

1. Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever

Regrettably, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) due to the spread of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. As of June 25th, Uganda has recorded 20 confirmed cases including two fatalities. All reported cases in Uganda have been linked to individuals who entered the country from the Democratic Republic of Congo, while infected and there have been no so-called community transmissions.

This marks the second Ebola outbreak I have witnessed since being assigned to Uganda. (The previous time was in February 2025.)

Ebola differs significantly from the COVID-19 pandemic we experienced. There is no airborne transmission. Also, there is no infection during the incubation period; infection occurs through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person who has developed symptoms. My second experience reaffirmed the importance of "fearing appropriately." In Kampala, preventive measures such as hand sanitization and temperature checks are being carried out in places where people gather, and vigilance against infection is maintained. However, unlike when COVID-19 was globally prevalent, schools and restaurants have not closed, nor have streets become deserted. It is a situation where daily life continues while maintaining vigilance. The WHO also assesses that the risk of this outbreak developing into a global pandemic is low.

To support infection control measures, the Japanese government provided disinfectants to the Ugandan government and provided support totaling 520 million JPY in cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We sincerely hope for an early resolution of the situation.



Commemorative photo at the disinfectant handover ceremony



Handover ceremony

2. Announcement of Uganda's New Cabinet Ministers

In last month's column, I mentioned that President Museveni had begun a new term. On May 26th, President Museveni announced the lineup of his new cabinet earlier than many had anticipated, signaling his strong commitment to the new term.

The structure of the new cabinet reflects two key themes: continuity and policy implementation. Senior leadership positions including those of the Vice President, Prime Minister, and First Deputy Prime Minister have remained unchanged. Vice President Maj. (Rtd) Alupo attended TICAD 9, and Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Nabbanja attended the Kansai-Osaka Expo, making them familiar figures to Japan.

On the other hand, new faces are also seen. A prominent example is Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, who was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs from Uganda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Another significant change is the promotion of Hon. Henry Musasizi (45), previously Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to the position of Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, indicating the appointment of younger individuals.

The list of 30 cabinet ministers is as follows. There are 9 female ministers. In addition, 51 ministers of state have been appointed.

Female Ministers (Total 9)

1. Rebecca Kadaga (First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs)
2. Lukia Nakadama (Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio)
3. Janet Kataaha Museveni (Minister of Education and Sports)
4. Milly Babirye Babalanda (Minister for the Presidency (in charge of the Presidency))
5. Minsa Kabanda (Minister for Kampala Capital City and Metropolitan Affairs)
6. Justine Kasule Lumumba (Minister of Information, Communications Technology and National Guidance)
7. Monica Musanza Musenero (Minister of Energy and Mineral Development)
8. Jane Ruth Aceng Ocerro (Government Chief Whip)
9. Judith Nabakooba (Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development)

Male Ministers (Total 21)

1. Crispus Walter Kiyonga (Second Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament)
2. Jim Muhwezi (Minister for the Presidency (in charge of Security))
3. Asiiimwe Jonard (Minister for the Presidency (in charge of Science, Technology and Innovation))

4. Hillary Onek (Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (in charge of General Duties)
5. Sam Engola (Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (in charge of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees)
6. John Baptist Lokii (Minister for Karamoja Affairs)
7. Frank Tumwebaze (Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries)
8. Sam Mayanja (Attorney General)
9. Kiryowa Kiwanuka (Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs)
10. Henry Musasizi (Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development)
11. Adonia Ayebare (Minister of Foreign Affairs)
12. Henry Kakurugu Tumukunde (Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development)
13. Chris Baryomunsi (Minister of Health)
14. Ephraim Kamuntu (Minister of Internal Affairs)
15. Nobert Mao (Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs)
16. Balaam Barugahara (Minister of Local Government)
17. Katumba Wamala (Minister of Public Service)
18. Tom Butime (Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities)
19. Sanjay Tanna (Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives)
20. Kahinda Otafiire (Minister of Water and Environment)
21. Fred Byamukama (Minister of Works and Transport)

3. UN WOMEN, Peace Winds Japan

As I have mentioned several times in this column, Uganda is the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, accommodating nearly two million refugees. In response, Japan is providing various forms of support. On May 18, I visited the Nakivale refugee settlement in western Uganda, about 300 kilometers from Kampala. Here, grant aid has been provided through UN WOMEN since 2024.

There is a reality that 80% of refugees flowing into Uganda from neighboring countries are women and children. For these refugees and residents of the host communities that accept them, efforts are being made to promote women's participation in decision-making, provide vocational training, and strengthen protection for victims of sexual violence.

At the refugee settlement site, various organizations with diverse backgrounds are working together to provide support. This includes UN WOMEN and other UN agencies, international NGOs including those from Japan, local government officials, and even employees of Japanese companies residing in Uganda who participate in vocational training. During the vocational training, I also observed automotive repair and maintenance training for refugees, including women. After acquiring basic skills through the training, they seek employment opportunities at local gas stations and auto repair shops. The Japanese

companies providing support were diligently assisting with job placement. I was truly humbled by their dedicated support. There is also training aimed at acquiring ICT skills. To prevent sexual violence, training is necessary not only for women but also for men. During this visit, I also observed awareness-raising activities for men.



Interaction with automotive repair vocational trainees



Interaction with ICT vocational trainees

On June 15, a signing ceremony was held for a grant aid contract with Peace Winds Japan as the implementing organization, for the purpose of supporting agricultural technology dissemination and livelihood improvement in refugee settlements, as part of Japan's NGO Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects for fiscal year Reiwa 8.



Signing ceremony

The international situation is currently undergoing a turbulent period and Uganda is no exception. The influx of refugees is expected to increase rather than decrease. The reality is that support from the international community is not increasing. Stabilizing the situation in Africa and creating an environment where people can coexist peacefully will also benefit Japan in the long run. The road is long and not easy, but Japan has renewed its commitment to provide as much support as possible.

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