



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 39: 26th SEPTEMBER 2025

NATIONAL UNITY

PSALM 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

MARK 3:24

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

JOHN 17:21

"...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."

JAMES 3:18

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

The greatness of a nation is measured not only by its wealth, institutions, or leaders, but by the unity that binds its people together. For Uganda, one of Africa's most culturally diverse nations, with over 50 ethnic groups, dozens of languages, and a rich tapestry of traditions and faiths, unity is not just desirable, it is essential.

This diversity is a remarkable gift, offering Uganda a wealth of heritage, creativity, and perspective. But it also poses a challenge for governance. When exploited by selfish interests, diversity can breed mistrust, tribalism, and fragmentation. History has shown that without unity, governance becomes weak, policies are undermined, and society risks being pulled apart by division.

Yet when unity is cultivated, diversity is transformed into strength. National unity allows Ugandans to rise above differences and work together toward shared goals. It provides the bedrock for peace, stability, and prosperity. A united people are able to support visionary leadership, respect governance structures, obey just laws, and rally around national projects.

Unity strengthens national identity, giving citizens a sense of belonging that transcends tribe, language, or region. It reduces the risk of division, enabling Uganda to confront its challenges with resilience. More than that, unity provides moral authority for leaders to govern effectively, because their legitimacy is rooted not in coercion or manipulation, but in the collective trust of the people.

True unity is found not just in the silence of conflict, but in the strength of shared purpose. It allows citizens to identify with one another despite differences of tribe, religion, or region. It builds trust between leaders and citizens, ensuring that laws are respected and national programs are supported. Without unity, even the best-designed policies are undermined by suspicion and division. With unity, even the most difficult challenges can be overcome.

Barriers to Unity

Uganda has wrestled with the barriers to unity: tribal competition, political polarization, economic inequality, and the cancer of corruption. These weaken trust and sow division. Yet, there are also powerful reminders of what unity looks like in practice.

Uganda's history has seen times when tribalism, regionalism, and political factionalism undermined stability. Good governance requires deliberate policies and leadership that promote inclusiveness and fairness across ethnic, regional, and religious lines. True unity does not erase diversity, but harmonizes it for the common good.

Despite Uganda's rich cultural heritage and potential for harmony, several barriers continue to threaten national unity. One of the most persistent challenges is tribalism and ethnic division. With over 50 ethnic groups, competition for resources, leadership positions, and political power often inflames divisions rather than building cohesion. When loyalty to tribe outweighs loyalty to nation, unity becomes fragile.

Another barrier is political polarization. Instead of governance being inclusive and focused on the common good, it often becomes adversarial. Opposing camps treat one another as enemies rather than partners in nation-building, creating mistrust between leaders and the people they serve.

Economic inequality further fuels disunity. When certain regions feel neglected in terms of infrastructure, investment, or social services, resentment grows. Perceptions of favoritism or exclusion deepen mistrust and weaken the shared sense of belonging that national unity requires.

Finally, corruption remains a significant obstacle. When leaders misuse public resources for personal gain, it undermines fairness, destroys trust in institutions, and erodes the collective belief that governance serves all citizens equally. Corruption not only weakens systems but also corrodes the moral foundation necessary for unity.

Together, these barriers form a heavy weight on Uganda's journey toward true unity. Overcoming them requires intentional leadership, equitable policies, and a shared commitment to values that place the nation above individual or group interests.

Historical lessons from other countries have shown that deliberate efforts at national unity through reconciliation, shared values, and inclusive development can transform nations scarred by division into models of stability. Uganda can similarly rise when unity is placed at the center of governance.

Unity as a Governance Strength

Governance thrives when citizens see themselves as one people under one nation. When unity is present, people willingly cooperate with government initiatives, pay taxes, defend their nation, and work together for development. Disunity, however, weakens institutions, fuels conflict, and hinders progress.

Unity in National Identity and Development

Shared national values like patriotism, social harmony, justice, and respect for humanity help forge a national identity that transcends differences. Uganda's Vision 2040 and development strategies can only succeed when every citizen feels included and valued in the governance process.

Unity is a Spiritual and Civic Mandate

Unity is not only a civic virtue but also a divine mandate. God calls nations to justice, love, and unity, reminding us that righteousness and peace flourish where unity is cultivated. Leaders and citizens alike must therefore take responsibility to protect, nurture, and strengthen Uganda's unity.

Uganda's diversity need not be its weakness. When held together by unity, it becomes the very foundation of national progress. Unity helps transform diversity into strength, builds national identity, and sustains governance that serves the common good.

Uganda's National Dialogue and the Pursuit of Unity

In 2018, Uganda embarked on a bold experiment in nation-building: the National Dialogue Process. Launched by the government in partnership with the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) and The Elders Forum of Uganda (TEFU), the initiative was envisioned as a platform for reconciliation, inclusiveness, and the forging of a shared vision for Uganda's future.

The Dialogue brought together a wide range of stakeholders: political parties, cultural institutions, religious leaders, civil society, and citizens, to deliberate on some of the most sensitive issues facing the nation. These included governance reforms, political transition, tribal divisions, electoral integrity, and inclusive economic development. At its heart, the process sought to heal mistrust, reconcile divisions, and strengthen Uganda's identity as one nation bound by shared values.

The dialogue carried both symbolic and practical importance. It reminded Ugandans that, as the Lord Himself says in *Isaiah 1:18*: "*Come now, let us reason together...*," meaningful dialogue is a divine pathway to reconciliation. By creating space for honest conversation, Uganda affirmed that every voice matters and that peace can be pursued without violence.

Governance Significance of the National Dialogue

1. Promoting Inclusiveness

For perhaps the first time in decades, the Dialogue created a rare forum where diverse voices could be heard, from government and opposition parties to cultural leaders,

faith-based institutions, and ordinary citizens. This inclusiveness was vital in shaping a governance agenda that reflected Uganda's diversity.

2. Strengthening National Values

The Dialogue echoed Uganda's 10 National Ethical Values (2013), particularly unity, justice, and social harmony. By emphasizing reconciliation and accountability, it aligned governance with the moral fabric needed for long-term stability.

3. Building Trust in Institutions

Dialogue was seen as a bridge between the people and the state. In a climate often marked by political polarization and suspicion, open discussions provided a way to rebuild public confidence in institutions.

4. Preventing Conflict

By creating space for peaceful conversation, the Dialogue offered an alternative to violent confrontation. It reminded the nation that consensus and compromise are far more powerful tools for transformation than coercion or conflict.

Challenges Faced

While the National Dialogue was groundbreaking, it was not without hurdles. Political mistrust plagued the process, as some opposition groups doubted government's willingness to implement agreed reforms. Limited awareness at the grassroots level made the Dialogue feel elite-driven, excluding many ordinary Ugandans from its benefits. Slow progress in implementation also created concerns about whether the initiative could deliver tangible results.

Lessons for Uganda's Governance

From the National Dialogue, Uganda can draw vital lessons for its future. Unity does not happen by chance; it requires deliberate investment. It must be cultivated through platforms where citizens feel heard, respected, and included. Dialogue, too, cannot be reduced to a one-time event. True reconciliation is a continuous process of listening, compromise, and consensus-building.

In the same way, governance gains its legitimacy through inclusiveness. When people see their concerns acknowledged and their voices valued, they are far more likely to trust institutions and willingly comply with laws. This principle echoes the wisdom of *Proverbs 15:22*: "*Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*"

The National Dialogue of 2018 remains an unfinished journey. While progress has been slow, it stands as a landmark effort to reconcile divisions and chart a common path for Uganda. If nurtured and expanded, it has the potential to transform mistrust into cooperation and diversity into strength. Ultimately, dialogue is not merely a political tool, it is a moral necessity, a peacemaker's calling, and a cornerstone of governance that seeks unity, justice, and reconciliation for all.

Sports as a Unifying Force: Two Ugandan Examples

1. Joshua Cheptegei

Joshua Cheptegei, Uganda's world champion long-distance runner, has risen beyond the realm of sport to become a symbol of national unity and pride. His global triumphs, from winning the 2019 World Cross-Country Championships in Aarhus, Denmark, to breaking the 5,000m and 10,000m world records in 2020, and securing Olympic gold at the Tokyo 2020 Games, have lifted Uganda's name high on the global stage.

Each time Cheptegei steps onto the track, Ugandans pause and rally to watch, celebrate, and cheer him on. Tribe and politics fade, replaced by cheers of "*Uganda!*"

Uganda!" His victories unite a nation that is often divided along tribal, political, or regional lines. In those moments, Ugandans from all backgrounds: Baganda, Banyankole, Acholi, Iteso, Bagisu, and others, forget their differences and stand together as one people, rallying behind a son of Uganda. Our athletes remind us that when one Ugandan excels, the whole nation celebrates.

Cheptegei's story inspires Uganda's youthful population, the majority of the nation, to believe that with hard work and focus, global greatness is possible. He embodies the idea that national pride is not confined to politics or ethnicity but can be forged through shared moments of joy and achievement.

In a country with diverse cultures and sometimes sharp divisions, Joshua Cheptegei's global victories remind Ugandans of a deeper truth: unity is possible, and when it is embraced, it is powerful. His running goes beyond sport; it is about healing divides, stirring patriotism, and reminding Uganda of the strength found in being one nation.

2. The Uganda Cranes

The Uganda Cranes offer one of the clearest examples of sport's power to unite a nation. Football is, without doubt, Uganda's most beloved sport, and the Cranes have historically carried the hopes and dreams of millions. Whenever the team qualifies for the African Cup of Nations or takes to the pitch at Namboole Stadium, a wave of patriotism sweeps through the country, from the bustling streets of Kampala to the quiet villages in rural districts.

Victories are celebrated with unrestrained joy: flags wave, songs rise, and strangers embrace as brothers and sisters in a shared moment of triumph. Defeats, too, are mourned together, with a collective sigh that reflects not division but solidarity. For those moments, ethnic, regional, and political divides fade away, and Ugandans stand united under one flag, one anthem, and one team.

The Teacher in Ecclesiastes reminds us, *"...the race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, but time and chance happen to them all"* (Ecclesiastes 9:11). This truth plays out on the football field, where victories and losses alike become opportunities to demonstrate resilience, unity, and hope.

The Uganda Cranes remind the nation that identity runs deeper than tribe, politics, or region. In their journey, the heartbeat of Uganda is felt, one people bound together by passion, pride, and the dream of victory.

Governance Lessons from Sports in Uganda

Sports in Uganda reveal a powerful truth: unity can be forged in the most unexpected places. Whether it is Joshua Cheptegei racing on the world stage or the Uganda Cranes battling for qualification at Namboole Stadium, moments of sporting triumph remind the nation that unity is possible beyond tribe, politics, or region.

1. Sports as a Symbol of Unity

Both Cheptegei's victories and the Cranes' matches draw Ugandans together under one flag. For those moments, divisions vanish, and a shared national identity takes center stage. This demonstrates that sports are not just games; they are catalysts of cohesion and national healing.

2. National Identity and Pride

Cheptegei's global records elevate Uganda's image worldwide, while the Cranes ignite passionate patriotism at home. Together, they strengthen Uganda's identity as a

nation capable of resilience, talent, and greatness. This national pride is a governance resource that leaders can harness to build confidence and unity.

3. Inspiration for the Youth

With Uganda's population being one of the youngest in the world, sports icons serve as role models. Cheptegei inspires discipline, hard work, and perseverance, while the Cranes remind youth of the power of teamwork and shared purpose. Both stories push young Ugandans to dream beyond limitations and serve their nation with pride.

4. Policy Implications for Governance

The achievements of Cheptegei and the Cranes underscore the importance of governance investment in sports. Infrastructure development, transparent sports management, and youth training programs are not just about entertainment — they are tools for unity, patriotism, and inclusive national development. Supporting sports is a governance strategy to inspire citizens, build trust, and nurture national pride.

Sustaining Unity Beyond the Stadium

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In the same way, governance gains its legitimacy through inclusiveness. When people see their concerns acknowledged and their voices valued, they are far more likely to trust institutions and willingly comply with laws. This principle echoes the wisdom of Proverbs 15:22: "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."

Cheptegei and the Uganda Cranes together teach Uganda that sports achievements generate national pride, inspire the youth, and bridge divides. For governance, investing in athletics and football is not optional; it is investing in unity, reconciliation, and the future of the nation.

From dialogue tables to running tracks to football fields, Uganda has glimpsed what national unity looks like. The governance lesson is clear: leaders must cultivate unity intentionally. It is not enough to pass laws or launch projects, unity must be built through fairness, transparency, and inclusiveness. Citizens too must embrace unity over division, refusing to be manipulated along tribal or political lines.

National unity is the very lifeblood of governance. It binds diversity into strength, builds trust in institutions, safeguards peace, and drives development. Without it, Uganda risks stagnation; with it, Uganda can flourish. As Micah 6:8 reminds us, the Lord requires us "*to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*" These values, lived out in unity, will exalt the nation.

Uganda's destiny as a nation depends not only on resources and policies but on the unity of its people. Unity in diversity is the strength that can turn challenges into opportunities and governance into a tool of shared prosperity.

PRAYER GUIDE: NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH DIALOGUE, SPORTS, AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

Opening Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Uganda, a nation richly blessed with cultural diversity, youthful energy, and moments of unity that remind us we are one people under one flag. Thank You for initiatives like the National Dialogue, which create space for reconciliation, and for sports heroes like Joshua Cheptegei and the Uganda Cranes, who lift

our spirits and rally us together. Truly, as *Psalm 33:12* declares: “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance.”

1. Thanksgiving

- Thank God for Uganda’s diversity and the moments where it has united rather than divided us.
- Thank Him for Cheptegei’s victories that inspire youth, and for the Cranes whose matches ignite national pride.
- Thank Him for faith-based, cultural, and community leaders who continue to mediate for peace and reconciliation.

2. Repentance for Division

- Repent for tribalism, corruption, and selfish politics that have undermined unity and trust.
- Repent for neglecting opportunities to nurture national talent, celebrate achievers, or use dialogue and sports as platforms for cohesion.
- Repent for citizens’ apathy in engaging governance processes, choosing silence over participation.

Daniel 9:5 “We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled.”

3. Intercession for Leaders

- Pray that leaders will prioritize **unity over division**, fairness over favoritism, and service over selfish ambition.
- Pray for humility and inclusiveness in governance, that policies will strengthen sports, dialogue, and cultural identity as tools of national unity.
- Ask God to break political polarization and raise unifying voices in Parliament, the Judiciary, and local government.

1 Timothy 2:1–2 “Pray for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

4. Intercession for Citizens and Youth

- Pray that Ugandans will resist manipulation along tribal, political, or regional lines and embrace unity above division.
- Pray for the youth, Uganda’s majority population, that they may be inspired by Cheptegei’s discipline and the Cranes’ teamwork to build patriotism, innovation, and integrity.
- Ask God to raise athletes, innovators, and leaders who will unite the nation.

5. Prayer for Dialogue and Reconciliation

- Thank God for the National Dialogue process launched in 2018, and pray for its revival as a genuine forum for healing and consensus-building.
- Pray that leaders and citizens alike will “reason together” (*Isaiah 1:18*) in pursuit of reconciliation and a shared national vision.
- Pray that mistrust and resistance to dialogue will give way to humility, inclusiveness, and constructive engagement.

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

6. Blessing Uganda's Future

- Declare that Uganda will rise as a nation known for unity, justice, and peace.
- Pray that the 10 National Ethical Values (Respect for humanity, honesty, justice, hard work, integrity, creativity, social responsibility, social harmony, national unity, and patriotism) will be deeply rooted in governance and daily life.
- Proclaim that Uganda's diversity will be her strength, and that unity through dialogue, sports, and values will lead to lasting cohesion.

John 17:21 "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you."

Closing Prayer

Father, we bless Uganda in Your name. May our leaders govern with humility, our citizens live in unity, and our youth rise with vision. May national dialogue, sports victories, and shared celebrations become lasting platforms for reconciliation and cohesion. We declare over Uganda the words of *Micah 6:8*: *"To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God."* Let Uganda flourish in righteousness and shine as a teaching nation to Africa and the world. Amen.