

Stanbic Bank

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Economic Forum 2026

Uganda's Inflection Point: Competing in a Rewired Global Economy

Curated By: The Mkutano Company

Thursday, 12 February 2026 | Kampala Sheraton Hotel, Uganda

Foreword Stanbic Bank Uganda

The Stanbic Economic Forum 2026 convened at a defining moment in Uganda's economic trajectory.

As global systems recalibrate through shifting trade alignments, monetary transitions, geopolitical uncertainty, and technological acceleration, Uganda stands at a structural inflection point. With first oil imminent, foreign capital inflows strengthening, and regional integration deepening, we are entering a new phase of economic agency.

This Forum was curated as a strategic dialogue, bringing together public and private sector actors to translate the economic outlook for 2026 through an operational lens.

The core question driving this convening was clear: How does Uganda compete and win in a rewired global economy?



Executive Summary

The 2026 Stanbic Economic Forum examined Uganda's macroeconomic outlook within the context of a rapidly shifting global order.

- **Global trade** reconfiguration and tariff uncertainty
- **US monetary** transitions and dollar weakness
- **Sub-Saharan Africa's** macroeconomic restoration
- **Uganda's oil transition** and infrastructure stimulus
- **Fiscal sustainability** and debt trajectory
- **Currency stability** and capital flows
- **Inclusive growth** and structural inequality

The Forum underscored that while Uganda's macro fundamentals remain strong, economic expansion must translate into tangible improvements at the household level.

Forum in Context

Theme

Uganda's Inflection Point: Competing in a Rewired Global Economy

Host Standard Bank

Participants: Government leaders, Bank of Uganda, development partners, diplomats, institutional investors, private sector leaders

Attendance

250 physical delegates

9,386 virtual participants across digital platforms



Lead Economic Insight

Jibran Qureshi

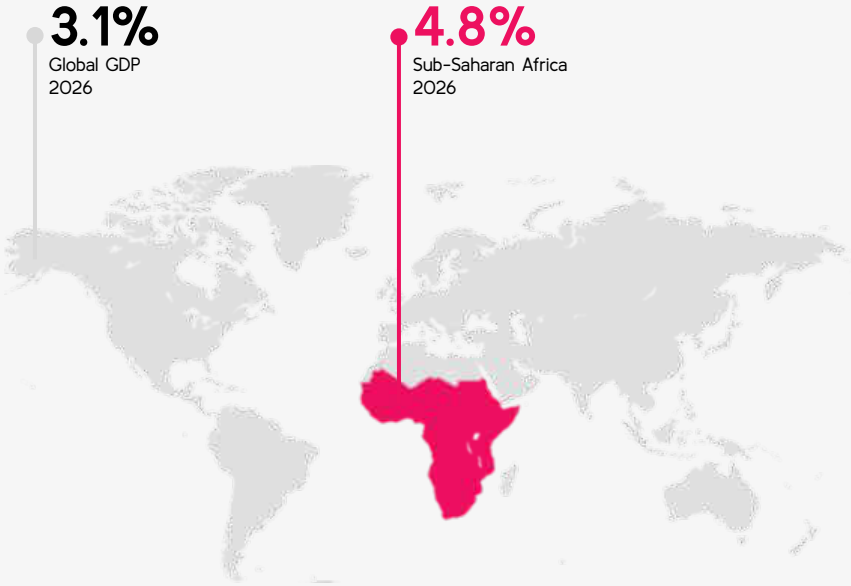
Head of Africa Regions Research, Standard Bank Group



Global Economic Landscape

Growth Outlook

Global Economic Landscape



Global Growth Outlook

- Global GDP projected at ~3.1% in 2026
- Sub-Saharan Africa projected at 4.6–4.8%
- Trade uncertainty remains elevated despite easing tariff tensions

II Key Risks Identified

- Geopolitical instability (Middle East, Taiwan, Venezuela)
- US fiscal and debt concerns
- Potential equity market corrections
- Monetary policy transition in the US Federal Reserve

Global Economic Landscape II

Value of U.S Dollar 2025-2026



ICE U.S. Dollar Index

III The Weak Dollar Thesis

Stanbic Research projects:

- Continued gradual weakening of the US dollar (5–6%)
- Supportive tailwinds for frontier market currencies
- Stronger euro and emerging market positioning

Implication for Uganda:

- Improved capital inflows
- Reserve accumulation opportunities
- Currency stabilisation support



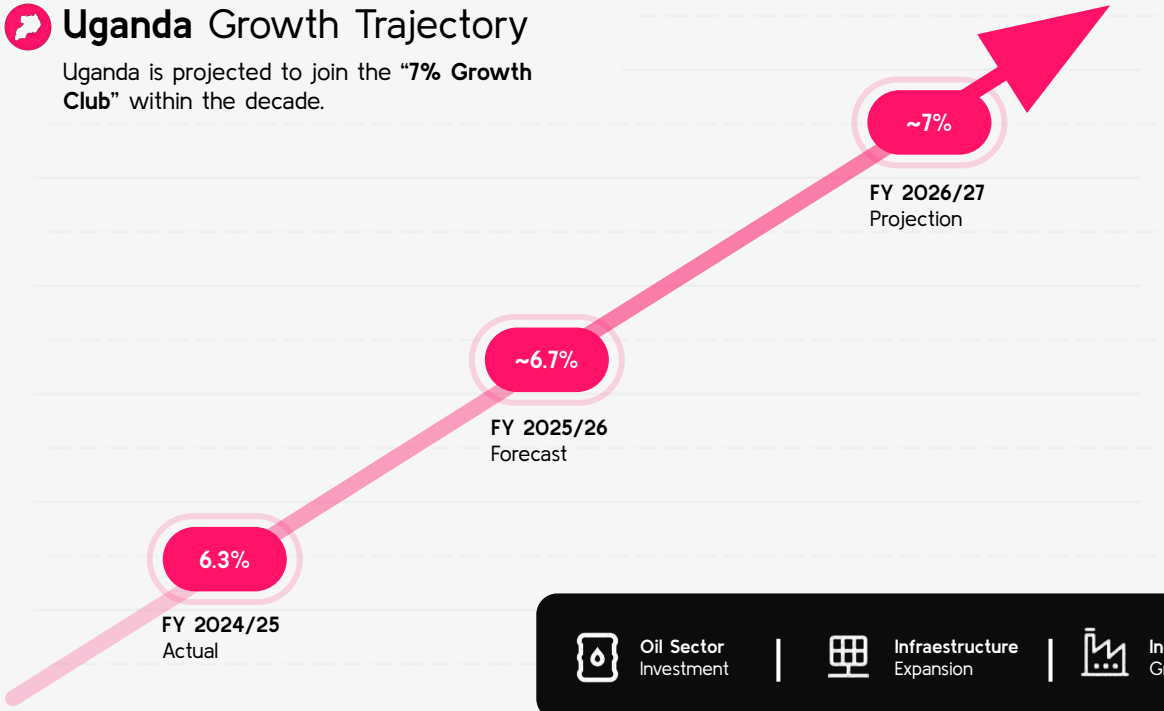
Uganda's Macroeconomic Position

Strong but Tested

Uganda's Macroeconomic Position

Uganda Growth Trajectory

Uganda is projected to join the "**7% Growth Club**" within the decade.



Global Growth Outlook

Forecast

- **6.5–6.7%** in FY2025/26
- Near or above 7% in FY2026/27

Drivers

- Oil sector investment
- Infrastructure expansion (EACOP, Afcon projects)
- Industrial output growth
- Construction sector acceleration
- Agriculture resilience

Oil Sector Investment | **Infraestructure** Expansion | **Industrial Output** Growth | **Construction** Sector Aceleration | **Agriculture** Resilience

Uganda's Macroeconomic Position II

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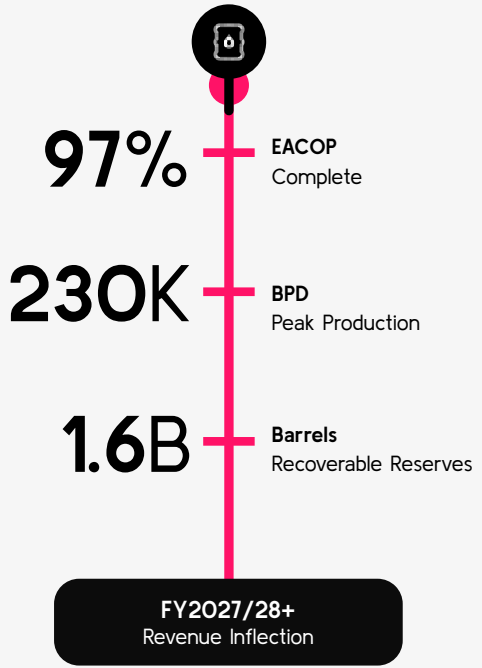
Oil Transition The Structural Inflection

- **EACOP nearing completion:** 97%
- **First oil expected in late 2026**
- **Recoverable reserves:** 1.6 billion barrels
- **Peak production:** ~230,000 barrels per day

Revenue inflection expected meaningfully from FY2027/28 onward.

Critical Insight:

Uganda has prudently avoided pre-spending anticipated oil revenues, preserving macro credibility. Oil revenue projected to offset rising external debt servicing by FY2028–2030.



External Position & Reserves

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Drivers

Coffee Export Surge

Gold Exports

Portfolio Investment

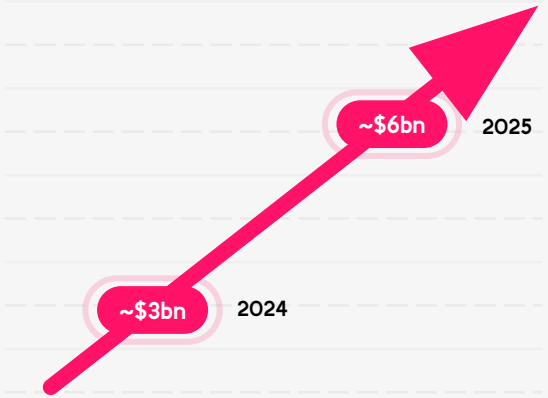
Upcoming

Domestic Gold Purchase Program

The Gold Purchase Program is expected to:

- **Strengthen** reserves
- **Formalise** artisanal supply chains
- **Enhance** monetary gold holdings

FX Reserves



- **FX reserves** rose from ~$3bn (2024) to ~$6bn (2025)
- **Import cover** strengthened
- **Offshore portfolio** inflows reached ~$3bn

Currency & Capital Flows

The Uganda Shilling demonstrated resilience in 2025 despite temporary pressure.

Key Observations

- Portfolio investors increased exposure to Ugandan government securities.
- Election-related hedging created temporary volatility.
- Bank of Uganda's credibility remains a stabilising force.



Policy takeaway

- Market confidence in institutional strength is Uganda's greatest currency buffer.

Uganda Shilling & Capital Flows | 2025

Shilling Resilience	Portfolio Inflows	Election Hedging	Bank of Uganda	Policy Takeaway
+2.7% vs **USD**	Government securities investment	Temporary voltability	Credibility Increses	Currency Buffer

Monetary Policy & Fiscal Discipline



Monetary Policy

- Bank of Uganda is widely regarded as one of the continent's most credible central banks.
- Inflation outlook remains contained.
- Potential modest rate cuts in H2 2026 if fiscal conditions allow.

Fiscal Outlook

! Concerns raised

- Widening fiscal deficit
- Frequent supplementary budgets
- Domestic borrowing is crowding out the private sector

! Recommendations

- Greater fiscal predictability
- Substitution of domestic debt with concessional external funding
- Strengthened discipline ahead of the election cycle

Debt Sustainability & Oil Offset

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External Deb Servicing

$2.2–2.7BN
Annual by FY2029

80–85%
Oil Offset in Peak Years

Projected Oil Revenue

$1,9BN
Annual by FY2028/29

$2.4BN
Annual by FY2029/30

Oil flows are expected to cover 80–85% of external debt servicing in peak years. Debt remains manageable, conditional on:

- **Oil Timeline** Discipline
- **Sustained** FDI
- **Export** Diverification



The Critical Question

Macro vs. Micro

Strong macroeconomic growth often fails to improve household outcomes because of deep structural issues. A capital-intensive growth model generates wealth but few jobs, while 80–90% of workers remain in the informal sector without contracts or protections. Limited pension and social coverage leave families exposed to shocks, and inequality between asset-holders and non-asset-holders means gains are unevenly shared. Post-COVID inflation has further scarred household budgets, eroding real incomes. To make growth meaningful, it must be more labour-absorptive, inclusive, regionally distributed, and SME-oriented; otherwise, economic grievances risk turning into political grievances.

Strategic Priorities Emerging from the Forum

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1 Protect Macro Stability

Maintain institutional credibility, reserve buffers, and monetary discipline.

3 Deepen Regional Integration

EAC integration as an export expansion mechanism.

5 Institutional Discipline in Election Cycles

Protect fiscal credibility.

2 Convert Oil into Industrialisation

- Manufacturing
- Agro-processing
- Infrastructure productivity

4 Expand Financial Inclusion

- Formalisation of the informal sector.
- Digital credit access.
- SME financing scale-up.

Summit in Numbers

The Data Behind the Dialogue

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6.3%
Uganda's GDP growth in FY2024/25

6.5-6.7%
Projected GDP growth in FY2025/26

7%
Targeted growth trajectory in the oil-transition phase

4.6-4.8%
Projected Sub-Saharan Africa growth (2026)

97%
Uganda's GDP growth in FY2024/25

16B
Barrels of recoverable oil reserves

230K
Projected peak oil production

$6B
FX reserves 2025 **up from ~$3bn in** 2024

$3B
Offshore portfolio inflows into Uganda

80-90%
Estimated informal sector employment share

$2.4B
Projected oil revenue peak (FY2029/30)

80-85%
Projected coverage external debt servicing by oil revenues in peak years



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Forward Outlook

Competing in a Rewired Global Economy

Uganda enters 2026 with stronger reserves, improving growth momentum, rising investor confidence, and stable monetary leadership, while preparing for its oil transition. Yet the global environment is becoming more demanding: capital flows are increasingly selective, geopolitics volatile, and technology accelerating.

In this rewired global economy, the countries that succeed will be those that maintain institutional credibility, deploy capital efficiently, protect macro stability, and, most importantly, translate growth into jobs.

Uganda stands at a critical inflection point, not of rhetoric, but of structural transformation, where choices made now will determine whether its promise of growth becomes a foundation for inclusive prosperity.

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The Forum confronted a critical truth

Strong macro performance does not automatically translate into improved household outcomes.

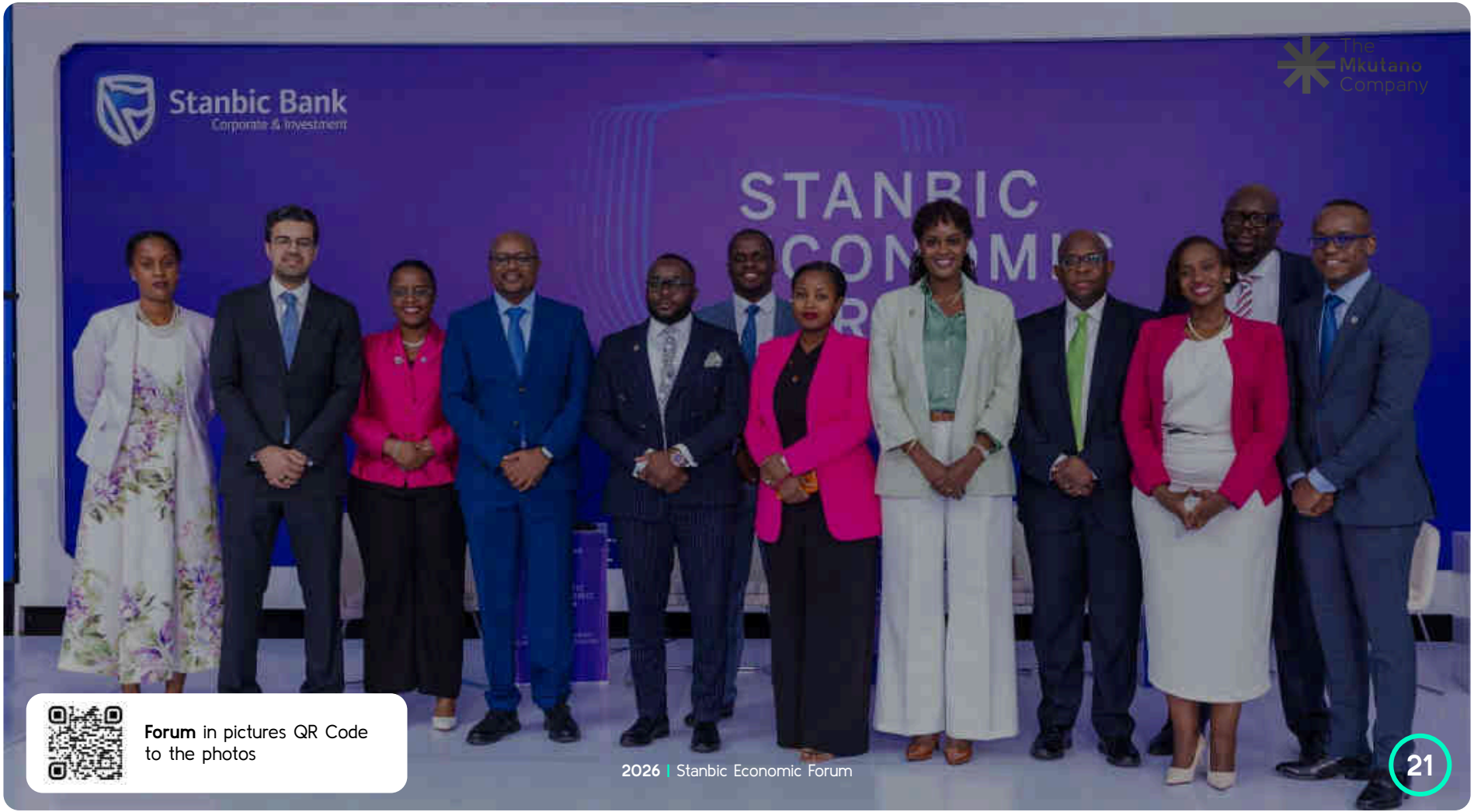
Structural constraints include:

- Capital-intensive growth
- Limited pension and social protection coverage
- Informality dominance
- Asset concentration effects

Inclusive growth is not a slogan. It is a political and economic stabiliser

Closing Positioning Statement

The 2026 Stanbic Economic Forum reinforced a central thesis: there is evidence that Uganda is transitioning. From aid dependence to capital attraction, from frontier uncertainty to emerging credibility, and from oil anticipation to oil execution. Inflection points reward discipline and punish complacency. The next five years will define whether Uganda becomes a competitive middle-income economy or simply a higher-growth frontier market. The opportunity is present, but the margin for error is narrowing.



Forum in pictures QR Code to the photos

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