

## 50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON: 19<sup>th</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE SPHERE

### 2026 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

#### PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK FOUR: 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
28	Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	The Financial Sector
29	Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Early Childhood and Primary Education
30	Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Secondary Education
31	Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Tertiary Education
32	Friday	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Continuing Adult Informal and Non-Formal Education
33	Saturday	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Education Governance
34	Sunday	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	Science, Technology, Research, Innovation

#### DAY 28: 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

#### THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

##### HAGGAI 2:7,8

*And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts.*

##### PROVERBS 21:5

*“The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”*

##### PROVERBS 22:16

*Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.*

##### PROVERBS 13:11

*“Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow”.*

The financial sector is the bloodstream of Uganda’s economy. It is through finance that savings are mobilized, businesses are funded, jobs are created, and households are able to meet daily needs. Banks, microfinance institutions, SACCOs, insurance companies, capital markets, and, more recently, mobile money, all form part of this vital system. Yet the way this sector functions is not simply a matter of economics — it is a direct reflection of

governance. Good governance makes finance transparent, fair, and accessible to all. Poor governance allows corruption, exclusion, and instability to take root.

Scripture reminds us that wealth and finance are matters of stewardship. *“Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow”* (Proverbs 13:11). Governance must therefore protect integrity in financial dealings so that the nation’s economy grows on a foundation of trust.

### **The Structure of the Financial Sector**

Uganda’s financial sector is diverse. At the top sit the commercial banks, supervised by the Bank of Uganda. Alongside them are microfinance institutions and SACCOs, reaching into rural areas where formal banks are scarce. The insurance industry and pensions sector are expanding, though coverage remains low. The capital markets, still small, hold potential for long-term investment.

Yet the most transformative innovation has been mobile money, which has given millions of Ugandans access to financial services without needing a bank account. This leap forward in financial inclusion has been possible because governance provided the regulatory space for mobile money to thrive. Still, challenges of fraud, money laundering, and weak oversight remain — reminding us that governance must constantly evolve to protect the people.

**Governance Role:** To ensure regulation, consumer protection, and financial stability.

*Leviticus 19:35–36 — “Do not use dishonest standards... Use honest scales and honest weights.”*

### **Inclusion and Justice in Finance**

One of the great tests of governance in finance is inclusion. Who gets access to credit? Who can insure their health or property? Who benefits from investment opportunities? About 66% of adults in Uganda are financially included (mainly due to mobile money). Today, many Ugandans - particularly women, rural farmers, and youth - remain excluded lacking access to formal credit, insurance, and investment opportunities.

Governance must ensure that finance serves all citizens, not just the urban or the elite. The Bible teaches us to lend generously and not be hardhearted toward those in need. *“Do not be tightfisted... rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need”* (Deuteronomy 15:7–8). A just financial system echoes this command by making sure no one is locked out of opportunity.

### **Governance Challenges**

Despite growth, Uganda’s financial sector faces pressing governance challenges. High interest rates keep small businesses from growing. Fraud and mismanagement plague some SACCOs and microfinance institutions. Financial literacy gaps leave many vulnerable to exploitation. Rising public debt puts the economy under strain, and past bank failures have exposed weaknesses in regulation.

Proverbs 22:7 warns, *“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.”* Unless governance ensures fairness and accountability, the financial sector risks turning from a tool of empowerment into one of bondage.

### **Opportunities for Growth**

Yet challenges also present opportunities. Digital finance and fintech innovations continue to open access for the unbanked. Agro-finance products can help

farmers insure against crop failure. Small and Medium Enterprise financing can unleash Uganda's entrepreneurial spirit and drive job creation. Regional financial integration within East Africa can attract larger investments.

The parable of the talents reminds us that faithfulness with small things leads to greater opportunity: *"You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things"* (Matthew 25:21). Governance must create an environment where Uganda multiplies the financial talents it has been given.

### **Finance as Stewardship of God's Resources**

Ultimately, the financial sector is about stewardship. Leaders are entrusted with the nation's wealth, and they will be judged by how they use it. Governance must enforce honest scales, transparent systems, and accountability, as Leviticus 19:36 commands: *"Use honest scales and honest weights."* When governance is weak, the poor are exploited, corruption thrives, and public trust collapses. But when governance is righteous, finance becomes a channel of prosperity, equity, and stability.

As Jesus said, *"If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"* (Luke 16:11). Uganda's financial future depends not only on economic policies but on moral governance rooted in truth and justice.

Good governance ensures that these systems are fair, inclusive, transparent, and stable. Poor governance, by contrast, leads to corruption, exclusion, debt crises, and economic instability.

*Proverbs 13:11 — "Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow."*

Several key institutions protect the public from financial exploitation and work to ensure financial stability. Each plays a distinct but complementary role:

#### **1. Bank of Uganda (BoU) – Central Bank**

- **Mandate:** Oversees **monetary policy**, stabilizes inflation, regulates commercial banks, and ensures financial system stability.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Issues licenses for banks and revokes them if they exploit customers.
  - Sets rules on interest rates, lending practices, and foreign exchange.
  - Supervises commercial banks to prevent fraud and insolvency.
- Example: BoU stepped in to close banks that were mismanaged or risky (e.g., Crane Bank in 2016)

#### **2. Capital Markets Authority (CMA)**

- **Mandate:** Regulates Uganda's capital markets — stock exchange, bonds, securities.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Ensures companies trading shares are transparent.
  - Protects investors from fraud in securities markets.
  - Promotes fair and efficient capital markets.

#### **3. Insurance Regulatory Authority of Uganda (IRA)**

- **Mandate:** Regulates insurance companies.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Ensures insurance firms remain solvent.

- Protects policyholders from unfair practices (e.g., refusing claims).
- Promotes public confidence in insurance as a safeguard against risk.

#### **4. Uganda Microfinance Regulatory Authority (UMRA)**

- **Mandate:** Regulates microfinance institutions, SACCOs, and money lenders.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Guards citizens from exploitative lending practices and predatory loan sharks.
  - Promotes fair interest rates in community financial institutions.
  - Helps formalize and strengthen SACCOs for financial inclusion.

#### **5. Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA)**

- **Mandate:** Regulates pension schemes and retirement benefits.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Ensures workers' retirement savings are safe and properly invested.
  - Protects against mismanagement of pension funds.
  - Provides oversight to schemes like NSSF (National Social Security Fund).

#### **6. Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)**

- **Mandate:** Monitors money laundering and terrorist financing.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Tracks suspicious financial transactions.
  - Protects citizens and the economy from criminal financial networks.
  - Strengthens Uganda's reputation in global finance, attracting investment.

#### **7. Parliament & Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development**

- **Mandate:** Drafts laws and policies governing the financial sector.
- **Role in protection:**
  - Parliament passes financial regulations.
  - Ministry of Finance manages fiscal policy and ensures government borrowing is sustainable.

*Luke 16:11 — “If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”*

#### **Conclusion: Finance as Stewardship of God's Resources**

The financial sector is about trust, justice, and stewardship. Governance determines whether financial systems lift people out of poverty, support entrepreneurs, and grow the nation — or whether they exploit the weak and enrich the corrupt. Uganda's financial future depends on righteous stewardship, innovation, and inclusion.

*Proverbs 21:5 — “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”*

#### **PRAYER GUIDE: FINANCIAL SECTOR AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA**

### **1. Thanksgiving for Progress in Financial Inclusion**

*Psalm 24:1 — “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”*

Lord, we thank You for mobile money, SACCOs, banks, and financial services that have enabled many Ugandans to save, trade, and invest.

### **2. Repentance for Corruption and Mismanagement**

*Isaiah 1:23 — “Your rulers are rebels, partners with thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts.”*

Forgive us, Lord, for corruption, fraud, and mismanagement in banks, SACCOs, and financial institutions.

### **3. Prayer for Financial Inclusion and Justice**

*Proverbs 31:9 — “Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”*

Father, may Uganda’s financial systems serve the poor, women, and youth. Let every Ugandan have access to dignified financial services.

### **4. Prayer for Wise Governance and Regulation**

*1 Corinthians 4:2 — “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”*

Raise leaders who will govern Uganda’s financial sector with transparency, foresight, and accountability.

### **5. Prayer for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation**

*Deuteronomy 28:12 — “The Lord will bless all the work of your hands.”*

Lord, open financial doors for small businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs. Let finance fuel job creation and national prosperity.

### **6. Prayer for National Debt Management**

*Romans 13:8 — “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.”*

Lord, grant wisdom to Uganda’s leaders in managing national debt responsibly and transparently.

### **7. Prayer for Financial Integrity in the Church and Nation**

*Luke 16:10 — “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”*

May both government and citizens embrace honesty and accountability in financial stewardship.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, Uganda’s financial sector belongs to You. We thank You for progress made in inclusion and innovation. We repent for corruption and misuse of resources. Raise leaders and institutions that manage money with justice, equity, and vision. May Uganda’s financial systems lift people from poverty, strengthen businesses, and glorify Your name through righteous stewardship. In Jesus’ name, Amen.