

Uganda: Opposition leader arrested upon landing at national airport

October 5, 2023

October 5, 2023: The Ugandan Opposition leader **Bobi Wine** was detained on Thursday upon returning to the country from a trip abroad, but police later said they had accompanied him to his residence.

The singer-turned-politician, Leader of the **National Unity Platform (NUP)**, arrived at Entebbe International Airport on Thursday morning after a tour of several countries, including South Africa.

A Tweet by David Lewis Rubongoya, Secretary-General of NUP:



Bobi Wine's supporters had planned to accompany him en masse to his home north of the capital, Kampala, to welcome him back. But the Police declares the plan to be illegal:

"Such a procession has the potential to disrupt the normal flow of traffic, the movement of individuals, and the operations of businesses along the Entebbe – Gayaza highway. It may also attract criminal activities, posing risks to bystanders, motorists, passengers, and businesses through acts of theft or other criminal activities," Kampala police spokesperson **Patrick Onyango** said on Wednesday.

Last month, Ugandan police announced they were banning rallies being organized by NUP across the country because of public order issues.

Former singer, **Bobi Wine**, whose real name is **Robert Kyagulanyi**, is the strongest political challenger of President **Yoweri Museveni**, who has ruled the East African country since 1986. Bobi Wine has been arrested several times in recent years, and his supporters' rallies are regularly dispersed, sometimes violently.

President **Yoweri Museveni** was re-elected in 2021 **for a sixth term** with 58% of the vote, according to the official results, ahead of Bobi Wine (35%), who denounced the election as a farce.

www.DiGiNews360.com calls upon President **Yoweri Museveni** to come forward with a **legacy, which strengthens democracy in Uganda**.

- President **Yoweri Museveni** has already ruled for six terms. We call upon him to relinquish power when he completes this term.
- We also demand that the Police authorities in Uganda should understand that it is their job to ensure that legitimate political activity can be conducted while public order is maintained. To ensure public order, if a Police Officer has to stop political activities like a procession, a rally or a meeting, it only brings out the incompetence of the police force.
- We call upon President **Yoweri Museveni** to modify the constitution so that no more than 2 terms are permitted. www.DiGiNews360.com also calls upon the **African Union** to frame a model, which limits the tenure of a President or Prime Minister to two terms.



Republic of Uganda: Capital: Kampala

*Population of **Kampala**: 1.68 Mn*

Uganda: Population: 47.73 Mn (31st), Area: 241,038 Km²(79th)

GDP: \$46.38 Bn (90th), GDP per capita: \$1,060 (196th)

A BRIEF HISTORY: In 1893, the **Imperial British East Africa Company** transferred its administration rights of territory consisting mainly of the Kingdom of Buganda to the British government. Uganda was a protectorate of the British Empire from 1894 to 1962.

Uganda gained independence from the UK **on 9 October 1962** with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state and Queen of Uganda. In October 1963, Uganda became a republic but maintained its membership in the Commonwealth of Nations.

The first post-independence election, held in 1962, was won by an alliance between the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) and Kabaka Yekka (KY). UPC and KY formed the first post-independence government with Dr. Milton Obote the Prime Minister, with

the **Buganda Kabaka (King) Edward Muteesa II** holding the largely ceremonial position of President.

In May 1966, the ambition of the President to have an independent Buganda could not be accommodated within the nation-state of Uganda. Obote ordered Idi Amin to attack the Kabaka's palace. After a bloody battle, in which about 2,000 people died, the palace was captured and the Kabaka went into exile in London, UK. Dr. Milton Obote became the President of Uganda, under a new constitution.

After a military coup on **25 January 1971**, Obote was deposed from power and **General Idi Amin** seized control of the country. Amin ruled Uganda as dictator with the support of the military for the next eight years. He carried out mass killings within the country to maintain his rule. An estimated 80,000–500,000 Ugandans died during his regime. Aside from his brutalities, he forcibly drove out the entrepreneurial Indian minority from Uganda.

In 1980, the Ugandan Bush War broke out resulting in Yoweri Museveni became president since his forces toppled the previous regime in January 1986. President Yoweri Museveni has ruled the country since 1986.

By—**Abel in Burundi**
