

NEW UPDF HEADQUARTERS NEAR COMPLETION

By Charles Etukuri

The new Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs on Mbuya hill in Kampala is 75% complete, the team behind the project has revealed.

Lt Col Robert Chabo, the project lead engineer, said construction is more than 75% complete and that the team was currently doing installation and finishing works.

"The team is working around the clock to ensure timely delivery. The Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has given us the support we need to beat the deadline. Once completed, the headquarters will serve as a central hub for defence and veteran affairs administration," he said.

VISIBLE FROM THE CITY

A giant national flag visible from different parts of the city has already been fitted on the sh94b twin complex that is atop Mbuya hill.

During an inspection tour of the site on September 4, 2025, Gen. Kainerugaba directed the Uganda People's Defence Forces Engineering Brigade to complete the two buildings within the next 11 months. At the



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time of the inspection, the project was about 50% complete and Gen. Kainerugaba was given assurances that it would be ready for occupation on schedule.

The CDF was accompanied by the Chief of Joint Staff, Lt Gen Jack Bakasumba, and defence ministry under-secretary Edith Butuuro, alongside other senior officers.

"It is of strategic importance that the headquarters are accommodated in a modern and comfortable setting.



New UPDF headquarters on Mbuya hill in Kampala nears completion, construction hits 75% complete

This directly contributes to the operational efficiency, co-ordination, and capabilities of the UPDF," Gen. Kainerugaba said during the August 2024 ground-breaking ceremony.

While commissioning the construction of the building in August

2024, Gen. Kainerugaba thanked the Government and particularly President Yoweri Museveni for his support towards the project. He expressed optimism that the project would be completed within two years not the initially projected three years.

Lt. Gen Bakasumba said for long, the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs has not had decent headquarters.

"Now the reality of having one is unfolding before us," he said.

He appreciated the CDF for his strategic guidance and support.