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# MONITOR



**MAY** 2025

# SUDAN

## PORT SUDAN EXPLOSIONS: LIFELINE FOR AID COMES UNDER ATTACK FOR FOURTH DAY

7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

Since Sunday, Port Sudan has been the target of drone attacks that the army has blamed on the Rapid Support Forces.

Explosions have been heard at the Port of Sudan, a critical lifeline and entry point for aid, as attacks on the city continued for a fourth day in the latest confrontation between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the country's brutal two-year civil war.

The attacks have been blamed on the RSF by Sudan's army and by residents.

On Wednesday morning, an army source told the AFP news agency on condition of anonymity that the explosion was due to a drone attack that was met with "anti-aircraft missiles".

### DRONE ATTACKS

Attacks on Port Sudan began on Sunday after drone strikes were blamed on the RSF. The latest attacks come after the RSF targeted the airport, the port and the hotel in the city on Tuesday, a military official said. The paramilitary group has not commented on the attacks on Port Sudan.

Sudan's Information Minister Khalid Aleiser visited the southern part of the port on Tuesday and slammed the United Arab Emirates,

The Port of Sudan on the Red Sea coast had been a haven city hosting hundreds of thousands of displaced people since the war began and serves as an interim seat for Sudan's military-allied government, which has been at war with the RSF since 2023.

The attacks on Port Sudan have increased fears of disruptions to desperately needed aid deliveries in the country suffering one of the world's most dire humanitarian crises, and where famine has been declared in some areas.

Nearly all aid into Sudan flows through Port Sudan, which the United Nations called on Tuesday "a lifeline for humanitarian operations", warning of more "human suffering in what is already the world's largest humanitarian crisis".

whom he accused of arming the RSF. "We will continue our legitimate battle," he said.

Defence Minister Yassin Ibrahim announced that the government was severing diplomatic ties with the UAE, including withdrawing its ambassador and shutting its embassy in the Gulf country.

"The entire world has witnessed, for more than two years, the crime of aggression against

Sudan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and the safety of its citizens by the UAE, acting through its local proxy, the terrorist RSF militia," Ibrahim said.

The UAE has long rejected claims of its support for the RSF and condemned the attack.

Source: [Port Sudan explosions: Lifeline for aid comes under attack for fourth day | Sudan war News | Al Jazeera](#)

The International Court of Justice dismissed a case on Monday brought by Sudan accusing the UAE of breaching the UN Genocide Convention by arming and funding the RSF.

The top UN court said it "manifestly lacked" the authority to continue the proceedings and threw out the case.

**The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) have seized control of the strategic town of Dibeibat in South Kordofan, marking a significant territorial gain. The United States has imposed sanctions on Sudan following findings of chemical weapons use by the SAF during the civil war.**

25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has appointed former UN official Kamil Idris as prime minister, the first since the 2021 coup.

The SAF has announced full control over the Greater Khartoum region, including the capital and its adjoining cities.

Sudan's military threatens to halt South Sudan's oil exports via Port Sudan, citing RSF drone attacks on vital infrastructure. (sudantribune.com, Al Jazeera, Reuters, AP News, Al Jazeera)

On 23 May 2025, the SAF announced the capture of Dibeibat, a strategic town in South Kordofan. This victory disrupts RSF supply lines and strengthens the SAF's position in the region. The operation also led to the displacement of approximately 565 households, highlighting the ongoing humanitarian challenges. This territorial gain enhances Sudan's control over its geography and resources, reducing external influence in the region. (sudantribune.com, Council on Foreign Relations, ReliefWeb)

The United States imposed sanctions on Sudan on 23 May 2025, accusing the SAF of using

chemical weapons during the civil war. These sanctions include restrictions on exports and financial transactions, set to take effect on 6 June. The Sudanese government denies these allegations, calling them baseless. This development underscores the international community's scrutiny of Sudan's internal affairs, potentially impacting its political autonomy. (The Times of India, BBC, Reuters)

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan appointed Kamil Idris as prime minister on 19 May 2025, marking the first such appointment since the 2021 coup. Idris, a former UN official, brings international experience to the role. This move aims to stabilize the political landscape amid ongoing conflict. By appointing a leader with global credentials, Sudan seeks to enhance its political legitimacy and reduce foreign interference. (Reuters)

The SAF declared full control over the Greater Khartoum region, including the capital, on 21 May 2025. This announcement follows a series of military operations to expel RSF forces from key areas. The SAF's consolidation

of power in the capital signifies a shift in the conflict's dynamics. This control over the nation's political center strengthens Sudan's sovereignty and diminishes external actors' influence. (AP News, Council on Foreign Relations)

Sudan's military has threatened to halt South Sudan's oil exports through Port Sudan, citing

Source: [Al Jazeera, Sudan Weekly Report -COMPASS](#)

RSF drone attacks that have damaged critical infrastructure. This potential shutdown could severely impact South Sudan's economy, which relies heavily on oil exports. The SAF's control over this strategic port underscores its leverage in regional geopolitics. This move could foster closer ties with neighbouring Muslim countries, enhancing regional integration.

# ETHIOPIA

## PM ABIY UNDERTAKES SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES.

MAY 2025

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed undertook a series of significant activities that reflected his administration's commitment to economic transformation, technological advancement, international diplomacy, and national development.

The month began with the convening of the 44th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, during which key national priorities were deliberated.

The early days of May also saw the official launch of the "Made in Ethiopia 2025" Expo, now in its third year. In his opening remarks, the Prime Minister emphasised the urgency of transforming Ethiopia's economy, stating that stability cannot be achieved without economic modernisation.

The expo featured 288 local producers and highlighted remarkable sectoral progress, including a projected 12 percent growth rate in the current Ethiopian fiscal year for manufacturing and a substantial increase in both production capacity utilisation and revenues. The government also outlined future priorities, such as advancing agro-processing technology and fostering innovation.

In the area of technology and digital development, the Prime Minister addressed the "AI for Africa" program during the Ethiopian Tech Expo 2025.

He underscored Africa's opportunity to shape artificial intelligence on its own terms—ethically, inclusively, and sustainably. Citing

initiatives such as the Ethiopian AI Institute, Digital ID (Fayda), and the "5 Million Coders" program, he stressed Ethiopia's role in building a future-ready digital society. Later in the month, Ethiopia also hosted the ID4Africa 2025 summit, where Prime Minister Abiy highlighted the transformative impact of the Fayda digital ID system, which has enrolled over 15 million people and facilitated trillions of birr in digital transactions across key sectors. In relation to technology, the Prime Minister held an interview on the 'Tech Talk with Solomon' show on EBS.

Prime Minister Abiy also took part in the 116th anniversary celebration of National Police Day, where he called for continued cooperation with neighbouring countries and reaffirmed the police force's duty to defend Ethiopia's sovereignty and unity.

International diplomacy was also a major focus for the month of May. During a working visit to Paris, Prime Minister Abiy met with French President Emmanuel Macron to evaluate progress on bilateral agreements. He also toured several major technology hubs—including Station F, Nokia France, and Thales Research & Technology—where he explored innovations in AI, cybersecurity, and telecommunications. The visit underscored Ethiopia's ambition to position itself as a regional tech leader.

Additionally, he also visited the restored Notre-Dame Cathedral, using the opportunity to reaffirm Ethiopia's own cultural preservation efforts, including initiatives to restore national heritage sites such as the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.

Following his time in France, the Prime Minister traveled to Rome, where he was received by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni.

The two leaders discussed ways to deepen their longstanding bilateral relationship and enhance investments. Italy remains a key partner in Ethiopia's industrialisation and development sectors.

Back home, he visited the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute to review its cutting-edge research and the application of geospatial data to national planning, forecasting, and disaster response—further reflecting the government's commitment to science and evidence-based governance.

Throughout the month, the Prime Minister held several high-level diplomatic meetings.

He welcomed Tété António, Angola's Minister of External Relations and special envoy of President João Lourenço.

He also met with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar to strengthen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

The premier received a message from the Amir of Qatar delivered by Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, Qatar's Minister of State.

Overall, May 2025 was a dynamic month for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, marked by domestic progress, digital innovation, and robust international engagement aimed at advancing Ethiopia's development goals and strengthening its global partnerships, Office of the Prime Minister revealed in its social media post today.

Source: [Africa-Press PM Abiy Undertakes Significant Activities in May 2025 - Ethiopia](#)

# UGANDA

## AUCTION – TREASURY BONDS INVESTMENTS UP FOR GRABS.

MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2025

Two and a half weeks after the Bank of Uganda, along with the Treasury Department, rejected highly placed long-term treasury bond bids in last month's auction—despite significant oversubscription of close to 1.4 trillion UGX—the Bank of Uganda is back with the May auction, as per the scheduled calendar. On May 14th, 2025, there will be an auction of three bonds that are being reopened.

The three-year bond, which has a withholding tax of 20%, offers a coupon rate of 14.125% and will pay its next coupon on July 17th, 2025. This is a short to medium-term bond for those who want to invest for just a few years; it matures in 2028, making it an attractive option for investors looking for a short-term investment while they study market dynamics. Currently, we are beginning to factor in the political risk in the country into our investment decisions.

The Bank of Uganda will also auction off the 10-year bond, which has a withholding tax of 10% and a coupon rate of 14.25%. This bond will pay its next coupon on July 3rd, 2025, and is considered a long-term bond as it matures in 2034. It is one of the bonds currently trading at a discount due to its long-term nature and the coupon rate it offers in the market.

Additionally, the Bank will auction one of the people's favorites: the 20-year treasury bond, which offers a 15% coupon rate and a withholding tax of 10%.

This auction comes at a pivotal moment as we observe whether the government of Uganda and the Bank of Uganda will maintain their stance against allowing interest rates and yields—especially on long-term bonds—to rise beyond unsustainable levels.

This was evident in last month's auction in April 2025, where they cut off the yield for the 15-year bond at just 17%. There were significant rejections of market makers' bids, indicating that the majority of competitive bidders and market makers may have priced in a highly unattractive real yield of potentially 17%, 18%, or 19%.

Consequently, the government and the Bank of Uganda had no choice but to reject those bids to ensure that interest rates and yields remain within acceptable levels, even though a 17% yield is still on the high end of what we would consider a strained market.

Investors are closely studying the market to gauge what the upcoming 20-year bond will look like, particularly how market makers will price it in the primary market. This is especially relevant given that, in the secondary market, the 20-year bond is trading at around 17.4% to 17.7%, particularly if the bank is the buyer. If the banks, especially the primary banks that act as market makers, are already factoring this in, we are eager to see how the May auction will unfold.

Interestingly, we should not overlook the growing retail market; in the last auction, we had over 31 billion UGX bid for the total bonds. We are keen to see how this month will play

out, as we continue to observe an increasing population interested in these investment products. For those looking to invest, now is

the time to start filling out your forms, take them to your bank, and be ready to invest.

Source: [Treasury Bonds Investments Up For Grabs - Uganda Update News](#)

## BANK OF UGANDA'S MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT

MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2025

The inflation outlook is pretty much in line with the February 2025 forecast, but projections for the near future have been slightly revised downwards

On 13 May 2025, the Bank of Uganda's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the Central Bank Rate (CBR) at 9.75 per cent. This decision was made in light of heightened global risks, despite the inflation outlook remaining around the target.

In April 2025, headline and core inflation increased to 3.5 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively, up from 3.4 per cent and 3.6 per cent in March. These increases were primarily driven by higher prices for services and other goods.

Over the past year, annual headline inflation averaged 3.4 per cent, while core inflation averaged 3.9 per cent, both remaining below the medium-term target of 5 per cent. This subdued inflation has been supported by prudent monetary policy, a stable exchange rate, global disinflation and favourable food and energy prices.

The inflation outlook remains broadly in line with the February 2025 forecast. However, there are slightly lower projections in the near term due to a more stable exchange rate and falling global oil prices. Core inflation is expected to average between 4.5 per cent and 5.0 per cent in FY2025/26, converging towards the 5 per cent target over the medium term.

However, this outlook is subject to risks. The upside risks include:

- Stronger domestic demand, particularly from increased investment in the extractive sector and more effective government programme implementation
- Escalation of geopolitical tensions and new trade restrictions disrupting global supply chains
- Adverse weather conditions affecting food production
- Exchange rate depreciation due to global uncertainty and financial market volatility.

The downside risks include:

- Further appreciation of the exchange rate, supported by capital inflows, especially in oil and gas
- Weaker-than-expected demand relative to supply, both globally and domestically
- Improved agricultural output due to favourable weather conditions
- Continued declines in global commodity and energy prices

- Slower growth in major economies, easing external inflationary pressures

Although inflation remains contained, the balance of risks indicates an increased likelihood of upward pressure in the near term.

Economic activity remains resilient. Despite global uncertainties, including renewed geopolitical tensions and the new trade tariff environment, business sentiment remains positive. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), real GDP grew by an average of 6.0 per cent in the first half of FY2024/25. This is an improvement on the same period in FY2023/24, though it is slightly below the 6.6 per cent growth recorded in the second half of FY2023/24. The recovery in household spending, supported by rising real incomes, has contributed to this growth.

The growth projection for FY2024/25 remains at 6.0–6.5 per cent, with expectations of reaching 7.0 per cent in subsequent years. This outlook is supported by improved agricultural and industrial activity, increased investment – particularly in the extractive sector – and the continued implementation of government initiatives, such as the Parish Development Model (PDM).

The current pace of growth suggests that capacity limits are approaching. Further acceleration could lead to demand outstripping supply and adding to inflationary pressures.

The growth outlook is subject to risks. The downside risks include:

- Disruptions to global supply chains due to trade tensions, geoeconomic fragmentation, or changes in shipping routes
- Weaker external demand due to slower global growth and policy uncertainty
- Tighter global financial conditions could reverse the easing observed in late 2024
- Upside risks include:
  - Accelerated investment in the extractive sector.
  - Supportive government policies and accommodative domestic financial conditions
  - Positive trade negotiations, stronger tourism, and pro-growth policies in major economies.

Despite the current strong performance, the balance of risks to the growth outlook has shifted towards the downside. This reflects the potential for slowdowns among major trading partners, increased uncertainty and lower-than-expected commodity prices.

Given the current domestic and global uncertainties, as well as the elevated risks to the inflation outlook, the MPC has decided to keep the CBR at 9.75 per cent. The CBR bands remained at  $\pm 2$  percentage points and the rediscount and bank rates stayed at 3 and 4

percentage points above the CBR, respectively. Consequently, the rediscount rate is 12.75 per cent and the bank rate is 13.75 per cent.

The MPC considers the current policy stance to be appropriate for maintaining inflation

around the target, while supporting sustainable economic growth and socio-economic transformation. Future adjustments to the CBR

will be guided by incoming data and ongoing assessments of the risks to the outlooks for inflation and growth.

Source: [Bank of Uganda's Monetary Policy Statement for May 2025 – Full text | Uganda Business News](#)

# RWANDA

## RWANDA'S DICTATOR GAMBLES FUTURE ON CONGO INVASION. MINERALS DEAL WITH TRUMP THREATENS TO UNRAVEL PAUL KAGAME'S VIOLENT CRUSADE IN PURSUIT OF POWER

25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

**For months, the city of Goma held its breath.**

Since late 2024, its residents had watched the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels draw ever closer, capturing towns and villages in the hills of eastern Congo and inching towards their city, the lakeside capital of North Kivu province.

As the new year dawned, the rebels, who had mysteriously re-emerged in the misty mountains to the north two years earlier, seemed poised to strike and the mood in Goma was febrile.

A million people fleeing the rebel advance in the countryside had taken shelter within the city, doubling its population. The newcomers brought with them stories of executions, pillaging and razed villages.

M23 has so far seized territory with little resistance, but the city's residents hoped it would be spared. Goma – garrisoned by the Congolese army, 300 Romanian mercenaries and 3,000 UN peacekeepers – was no village after all.

The rebels had captured the city once before, in 2012. But in the face of international pressure, Paul Kagame, Rwanda's president, had ordered them out after just 11 days. Presumably he would not risk his image as the West's most indispensable African partner by attempting a repeat.

But on Jan 23, three days after Donald Trump was sworn in for his second term as president, Mr Kagame crossed the Rubicon.

In a dawn assault, the rebels stormed the city with tanks stolen from the Congolese army, advancing under the cover of heavy shelling. Government forces collapsed, the mercenaries fled and peacekeepers remained in their barracks.

It was the largest rebel victory in eastern Congo in more than a decade, and the most brazen Rwandan intervention since the official end of Congo's civil war in 2003.

Mr Kagame's actions drew swift international condemnation and comparisons with Vladimir Putin, leaving diplomats at a loss to explain why one of Africa's most astute leaders had undertaken such a colossal gamble and what he might do next.

Mr Kagame has long denied sponsoring M23, despite claims to the contrary by the UN and the US.

The president, who seized power in 1994 after his rebels toppled the Hutu regime behind the genocide directed at his Tutsi minority, has long been accused of undermining Congo militarily and economically.

Western leaders mostly chose to look away, ashamed over their inaction during the genocide and impressed by Mr Kagame's leadership style. Efficient and apparently incorruptible, he used development aid wisely, making Rwanda an African development paragon, and dispatched its troops to pacify troubled parts of the continent where the West had economic interests.

Britain became his staunchest supporter. Former aid ministers such as Baroness Chalker, Clare Short and Andrew Mitchell sang his praises. Sir Tony Blair described him as a "visionary" and later served as an unpaid adviser. For many years Britain was Rwanda's biggest bilateral donor.

Mr Kagame may have been a dictator – winning more than 99 per cent of the vote in last year's election – but diplomats argued dictatorship was necessary to protect Rwanda's Tutsis from another genocide.

## THE LURE OF THE EAST

Western silence often extended to Rwanda's repeated interference in eastern Congo.

Early interventions had some justification. In 1994, Mr Kagame's rebels ended the slaughter of 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus and pursued the perpetrators into neighbouring Congo, where they swiftly regrouped.

But Rwandan complaints about the Hutu killers lurking across the border increasingly seemed like pretext as the threat faded.

Over the course of 30 years, Rwanda has openly invaded Congo three times, attempted to topple its government twice and succeeded once. It has backed a dozen rebel factions, participated in the weakening of Congo's anarchic east and stands accused of plundering resources such as gold, tin and coltan. Millions have died as a result.

The West therefore mainly stayed silent as abuses mounted, even when Mr Kagame was accused of sending death squads abroad to murder critics.

When Patrick Karegaya, his former spy chief, was found strangled in a Johannesburg hotel in 2014, Mr Kagame denied involvement but condoned the murder, saying: "You cannot betray Rwanda and get away with it."

Even when Scotland Yard uncovered a Rwandan plot to assassinate dissidents in London, British benevolence remained unwavering. Mr Kagame paid his dues, distancing Francophone Rwanda from Paris, joining the Commonwealth and, in 2022, signing a deal to receive asylum seekers deported from Britain.

Rwanda has legitimate security concerns, while M23's claim to be fighting discrimination and violence against Congo's Tutsi minority is not without foundation.

But the Rwandan elite's hunger for Congo's minerals is a decisive factor, analysts say. Looting has been widespread for decades. Kigali exports far more minerals than it produces, thanks to proxy militias smuggling resources from artisanal Congolese mines, rights groups claim. Last year, Rwanda exported more than £1 billion of gold, despite having few supplies of its own.

Mineral greed alone does not explain Rwanda's latest military action, however. Critics note it has merrily plundered the east for years without triggering a war.

But in 2021, the status quo in the east changed when Uganda, another beneficiary of smuggled minerals, reached a deal with Felix Tshisekedi, the Congolese president, to build new roads connecting the east's mineral-rich heartlands to Ugandan territory, sidelining Rwanda.

## THE FALL OF GOMA

Few expected M23 to seize Goma. A low-level war protected Rwanda's mining interests, kept Congolese and Ugandan forces at bay and avoided too much unwelcome international attention.

Mr Kagame's decision to gamble may have been influenced by the US election, diplomats say. Mr Trump's isolationist instincts and equivocal views on Russia's invasion of Ukraine suggested that Washington would respond to Rwandan escalation with indifference.

So for seven days, chaos ensued in Goma.

"There was constant shooting day and night," said Michel Safari, a 21-year-old mechanic who sheltered with his family at home in the north of the city. During a lull, he ventured outside only to be confronted by gunmen who stole his phone and shot him in the leg.

Thousands were killed, including 20 peacekeepers. Aid workers struggled to treat the wounded in overcrowded hospitals. Morgues overflowed; corpses rotted in the streets. Amid the chaos, 4,000 male prisoners escaped the city's largest jail, raped more than 100 female inmates, locked them in the women's wing and set it ablaze.

The Congolese army collapsed. Officers, loyalist militia leaders and government officials scrambled onto ferries or seized dugout canoes to cross Lake Kivu, according to Shaman Hamuli, the president of Goma's main fishery, who witnessed the scenes.

Ken Matthysen, a regional expert at the International Peace Information Service, a Belgian research institute, said: "The balance of power in the Great Lakes shifted. Rwanda felt its interests were endangered." Weeks later, M23 resurfaced.

Others hid at the UN peacekeeping base, including the 300 Romanian mercenaries, who later surrendered to the rebels.

By the end of January, Goma belonged to M23.

Analysts disagree on Mr Kagame's endgame. Some believe he wants a permanent foothold in Congo; others suspect he aims to force regime change in Kinshasa, Congo's capital. Perhaps Mr Kagame himself is uncertain.

Jason Stearns, an expert on the Congo, said: "One of the things you learn over the years is that Rwandan strategy is often more tactical than strategic.

"They push a little, see what's possible, and keep on pushing. They adjust. They do a lot of course corrections. There is clearly the desire to project power into the eastern Congo, but is there a grand strategy? Maybe, maybe not."

Whatever Mr Kagame's intentions, it appears he failed to anticipate the strength of the international response. Britain suspended aid, the European Union placed a key economic partnership under review and the US imposed targeted sanctions.

In a startling turn, Mr Tshisekedi outmanoeuvred his Rwandan counterpart,

offering Washington a Ukraine-style minerals deal in exchange for protection against M23 and its patron. Mr Trump's interest was piqued and he tasked Massad Boulos, his daughter Tiffany's father-in-law, with negotiations.

Mr Kagame found himself in unfamiliar terrain. After M23 seized Walikale and closed in on a large tin mine backed by US investors in late March, he received an unequivocal warning from the Trump administration.

"They gave him a very strong message to say 'move back now, or else,'" says a source familiar with the discussions. "There was no carrot involved in the conversation; there was nothing but stick."

Mr Kagame swiftly complied. M23 withdrew and Congo's front lines have remained largely frozen since.

Mr Kagame now finds himself in the unusual position of being at the receiving end of Western vilification, argues Michela Wrong, the author of a book about Karegaya's killing.

"With the exception of a brief moment in 2012, the world has never stood up to Kagame and said 'no', so he's reached the correct assumption that he can get away with it." She said. "The question now is whether he has pushed it a bit

too far."

The conflict's future now depends largely on Mr Trump, who is understood to be offering drones to the Congo as part of a package to deter Rwanda and reduce its military advantage in the region.

Mr Kagame has been told to sign a peace deal with Mr Tshisekedi at the White House in early July or face far more significant economic consequences, according to two diplomatic sources.

Under the deal, it is likely that M23 would have to withdraw from most of the territory it holds, including Goma. His economy still heavily dependent on Western aid, Mr Kagame may have no choice but to yield – for now.

But Rwandan compliance could be short lived. Unless the complex issues bedeviling Congo's east, most notably those of ethnicity and land rights, are addressed, the region will remain volatile, lawless and vulnerable to outside interference.

Congo's army remains hopelessly feeble, while the ragtag loyalist militias Mr Tshisekedi relies on in their stead do more to fuel the chaos than end it.

Without sustained diplomacy, something Mr Trump may not have the patience for, a new chapter of violence could easily begin in the near future. Mr Kagame simply needs to bide his time.

Source: [Rwanda's dictator gambles his future on Congo invasion](#)

## OVER 4,500 GRADUATE FROM RWANDA POLYTECHNIC, URGED TO DRIVE INNOVATION.

MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2025

Prime Minister Edouard Ngirente on Thursday, May 29, urged the latest cohort of graduates from Rwanda Polytechnic to contribute meaningfully to the country's development through innovation and technical expertise.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony at BK Arena, where 4,562 students were awarded diplomas across a range of technical disciplines, Prime Minister Ngirente highlighted the critical role of skilled graduates in driving Rwanda's industrial ambitions.

During the event, 24 top performers in the Rwanda Polytechnic Skills Challenge received special honours, with gold, silver, and bronze medalists awarded Rwf1 million, Rwf700,000, and Rwf500,000, respectively.

"Our industrialisation ambitions are high, and it is evident that we need many experts in different technical fields if we are to achieve these ambitions," Ngirente said.

He noted that the increasing number of technical graduates in recent years is a sign of progress, reflecting a shift in youth interest towards practical and in-demand skills.

"If you compare the number of graduates we had then and that of today, you can see a positive trend," he said. "The impact of technical skills reaches every corner of society -- in health, education, business, and industry -- helping countries to develop and adapt to new challenges."

Ngirente cited a recent survey indicating that more than 70 per cent of last year's Rwanda Polytechnic graduates are either employed or pursuing further studies. He stated that the findings demonstrate the institution's success in aligning its training with labour market needs.

He also emphasised the importance of continued collaboration between the education sector and the private sector to ensure smooth school-to-work transitions.

ALSO READ: Govt to scale up vocational training for one million people, says minister

"Moving forward, we must continue strengthening career guidance and industry partnerships to ensure graduates receive the right support as they step into their professional lives," he said.

Ngirente commended the Ministry of Education and Rwanda Polytechnic for introducing new programmes such as the Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) degree, which was conferred for the second time during this year's ceremony.

He reaffirmed the government's commitment to expanding access to technical training, stating that continuous partnerships with businesses, industries, and employers are essential to preparing graduates for evolving job markets.

"The professional world is constantly changing, and we must keep learning and improving to stay competitive," he said. "The government of Rwanda will continue to support Rwanda Polytechnic so it can respond to labour market demands. As industry grows and new technologies emerge, education must evolve to ensure graduates remain work-ready and resilient."

Minister of Education Joseph Nsengimana praised the graduating class of Rwanda Polytechnic for their academic achievements and for embodying the country's vision for a skilled and self-reliant future.

"Today, we celebrate not only academic achievement, but also the promise of a brighter, more skilled, and self-reliant Rwanda," Nsengimana said. "Rwanda Polytechnic stands as a beacon of hope and transformation in our education sector."

Speaking at the ceremony, he noted that the graduating class of over 4,500 students, including more than 1,400 receiving the newly

introduced Bachelor of Technology degrees, reflected a growing commitment to vocational and technical training. He said the graduates are expected to play key roles in shaping the country's industries and contributing to national priorities, including the goals of Vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation.

"To the graduates, today is not an end, but a beginning," he said. "You are equipped with technical expertise, creativity, and resilience. Your time at Rwanda Polytechnic has prepared you not just for employment, but for leadership in entrepreneurship, innovation, and community advancement. Our country looks to you to apply your knowledge with purpose, your skill with integrity, and your passion with perseverance."

Nsengimana also commended the faculty and leadership of Rwanda Polytechnic for their dedication to aligning education with market needs, stating that their efforts have helped position Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as a key driver of inclusive economic growth.

"As the Ministry of Education, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing Rwanda's higher education sector by expanding access, improving infrastructure, and deepening partnerships with industry," he said. "We envision Rwanda Polytechnic thriving as a hub for innovation, applied research, and workforce development."

Israel Bimpe, CEO of Irembo and a guest commencement speaker, shared his journey from student volunteer to leadership in drone logistics and health innovation, urging graduates to stay curious and open to unexpected opportunities.

"Curiosity made me a relentless learner. It made me believe there was no limit to what my potential could be," he said. Bimpe recounted how a chance volunteering opportunity at a World Economic Forum side event led him to work with a Swedish entrepreneur in the drone industry. That encounter eventually led him to a position at Zipline, the drone delivery company operating in Rwanda.

"At Zipline, I was struck by the passion of my colleagues to change the world by building technology powered by artificial intelligence and automation," he said. "We were doing something that had never been done before -- transforming lives, day after day."

Bimpe encouraged graduates to think beyond conventional paths and embrace innovation as a means of driving impact.

In an interview after the ceremony, Arsène Gatabazi Dushime, one of the graduates, said the day marked the culmination of three years of effort and determination.

"I plan on employing myself and others," he said. "I performed well during the skills challenge and was awarded. I plan on using the prizes toward scaling up. The management of Rwanda Polytechnic played its part in giving us all the variables. Now it's up to us to come up with market-ready inventions that could even earn international patents."

Rwanda Polytechnic currently operates eight campuses across the country: RP Gishari, RP Huye, RP Karongi, RP Kigali, RP Tumba, RP Musanze, and RP Ngoma, offering technical and vocational training that continues to evolve with national development needs.

Source: [Rwanda: Over 4,500 Graduate From Rwanda Polytechnic, Urged to Drive Innovation - allAfrica.com](https://allafrica.com/stories/202505010001.html)

# SOUTH SUDAN

## AT LEAST SEVEN KILLED IN SOUTH SUDAN HOSPITAL BOMBING, MSF

3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025

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The UN has warned in recent weeks that the country is on the brink of new civil war.

At least seven people have been killed and another 20 injured in an attack on a town in South Sudan, the medical charity Doctors Without Borders, known by its French initials MSF, has said, as fears grow that the world's youngest nation will relapse into all-out civil war.

MSF said in statement that it "strongly condemned the deliberate bombing of its hospital in Old Fangak" on Saturday and that the attack destroyed the last remaining functioning hospital and pharmacy there in the north of the country.

MSF initially urged in an X post: "Stop the bombing. Protect civilians. Protect healthcare." It said the attack was "a clear violation of international law".

It was not immediately clear why the facility was targeted. A spokesperson for South Sudan's military could not be reached for comment, according to The Associated Press news agency.

Mamman Mustapha, Head of Mission with MSF in South Sudan, told Al Jazeera from

the capital Juba that his team on the ground reported "two helicopter gunships attacking the hospital".

Mustapha said the helicopters bombed the hospital and its medical supplies, then "continued shelling the town of Old Fangak".

"The civilian population has fled and the situation is quite horrific and catastrophic ... We are quite shocked. The hospital has been there for 10 years, since 2014," he added.

A further MSF statement said, "The attack began at around 4:30am (02:30GMT) when two helicopter gunships first dropped a bomb on the MSF pharmacy, burning it to the ground, then went on to fire on the town of Old Fangak for around 30 minutes...There are reports of more fatalities and wounded in the community."

Additional attacks took place hours later near a market in Old Fangak, causing widespread panic and displacement of civilians, according to several witnesses.

## FEARS OF RENEWED CIVIL WAR

The United Nations has warned in recent weeks that South Sudan, plagued by instability since gaining independence from Sudan in 2011, is on the brink of a renewed civil war.

The country descended into conflict in recent months due to the collapse of a power-sharing agreement between rival generals, President Salva Kiir and First Vice-President Riek Machar.

Kiir and Machar represent the two largest ethnic groups, the Dinka and Nuer, respectively, which fought a civil war between 2013 and 2018 that cost some 400,000 lives before a 2018 peace deal saw the two leaders form a government of national unity.

Now, tensions between Kiir and Machar have boiled over again, the latter placed under house arrest since March for alleged subversion.

Old Fangak, where the attack on the MSF hospital occurred, is one of several major towns in Fangak county, Jonglei State, an ethnically Nuer part of the country that is historically associated with Machar's Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) party.

Reporting from Nairobi, Al Jazeera's Catherine Soi said she had been speaking to the Fangak county commissioner, who pointed the finger of blame at the government for the attack. The official, she said, was allied with the SPLM-IO.

This commissioner told Al Jazeera that "only the army has the capacity to carry out such an attack". "We've also been talking to eyewitnesses who say that ... the aircraft was a government aircraft," said Soi.

"We also know that two weeks ago another

An election, which was supposed to be held in 2023, has already been postponed twice and is now not scheduled until 2026.

Source: [At least seven killed in South Sudan hospital bombing: MSF News | Al Jazeera](#)

MSF facility in that area was also attacked and looted, so we are waiting for the government official to give their version of the story," she said.

Last month, an army base was looted by gunmen in the northern town of Nasir in oil-rich Upper Nile State. Soi said the attack had allegedly been carried out by the White Army, which is said to be allied with Machar's SPLM-IO.

"He is under house arrest, several of other opposition politicians have also been arrested," said Soi. "We've heard from the government spokesman who says investigations are still going on. And when that happens, these politicians are going to be charged with rebellion."

The hospital attack is the latest escalation in a government-led assault on opposition groups across the country. Since March, government troops backed by soldiers from Uganda have conducted dozens of air raids on areas in neighbouring Upper Nile State.

Multiple Western embassies, including that of the United States, said in a statement on Friday that the political and security situation in South Sudan has "markedly worsened" in recent days.

The embassies urged Kiir to free Machar from house arrest and called for a "return to dialogue urgently aimed at achieving a political solution".

## SOUTH SUDAN: ESCALATING INSTABILITY AND UN SANCTIONS RENEWAL

6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

### ANTICIPATED COUNCIL ACTION

In May, the UN Security Council is expected to vote on a draft resolution to extend the sanctions regime on South Sudan, set to expire on 31 May, and to renew the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the 2206 South Sudan Sanctions Committee, whose current mandate expires on 1 July. On 30 April, the Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2778, extending the mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 9 May to allow additional time for deliberation.

#### DETERIORATING SECURITY AND POLITICAL CLIMATE

South Sudan's fragile peace process has come under severe threat in recent months due to intensifying political and military tensions. In early March, violent clashes erupted in Nasir (Upper Nile state), which was subsequently seized by the White Army, an armed youth group from the Nuer community. In response, the South Sudan People's Defence Forces (SSPDF) reportedly launched airstrikes and attacked opposition bases near Juba. According to Human Rights Watch, incendiary weapons were used in some attacks, resulting in at least 58 civilian deaths.

Fighting has also escalated in other states, including Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity, Western Equatoria, and Jonglei. On 20 April, the SSPDF claimed to have retaken Nasir from the White Army after intense clashes.

On 17 March, the government acknowledged the presence of Ugandan troops in South Sudan under a bilateral agreement for training and support. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition (SPLM-IO) condemned the deployment, accusing Uganda of violating the UN arms embargo and participating in combat operations—allegations Uganda has denied.

#### TARGETING OF OPPOSITION LEADERS

Amid rising tensions, the government arrested several SPLM-IO officials and placed opposition leader Riek Machar under house arrest on 26 March, accusing him of inciting rebellion. This prompted a political crisis within the SPLM-IO, leading Deputy Chairman Oyet Nathaniel and other senior officials to flee or go into hiding. On 7 April, Oyet suspended four Political Bureau members, including Minister for Peacebuilding Stephen Par Koul, accusing them of attempting to oust Machar. Koul disputed the legitimacy of the move and was later appointed interim chair by a faction of SPLM-IO members in Juba. The move raised alarms over attempts to circumvent Machar's role as First Vice President under the 2018 Revitalized Agreement (R-ARCSS), jeopardising the peace framework.

Meanwhile, a wave of military defections from the opposition to government forces further threatens the security sector reform process.

#### UNMISS BRIEFING AND SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNS

At a 16 April Council briefing, UN Special Representative Nicholas Haysom warned that South Sudan risked descending from localized violence into broader conflict involving peace agreement signatories and external actors. Haysom emphasized UNMISS' efforts to protect civilians and support the implementation of

the revitalized agreement, despite operational constraints, including restricted access.

### SANCTIONS AND BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

On 14 March, the Panel of Experts submitted its final report to the 2206 Sanctions Committee. The Secretary-General's 15 April assessment noted modest progress on two of five benchmarks under Resolution 2577—specifically the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the formation of a unified command structure. However, overall progress remains slow and hindered by continued tensions between the SPLM and SPLM-IO.

No progress has been reported on the remaining benchmarks, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, arms and ammunition management, and conflict-related sexual violence accountability. The Secretary-General expressed concern over the lack of political will and funding, warning that these gaps undermine long-term peace prospects.

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER PERSPECTIVES

The UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, in a 27 March statement, warned that the deteriorating situation could destabilize the broader region unless parties recommit to the revitalized agreement. The Commission urged increased regional and international engagement to press for a political resolution.

During the Council's 16 April session, Jackline Nasiwa, Executive Director of the Center for Inclusive Governance, Peace and Justice, stressed the dire impact of the conflict on women and girls. She called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and urged Council members to preserve and fully renew UNMISS' mandate, with gender inclusion prioritized throughout its implementation.

### KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIC OPTIONS FOR THE COUNCIL

The central issue before the Council is whether to renew the sanctions regime and the Panel of Experts' mandate for another year, maintaining pressure on parties to meet peace benchmarks. Options include reaffirming the existing measures, adding new listings of violators, or engaging in consultations with the African Union and regional stakeholders.

The Council may also consider a press statement addressing the rapidly evolving crisis or undertake a visiting mission to South Sudan—the first since 2019—to engage directly with the parties.

### COUNCIL DYNAMICS

Sanctions remain divisive within the Council. During the last renewal in May 2024 (Resolution 2731), six members abstained: Algeria, China, Guyana, Russia, Sierra Leone, and then-member Mozambique. While Western members—including the US, UK, and France—support the sanctions as essential for curbing violence and pressuring parties to comply, others, particularly China and Russia, argue that sanctions obstruct state-building efforts. African Council members have voiced similar reservations.

The US, as penholder, reportedly circulated a draft resolution in April. While it gained support from some Western members, China, Russia, and others preferred a softer approach, such as a press statement. At the 16 April meeting, Russia argued that the situation remained under government control and called for support rather than pressure.

As the situation on the ground continues to unravel, Council members must weigh urgent humanitarian, security, and political concerns in deciding the future of the sanction's regime and the broader peace process in South Sudan.

Source: [South Sudan: Escalating Instability and UN Sanctions Renewal – May 2025 | African Security Analysis](#)

# SOMALIA

## TERRORISM AND INSTABILITY: “CRITICAL MOMENT” FOR SOMALIA, SAYS RAPPOREUR

22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2025

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ben Saul, conducted an official visit to Somalia from 10 to 20 May 2025 to assess the consistency of Somalia’s counter-terrorism laws, policies and practices with international human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law.

“I recognise the extensive efforts by the Somali authorities to prevent terrorism, through a comprehensive strategy combining law enforcement, military operations, combating violent extremism and addressing the root causes of terrorist recruitment,” Saul said in a statement at the end of an official visit to the country.

“I also acknowledge Somalia’s severe security and resource constraints.” Saul noted with concern that Somalia has adopted excessive and overbroad terrorist definitions and offences, as well as expansive intelligence and security powers that could compromise fundamental human rights.

He warned that some terrorism offences attract the death penalty even when they do not involve intentional killing, as required under international law.

During his visit, the expert received reports of arbitrary arrests, protracted pre-trial detention, lack of legal representation, possible enforced disappearance, excessive use of force, and ill-treatment in detention.

### ABSENCE OF FAIR TRIAL SAFEGUARDS AND INSUFFICIENT PRISON CONDITIONS

“I am deeply concerned about widespread violations against children in armed

conflict, including killings, maiming, forced recruitment, sexual and gender-based violence, and trafficking,” the Special Rapporteur said. Saul said he was particularly concerned about the use of military courts to try terrorist suspects, which lack sufficient independence and fair trial safeguards.

“Prison conditions also do not meet international standards,” he said. The Special Rapporteur acknowledged achievements of military operations against terrorist groups, but said he was concerned that military forces lacked the necessary rules, procedures and accountability mechanisms to prevent, prosecute and remedy violations.

He also expressed deep concern over the use of clan militias alongside the military, in the absence of a legal framework to safeguard human rights.

The Special Rapporteur urged Somalia, with international support, to establish and adequately resource rehabilitation and reintegration centres and programmes for individuals who disengage from Al-Shabab, including women survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

## WIDE-RANGING CONSEQUENCES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

He warned that countering terrorism financing laws risked impeding the delivery of independent and impartial humanitarian relief to vulnerable civilian populations in acute need.

"Counter-terrorism laws are also adversely affecting the freedom of the media to report on security matters and restricting and chilling the human rights work of civil society organisations," Saul said.

"I encourage Somalia to establish independent and effective oversight and accountability mechanisms for all counter-terrorism actors, redouble efforts to address root causes, pursue conflict resolution and peace-making, strive

for inclusive and participatory governance, and combat corruption, poverty and discrimination against minorities."

He encouraged international partners to maintain political and financial support for Somalia, in the face of devastating recent funding cuts by some donors.

"This is a critical moment for Somalia," he said. "Sustained international engagement is essential to support national efforts to build lasting peace, strengthen rule of law, and protect human rights while countering terrorism."

The Special Rapporteur will present a detailed report on his findings to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2026.

Source: Africa news [Terrorism and instability: "critical moment" for Somalia, says rapporteur](#)

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