



**PRESS BRIEFING BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION ON THE
RESTORATION OF PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS –
18TH JANUARY 2026**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the press, distinguished members of the media, and fellow Ugandans.

Thank you for joining us today.

I am pleased to announce that, following the successful conclusion of the 2026 General Elections and a careful assessment by the Inter-Agency Security Committee, the Uganda Communications Commission has directed the immediate restoration of public internet access across the country, effective 18th January 2026.

This phased and responsible return to connectivity reflects the Commission's commitment to balancing national security with the legitimate needs of citizens for information, communication, and economic activity.

The brief suspension of public internet was a necessary and proportionate step taken on the strong recommendation of the Inter-Agency Security Committee to safeguard public order, prevent the rapid spread of misinformation and disinformation, curb potential electoral fraud, and protect against

incitement to violence during a highly sensitive national period.

This measure was not taken lightly. It was implemented to ensure that the electoral process proceeded peacefully and that the peace and stability Ugandans have worked so hard to maintain were not undermined.

As of midnight today, general public internet access has been fully restored. This includes web browsing, access to news websites, educational resources, government portals, financial services, email, and other essential online activities.

In line with the directive issued to all licensed Mobile Network Operators and Internet Service Providers, social media platforms and messaging/over-the-top (OTT) applications remain temporarily restricted to continue safeguarding against misuse that could threaten public order.

The Commission will continue to monitor the situation closely and will provide updates on any further adjustments as circumstances evolve.

Now that public internet is back, I urge every Ugandan to use this restored access responsibly and constructively.

The internet is a powerful tool for development, education, business, and staying connected with loved ones – let us use it to build, not to destroy.

Avoid sharing or amplifying unverified information, hate speech, inflammatory content, or anything that could incite violence or disturb the peace we have all worked to preserve.

Responsible digital citizenship means verifying facts before sharing, respecting the views of others, and contributing to national unity rather than division.

Remember, freedom comes with responsibility. Misuse of online platforms can have serious consequences for individuals and the entire country.

The successful and largely peaceful conduct of the elections demonstrates the maturity of our people and the strength of our institutions.

Let us now build on this achievement. Any attempt to use the restored internet to organise or incite disorder, spread falsehoods, or undermine national stability will not be tolerated.

Security agencies remain vigilant, and the Commission will continue to work closely with them to ensure that digital spaces are not weaponised against public peace.

We appeal to all citizens, political actors, and media houses to prioritise peace, truth, and national cohesion at this critical time.

In conclusion, the restoration of public internet marks an important step forward as we move beyond the election period.

The Uganda Communications Commission remains committed to promoting a safe, open, and inclusive digital environment that serves the interests of all Ugandans.

We thank the operators for their swift compliance, the security agencies for their guidance, and the public for their patience and understanding during this temporary measure.

Let us all now embrace this restored connectivity with maturity and responsibility – together, we can continue building the Uganda we all deserve.

Thank you.

I am now happy to take your questions.

Hon. Nyombi Thembo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR