

Museveni outlines priorities for 7th

The head of State says his manifesto that delivered his victory, themed Protecting the gains as we make a qualitative leap into middle-income status, will build on past achievements.

BY ELIZABETH KAMURUNGI

President-elect Yoweri Museveni has laid his cards on the table, outlining key priorities for the next five years. He said his seventh term will zero in on free education, improved health-care, job creation, poverty eradication, and an intensified fight against corruption.

Speaking at a thanksgiving ceremony at his upcountry home in Rwakitura, Kiruhura District, following his re-election yesterday, Mr Museveni noted that the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government between May 2026 and 2031 would focus on tackling poverty and strengthening the foundations for Uganda's socio-economic transformation.

"Between now and 2031, our priorities are free education, availability of drugs in health facilities, fighting corruption and creating jobs," Mr Museveni said.

The President-elect, whose new term will stretch his time in power to 45 years, also defended government support to wealthy individuals and large-scale investors, arguing that such interventions have a multiplier effect on the economy.

"The rich, the Bassajjabalaba, those with commercial farms, factories, hotels, including foreigners coming with factories, we shall continue supporting them," Mr Museveni said, citing financing mechanisms such as the Uganda Development Bank.

"These are the ones who pay more taxes. The more they grow, the more taxes they pay, and the more money we have to help the poor. We must end poverty in all homesteads because it is poverty that opens the door for manipulation," he added.

Mr Museveni was on January 17 de-

clared winner of the January 15 presidential election with 7,946,722 votes, representing 71.65 percent of the total valid votes cast. His closest challenger, Mr Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu of the National Unity Platform (NUP), garnered 2,741,238 votes (24.72 percent).

The President said the manifesto that delivered his victory, themed Protecting the gains as we make a qualitative leap into middle-income status, will build on past achievements. However, he admitted that his next term will also be shaped by persistent challenges, including unemployment, poor service delivery, widespread poverty, political polarisation, land disputes, human rights concerns, institutional decay, and crime.

Acknowledging long-standing concerns about corruption, Mr Musev-

eni said his government would "double down" on efforts to end the vice, which has dogged his administration through repeated scandals involving senior officials. He further pledged to expand access to safe water, prioritise job creation in manufacturing, and strengthen skills development.

Oil wealth

On the long-delayed oil sector, the President promised Uganda would finally start producing oil this year. "Very soon we shall start pumping the oil. We shall have money to deal with infrastructure — the railway, power stations, roads and science education," he said.

President Museveni, the leader of the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party and his wife Janet Museveni, addresses supporters during his final rally ahead of the general election in Kampala on January 13. PHOTO/REUTERS

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The First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports, Ms Janet Museveni, said the decisive victory now places a responsibility on the government to deliver better services.

"We must re-dedicate ourselves to the service of God's people, and He will bless our efforts just as He did during this election campaign," she said.

Low-key celebration

Unlike the 2021 election, when Mr Museveni held a victory parade from Entebbe to Kampala city centre, this thanksgiving ceremony was a low-key



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affair attended mainly by NRM top officials and religious leaders.

The NRM First Vice Chairperson, Mr Moses Kigongo, formally handed over the certificate from the Electoral Commission, officially gazetting Mr Museveni as President-elect for the 2026–2031 term.

The event at the Museveni home in Rwakitura drew party officials, members of the Central Executive Committee and the NRM secretariat, polling agents, and a cross-section of religious leaders, including Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe (representing the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda), Pastors Robert Kayanja, Joseph Sserwada, and Joshua Lwere, the Archbishop of the Orthodox Church, and the Mufiti of Uganda, Ramathan Mubaje, among others.

BY DERRICK WANDERA

KAMPALA. Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, the presidential candidate and runner-up in the just concluded elections, has rejected the results and asked Ugandans to demand what he called their stolen victory.

Bobi, who said he remains in hiding following what he described as an army raid on his home at Magere in Wakiso District on the outskirts of Kampala City, said, “Demanding victory is ongoing and I have emphasised that in a video that I shared earlier and that is the position for now. We are aware of the ballot stuffing, the pre-ticking of ballots, pre-signing of declaration forms even before the voting started.”

The EC declared Mr Museveni, 81, winner of the 2026 presidential polls after he garnered 7.9 million votes, representing 71.65 percent, with Bobi, 43, coming second with 2.7 million votes, representing 24.72 percent of the total votes cast.

Mr Nathan Nandala Mafabi of Forum for Democratic (FDC), came third, collecting 209,039 votes, representing 1.88 percent of the total votes cast.

The other candidates were Maj Gen Mugisha Muntu of Alliance for National Transformation (ANT), who got 0.5 percent, Mr Frank Bulira of Revolutionary People's Party (RPP) secured 0.3 percent, Mr Mubarak Munyagwa of National Peasant's Party (NPP) 0.29 percent, and Mr Elton Joseph Mabirizi of Conservative Party (CP) 0.21 percent.

But Bobi in an interview with *Daily Monitor* said: “The EC was deliberate in announcing results that were not even on the official Declaration Forms and relentless inquiries by our agents on where these results were coming from, fell on deaf ears. This means they were in connivance with those that were stealing the voices of Ugandans and we must demand our victory.”

The NUP campaign centered on looking for votes, voting, protecting and if it stolen, and demanding the victory. But Bobi's National Unity Platform (NUP) party has never explained what methods they would use to demand their victory.

But Mr Benjamin Katana, the NUP party treasurer, in an interview for this story said all options are open in demanding their victory, which he said was robbed in broad daylight.

“It is clear we have to demand our victory and that is the plan in which-