



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 SIX: 22nd to 28th September 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
35	Monday	22 nd September 2025	Law Enforcement and the Police
36	Tuesday	23 rd September 2025	Prisons and Rehabilitation
37	Wednesday	24 th September 2025	National Security and the Military
38	Thursday	25 th September 2025	National Values
39	Friday	26 th September 2025	National Unity
40	Saturday	27 th September 2025	National Discipline
41	Sunday	28 th September 2025	Uganda in the Nations - East African Community and African Union

DAY 37: 24th SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL SECURITY, THE MILITARY, AND GOVERNANCE

EXODUS 15:3

The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

ISAIAH 42:13

The Lord goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal; he cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.

PSALM 144:1-2

Blessed be the LORD, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle; he is my steadfast love and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield and he in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.

LUKE 3:14

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages."

No nation can thrive without security. The protection of its people, its territory, and its sovereignty is central to governance. National security provides the peace within which families can live, children can learn, businesses can grow, and governance can function. Without it, instability, fear, and conflict prevail.

Throughout Scripture, military forces are acknowledged as essential in defending nations. Israel's armies, led by Joshua, David, and other leaders, protected God's people from enemies. At the same time, the Bible repeatedly reminds us that ultimate victory comes not from weapons but from the Lord (Psalm 20:7). The military is therefore both a practical necessity and a moral responsibility. While it carries the sword to protect, it must be guided by justice, discipline, and integrity, lest it become a tool of oppression rather than protection.

Romans 13:4 "For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason."

One of the most frequent names of God in Scripture is *Jehovah Sabaoth* (*Adonai Tzva'ot*), the *Lord of Hosts* or literally "Lord of armies." It appears 235 times in the Bible, underscoring God as the supreme commander of heavenly and earthly forces. At the crossing of the Red Sea, Israel experienced Him as a "man of war" (Exodus 15:3), when He destroyed Egypt's mighty and technologically advanced army in a single moment.

This truth sets the foundation for understanding national security and governance. God has given the State the sword not in vain but to maintain law, order, and justice. The Bible affirms that government has the right and responsibility to protect its people from internal lawlessness and external aggression (Romans 13:4). Therefore, the call to the military profession is a legitimate and honorable vocation, consistent with God's purposes for governance.

The Military in Scripture

The Bible provides many examples of godly people serving as soldiers:

- Abraham defeated four kings to rescue Lot (Genesis 14).
- Joshua conquered 31 kings as Israel took possession of the Promised Land.
- David killed Goliath and later commanded Israel's armies.
- Deborah, a prophetess, led Israel into military victory (Judges 4–5).

Hebrews 11 celebrates men and women of faith who "subdued kingdoms, waxed valiant in fight, and turned to flight the armies of the aliens" (Hebrews 11:33–34).

The New Testament also acknowledges soldiers:

- Jesus commended the Roman centurion as having greater faith than all Israel (Matthew 8:10).
- Cornelius, a Roman centurion, was described as a devout, God-fearing man who became the first Gentile convert (Acts 10).

Nowhere in Scripture are believers forbidden to serve in the military. Instead, the Bible emphasizes that those in authority must wield the sword with justice, not for oppression. Abuse of power must be condemned, but the institution of the military remains necessary for the protection of citizens and the defense of nations.

The Balance Between Justice and Force

The presence of armed forces does not mean that persuasion and diplomacy are abandoned. Yet when aggressors persist - whether criminals, rebels, or foreign invaders - force becomes the last resort to protect the law-abiding. The difference between murder and just defense is clear in Scripture. Even David, though a man of war, refused to murder Saul when he had the chance, showing restraint and reverence for God's authority (1 Samuel 24).

Thus, governance must ensure that the military protects rather than oppresses. Force, when exercised under law, is a divine tool to restrain evil and preserve order.

THE UGANDA PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCES

The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) play a pivotal role in maintaining national security. The UPDF's constitutional mandate (Articles 208–209 of the 1995 Constitution, as amended) includes:

- Defending Uganda's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- Safeguarding citizens' rights, the rule of law, and good governance.
- Supporting civilian authorities in emergencies and natural disasters.
- Assisting in national development efforts such as disaster response, infrastructure support, and health outreach.
- Fostering harmony between soldiers and civilians.
- Contributing to regional peacekeeping missions.

This demonstrates that the role of the military in governance goes beyond combat to include peacekeeping, development, and nation-building.

A strong and disciplined military contributes to good governance by protecting citizens from external and internal threats, upholding the Constitution and sovereignty of the state, creating stability that allows economic growth, education, and social services to flourish.

However, when militaries overstep their mandate by interfering in politics, abusing citizens' rights, or acting without accountability, they weaken governance, erode trust, and often sow seeds of instability. Uganda's history is a testament to this.

The Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs (MoDVA) oversees the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). The leadership structure includes:

- The President, as Commander-in-Chief.
- The Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs.
- The Minister of State for Defence (General Duties).
- The Minister of State for Defence (Veteran Affairs).
- The Permanent Secretary as the top civil servant.

National security and the military are not ends in themselves but serve the higher purpose of justice, peace, and the well-being of the people. A just and disciplined military strengthens governance, preserves stability, and protects the dignity of citizens. When rooted in righteousness, national security becomes a pillar of transformation, allowing a nation to thrive in peace.

Uganda's Role in Regional Peacekeeping

Uganda has been a key player in promoting peace and stability in the East African and Great Lakes region. Its involvement has combined military, diplomatic, and humanitarian efforts, often under regional and international frameworks.

1. **Somalia (AMISOM/ATMIS Peacekeeping)**

- Uganda was the **first country** to deploy troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2007, later restructured into ATMIS.
- The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has been on the frontline against Al-Shabaab, contributing thousands of troops.
- Uganda's presence has helped secure Mogadishu, protect key installations, and train Somali forces, laying a foundation for governance and recovery.

2. **South Sudan Mediation and Peacekeeping**

- Uganda has played a dual role: military intervention during the outbreak of civil war (2013–2016), and later mediation support through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
- Uganda has hosted thousands of South Sudanese refugees, showing solidarity with displaced populations while contributing to peace talks.

3. **Great Lakes Region Security**

- Uganda has participated in regional joint operations against negative forces such as the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).
- Uganda is part of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), working with Rwanda, DRC, and others to stabilize border areas and reduce armed conflict.

4. **Hosting Refugees**

- Uganda is recognized globally for its progressive refugee policy, currently hosting over 1.5 million refugees, mostly from South Sudan and DRC.
- Refugees are given land, freedom of movement, and access to work and services—promoting stability and dignity in the region.

5. **Regional Integration and Diplomacy**

- Through the East African Community (EAC), Uganda has championed integration, free movement of goods and people, and collective security.
- President Yoweri Museveni has often acted as a mediator in regional conflicts, using Uganda's strategic position to foster dialogue.

Uganda's role in regional stabilization is anchored in peacekeeping, mediation, refugee support, and regional cooperation. While challenges remain, such as balancing national interests and resource constraints, Uganda has emerged as a pillar of security in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region. Uganda's involvement illustrates governance in action: defending national interests while promoting peace in the region.

Conclusion

National security and governance are inseparable. A disciplined, accountable, and professional military creates the environment for peace, justice, and prosperity. When guided by the fear of God, the armed forces become instruments of protection, not oppression; of peace, not abuse.

PRAYER GUIDE: NATIONAL SECURITY, THE MILITARY, AND GOVERNANCE

1. Thanksgiving

- Thank God for Uganda's relative peace and the sacrifice of soldiers.
- Praise Him as Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts, who fights for His people.
Psalm 46:7 "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

2. Repentance

- Repent for times when the military has been used for oppression instead of protection.
- Ask forgiveness for corruption, injustice, and abuse of power.
Micah 6:8 "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

3. Integrity and Discipline

- Pray for military leaders to govern with righteousness, accountability, and wisdom.



- Ask God to instill discipline and integrity in every soldier.
Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

4. Protection of Soldiers and Citizens

- Pray for God's protection over soldiers in battle, peacekeeping missions, and emergencies.
- Pray for the safety of citizens and the preservation of peace in Uganda.
Psalm 91:11 "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways."

5. National and Regional Stability

- Pray for continued peace within Uganda's borders and for Uganda to be a peacemaker in East Africa.
- Ask God to grant wisdom to regional leaders to resolve conflicts.
Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

6. Transformation of the Military's Role

- Pray that the UPDF will continue to serve not only in defense but also in nation-building, disaster response, infrastructure, and development.
- Pray for veterans to be honored and supported with dignity.
Romans 13:4 "For the one in authority is God's servant for your good."

Closing Prayer

Lord of Hosts, Commander of the heavenly armies, we entrust Uganda's military and national security into Your hands. Strengthen our soldiers with courage, protect them with Your presence, and guide our leaders with wisdom. Deliver our land from corruption, oppression, and fear. May the UPDF serve as a shield of justice and peace, and may Uganda be known as a nation where righteousness exalts and Your name is honored. In Jesus' name, Amen.