



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCES



THE UPDF TRANSFORMATION STORY

Congratulations!!

The Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs, and the Uganda People's Defence Forces congratulate President Yoweri Museveni and the People of Uganda upon celebrating Uganda's 54th Independence.

Building a people's Army

In 1986, National Resistance Army/ National Resistance Movement liberated Ugandans from a Government backed by Neo-colonial army that was synonymous with extra-judicial killings, violence and many other atrocities against Ugandans. The 1986 liberation brought about the restoration of dignity amongst the people and the state after two decades.

The Government, through Ministry of Defence has since 1986 ensured the NRA underwent huge transformation into a professional National force, carrying out regional peace and stability responsibilities on its shoulders. The UPDF successes within Uganda and in foreign missions has been possible not only because of the visionary leadership by the command that led to unreserved sacrifices by the forces but also because the post 1986 Uganda Government, through the Defence Ministry, ensured the country builds a security force with a conscious knowledge that the interests of the people come first.

NRA/UPDF has since 1981 bush struggle continually consolidated a strategic relationship with the people that earned it popular support that has enabled it to encounter and defeat a host of insurgents, rebels and all terrorist groups in the country. The UPDF has guaranteed a peaceful, stable and secure Uganda; on an irreversible path of prosperity for all, including Karamoja that is now on the path to recovery after many decades of negligence by the past Governments.

Building foundation for National Security

In 1986, the Ministry of Defence and NRA inherited dilapidated and inadequate Defence strategic infrastructure in the country. The several insurgencies after 1986 also had a toll on the resources that would otherwise have been used to rejuvenate these facilities. However, the Ministry of Defence adopted and started the implementation of the Defence Strategic Investment plan (DSII) that is responsible for the current professionalization development of the UPDF. This has led to efficiency and effectiveness in provision of better health services, training, working and living environment, alongside increased military capability.



Commander in Chief talks to a female Commander at Uganda Military Academy

The Force has adopted acquisition of equipment and training strategy that focuses on giving the UPDF leverage in dealing with the National threats, as well as being able to transition and respond to the unexpected security challenges with the ferociousness required and in good time. To achieve this level of readiness, the defence forces continue to acquire modern strategic defence equipments to enhance firepower delivery, force protection, mobility (on land, water and air), deployability and surveillance.

Maintenance of high professional standards

The Ministry of Defence/UPDF also ensured continued training for the defence forces, both locally and abroad to attain the current professional Force that has led to the consolidation of peace, defence and security in Uganda. The UPDF continues to develop Training Infrastructure/training



Commander in Chief-President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni , Chief of Defence Forces , and Permanent Secretary discussing on the wellbeing of Ministry of Defence and UPDF

schools to address the leadership and command challenges at recruit, Non-commissioned officer, cadet and officer Level.

Investment in defence diplomacy

The Uganda Government has remained a bulwark for stability in the entire region, ably and decisively containing the threat of global and regional terrorism. The UPDF is mandated among other things to contribute to Regional and International peace through Peace Support Operations. To this end, over time, the UPDF has generated capacity to deal with the volatilities in various parts of the African continent including in Darfur, South Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Somalia under the auspices of AMISOM and the UN.



Hon Adolf Mwesige Minister for Defence and H E Mrs. Sophie MAKAME French ambassador to Uganda exchanging documents after signing MoU on Cooperation in Defence.

Through peace keeping mission engagement pioneered by Uganda, Somalia is now more peaceful, governed by a government and increasingly attracting positive foreign interests. Other African countries have now got the confidence to contribute both Police and military to AMISOM. Uganda contributes UN Guard Unit to Somalia, since early 2014, to enable the UN to expand their operations in support of the Somali people.

The UPDF's rapid response and timely arrest of the fast deteriorating security situation in South Sudan in 2013 and the, twice, successful rescue of Ugandans trapped in the youngest Nation is one of the indicators of professionalism of the Force and its dedicated contribution to regional peace and stability. The UPDF is now part of a bigger family of both Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) and the African Union which have a joint capacity building mechanism for maintaining peace and security on the African Continent. Uganda continues to promote defence diplomacy which has contributed to a healthy strategic relationship with several countries around the world.

UPDF in Science, Technology and National Development

The Ministry of Defence purchased the defunct Lugazi University premises and allotted a section of the facility to Uganda Military Engineering College (UMEC) in October 2010. UMEC was established to progressively develop

engineering, technology and any other scientific capabilities in the UPDF. The research and development section of UMEC has made a number of successful projects like making of concrete railway slippers that can enable a train attain a speed of 250km/hr and axel load of 25tonnes, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that has flown to a satisfactory level of success, modification of Maize Haulers and Grinding. UMEC has also made a 25KW Wind Power Turbine now used to generate electricity to pump 24,000 liters of safe water daily and to power computer laboratory with other sections of UMEC.

Ministry of Defence, through its National Enterprise Corporation has made progress in science technology and National Development. NEC was established in 1989 and has expanded over the years. It currently conducts several businesses from Construction, Tractorization, Real estate



Brig Tumusiime Katsigazi displays Uganda made Nyoka Vehicles

management, Metal fabrication, military hardware maintenance, waste management, consumer products like bottled water, to maintenance of mechanized vehicles. The Ministry of Defence has partnered with IMPALA and now assemble "Nyoka" armoured Infantry Fighting Vehicles at Magamaga in Mayuge District. This project, undertaken by UPDF soldiers, is a landmark in the growth of the UPDF capacity and reduces on the costs incurred in buying fighting equipments.

Improving welfare through SACCO

The Ministry of Defence and the UPDF leadership started Wazalendo SACCO (WASACCO) to encourage savings and enhance welfare of their workers. It started with savings of UGX 238 million and was registered in September 2005 under the Co-operative Act Cap 112. WASACCO now has over 68,091 members and is the largest SACCO in Uganda that operates using a modern Orbit RICT software system and offers ATM banking services to members. It has registered the largest loan portfolio of shs 157.8 bn, and accumulative total of shs 476 bn since 2007 to date with among the lowest and most competitive interest rates (17% per annum) in Uganda today. Share Capital has grown from UGX 12.9 bn in 2012 to 84.9bn by April 2016, Savings and Deposits at 32.3bn. WASACCO has a network of 19 branches, 17 of which are fully automated and networked, enabling members to check account balances on savings, shares, and loans. Bombo branch is fully operationalized, handling withdrawals and deposits. WASACCO has won several international and local Awards. It acquired a four storeyed building as the Head Office in Kiwatule – Kampala. The integration with Interswitch has enabled members to transact with partner banks which have a network of over 300 ATM machines countrywide at Centenary Bank, United Bank of Africa, Cairo Bank, DFCU Bank, Opportunity Bank, Guarantee Trust Bank, Orient Bank, NC Bank of Uganda and FINCA Uganda.



South Sudan Rescue. Ugandans crossing Nimule border