

TELEGRAMS: "GENOPOL"
TELEPHONE: 0414 - 233814, 0414 - 250613
FAX NO: (0414) 255630

WEBSITE: www.upf.go.ug
GENERAL EMAIL: upf@pf.go.ug
P.O. Box 7055 Kampala - Uganda

For any correspondence on this subject ADM/94/96/01 Vol. 25
PLEASE QUOTE NO:.....



UGANDA POLICE FORCE
POLICE HEADQUARTERS

12th February 2026

The Regional Police Commander,
Albertine North
Masindi - Uganda.

REMOVAL OF ROADSIDE SUGARCANE WEIGH BRIDGES - MASINDI DISTRICT

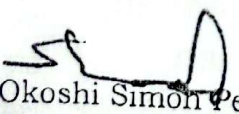
Reference is made to the letter to the Inspector General of Police by Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Kahinda Otafiire, the Minister of Internal Affairs Ref: ADM.259/485/01 dated 6th February 2026 in respect to the above captioned subject matter (copy enclosed).

The above-mentioned letter by the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs gives instructions to implement the Ministerial Directive of 7th February 2025 by the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (copy attached). The removal of roadside sugarcane weigh bridges in Masindi District will be undertaken by Mr. David Kiiza, the Senior Industrial Officer of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. He can be reached on Tel: No. 0704612509.

The role of the Uganda Police Force is to **strictly provide security** during the exercise to enable the Ministry officials carry out their duty in a secure environment.

You are accordingly instructed to provide security to the Ministry officials during the removal of the roadside weigh bridges. In case of need for additional personnel, especially from the Field Force Unit (FFU), liaise with the Regional Police Commander (RPC) Albertine South.

By copy of this letter, the RPC Albertine South and the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) Masindi are informed accordingly.

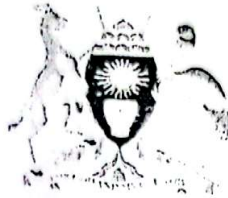

Okoshi Simon Peter

For: INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

Resident District Commissioner Masindi
Regional Police Commander Albertine South

General Line
Minister
Minister of State

CONTACTS
0417346100
0417346120
0417346102



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
PLOT 65 – 67, OLD PORTBELL RD.
P.O. BOX 7191,
KAMPALA-UGANDA

Website: www.mia.go.ug, Email: info@mia.go.ug

For any correspondence on this
Subject Please Quote: ADM.259/485/01

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

6th February 2026

The Inspector General of Police
Uganda Police Force
Kampala

**REMOVAL OF ROADSIDE SUGARCANE WEIGH
BRIDGES – MASINDI DISTRICT**

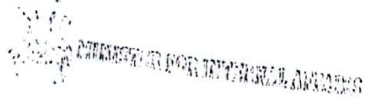
Reference is made to the above captioned matter, the Ministerial Statement issued by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives dated 7th February 2025, the Uganda Police investigation report dated 7th November 2025, and my letters referenced ADM259/485/01 dated 11th December 2025 and ADM.269/430/01 dated 10th October 2025, all addressed to you.

Following a review of the Uganda Police investigation report and the Masindi District Local Government resolution banning roadside weighbridges, it has been established that the Ministerial Statement on measures to combat sugarcane theft in Uganda should be implemented. A copy of the Ministerial Statement is attached for ease of reference.

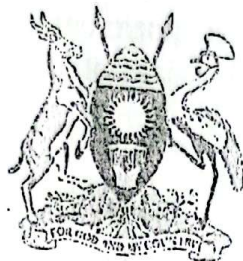
Accordingly, you are hereby directed to instruct the Regional Police Commander and the District Police Commander for Masindi District to urgently halt the operations of the roadside weigh bridges and relocate them to areas agreed upon by the stakeholders in order to curtail any other sugarcane theft or misappropriation.

... by copy of this letter, my earlier directive halting
the relocation of the weighbridges pending investigations
is hereby lifted.


Nahinda Otafiire
IAJ GEN (RTD)
MINISTER



Copy to: The Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and
Cooperatives
" Regional Police Commander – Albertine Region
" Resident District Commissioner – Masindi
" District Police Commander – Masindi District
" The Chief Executive Officer, Kinyara Sugar
" The Bunyoro Sugar Farmer's Co-operative
Union Ltd.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND COOPERATIVES.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVE

Measures to Combat Sugarcane Theft and Poaching in Uganda.

Introduction

Sugarcane theft has become a major issue in Uganda, particularly in the Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro Sub Regions. This illegal activity has led to severe financial losses for both smallholder and commercial farmers and is threatening the viability of the sugar industry. To effectively tackle this problem, we must adopt a multi-faceted approach, involving law enforcement, better industry regulations, and community collaboration.

This directive sets out the comprehensive measures that must be implemented immediately to curb sugarcane theft and poaching across Uganda, with a particular focus on the Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro regions, and to protect the interests of farmers and stakeholders in the sugar industry.

Measures to Address Sugarcane Theft and Poaching:

1. Ban on Weighbridges along roads and Trading Centers:

In line with government policy, the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives mandates the immediate cessation of weighbridges along roads and trading centers, including all truck scales used for weighing sugarcane during transit. This measure will help curb the manipulation of weight and prevent theft during transportation using motorcycles, *boda bodas*, *Tukus*, pickups, vans etc

2. Direct Purchase and Weighing at Factories:

All millers must now purchase sugarcane directly from the fields and have it weighed at the factories. This change is designed to improve the traceability of sugarcane from its source, enhancing accountability and reducing the risk of theft. The new system will also streamline tax collection for the government and encourage compliance with ethical practices. Millers are strongly encouraged to operate with transparency and integrity. Payments to farmers should be made promptly via banks to ensure proper tracking of transactions, income, and tax responsibilities.

3. Freedom for Non-Contracted Farmers to Sell Sugarcane:

Farmers who are not bound by contracts with specific factories are free to sell their sugarcane to any factory or miller of their choice. Both farmers and buyers are responsible for ensuring that the sugarcane being sold is not under any existing contract or miller lien.

4. Transparency in Weighing Process:

The weighing process for sugarcane must be transparent. Farmers are to be provided with clear documentation (e.g., weighing tickets or dockets) for every transaction. Additionally, weighbridges must be installed at factory entrances or at easily accessible locations within the factory premises,

to farmers can conveniently use them, thereby promoting transparency in the process.

5. Promoting Traceability through Sugar Mills and Farmers:

Collaboration between sugar mills and farmers is critical. The Ministry mandates that sugarcane be traceable from the field to the mill to ensure that stolen cane does not enter the market.

6. Increased Police Presence and Local Law Enforcement:

The Ministry calls for the increased deployment of police patrols and local law enforcement officers in sugarcane-growing regions, particularly in Busoga and Bunyoro. This will strengthen deterrence against theft and ensure swift action in areas affected by criminal activity.

7. Public Awareness Campaign on the Impact of Sugarcane theft:

A national public awareness campaign will be launched to educate citizens about the negative economic and social effects of sugarcane theft, emphasizing its harmful impact on farmers' livelihoods and local economies.

8. Support for Sugarcane Farmers' Associations and Cooperatives:

Farmers' cooperatives and/or associations, in collaboration with their respective mills, should receive support to allow collective investments in security measures. This includes purchasing shared surveillance equipment and employing local security personnel to reduce theft.

9. Monitoring the Flow of Sugarcane:

Close cooperation with sugar mills will be established to regulate and monitor the flow of sugarcane, ensuring that mills verify the source of the cane before accepting it for processing.

10. Engagement of Local Governments:

Local governments in sugarcane-growing regions are urged to support law enforcement efforts and encourage farmers to report theft incidents. Strong collaboration with local authorities is essential for effective crime prevention.

Conclusion

To protect the interests of our sugarcane farmers, secure the future of the sugar industry, and foster a fairer, more transparent agricultural sector, we must take immediate and decisive action to address sugarcane theft. This Ministerial Directive outlines the steps that need to be followed to curtail this challenge, with a focus on enforcement, regulation, and community collaboration.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives, together with all relevant stakeholders, is committed to the successful implementation of these measures, particularly in regions of Busoga, Buganda and Bunyoro, to mitigate sugarcane theft and restore the integrity of the sugar industry.


Francis Mwebesa (Hon.)
MINISTER

7th February 2025