



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: 15th to 21st September 2025

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

DAY 31: 18th SEPTEMBER 2025

TERTIARY EDUCATION

PROVERBS 22:29

“Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.”

ECCLESIASTES 7:12

“Wisdom preserves those who have it.”

DANIEL 1:20

“In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better.”

ECCLESIASTES 9:10

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

EXODUS 35:31

“He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.”

Tertiary education — encompassing universities, colleges, and vocational institutes — represents the capstone of human capacity development. It is here that advanced

knowledge, professional training, research, and innovation are cultivated. For Uganda, this sector holds the key to unlocking true national transformation. It is at the tertiary level that the nation's future leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators and skilled workers are molded. A strong tertiary education system ensures that Uganda does not simply consume knowledge from elsewhere but contributes solutions and creativity to the global community. *Proverbs 18:15* reminds us: *"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out."* Tertiary education is therefore not a luxury — it is a biblical and national necessity.

The Role of Governance in Tertiary Education

Governance plays a decisive role in shaping the health and effectiveness of tertiary education. It determines:

- **Access and Equity:** Who gets into universities? Are the poor, rural students, and women given equal opportunities?
- **Quality Assurance:** Through the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), governance ensures institutions meet academic standards and graduates meet professional benchmarks.
- **Funding and Resources:** Sound governance provides adequate investment in infrastructure, research, and faculty welfare; poor governance leaves institutions overcrowded and underfunded.
- **Research and Innovation Policy:** Universities thrive where research funding is prioritized and where academia is linked to industry, national development, and problem-solving.

Ecclesiastes 7:12 says: *"Wisdom preserves those who have it."* Good governance ensures that wisdom and learning are preserved through quality tertiary education.

Uganda's Current Landscape

Since the liberalization of higher education in the 1990s, access has greatly expanded. Uganda has built a diverse education sector that reflects both its history and its development ambitions. At the university level, the country currently recognizes about 54 universities, spread across both public and private ownership. Of these, 10 are public universities, directly supported by government funding, while the rest — around 44 private universities — include both chartered institutions and others operating with provisional licenses. These universities are the backbone of Uganda's tertiary education, producing graduates in fields ranging from the humanities to science, technology, engineering, and health.

Beyond universities, Uganda also has other degree-awarding institutions — approximately 20 in number — that offer specialized programs outside the traditional university framework. Added to these are nearly 178 other training institutions accredited by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), covering areas such as teacher training, health sciences, and applied technologies.

The largest, and perhaps most critical, segment is Uganda's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. While harder to count precisely due to the diversity of providers, estimates suggest that there are more than 1,000 private vocational and technical institutions across the country, representing over 80% of all TVET providers. These range from small craft-level training centers to larger technical colleges. They serve as the most direct bridge between education and employment, particularly in trades such as carpentry, tailoring, mechanics, ICT, and hospitality.

This spread of institutions demonstrates Uganda's recognition that education cannot only be about academic degrees. Universities provide advanced knowledge and research, but vocational and technical institutions are vital for practical skills and workforce readiness. Together, they form the ecosystem through which Uganda can prepare its young and growing population — one of the youngest in the world — to participate meaningfully in governance, industry, and national development.

However, serious challenges remain:

- **Overcrowding and underfunding** in public universities.
- **Graduate unemployment** due to mismatch between training and market needs.
- **Limited research funding** that hampers Uganda's competitiveness in science and innovation.
- **Brain drain**, with skilled professionals leaving to seek opportunities abroad.

For Uganda to benefit from its tertiary education system, governance must align it with national development priorities — agriculture, ICT, health, industry, and governance reform ensuring relevance to real national needs.

Governance Failures and Risks

When governance neglects tertiary education, the consequences are grave:

- Universities produce graduates without employable skills.
- Corruption in admissions and exam malpractice compromise standards.
- Chronic underfunding weakens research and innovation.
- Nations lose their brightest minds through brain drain.
- Ultimately, society suffers from poor leadership and weak institutions.

Hosea 4:6 warns: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Importance of TVET

Unlike purely academic education, vocational training provides hands-on skills that meet immediate needs in agriculture, construction, ICT, manufacturing, and services. In a country where graduate unemployment remains high, vocational education bridges the gap between schooling and work. It empowers young people to create jobs, not just seek them, reducing dependence on the state and easing unemployment-driven frustration that can destabilize society.

Globally, countries like Germany and South Korea built strong economies by prioritizing vocational training alongside academic universities. Closer to home, Rwanda and Namibia are proving that investment in vocational education produces skilled workers who drive industrial growth and innovation. Uganda can do the same — aligning vocational training with its key growth sectors: agriculture, energy, mining, construction, and ICT.

Strong governance in vocational education will ensure:

- **Equity**, giving rural and poor youth access to training.
- **Industry linkages**, so graduates are relevant to the job market.
- **National transformation**, as vocational skills build a self-reliant, innovative workforce.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 — "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

Uganda's path to economic transformation does not lie in just producing university graduates, but in building a generation of skilled artisans, technicians, and innovators who can practically rebuild the nation.

Examples from Nations that Excel in Tertiary Education

- **South Korea:** Invested heavily in higher education, particularly in science and technology. Universities work hand in hand with industries, producing a highly skilled workforce.
What Uganda can learn: Forge strong partnerships between universities and industries to address graduate unemployment.
- **Germany:** Known for its **dual education system** that combines theory with practical vocational training. Universities are affordable and strongly supported by the government.
What Uganda can learn: Expand technical and vocational tertiary education alongside traditional universities.
- **United States:** Home to leading research universities like Harvard, MIT, and Stanford. Heavy investment in research, patents, and entrepreneurship has fueled global leadership.
What Uganda can learn: Invest in research, innovation hubs, and technology transfer.

Daniel 1:20 shows the fruit of excellent training: “In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better.”

The Regulatory Framework for TVET in Uganda

1. Policy Foundation

Uganda’s TVET is guided by the Skilling Uganda Strategic Plan (2012–2022), which sought to transform TVET from a supply-driven system to a demand-driven one. The goal was to make vocational training more relevant, competence-based, and better aligned to the labor market. In 2019, the government approved the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy, which provides the current framework for reform.

2. Legal Framework

- The Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) Act, 2008 laid an early legal foundation for vocational training and set out the responsibilities of different institutions.
- More recently, the Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework (UVQF) was introduced, defining competency standards and levels of vocational training qualifications, much like academic degrees.
- Parliament has also worked on new legislation to consolidate reforms under the TVET Policy, including the establishment of new governing bodies.

3. Institutional Oversight

Several key bodies regulate and oversee TVET:

- **Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES):** Provides policy direction and coordination for the TVET sector.
- **Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT):** Regulates skills development, assessment, and certification under the UVQF. It sets occupational standards, accredits institutions, and awards vocational qualifications.
- **Uganda Business and Technical Examinations Board (UBTEB):** Responsible for conducting national examinations and assessments in business, technical, and vocational training.

- **National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC):** Develops curricula, including for TVET programs.
- **National Council for Higher Education (NCHE):** Regulates higher-level technical institutes and ensures quality in institutions that award diplomas and degrees.

4. Financing and Public-Private Collaboration

TVET financing comes from the government, development partners, and private providers. Uganda's TVET sector is largely privatized, with over 80% of providers privately owned. Governance therefore must focus not just on public provision but also on regulating, supporting, and standardizing private institutions.

5. Current Reforms and Challenges

Recent reforms include:

- Establishing the TVET Council to streamline coordination across ministries and stakeholders.
- Strengthening competency-based education and training (CBET).
- Expanding partnerships with industry for internships and apprenticeships.

However, challenges persist: inadequate funding, poor infrastructure, limited staff capacity, and weak linkages between training and labor market demand.

Uganda's Opportunity

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world — over 70% under the age of 30. This is both a daunting challenge and a remarkable opportunity. If governance invests in accessible, relevant, and innovative tertiary education, this youthful population can become Uganda's greatest engine of progress. If neglected, the same generation could become disillusioned, unemployed, and destabilizing.

Psalm 144:12 gives us God's vision: "May our sons in their youth be like plants full grown, our daughters like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace." This is what Uganda's tertiary education should aim to produce — strong, skilled, and godly young men and women who build up the nation.

PRAYER GUIDE: TERTIARY EDUCATION AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

1. Thanksgiving for Uganda's Institutions and Youth

- Lord, we thank You for Uganda's universities, vocational institutes, and technical colleges.
- We praise You for the young men and women who thirst for knowledge and seek to build their future through education.

Psalm 111:10 — "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding."

2. Prayer for Access and Equity

- Father, open the doors of higher education to children from poor, rural, and marginalized backgrounds.
- Let no talented young person be denied education because of poverty, gender, or location.

- *James 1:5* — “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

3. Prayer for Quality and Relevance of Education

- Lord, align Uganda’s tertiary institutions with national development priorities — agriculture, ICT, industry, and health.
- Remove outdated curricula and replace them with skills that make graduates employable and innovative.
- Pray for the full establishment and operationalisation of the TVET Council
2 Timothy 3:17 — “...so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

4. Prayer for Research and Innovation

- Father, bless Uganda’s universities with resources for research and discovery.
- Raise innovators who will develop solutions in medicine, energy, agriculture, and technology.
Exodus 35:31 — “He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills.”

5. Prayer for Integrity and Good Governance

- Lord, uproot corruption in admissions, exam malpractice, and mismanagement of university funds.
- Let integrity, transparency, and accountability govern the tertiary sector.
Proverbs 10:9 — “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”

6. Prayer for Lecturers and Administrators

- Father, strengthen lecturers with wisdom, patience, and dedication to raise a new generation of leaders.
- Provide for their needs and protect them from frustration or corruption.

Daniel 12:3 — “Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

7. Prayer for National Transformation through Education

- Lord, may Uganda’s universities and colleges produce godly leaders, ethical professionals, and creative entrepreneurs.
- Let tertiary education become a pillar of righteousness, justice, and prosperity for the nation.
Isaiah 54:13 — “All your children will be taught by the Lord, and great will be their peace.”

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we commit Uganda’s tertiary education into Your hands. Raise Daniels who are ten times better, Josephs who will manage wisely, and Esthers who will influence with courage. May this generation be equipped not only with knowledge, but with wisdom and godly character. Through education, let Uganda rise into her calling as a teaching nation, to bless Africa and the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.