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DP NEC Holds Inaugural Meet, Leaders Take Oath Via Zoom



DP President General Norbert Mao Takes Oath

The Democratic Party National Executive Committee held its inaugural meeting last Friday. It was a much

anticipated occasion after the meeting had been postponed several times due to logistical challenges coupled with the restrictions imposed by

health rules of corona pandemic which banned gatherings of more than twenty people.

After Dr. Kiwanu-

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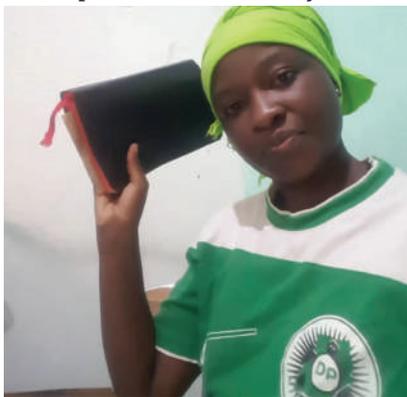
Friday 13th August, 2021
DP NEC Meeting

ka Ssempala Mayambala's address in the capacity of the DP National Chairman, the National Legal Advisor, Counsel Luyimbazi Nalukoola presided over the virtual swearing in of all members of the National Executive Committee. Though the event was virtual, the members were equipped with Holy Books and raised them facing the cameras of their smartphones, tablets and smartphones. Some even mobilized a few of their supporters to witness their virtual swearing in. No wonder in many cases after the swearing in the participants of the Zoom meeting could hear cheers and ululations in the background.

When the idea was first mooted some NEC members had reservations about holding such a meeting on Zoom. Others even questioned the legality of such a meeting. But the top leadership of the party took the time to patiently explain everything about virtual meetings and even did a "test drive" a few days earlier to take members through the processes of a virtual meeting using Zoom. Fortunately, our partners of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung had done a short training of some key DP leaders on virtual meetings. Shortly thereafter the International Republican Institute (IRI) also facilitated a training of a number of DP leaders on the Uganda Electoral Portal - a data base of election outcomes since Uganda returned to multipartism in 2006.

The inaugural NEC Meeting achieved the main purpose of inaugurating the new leadership team. In a spirit of comradeship and teamwork the members pledged to work for a stronger and united DP.

The report of the Secretary General



Benadet Businge, Deputy Secretary of DP Women's League takes Oath.

al narrated the efforts of the party at reuniting the party and struggle against the sectarian schemes that pitted those who hold a national vision of the party against those who hold a provincial vision of the party. The ensuing struggle for the soul of the party put the party in mortal danger of disintegration. With the fervent commitment of hard-



DP National Chairman, Dr. Kiwanuka Ssempala Mayambala Chairing the Virtual NEC Meeting Last Friday.

core members and the providential Grace of God, the party remained standing but deeply wounded. It was in that state that the National Delegates Conference was held in Gulu in September 2020. The meeting elected new NEC members and approved some important constitutional amendments. The delegates resolved that DP must participate fully in the 2021 general elections. The Secretary General outlined the report of the Delegates Conference to NEC members. Details will be published separately.

The NEC meeting resolved that some key items including the President's Address, the Report of the National Treasurer, the tabling of the draft Charters of the Uganda Young Democrats and the DP Women's League and the report of the National Organizing Secretary detailing the party's 2021 electoral report card would be considered in the next meeting to be held on Friday 13th, August 2021.

In his closing address, the DP President, Norbert Mao, congratulated the members who stood with the party against all odds. He described 2021 as a "defining moment" for the party similar to the pivotal days of 1961 when the sectarian forces of the reactionary monarchist party, the Kabaka Yekka, spared no efforts to destroy DP. "2021 was a moment of

truth, we now know who is who in Uganda's politics and who is who in DP", Mao said. "We can no longer be deceived".

On the fate of those who were blown away by the political winds of the day, Mao said: "If you look at our party as a tree then we can say some of our members are like the leaves. The slightest wind can shake them and make them fall off. Others are like the branches. The less sturdy branches break when a little pressure is put on them. Others are like the roots - unyielding, unshakable and resolute. The roots may not even be visible but they hold up the entire tree. You my dear friends who stood firm are the roots of our party. DP owes its glorious history and credibility to its roots."

On the question of whether those



Akware Doreen, DP Regional Representative - Bukedi takes Oath

who left the party can be welcomed back Mao was unequivocal, he said "We draw a clear line between the lost sheep and the prodigal children. We shall spare no effort to look for the lost sheep but we shall not go looking for the prodigal children. They made a conscious choice to leave. Above all, they know the way back home. When they make the choice to return, we shall welcome them with open arms."

The meeting was adjourned to allow members who were out of their homes beat the curfew imposed as part of the COVID lockdown measures.

The Virtual NEC Meeting in Pictures.



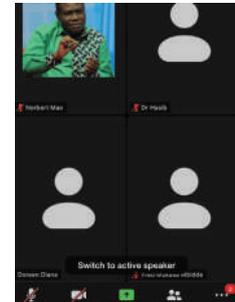
Herbert Rutagwera
DP National Organising Secretary



Okoler Opio Lo Amanu
DP National Publicity Secretary



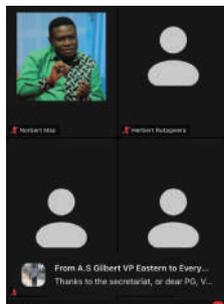
Hellen Sayuni
UYD National Vice President



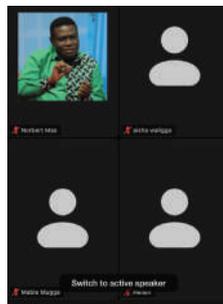
Dr. Hasib Takuba



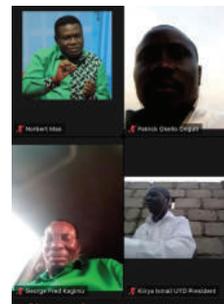
Kiirya Ismail
UYD National President



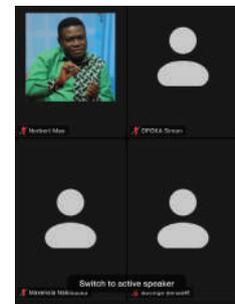
Gilbert Sammy
VP Eastern



Aisha Waliggo, Hellen Sayuni



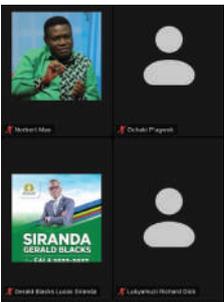
George Fred Kagimu, Patrick Okello Onguti



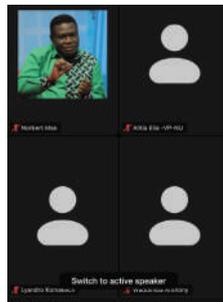
Opoka Simon, Maxensia Nakibuuka



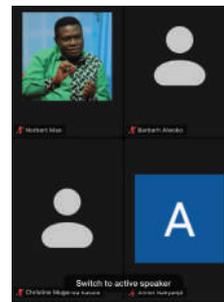
Ramathan Bazanya
Regional Rep. Eastern



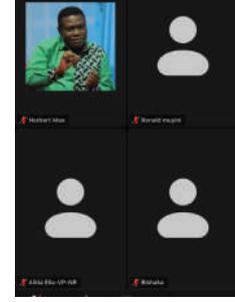
Gerald Siranda, Lukyamuzi Richard Dick



Lyandro Komakech
Secretary Int'l & Diaspora



Christine Mugerwa, Annet Nakyanja



Ronald Muyini, Barnabas Bishaka, Alitia Elia



Imam Makumbi
VP Western

“We draw a clear line between the lost sheep and the prodigal children. We shall spare no effort to look for the lost sheep but we shall not go looking for the prodigal children. They made a conscious choice to leave. Above all, they know the way back home. When they make the choice to return, we shall welcome them with open arms.”

Norbert Mao.

UYD Chapter Makerere University Regroups, elects New Leadership

The Political wave in the wake of 2020 caused by the new political formation, NUP shook up the national politics basically scavenging on DP structures especially in Buganda, this did not only affect the party at national level but also the youth wing of the Party, the Uganda Young Democrats (UYD) in Institutions of higher learning of which Makerere University was not an exception.

The pressure that this new formation came along with stigmatised those that intended to contest for political positions, subsequently this made them think that associating with the newly launched National Unity Platform (NUP) would hand them a direct ticket to political positions. This political wave swept and staggered all the three candidates that had participated in the UYD primary elections for guild president a few months earlier before the pronouncement of the new party.

The candidates included Harris Akampurira from School of Law, Oguttu Aaron and Obed Kwokuboth Jalmeo from the school of education. The latter went back to FDC where he had been before joining DP. The other two joined the new force: Oguttu Aaron contested for guild president as the official NUP candidate, unfortunately he lost to an independent candidate called Ssempijja Ivan, a medical student.

This wave left UYD a deeply divided political force in Makerere University main campus save for Makerere University Business School (MUBS) where the sitting guild president is a member of the UYD.

The UYD being the most robust and formidable political youth wing in the country, the members of the chapter that had stood their grounds constructed another team of vibrant leaders to take the chapter forward. These former leaders who spearheaded the regrouping effort of UYD in Makerere University included Lawel Muhwezi, Kiyimba Shafick, Kirabo Marion and many others carried out a leadership renewal process through a general meeting held virtually via Zoom. These unyielding UYD stalwarts could not just look on as the Makerere University Chapter bled to death.

The online general meeting attracted over one hundred (100) participants. Among them a number of candidates competing for various positions. Commenting on the online process, the newly elected Speaker of the chapter, Adrian Kalule said "The online process was the most free and fair process ever because it took at least two months, it involved assessment, vetting and voting and everybody was given adequate attention as the due process was being followed. That is how I became the chapter Speaker".

The new leadership has already undergone a one week virtual orientation and the President General of DP, Nor-

bert Mao is yet to address the Chapter leadership. The reorganisation of UYD Chapter in Makerere University is evidence that, UYD being the nursery bed for breeding new seeds of democracy in Uganda, can be renewed in all Institutions of learning. Even the mother party can pick a leaf on how to regroup after a bruising election battle.



"The online process was the most free and fair process ever because it took at least two months, it involved assessment, vetting and voting and everybody was given adequate attention as the due process was being followed. That is how I became the chapter Speaker".

Kalule Adrian LLB2
 Speaker UYD Chapter
 Makerere University

Meet The New UYD Leadership of Makerere University.



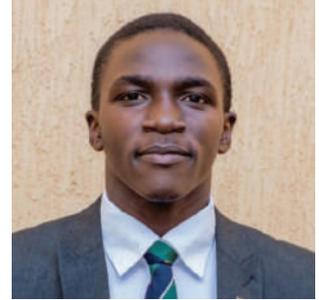
Muggaba Joel
Chapter Chairperson



Nambassa Shamim
Vice Chairperson



Kasasa Trevor
Gen. Secretary



Kalule Adrian
Speaker



Manzi Ephraim
Finance Minister



Opio Jacob
Academics Minister



Wambona Martin
Projects Director



Baagala Andrew
Off-Campus Affairs



Arinaitwe Joan
ICT & Research



Nuwamanya Andrew
Chairperson UYD GRC Caucus



Bbosa Price
Legal Advisor



Bumba John Baptist
Social Affairs



Mulwany Nagenda Calvin
D. Academic Affairs



Lawel Muhwezi
Member Elders' Council



Kiyimba Shafiq
Member Elders' Council

— Editorial —



We Hail Kyotera MP John Paul Mpalanyi for putting Government on the spot over Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula Road

In case the voters of Kyotera County had any doubts about their new MP, John Paul Mpalanyi, who floored the flamboyant Microfinance Minister, Haruna Kasolo, all doubts were laid to rest when the new MP made his maiden speech in the August House.

On Thursday 22nd July, 2021 DP's Kyotera County MP rose and put the Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja, on the spot to pronounce government's plans for the rehabilitation of the Masaka-Kyotera-Mutukula Highway. The fresh legislator told the attentive house that from 1960 when that road was first built, it has been the major trade road linking Tanzania, Uganda and other East African countries.

Unfortunately, over the years, the state of the road has deteriorated, thus adversely affecting traffic flow in the region. While acknowledging the government's 2003 efforts to maintain this important road particularly the Kyotera-Mutukula section, the legislator lamented the abrupt manner in which the work was stopped. The legislator noted that from the time the One Border Post was established there has been an increase in road traffic due to the high volume of trade. This increase in the movement of heavy trucks put pressure on the road necessitating urgent repairs.

This bold question by the Kyotera MP prompted the Prime Minister who is also the Leader of Government Business to inform the House that a feasibility study has been carried out and the report was submitted in October 2020. The PM disclosed that the project will be regional and will be funded by a grant from the African Development Bank through the East African Community Council for Work and Transport.

Premier Nabbanja then announced that the project will start in two months time and that on 9th July, 2020 the Works Minister, Katumba Wamala wrote to the Finance Minister on the project. This maiden speech by Mpalanyi has reassured the voters of Kyotera that indeed they elected a focused and forward looking leader who has the priorities of his constituency close to his heart.

"This maiden speech by Mpalanyi has reassured the voters of Kyotera that indeed they elected a focused and forward leader who has the priorities of his constituency close to his heart."





From Our Archives

Ssemu's 2003 Letter to President Bush



DP IS INTERNATIONALIST: Uganda's first Prime Minister, DP Leader Ben Kiwanuka meets US President John F. Kennedy in the Oval Office, White House, Washington DC. Next to him is the DP MP for Agago, Jino Obonyo.

10th July, 2003

His Excellency,
George W. Bush
President, United States of America
White House, Washington, D.C.

Your Excellency,

I wish to welcome you, on behalf of the Democratic Party (DP) and many other people in Uganda.

The Democratic Party has since inception committed itself to the cause of human rights, Constitutionalism and social justice. Our unwavering commitment to human rights and freedom, frequently at our peril, has distinguished DP before and after independence. Many DP leaders have suffered political martyrdom in the cause of human rights and social justice including the late Benedict Kiwanuka, who as Chief Justice during Idi Amin's regime was murdered for the cause

of promoting justice and the Rule of Law after the granted habeas corpus application to a British expatriate of Kakira Sugar Works who was under military custody at Makindye Military barracks.

We acknowledge the responsible position taken on occasions over the years on the political and human rights situation in Africa and in particular, in Uganda by the US government as well as US based human rights organizations notably Human Rights Watch (HRW), various institutions and individuals.

We recall, among other things:

- * US government's decision to close their embassy in Kampala in 1973 in reaction to the horrendous violation of Human rights under president Idi Amin;
- * US government's support for the enactment of the 1995 Constitution as well as subsequent institutional capacity building;

* The vigilance with which Human Rights Watch has reported on institutional situations and incidents of violations of Human rights, its special report on Uganda "The Movement System: Hostile to Democracy" being a case in point.

Your visit underscores the significance of the USA/Africa relations in your foreign policy; and it is our hope that issues of political, economic and security concerns will be brought into focus.

It is against this background that we look forward to your visit with hope that it would in some way help to promote the values that DP has all along stood for.

The DP once again expresses its condolences and sympathy to the American people on the terrible terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. We understand US's reaction to

the tragedy including encouraging legislation in other countries as in Uganda, to safeguard against terrorism. However, this should not be a pretext to legislate away the liberty of government critics as appears to be the case with the Suppression of Terrorism Act, 2002 in Uganda.

We commend you and your government for the assistance and co-operation the US has given to Uganda through bilateral and multilateral institutions like USAID, UN agencies, the World Bank and IMF. We would also like to register our appreciation for the US/Africa trade initiative known as AGOA. We appeal to the US to support the capacity of private initiatives in accessing the necessary means of production in order to improve on their production capacity and quality. At the moment, the exorbitant lending interest rates make it impossible for the local private entrepreneurs to access bank loans.

HIV/AIDS Pandemic

We appreciate the interest your government has taken in Uganda efforts to combat disease particularly HIV/AIDS pandemic as manifested by your decision to visit Uganda and by the US Commitment of US \$ 15 billion to this cause for Africa and the Caribbean. Your country's direct intervention and through various US based institutions, working in partnership with Uganda's government and civil society has greatly contributed to the reduction of the HIV/AIDS prevalence in Uganda.

However, despite all this support, the HIV/AIDS anti retroviral remain out of reach to an average Ugandan. There is need for the US to support efforts that can lead to increased accessibility of the HIV/AIDS drugs.

Political and Economic development

We appreciate the fact that your short stay in Uganda will not allow you to listen to all critical stakeholders in this country. However, we feel that the views of the opposition, given their important contribution to the democratization and development process, will be given due consideration when making crucial decisions regarding USA/Uganda relations.

In this regard, we wish to express our appreciation for the advice you

are reported to have given in respect of attempts to manipulate the Constitutional making process to cater for a third term for the President. In addition, we would, particularly like the US to seriously consider the following in their foreign policy on Uganda;

Human rights and democracy
Since independence, reneging on democracy agenda by successive regimes, including the current one, has been the source of many of Uganda's problems. Given Uganda's cultural, religious and political heterogeneity, it is our considered opinion that respect for fundamental human rights and democratic norms are a sine qua non for a united, stable and peaceful Uganda.

The accession to power of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) raised the hope of many Ugandans for a democratic Uganda given the pledges made by the Movement at the time. Unfortunately, for the last seventeen years, the Movement leadership has promoted policies and enacted laws that have been the very negation of political freedoms and organized pluralism. Notable among these legal instruments are the Movement Act (1997) and the Political Parties and Organizations Act (2002) and various Articles of the Constitution, as well as the Suppression of Terrorism Act, 2002.

Armed with the above instruments, coupled with the militarisation of politics, the NRM has entrenched itself as a monolithic system through biased politicization, coercion and propaganda.

Virtually all state institutions, in particular the civil service, the military and other security agencies, for example ISO, CMI have been affected and professionally undermined by the Movement hegemony. For instance, the office of the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), with several such officers per district, is strategically entrenched in the civil service and manned by Movement cadres. Similarly, the Internal Security Organization (ISO) operatives are Movement cadres too; and they are all pervasive throughout the civil service.

The Media is also targeted for infiltration and harassment under the Movement hegemony. The media's

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Dr. Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere.

role as a channel of expression of alternative views consequently suffers from an intolerant attitude. In the last eight months for example the government has disrupted the running of an independent newspaper (The Monitor), an independent radio station (Veritas); and the government has clamped down on innovative broadcasting through small community radios and live outdoor political discussions.

On the big issue of the Movement hegemony, the Democratic Party was left with no option but to seek recourse to judicial arbitration through Constitution Petition No. 5 of 2002. The Democratic Party leadership was able to secure a landmark unanimous judgment of all the five members of the Coram of the Constitutional Court that declared the Movement a Political organization just like any other party and nullified provisions in the Political Parties and Organizations Act, 2002, that is Sections 18 & 19 that had placed unjustified restrictions to party activities and shielded the Movement against any effective competition.

The above judgment ought to have been a basis for the ushering in of democratic political pluralism in Uganda on equal legal footing between and amongst the different political organizations including the Movement by whatever name called. Unfortunately, government seems to be reluctant to move immediately and carry out the necessary Constitutional and institutional reforms to this end.

Mr. President, in light of the above developments, the Democratic Party brings to your attention the following issues, which have to be addressed:

1. The need for a process of dis-entrenching the Movement system with all its constituent organs including the repeal of the Movement Act, (1997) and purging the Constitution of all provisions under which the Movement is entrenched.
2. The need to promote professionalism in the security forces and to disband unlawful paramilitary groups, notably the Kalangala Action Plan (KAP)
3. The need to safeguard the professional neutrality and integrity of the Civil Service by freeing it from insti-

tutionalized partisan political influences through for instance RDC structures as currently established.

4. The need for a national dialogue probably through a national conference, as was the case with CODESA in South Africa to work out a meaningful process for the transition to political pluralism and help put in place an appropriate criteria and framework for division of powers between the central government, the Kingdoms and other States.

5. The need to address the issue of war in Northern Uganda by the international community in order to bring a speedy end to the suffering of the people there and to render all necessary assistance for humanitarian purposes and socio-economic development.

6. The need to conclude the pacification and demilitarization process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC and for Uganda's total and permanent withdrawal of her troops from that country.

Wishing you a fruitful working visit in Uganda.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere
President

*"THIS
CLASSIC
LETTER BY
DP'S 4TH PRESIDENT IS A SHINING
EXAMPLE THAT OUR
PARTY IS COMMITTED
TO ENSURING THAT
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TALL IN THE COM-
MUNITY OF NATIONS.
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ENGAGEMENTS ARE
THEREFORE ABOUT
IDEAS AND THE
COMMON DESTINY
HUMANITY OUGHT TO
STRIVE FOR."*

NORBERT MAO



LOSING MY POLITICAL VIRGINITY

A First Time Parliamentary Candidate Shares His Experience

By Innocent Turyahikayo

Uganda holds her general elections after every five years for the different political offices, and this is a mandate of the Independent Electoral Commission set up under Article 60 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. In the last 35 years, under the NRM government, Uganda has held a number of elections. These include the 1989, 1994, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and the recent 2021 elections.

Before the promulgation of the 1995 constitution, all elections were held under laws that explicitly outlawed party activities. Even after the 1995 constitution, party activities were banned for the next five years. This continued after 2001 elections. It was Local and International pressure that forced to a national referendum held in July 2005. This Referendum saw President Yoweri Museveni openly campaign for the return of Multi-Party system of government. Uganda currently has 26 political parties registered; these play a fundamental role of integrating individuals and groups in society into a political system. They are essential for the organization of a modern democratic polity and are crucial for the expression and manifestation for political pluralism. The Political Parties and Organizations Act (2005) is a yardstick for political parties in Uganda.

Uganda's population has increasingly been dominated by the youth with over 70% under the age of 25 years. However, the notion of unemployment remains debatable with underemployment and the available quality of jobs and the sectors in which the young people are involved in. The designed interventions and policies have not yielded much in terms of generating opportunities and incomes for young people; this therefore explains the continuity of the prevailing situation amongst

young people.

The political environment in Uganda remains unfavourable for many young people given the cost of financing. Elections; electoral financing starts from paying the party and Electoral Commission nomination fees for the political position you intend to contest for, from local council positions to the top seat, these are accompanied with set qualifications as required by the Law.

The inspiration for joining the political processes in Uganda as a young person is triggered and Inspired by the demand for better policies and to influence decision making processes. Young people are so passionate about their future in the political arena; it is also a platform for exposure and creating social impact through advancement of their manifesto(s) to the population or the electorates. Young people are also involved in various leadership platforms under civil society and political party activities that build their capacities through trainings and platforms of expression. Although the political system allows for Multi-Party dispensation, a number of young people besides joining the leading political party, others have found comfort in the opposition political parties whereas others have decided to take an Independent stand while contesting for political positions.

The Nomination Process

This period includes studying the electoral process and understanding the requirements for the electoral process. This is quite challenging as various political positions require different qualifications in Uganda. Contesting for a parliamentary position requires one to have a minimum of an Advanced Level of Education or equivalent. This is subject to verification by the Examination Board

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Advanced Certificate of Education) which is subject to verification by the Examination Board (Uganda National Examination Board) at a cost of Ugshs. 300,000 for every level (2 levels at this point including Ordinary Level Certificate). In addition one should have a tax clearance certificate from the Tax body. This varies from individual to individual and the category of work or occupation. As a starter, not employed, I had to pay Ugshs.300,000 for tax clearance to Uganda Revenue Authority. Further more the position of an Area Member of Parliament in Uganda requires the candidate to pay a Ugshs.3,000,000 non-refundable nomination fees to the tax body (Uganda Revenue Authority). However, by subscribing to the Democratic party and paying the party nomination fee of shs 300,000 I qualified for the party to pay the shs 3,000,000 nomination fees on my behalf.

Campaign Financing/Campaign Period

Having drafted a campaign budget of close to Ugshs.100,000,000 by nomination time I had not raised even 5% of the campaign budget but I had already been nominated and confirmed as a full candidate for Member of Parliament, Masindi Municipality as the youngest candidate in the race (27years). This meant that I had to hit the ground to canvass for votes, contesting against renowned and established politicians with reliable income, rich network with over 15 years of political participation, it was a hard hitting time for me.

The campaigns were restricted to not more than 200 people in an organized setting observing standard operating procedures established by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Electoral Commission as a measure to prevent the spread of Covid19.

The commercialization of politics in Uganda is another factor I had to worry about. Organizing 200 people required a lot of finances since it required facilitating these groups of people with transport, hire of venue and refreshments. In other cases the campaign period is used by the local population to express and demand from candidates' money for their projects and meet individual needs, notwithstanding support-

ing various communities, religious, educational, social campaigns and fundraising programs. This posed a threat to my candidature since I did not have all the resources and finances at disposal for the different categories of people.

“The inspiration for joining the political processes in Uganda as a young person is triggered and inspired by the demand for better policies and to influence decision making processes. Young people are so passionate about their future in the political arena; it is also a platform for exposure and creating social impact through advancement of their manifesto(s) to the population or the electorates.”

Masindi Municipality is a mixed society with nearly 65% rural community, with a population of over 90,000. Growing at 3% per annum, it has over 50,000 registered voters spread across four divisions. It is comprised of 86 villages and over 80 Polling stations

The electorate raised demands varying from their area of jurisdictions and needs. I moved from one place to another, meeting people organized in trading centres, households, churches, football grounds, bars, mosques, markets and used recorded messages with a movable speaker, flyers, posters, radio announcements, sponsoring specific talk shows. All these required money to ensure smooth implementation and coverage. A number of these strategies were done in bits not fully as designed as a result of shortfall of money.

Doing this required a resilient team, however not all were willing to side or move with a broke candidate. I managed to have 5 (Five) volunteers, who helped in designing route chart that was shared with the electoral commission and other opponents. These also helped in mobilizing resources to facilitate program campaigns, through transport, posters, and lobbying for Radio talk shows. The volunteers also managed to move with me in the different parts of the electoral area, it was so unfortunate that I was unable to have a female volunteer on the team, those that accepted to mobilize my support did it independently in their residences, social media, and other foras that they did access or had access to.

Challenges

A number of actors have come out to advocate for free and fair elections that are transparent and adhering to democratic values. However most of these actors have not had a touch of getting involved in the electoral processes as candidates but rather as observers, and stakeholders. Though there are those that have been involved in the various elections and have had an opportunity to share such experiences from the real perspective contrary to the idealistic view.

Constituencies vary from one to another given their location, quality of the population and level of development. Unlike the urban constituencies, Masindi Municipality largely is composed of rural settings with population largely in-

involved in subsistence farming and the rest involved in business and other enterprises in the various townships/centres. These emerging townships are as a result of people's involvement in various enterprises, emigrations of workers in sugar plantations, construction of infrastructures like roads and educational institutions. The other factors include high levels of unemployment which has forced young people to be innovative in setting up small businesses such as food stalls, repairs and mechanics, welding and metal fabrication and their involvement in Boda-Boda transport. Therefore as a politician people look at you as a saviour to boost their businesses, sponsor personal needs, voice of the voiceless, and a bridge between them and services.

Most electorates say that the only time they have with politicians is electioneering time, therefore it becomes their time to benefit from them. Always people asked me for money as input to boost their businesses, money for children's school fees, money for condolence at burials, money for buying household items like salt and personal consumptions like alcohol, soda, water, food, airtime among others. However this was not in my favour while on my campaign trail but simply explained; "I do not have this money with me to offer to you my people. I have come to ask for your support, by voting me as your Member of Parliament."

Masindi Municipality is close to 8Miles across and this is a relatively long distance stretching over to various areas. Traversing the entire constituency required reliable means of transport and fuel. However this was ideal until I kicked off campaigns with a simple bicycle and a rechargeable speaker in the neighbouring suburbs of Masindi Town. On longer journeys at most I would hire a motorcycle that would be shared by three people (candidate, rider & volunteer) and the rechargeable speaker. This was unreliable because I would hire it for half a day and it meant that if there weren't any money available, then we would get to the field but to a nearby area and move door to door campaigning with colleagues. At some point I would move with fellow young contestants but running on different positions within the electoral area.

The psychological challenge was one of the obstacles that I encountered

during the campaign process; at some time I sat together with my opponents at church functions, burials and we were called to have speeches and address the congregation or mourners. Fellow candidates had to offer in money and other pledges to the bereaved families or community members, others did facilitate through provision of tangible items, or services like tents, public address, food-stuffs among others that required some amount of money. This overwhelmed me as I also had to submit in my contribution during my time of address. Psychologically it prompted me to think about quitting the race because I did not have the abilities to meet people's demands and also with the competition of pledging and offering like other candidates though I resisted such thoughts and Spoke my mind. Some people felt the real me but others found it more of wasting their time through sketchy and scattered feedbacks.

The electoral process requires resources to facilitate various processes from nomination and ensuring that you are able to produce materials in form of posters among others to increasing your visibility for which there should be facilitation of management and enabling of teams on the campaign trail.

The resource factor contributes towards the level of organization of campaign teams and how they manage the electoral process. The outputs of the elections are determined by the level of preparedness. This partly accounts to why I was unable to win and have my manifesto convince the electorates as their best choice. Never the less it was a learning experience and as a starter I realized a lot needs to be adjusted in order to convince electorates in my area. Secondly my visibility was not much felt on account of being a new entrant as a in the political scene and also being young, I met critics from the cultural background and society who looked at me as too young for such a parliamentary seat.

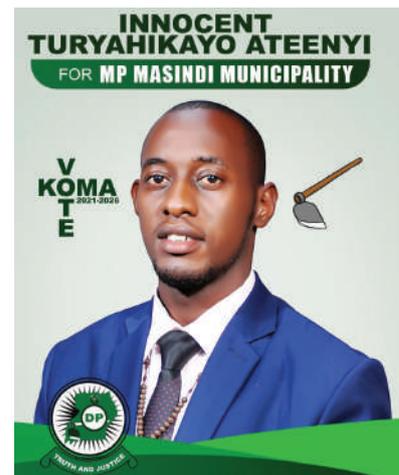
Besides the Democratic party being the oldest political party in the country, it is not popular to the people upcountry and specifically in Masindi Municipality. The initial ban on political parties continues to contribute to the poor performance of old political parties in country as people were mobilised

under the movement system before the return to multi-partism.

On January 14th 2021, Uganda went for the polls. I lost. However a lot of irregularities were observed., There was non-adherence to democratic values before, during and after the elections. there was rampant voter bribery, selective application of law, violent acts by security forces. This left a number of unanswered questions regarding the credibility of elections as a result of the manner and conduct in which it was held.

To the Democratic Party of Uganda, the electorates, friends and well-wishers, I owe continuity of my service to ensure democratic values are up held and I pledge my life to the promotion of a free and just society for all.

I say all this in the name of Truth and Justice



Innocent's Campaign Poster



Does the constitutional presumption of innocence apply to Muslims in Uganda?



By Luyimbazi Nalukoola
DP National Legal Advisor

All living beings residing on this planet earth who follow events in Uganda are aware that, when you have a Muslim son, the moment you hear news about assassination of a prominent person you develop untold anxiety about the safety of your son. You have to call that son, find out his whereabouts and order him to return home immediately.

In Uganda, it now usual that the moment a prominent person is assassinated or attacked, officers in security organizations like the military and police will conclude that Muslims killed the victim(s).

When you visit prisons or collection centers, you may easily assume they are mosques because most of the people you meet therein will say Salaam Alaikum. There are very many Muslims in behind jail walls. There is a certain commentator on current affairs in Uganda who recently stated that the Muslims' greatest share in Ugandan government is in prisons. There are more Muslims per capita in detention centers compared to other religious groups!

Why is it that Muslims are meant to be residents of Ugandan prisons?

Why is it that Muslims are tortured even when they are suspected of having committed crimes. When Muslim suspects are produced in court they present a sorry sight. We all saw Kanyamunyu with his girlfriend, when they used to appear before court during arraignment and

jected to thorough makeup. Muslims suspects on the other hand come to court unkempt and limping nursing wounds because they're subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment through being battered, being burnt with flat irons, having their nails removed with pliers, piercing their bodies with sharp objects and so on.

Who allowed those in authority to commit such atrocities? The constitutional protection against torture is non derogable even during a state of emergency. Why is it that when Muslims are suspected to have committed an offense(s), the authorities find it justifiable to suspend the constitutional ban on torture?

The recent words of Deputy IGP General Paul Lokech, were uncouth and insensitive. How could he say that every member of the rebel group ADF is a Muslim and that even before recruiting a Christian, he or she must first be converted to Islam. He meant and by innuendo he was understood to have meant that when you hear about ADF, you have heard about Islam. Such a statement must be strongly refuted. I call upon benevolent people of the world to disregard those utterances. His statement was malicious and calculated to cause hatred against Muslims in this country. No well meaning person can condone such a statement. He wanted Muslims to be viewed as bad and violent people yet Islam is a religion of peace that is why we greet with Salaam (peace), Prophet Muhammad (Peace and Blessings be Upon Him) taught us peace and brotherhood.

Those in authority in Uganda have painted our faces to look ugly. Even President Museveni has joined the chorus of those stigmatizing Muslims and Islam. Recent-

ly, when he was debating with Hon. Ssemujju Nganda among others, when it was alluded that he moves with a big convoy, President Museveni said that there is increased insecurity which was a culmination of Tablighis activities. Tablighis are preachers who call people to do right and abandon wrong doing. I invite the good people in the media fraternity to remind those in authority to follow due process and that they will also be subjected to the law for the wrongs they are committing.

How could the D/IGP parade better the media suspects that had been tortured. Armed men failed to comply with the law even in such a high profile case involving Gen. Katumba Wamala. We sympathize with the families of Gen. Katumba Wamala and our Late brother Harunah Kayondo for you lost your loved ones. It is not true that we are making this statement with intentions of hurting you or that we hate you, but it is rather the government officers betraying you. They have failed to handle the case rightly and chosen to torture Ugandans.

We invite the DPP to drop those cases because they are tainted with illegalities revolving around torture of suspects, they are bad in law and barred by law. We remind the armed men that the information acquired through torture is inadmissible before court.

Lastly, **why would you fail to apply reasonable force when arresting a suspect?** How can you shoot a suspect's head or heart? Why don't you shoot the legs or arms? Tax payers' money was used to train you so you become professionals but you have failed to execute you mandate professionally. Before arrest, you must have a reasonable and probable cause. The burden of gathering evidence does not rest on the suspects but rather on the State. And such evidence should be gotten not through torture of suspects but rather by way of investigating. Under our constitution there's no place for torture in the investigations process.

trial. They would be smiling, looking very handsome and beautiful, indeed it seemed their faces were sub-





From the Desk of **THE PRESIDENT**



Mailo land

Let's not throw away the baby with the bath water.

By Norbert Mao
President General DP

On 10th March next year it will be 121 years since the 1900 Buganda Agreement was signed between the three Buganda Regents and Sir. Harry Johnston, the Special Commissioner of British colonial power. This is the document that created Mailo land. The whole negotiation took only three months. His instructions were to ensure that land becomes a means of production in the real sense of the word in order that the colony meets its costs of maintenance. He sent the final agreement to the Foreign Office for comments. A London Committee studied the agreement and sent a dispatch which among other things stated that "the introduction of the law of England in regard to land, which appears from the wording of the agreement to be the intention of its framers, may create a very complicated system". These words have proved prophetic.

Now the Bamugemereire Commission is proposing to fuse all freeholds. That means Mailo land as we know it will be no more. But before we go far, what is Mailo land?

In attempting an answer let me quote H.W. West, a colonial officer, who in 1964 wrote "It is certainly a complex of communal rights, as yet found today in some other tribal areas; although a few ancient communal rights still survive. It is not even a system based on clan rights, also fairly common elsewhere;...Nor, despite the recognition and full acceptance of individual title to land, is it a truly commercial tenure in which custom has yielded to contract as

a basis for economic relations. Instead it is somewhere in between. It is characterized mainly by the quasi-freehold titles introduced, almost revolutionarily, after 1900, but it has also been deeply affected by a later partial reversion to traditions; a compromise with custom. It is the product of a well-meaning, but hasty, attempt to introduce modern European concepts of land holding to a people amongst whom such ideas had not at that time developed spontaneously."

When Mailo land was introduced it became clear that it would require reforms to define the rights and obligations of the title holders. In addition, there was a codification of Buganda customary law that imposed on the title holders an obligation to respect statutory and inheritable tenancies. Hence the Busuulu and Envujjo laws which basically obliged the tenants to pay rent in cash and kind. The protectorate legislation then came in to make provision for registration of the various interests on the Mailo land.

To look at Mailo land only in terms of the owners of the freehold is narrow minded. The Mailo land system covers all aspects of tenure - those of the Mailo proprietor and also of the tenancies. The variety of interests and rights can sometimes get confusing but all the defects in drawing the boundaries of the rights and interests can be cured administratively and by legislation. The problem is that now Mailo land has been commoditized and is in the hands of those who don't want to see the occupants.

Land tenure is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. The end that should ever be kept in sight is productive land use. The Commission will have failed if it does not take into account certain harmful trends especially land-grabs, encroachment on forests and wildlife reserves and abuse of power by officials in charge of land administration. These are the things that are topmost on people's minds. Expectations are high that the Commission's efforts will result in the moderation of the undesirable effects of the individualization of land, guarantee security of tenure to occupants and regulate rent.

Targeting Mailo land for annihilation is not a solution. It reminds me of the man who was found searching for something under a street lamp. When asked what he was looking for, he answered that he had lost his ring. When asked further where he had lost his ring he pointed to a dark place down the street insisting that he had decided to look for it under the street lamp where he could see!



- egumire
- egumire1954
- egumireTV
- editor.egumire@gmail.com