RADICAL NEW BAR

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

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KOLOLO: QUINTESSENTIAL SYMBOL OF ILLEGITIMATE RULE
REJECT THE CHARADE OF MUSEVENI'S SWEARING-IN
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

Dear Colleagues,

There is a direct connection between the deepening crisis in Uganda's justice system and the events unfolding in Kampala City since the beginning of last week. While the military has locked down the city centre and foreign guests have been invited, the actual constitutional and legal requirements for the declaration of a winner in the presidential election of 15 January 2026 have not yet been fully met.

The so-called "independent" Electoral Commission has still not published comprehensive polling-station-level results, the Declaration of Results forms, or detailed tallies for the presidential race that President-Elect Yoweri Museveni supposedly won. This has prevented independent verification of the declared outcome.

The Uganda Law Society identified this omission as a core finding in its 5 February 2026 Election Observation Report. It is also the primary basis for our **Reference No. 9 of 2026**, filed jointly with the East Africa Law Society at the East African Court of Justice in Arusha. We contend that the non-disclosure of a detailed breakdown of the poll results undermines the transparency and accountability standards required by Ugandan law and the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

The heads of the Ugandan Judiciary are now poised to oversee the formal endorsement of an electoral process widely regarded as a crime, orchestrated by the Electoral Commission and shielded by the military.

Reflecting on the build-up to President Yoweri Museveni's swearing-in, following his seventh stolen election — not to mention his original military abrogation of the 1985 Nairobi Peace Accords — nothing better symbolizes his four-decade rule than Kampala once again locked down under military boots.

A Legacy of Colonial Occupation

Kololo Hill, the venue of this charade, currently sits at the epicentre of the regime's total control, with roads blocked, traffic diverted, and ordinary Ugandans ordered to stay away… or else.

Kololo was once a nearly whites-only enclave, with a few Asian hangers-on and African upstarts who moved in shortly after Independence. It was where top white colonial civil servants lived and where whites-only schools for their children were established nearby. The area still hosts many foreign (especially Western) embassies and has long been regarded as posh.

It is even more fitting that the swearing-in ceremony itself is once again taking place — as it has for decades — at Kololo Airstrip. This piece of levelled ground on the hill was originally created for the take-off and landing of light aircraft. Many state ceremonies have been held here since the 1960s, often featuring helicopters and small planes. Kololo is also protected at four main points by the older colonial-era police stations that ring the area. Basically, it has always sat at the heart of the city's security grid.

Kololo is the physical embodiment of illegitimate government in Uganda. Even its name is said to derive from the words **"An atye kany kololo"** ("I am here utterly alone"), reportedly uttered by Rwot Awic Abok, the Acholi Chief abducted by the British for refusing to help hunt down Kabalega and Mwanga, and detained on this hill.

Yet Kololo Airstrip's primary function has probably always been as an evacuation point for white civil servants, diplomats, and expatriates in the event of serious unrest. It was the planned escape route for white civil servants, should they ever face an enraged population that had finally had enough of colonial Occupation.

In short, it remains the biggest symbol of the presence of illegitimate rule over Ugandans. It is where the colonial state planted itself to rule over Africans while insulating itself from them through physical, financial, and technological barriers. The current regime has proven itself a worthy successor to that colonial Occupation: isolated, reliant on armed force to remain in power, and pretending to believe in its own legitimacy.

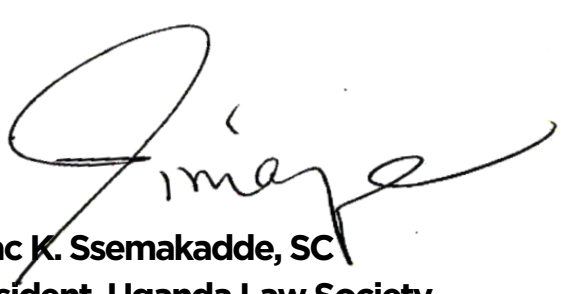
There could be no better place, no better person, and no better enablers than Kololo Hill, Yoweri Museveni, and the Chief Justice for the events planned for tomorrow. But the lower the legitimacy, the louder the displays of vainglorious ostentation. **At this point, they are not trying to convince us of their "election victory"; they are actually desperately trying to convince themselves.**

The same heavy military lockdown now choking Kololo mirrors the regime's persistent record of political detentions, enforced disappearances, and alleged extrajudicial executions that the Society documented in its election report. Ceremonial pomp cannot replace accountability for these allegations or the public disclosure of the fate of those still missing.

Colonial rule was founded on injustice. This regime, having already damaged the dignity and credibility of our legal institutions, now seeks to transform that injustice into a public festival. By dint of **Article 3**, we have a constitutional duty to resist these shenanigans.

No lawyer, law student, court officer, or honest lawmaker should participate in this charade. The legacy of colonial occupation should end now.

Issued from exile, on Monday, 11 May 2026.



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