

...costs by 35 percent. In fact, on 20th of this month, we will be launching the actual construction of the rail-

On November 11, 2025, during a talk show in Mbale City, Mr Museveni said it was madness for landlocked countries

will cost \$3b.

Uganda has also started on the construction of its side of the 272km SGR,

will cost \$3b.

Goods that need to be delivered very fast will use the SGR.

...the Just-Kisumu sector was held in November 2025."

BY DERRICK WANDERA

Joint security checkpoints intensify on Kampala roads

KAMPALA. Motorists in the Kampala Metropolitan Area are facing delays and inconvenience as security agencies intensify snap checkpoints and deployments on major roads.

The joint operations by the military and police have been reported across several divisions of Kampala and neighbouring areas in Wakiso District. Affected routes include Gayaza-Kampala Road, Bukerere-Namugongo Road, Kawempe-Tula Road, Makindye around Lukuli, Bweyogerere along Jinja Road, Kitubulu on the Entebbe-Kampala Road, Matugga along the Kampala-Gulu Highway, and Maya on the Kampala-Masaka Highway.

Police spokesperson Kituuma Rusoke said the roadblocks are temporary and part of routine joint security operations.

"You know our operations are always conducted routinely. Some of them are intelligence-led or simply aimed at curbing crime in different areas," Mr Rusoke said.

Heavy security deployment was first noticed on Monday on Gayaza-Kampala Road, where motorists experienced lengthy traffic delays. The congestion forced many drivers to divert through nearby villages, including Magere and Seeta, before rejoining the highway.

For much of the day, traffic moved slowly as police and other security personnel stopped vehicles and conducted searches lasting several minutes before allowing motorists to proceed.

One of the checkpoints was mounted a few metres from the road leading to the residence of Opposition presidential candidate in the last election, Mr Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, popularly known as Bobi Wine. He has remained in hiding since the eve of the announcement of the election results on January 17.

Using his official social media platform, Bobi Wine criticised the roadblocks.

"They are staging these roadblocks,

inconveniencing citizens everywhere in search of a man who's hiding in plain sight. One would think the Museveni regime learnt from its experience in the bush not to bother searching for anyone the citizens decided to hide, but clearly it didn't," he said.

On January 15, Electoral Commission chairperson Justice Simon Byakama declared President Museveni the winner of the presidential election with 71.65 percent of the vote. His main challenger, Bobi Wine, received 24.72 percent, while Mr Nandala Mafabi of the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) garnered 1.88 percent.

On the eve of the announcement

Army position.
"This is to dismiss insinuations from some quarters that the snap checkpoints mounted by the military and Uganda Police traffic corps are intended to apprehend NUP leader Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu. No one is looking for or interested in the NUP leader," - Col Chris Magezi, the Acting Director of Defence Public Information at the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs

of the results, Bobi Wine reportedly left his home amid fears of an imminent raid. His wife, Ms Barbara Itungo Kyagulanyi, was placed under house arrest. Since then, he has remained in hiding while occasionally appearing in media interviews, saying he will resurface at an appropriate time.

Responding to speculation about the security deployments, Col Chris Magezi, the acting Director of Defence Public Information at the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs, said the joint operation is intended to improve road discipline and enhance security.

"We are restoring sanity on Ugandan roads, ensuring full compliance with



Joint security agencies stage a roadblock at Gayaza Road in Kampala City yesterday. PHOTO/IBRAHIM KAVUMA

traffic regulations by all motorists, impounding unregistered or numberless vehicles, and curbing the illegal use of sirens, among other measures," Col Magezi said.

He dismissed claims that the operation was aimed at apprehending Bobi Wine.

"This is to dismiss insinuations from some quarters that the snap checkpoints mounted by the military and Uganda Police traffic corps are intended to apprehend National Unity Platform (NUP) leader Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu. No one is looking for or interested in the NUP leader," he said.

An investigative report by this publication last month showed that Magere Village, where Bobi Wine's home is, remains under security deployment.

The report noted that from the first turn-off on Gayaza-Kampala Road, two Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras and several security personnel are stationed on either side of the road, with at least six soldiers deployed at key points.

NUP activities

Meanwhile, the NUP party said it had been forced to cancel a planned activity to distribute food and other basic items to people observing Lent and Ramadan due to the heavy security presence in Magere.

Mr John Baptist Nambeshe, the party's deputy president for the Eastern region, said the decision was made after receiving warnings from sources within security circles.

"We had to call it off and see whether we can carry out the activity another day. We have always gifted our fasting friends with various goodies, but suddenly, we saw deployment all over the place," Mr Nambeshe said.

The party had reportedly planned to distribute foodstuffs, soap and other essential items as a gesture of solidarity with Christian and Muslim communities observing the fasting season.