

## UGANDA MARKS 45TH TAREHE SITA ANNIVERSARY AT KABALE NTC GROUNDS

The Uganda Prisons Service today joined the rest of the country in commemorating the 45th Tarehe Sita Anniversary at Kabale National Teachers' College (NTC) Grounds. The day marked a powerful moment of national reflection on the struggle that laid the foundation of Uganda through sacrifice, courage and resilience.

Tarehe Sita, meaning Sixth of February, remembers the launch of the armed struggle in 1981. It honours the heroes and heroines whose commitment to freedom brought peace, unity and stability to the nation.

This year's theme was:

"Defending the Gains of the Revolution and Honouring the Sacrifices of the Freedom Fighters: A Call for National Unity, Peace and Socio-Economic Transformation."

### *Early Morning Preparations*

The day began early with flags being raised as teams prepared the grounds. Protocol and security officers were busy on duty, ensuring everything was in place. Soon after, invited guests, African military chiefs and members of the public started arriving.



Among the guests were Ministers, Members of Parliament, ambassadors, heads of departments and agencies, retired army officers and religious leaders.



*The vice president Hon. Jessica Alupo hand shaking with IGP Abas Byakagaba*

Top leaders present included the Vice President of Uganda, Hon. Jessica Alupo, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Thomas Tayebwa, and the Chief Justice, His Lordship Dr. Zeija, along with current and former government officials.

Service Chiefs also attended, led by Lt. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, Chief of Defence Forces of the UPDF; the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Abas Byakagaba; and the Commissioner General of Prisons, Can. Dr. Johnson Byabashaija. Senior officers from the UPDF, UPF and UPS added great colour and dignity to the event.

The joint parade, made up of officers from the UPDF, UPF, UPS and UWA, formed up as they were ushered into the grounds by the band, which played lively patriotic songs. The Colour Party then entered in a smart and impressive style, exciting the crowd.

A General Salute was sounded for the Chief of Defence Forces, followed by the Roll of Drums for the Chief Justice. Then came the biggest moment of the day — the arrival of H.E. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the

Republic of Uganda, together with the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni.

The President was received by the Vice President, Ministers, the Deputy Speaker, the Chief Justice, senior NRM leaders and the Service Chiefs. He proceeded to the saluting base for the national anthems, then inspected the joint parade and the band before taking his seat.

The clergy blessed Uganda, praying for the country's sovereignty, peace and achievements over the 45 years since the struggle began.

The parade then marched in both slow and quick time. The troops moved with discipline and unity as the band played on. After the march past, the parade fell out to allow the President to deliver his address.



In his speech, President Museveni said he had unveiled a monument in Kabale to honour the cadres who were executed there by Idi Amin in 1973.

He reminded Ugandans of the journey of the country and said Uganda is now a lower middle-income country and is working to become a high middle-income country in the coming years.

He announced plans to build a new large international airport in Mbarara to boost trade with South America and China, and said Uganda will become a major steel producer because it has over 500 million tonnes of iron ore.

He congratulated Ugandans for their sacrifices and support in the recent elections and said Kabale and the wider Kigezi region have great potential in minerals, agriculture and tourism.

The President awarded Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba a medal for leading anti-Al-Shabaab operations and commanding missions in DR Congo, South Sudan and Somalia.



*The President awarding Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba with a medal*

In his remarks, Gen. Muhoozi thanked the President for his guidance and support and said the welfare of the Defence Forces remains a top priority. He also said security forces acted quickly against troublemakers after the elections and ensured peace and stability.

The celebrations ended on a high note, with Ugandans reflecting on the meaning of Tarehe Sita — a reminder of sacrifice, unity and service to the nation.

As the country marked 45 years since the start of the struggle, Ugandans renewed their commitment to protect the gains of the revolution and work together for a peaceful, united and prosperous Uganda.