost 20-year African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which transitioned into the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), and presently, the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

He was further applauded for his efforts to secure peace in the DR Congo under Operation Shujaa, and in South Sudan, where the UPDF has been active, first in 2013 and recently in 2024, when the UPDF deployed to secure Juba, potentially averting a major humanitarian catastrophe after major hostilities broke out between warring.

"Your role as CDF and Senior Presidential Advisor on Special Operations has cemented your legacy in Uganda's security architecture, contributing to operational modernisation, improved national and regional security, and robust defence diplomacy across the East African region," Giami said.

The award was received by Col Chris Magezi, the director defence and public information on behalf of the CDF. In Kainerugaba's acceptance speech read by Magezi, he expressed deep honour for the award generating from eminent personalities from across the continent driven by a pan-African vision and agenda through service and leadership.



Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba (left), inspecting the Land Forces motor transport workshop in Bombo after the commissioning at the Land Force Headquarters in Bombo in 2023. The CDF is committed to investing in modern equipment for the army

as part of the efforts to enhance the welfare of soldiers.

Kainerugaba has also since instructed the Engineers' Brigade to build an accommodation complex for Senior Command and Staff College in Kimaka and that work is already going on.

In all those projects, Namudongo said they were saving the government a lot of money because if it was private contracting, they would be charging a lot of money. As part of the rural projects, Namudongo said they were working on 100km security roads in Moroto.

CHAMPOINING EDUCATION

The UPDF have reconstructed Bombo Army Primary School after the CDF donated the sh300m he had saved from his office allowances.

Even when Muhoozi was still commander Land Forces he saved money from his own allowances and channeled it to the Engineering Brigade to construct a two storied building with 16 units to house personnel at Bombo.

While hosting dinner for Lt Gen Michael Thomas Flynn from the US at Serena Hotel Kigo recently, The CDF emphasised the importance of educating young people to love their country, value their nation and uphold strong moral values.

He informed his guest that the UPDF already runs military primary and secondary schools which follow the national curriculum set by the Ministry of Education and Sports but noted that there may be lessons to learn from the United States model.

"Perhaps we need to think about how we can develop something similar within our own system," Kainerugaba said.