50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON: 19th August – 8th October 2025

FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE SPHERE

2026 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK FOUR: 8th to 14th September 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
21	Monday	8th September 2025	The National Economy
22	Tuesday	9th September 2025	Transport and Logistics
23	Wednesday	10th September 2025	Information Communication and Technology
24	Thursday	11th September 2025	Entrepreneurship, Trade and Commerce
25	Friday	12th September 2025	Manufacturing & Industry
26	Saturday	13th September 2025	Tourism and Hospitality
27	Sunday	14th September 2025	Labour & Employment

DAY 23: 10th SEPTEMBER 2025

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

DANIEL 12:4
"Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

ECCLESIASTES 7:12
"Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it."

PROVERBS 8:12
"I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion."

In today's world, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is no longer optional — it is the nervous system that connects citizens, businesses, and government. ICT shapes how nations deliver services, grow their economies, safeguard security, and engage globally.

For Uganda, ICT has been a fast-growing sector, with innovations like mobile money, internet penetration reaching over 50%, and a youthful population embracing digital tools. But governance determines whether ICT becomes a driver of inclusion and prosperity — or a source of inequality, surveillance, and corruption.

1. ICT as a Driver of Economic Growth

- ICT contributes to GDP through telecoms, fintech, and digital entrepreneurship.
- Mobile money revolutionized financial access, enabling millions without bank accounts to transact.
- ICT can enhance agriculture, tourism, education, and healthcare through innovation.

Governance Role:

- Policies that support start-ups and local tech talent.
- Investments in ICT infrastructure (broadband, electricity, data centers).
- Regulating telecoms for fair competition.

2. ICT and Service Delivery in Governance

- **E-Government:** Digitized tax collection, land registries, and national IDs reduce bureaucracy and corruption.
- **Public Accountability:** ICT can make budgets, procurement, and services transparent.
- **Efficiency:** Digital systems reduce costs and time in government operations.
Challenges:
- Corruption in ICT tenders.
- Poor internet in rural areas.
- Limited digital literacy among citizens.

3. ICT and Inclusion

- Uganda's young population is tech-savvy, but rural communities, women, and the elderly risk being excluded.
- ICT can either reduce inequality (through e-learning, mobile money, telemedicine) or widen it if access is limited.
Governance Role:
- Expand rural broadband and electricity.
- Invest in ICT training and innovation hubs.
- Promote affordable devices and services.

Isaiah 54:2 — "Enlarge the place of your tent... lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes."

4. ICT, Security, and Governance

- ICT provides tools for law enforcement, national security, and border management.
- But it also creates risks: cybercrime, online fraud, and data breaches.
- Governance must balance digital rights (freedom of expression, privacy) with security.

5. ICT and Global Competitiveness

- Uganda competes in a global digital economy.
- Countries that invest in ICT leapfrog into prosperity.
- Uganda's Vision 2040 emphasizes ICT as a cornerstone for development.
Governance Role:
- Build policies that attract investment in ICT.
- Support research and innovation.
- Position Uganda as an East African digital hub.

6. Governance Failures in ICT
- High internet taxes (e.g., OTT/social media tax) discourage use and innovation.
- Poor ICT project management wastes public resources.

Isaiah 59:14 — "So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets."

UGANDA'S MOBILE MONEY REVOLUTION

Before 2009, most Ugandans had no access to formal banking. Less than **20% of** adults held bank accounts, particularly in rural areas. Sending or receiving money was costly and unsafe.

In 2009, MTN Uganda and Uganda Telecom launched mobile money services. With just a basic phone, Ugandans could now deposit, send, and withdraw money through agents spread across villages and towns.

The Revolution
- **Rapid Growth:** Within a decade, mobile money became the dominant form of financial service in Uganda.
  - By 2023, Uganda had 35+ million registered accounts (more than the adult population).
  - Over UGX 100 trillion (≈ USD 26 billion) flows annually through mobile money systems.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Mobile money brought banking to the unbanked — especially rural farmers, women, and youth.
- **Economic Transformation:** It enabled:
  - **Small business growth** (easy payments).
  - **Remittances** from urban to rural areas.
  - **Government collections** (taxes, fees, utility payments).
  - **Savings & loans** through fintech innovation.

Ecclesiastes 11:2 — "Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land."— Mobile money became a tool for resilience in crisis.

Governance Dimensions
1. **Policy & Regulation**
   - The Bank of Uganda and Uganda Communications Commission regulated mobile money to protect users.
   - In 2020, Parliament passed the National Payments Systems Act, giving mobile money a clear legal framework.
2. **Challenges in Governance**
   - Fraud and theft (SIM swaps, scams).
   - Over-taxation: The 2018 OTT tax and mobile money tax discouraged usage, sparking public outcry.
   - Regulatory gaps between telecoms and banks.
3. **Impact on Governance**
   - Improved tax collection and revenue flows.
   - Greater transparency in government fees.

o Empowered citizens through faster financial access.

Proverbs 13:23 — "The field of the poor may produce much food, but it is swept away through injustice." — governance determines whether innovations bless the poor or burden them.

Lessons Learned
- **Positive:** When governance supports innovation, ICT can transform lives faster than traditional systems.
- **Negative:** When governance overtaxes or regulates poorly, it stifles growth and burdens citizens.
- **Opportunity:** Uganda can expand mobile money into agriculture, health, and education payments to strengthen inclusion.

Conclusion: ICT as a Stewardship Test for Governance

ICT is a powerful tool — it can build nations or break them. Governance determines whether ICT serves as a platform for justice, service delivery, innovation, and opportunity, or as an instrument of oppression and exclusion. Uganda must govern ICT with vision, integrity, and inclusivity.

Proverbs 14:34 — "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people."

PRAYER GUIDE: ICT AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

1. Thanksgiving for ICT Innovation and Growth

Psalm 19:3–4 — "Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."
📖 *James 1:17 — "Every good and perfect gift is from above."*

Lord, thank You for the gift of innovation that brought mobile money to Uganda, giving millions access to safe and convenient financial services. Lord, we thank You for the spread of ICT in Uganda — for mobile money, internet access, and innovations that connect our people and expand opportunities.

2. Repentance for Mismanagement, Misuse and Exclusion

Isaiah 5:8 — "Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left."
Amos 8:5 — "Skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales."

Forgive us where ICT has been misused for corruption, oppression, or exclusion. We repent for policies that have burdened citizens with unnecessary taxes or denied them access. Forgive us where fraud, scams, and unfair taxation have undermined this innovation.

3. Prayer for Protection and Integrity

Proverbs 11:1 — "The Lord detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him."

Shield Uganda from cyber fraud, identity theft, and online crime. Protect businesses, government systems, and citizens in the digital space. Lord, protect citizens from fraud and scams. May regulators, telecoms, and banks work with integrity.

4. Prayer for ICT Infrastructure

Isaiah 54:2 — "Enlarge the place of your tent."

Lord, bless Uganda with improved broadband, electricity, and ICT infrastructure. May rural communities, schools, and hospitals be connected and empowered.

5. Prayer for Innovation and Youth

Joel 2:28 — "Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

Raise up a generation of innovators, coders, and entrepreneurs in Uganda who will use ICT for national transformation and kingdom impact.

6. Prayer for Good Governance in ICT

Proverbs 29:4 — "By justice a king gives a country stability."

Lord, give leaders wisdom to regulate ICT with fairness, protect digital freedoms, and use technology to improve service delivery. Remove corruption from ICT projects.

7. Prayer for Inclusive Growth

Psalm 113:7 — "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap."

May mobile money continue to lift the poor, empower women, and strengthen rural communities.

8. Prayer for Future Innovation

Isaiah 43:19 — "See, I am doing a new thing!"

Lord, inspire new ICT solutions — in agriculture, education, and healthcare — that build on mobile money's success for the good of all Ugandans.

9. Prayer for Uganda as a Digital Hub

Isaiah 60:1 — "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."

May Uganda become a center of digital excellence in East Africa. Bless policies that support startups, research, and innovation, so the nation may be a light in the region.

Closing Prayer

Father, we lift up Uganda's ICT sector before You. Thank You for the tools that connect us and create opportunities. Forgive our failures in managing them. Raise leaders with vision and integrity who will use ICT to deliver justice, transparency, and opportunity for all. Protect our people from digital harm, and let Uganda rise as a nation whose governance in technology reflects Your wisdom and righteousness. Father, we thank You for Uganda's mobile money revolution, a tool that has transformed millions of lives. We pray for wisdom in governance, integrity in regulation, and creativity in innovation. May ICT continue to serve justice, equity, and prosperity, lifting the poor and blessing our nation. In Jesus' name, Amen.