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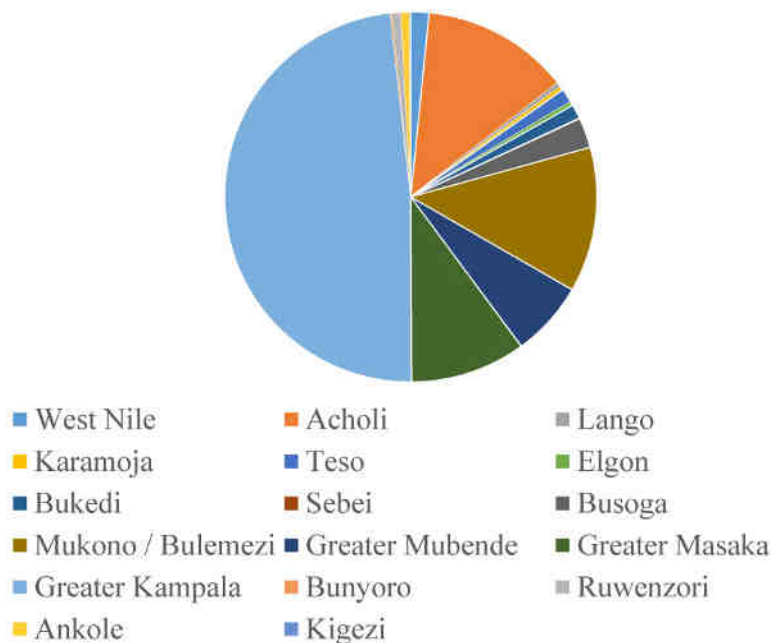
FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN

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## NEC Receives 2021 Report Card, More Candidates Nominated Than In 2016

CANDIDATES PER SUB REGION



A Pie Chart Showing The DP Nominated Candidates In 2021 General Election

The virtual meeting of National Executive Committee of the Democratic Party which had been adjourned on the

30th day of July 2021 continued on Friday 13th, August 2021 for the conclusion of business. The highlight of this meeting was the presentation of the

2021 Election Report Card of our party by Mr. Herbert Rutagwera, the National Organizing Secretary. The report gives members a reason for hope

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### UPCOMING EVENTS



To Be Announced  
Virtual Sub-Regional Consultations.

and an assurance that we are capable of regrouping as a party because we have a foothold in many parts of the country.

Below is the narrative of the full Report Card as presented by the National Organizing Secretary:

### Background

The current leadership team took over the mantle at the backdrop of what I prefer to call “the remains of a bruised Party”. The Party was divided on both Agenda and loyalty. A cross section of the Party membership were not agreed even on the basic idea of fronting a presidential candidate. Some, for selfish and I daresay, parochial reasons, wanted the Party to support a person from another political party at the expense of their own for a sole purpose of regime change. On the other hand others thought that it was time to front a presidential candidate after 10 years of their own to ensure posterity and an opportunity to rebuild the Party from the grassroots.

As we went into the leadership renewal process, there had been a mass exodus of members to the new wave of NUP. This had to a large extent swept away prominent Party leaders from the Central and near East. To add insult to injury, some of the leaders had access to sensitive Party documents / data which they willingly shared with our opponents.

### Major turning Points

#### 1. Grassroots structure renewal

Early 2020, the Party embarked on a grassroots rejuvenation process that would lead to the formation of leaderships from the village level to the national leadership. It would be unrealistic to say that this exercise was a success for just a handful of districts managed to elect structures from village level to district branches. However, despite the shortcomings (controversy over the green and white membership forms) of the process it led to the National Delegates Conference of September 2020.

As per the roadmap of the time, after several postponements, the Party held its National Delegates Conference at Sir Samuel Baker Secondary School in Gulu, Northern Uganda as previously agreed upon by the NEC though with reduced numbers

due to COVID pandemic with its imposed government SOPs coupled with funding issues. Nevertheless, the meeting had the necessary quorum as required by the party Constitution.

The positions of Regional Representative for Greater Kampala and the newly created Greater Mpigi were not filled. Soon after the DC, a petition was received from and signed by some district leaders from the Bunyoro sub region challenging the election of their regional representative. The petition was reviewed by the Management Committee of the party and a three member team was appointed to inquire further into the matter and make a report to NEC. In the meantime the declaration of the Bunyoro Regional Representative as an unopposed candidate will be in abeyance until NEC pronounces itself on the matter in exercise of its oversight duties.

### 2. General Elections

#### a) Nominations.

• Presidential Nominations; though successful, the exercise was kicked off quite late which put everyone including the candidate under a lot of pressure. However, thanks to the teamwork and facilitation from management that enabled the successful completion where 101 districts were certified above the threshold required to nominate a Presidential candidate.

• Parliamentary Nominations; after successful vetting and endorsement of candidates we thank management for the provision of nomination fees to assist our candidates with a number of 122 successfully nominated. I will also note here that the Party opened up new areas where we fielded candidates in constituencies in which we previously had no presence. These include Kallaki, all constituencies in Katakwi, Kumi, Ngora, Agule in Palisa, Bughendera in Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kyegegwa Central, Ibanda and Masindi Municipality.

• Local Gov't nominations; after the mass exodus to NUP, it seemed that the Party had no candidates on the ground to replace the deserters more so in the Buganda region. However, I would like to report that our members stepped forward to fill the seeming gaps in addition to fielding candidates even in places we seemed to have had no presence

before.

#### b) Campaigns

The 2021 elections started at a critical time when the Party was faced with numerous challenges which include some of the following;

- Divided loyalty
- Decreased financial strength
- Desertions
- Lack of legitimate grassroots structures
- Lack of shared vision, mission and agendas
- Lack of shared Policy positions and message
- Inability to define and position the Party by itself.

• A membership with no self-belief  
With all and more of the above limitations, I (my personal view) think we did not run a well-structured and coordinated campaign. All candidates at the various level run lone ranger initiatives. To help understand this situation we may interrogate the following;

▣ Did we have a campaign structure with a national leadership, regional leadership down to the smallest unit of the campaign?

▣ What was our campaign budget and what allocations to the different campaign levels?

▣ What was our common message?

▣ What gaps was our campaign addressing?

▣ What communication and feedback channels did we have in place to ensure that all our candidates were on the same page?

*“The Party was divided on both Agenda and loyalty. A cross section of the Party membership were not agreed even on the basic idea of fronting a presidential candidate. Some, for selfish and I daresay, parochial reasons, wanted the Party to support a person from another political party at the expense of their own for a sole purpose of regime change.”*

One parliamentary candidate (Bu-

koto South) failed to be nominated due to an ungazetted deed poll and one other candidate pulled out and crossed a few days to election day. At the end of the election exercise, we have some candidates who believe that they were rigged out though having obtained the highest number of votes for example our candidates for Aswa county, Nakaseke Woman, Mayor Entebbe Municipality, Chairman Masajja Division of Makindye Sabagabo, Chairman Layibi – Badege Division Gulu City and one LCiii councilor in Makindye West kampala. I hope these cases will be taken up by our Legal department to fight for our victory. Also on the other hand we have a petition against our Member of Parliament for Mukono South.

*“We need to have full knowledge of our branches and sub branches in regards to which are fully constituted, which are partially constituted and at what levels. To achieve this we need to have a thorough branch inspection.”*

We also note that we had no candidate at any level in 53 districts. Out of 27 Districts in Central Region 3 had no Candidates, Out of 13 Districts in West Nile 4 had no Candidates, Out of 13 Districts in Ankole 9 did not have Candidates, Out of 7 Districts in Bukedi 1 did not have Candidates, Out of 12 Districts in Busoga 1 did not have candidates, Out of 9 Districts in Bunyoro 7 did not have Candidates, Out of 7 Districts in Elgon 3 did not have Candidates, Out of 9 Districts in Karamoja 7 did not have Candidates, Out of 6 Districts in Kigezi 4 did not have Candidates, Out of 10 Districts in Lango 4 did not have Candidates, Out of 10 Districts in Rwenzori 6 did not have candidates, Out of 3 Districts in Sebei 2 did not have Candidates, Out of 11 districts in Teso 2 did not have Candidates. It is only in

Acholi where DP Fielded Candidates in all the 9 Districts.

It should also be worth to note that the new normal are paid election agents on Election Day. As a Party we did not have the resources to undertake this aspect of electioneering and only relied on our candidates who were equally financially constrained. Thus on polling day, the Party candidates had no polling agents on the biggest chunk of polling stations which situation fuels being rigged out.

### Way Forward

I believe the Party is still viewed by Ugandans as the Party of Hope, as the party of the future and as the party that has answers for the problems facing our country. However to effectively connect with the masses, a number of things must be done.

#### 1) General strategic perspectives

- a) Improve Party unity
- b) Emphasis on mobilization and organisation
- c) Empower branches to be self-sustaining
- d) Deal with the problems of indiscipline and opportunism
- d) Mobilize resources for party development
- d) Train members and leaders to understand their roles and equip them with vital skills to enable them contribute optimally to encourage electoral success

#### 2) Operational Context

- a) Coherent and clearly defined (articulated) ideology shared among all members
- b) Clearly articulated agenda, Vision and mission
- c) Shared and well understood policy positions
- d) Paint own Image that we want the masses to define us with.
- e) Building legitimate grassroots structures

#### Where do we go from here?

1. Preparatory meeting to guide the processes
2. Honest self-assessment and evaluation
3. Drawing a clear national activities Roadmap
4. Regional initiatives
5. Party Unity and reconciliation initiatives
6. Formation of working committees at various levels
7. Early grassroots structure building

8. Encouragement and support of economic projects at branch levels

For purposes of this meeting, I will delve in detail on item 7 under way forward.

### Building Grassroots Structures

This aspect is the backbone and most reliable method to strengthening the Party in its endeavor to capture state power our objective number one (1). All the other recommendations pointed out above, are directly dependent on how well we will have prepared our structures at all levels. However as a first step, we need to clearly appreciate 2 aspects;

- Fully appreciating honestly our current status. We need to have full knowledge of our branches and sub branches in regards to which are fully constituted, which are partially constituted and at what levels. To achieve this we need to have a thorough branch inspection.
- We need to clearly define and appreciate the elements of a functional branch. A full understanding of what it takes to get our branches effectively working towards our common Party goals.

### Branch Inspection

Ordinarily to carry out this exercise, we would form a team / teams from NEC plus any other incorporated members to visit all our branches country wide which should be 146. However, at the moment we may have slightly fewer having in mind that we have not established leadership in the newly created districts and cities. Such an exercise would involve teams moving out to the branches and thus need for;

1. Transport
2. Accommodation
3. And upkeep (to include meals).

Assuming the lockdown is lifted in the near future, I would suggest form 5 teams (led by the regional Vice Presidents with support from appointed members from NEC). The 5th team is specifically for Kampala and Wakiso taken away from Central (Buganda) region. This would be led by a person / persons appointed by NEC for this purpose. The splitting the assignment to teams would serve the purpose of completing the exercise in a short period say one month (funds allowing).

In the event the lockdown is still in place I would suggest we still go ahead to conduct this exercise virtually. My quick research tells me most districts (old districts) chairpersons are still available so the Vice Presidents still take lead and with their regional representatives plus district chairpersons would hold virtual meetings and get reports from the chairpersons on the status of their respective branches.

The purpose of either method is to establish and collect data in regard to the status of our branches and sub branches in terms of number of constituencies, Sub counties, Parishes and villages in a particular branch and find out whether the leaderships of these structures are in place and who these leaders are.

The branch inspection in addition to kick starting a process of leadership, it should also address the issue of operationalization of the branches and sub branches i.e. we must have a checklist of what a functional branch should be. Therefore three aspects must be emphasized i.e.

1. Internal democracy which includes among others
  - Rules, Regulations and Values
  - Geographically functional units (village, Parish, Sub county and constituency)
  - Working together to refine programmes and policies
  - Use vertical and horizontal communication effectively
2. Transparency
  - Accountability
  - Monitoring structures to ensure accountability
  - Disciplinary mechanism i.e. investigate and sanction
3. Outreach
  - Recruitment through the use of interactive methods
  - Develop outreach messages and communicate them
  - Outreach communication channels

With conclusion of branch inspection and the Party scorecard now known, it is with no doubt that there is immediate need to have structures and interim structures countrywide (depending on the results of the inspection) in the shortest period possible. However, to kick start the process of putting in place interim leaderships, I would suggest that with immediate effect we roll out the exercise in the newly created 10 cities i.e. Gulu City, Lira City,

Jinja City, Masaka City, Mbarara City, Fort Portal City, Hoima City, Arua City, Soroti City and Mbale City. This should cater for the rural remnants of these districts.

In addition to the newly created cities, I would propose that we also fill the leadership gaps left behind by the desertions in the central region (which was ordinarily our stronghold) in the districts of Masaka, Mubende, Luwero, Kampala, Lwengo, Wakiso, Mukono, Mityana, Buikwe and Bukomansimbi.

#### Request to the National Executive Committee

- ▣ Receive the Party scorecard and critically analyze it to enable decision making
- ▣ Approve the commencement of the branch inspection exercise immediately in principle. A detailed programme and budget to follow.
- ▣ Approve the formation of interim structures in the 10 newly created cities and their mother districts with the branch chairmen, Parliamentary, LC V and Mayoral Candidates taking lead.
- ▣ Approve the filling of leadership gaps in above selected districts of Uganda mentioned above and sim-

ilarly that the exercises be led by the Regional Vice Presidents and the Parliamentary candidates. Thank you.



*Herbert Rutagwera  
DP National Organising  
Secretary*

### ELECTIONS - A COMPARATIVE SNAPSHOT

Description	Nominated 2021	Nominated 2016	Elected 2021
President	1	Nil	Nil
Parliamentary	122	104	9
LC V Chairpersons	16	12	2
LC V Councillors	217	212	29
City Mayors	6	1	0
City Councillors	51		0
Municipal / Divisional Mayors	13	18	1
Municipal/Divisional Councillors	359	211	60
LC iii Chairpersons	136	96	25
LC iii Councillors	1021	568	367

### CANDIDATES NOMINATED TO CONTEST PER SUB REGION

Sub Region	#	%
West Nile	29	1.30%
Acholi	236	11.83%
Lango	7	0.28%
Karamoja	6	0.19%
Teso	23	0.98%
Elgon	6	0.28%
Bokell	23	1.16%
Sebei	1	0.05%
Busoga	48	2.33%
Mukama / Bulemezi	232	16.81%
Greater Mubende	120	6.15%
Greater Masaka	184	10.06%
Greater Kampala	885	47.09%
Bunyoro	3	0.14%
Ruwenzori	14	0.65%
Ankole	13	0.61%
Kigezi	2	0.09%

# Dp Moves To Implement The Katomi/ Gulu NDC Resolutions

**I**n the National Delegates Conference held at Katomi in 2015 and Gulu in 2021 respectively, the delegates resolved to transform the Women's and Youth wings into semi-autonomous bodies that could form their structures and organs such as National Assemblies where they will elect their Presidents and other leaders. Four top leaders of these special organs will sit on the National Executive Committee of the party.

In light of the said resolutions, the DP Women's Wings will be called DP Women's League and the Youth Wing of the Party to be referred to as the Uganda Young Democrats(UYD). The Secretary-General working with the Legal Advisor of the Party were told to ensure that the electoral commission is notified of the changes. This was done and UYD is now the official youth wing of the Democratic Party. This mainstreaming process which has taken many years has finally found space in the DP Constitution.

The leaders of these Special organs were also required to draft their Constitutions which would be used as guiding tools in the conduct of business. During the Friday meeting, the President of the Women's League Hon. Aisha Waliggo presented the Draft Constitution of the Women's League with the following objectives ;

- a) To promote policy and programming of Democratic Party Women's League and the Democratic Party, amongst women in particular and society in general;
- b) To mobilize and mentor women to effectively participate in Democratic Party Women's League and Democratic Party programs;
- c) To spearhead the emancipation and advancement of women within the Democratic Party and make a similar contribution at all levels of national governance;
- d) To advance the participation of women in the DP and combat dis-

crimination and sexism while ensuring that their voice is effectively heard and that women are equally represented at all levels

- e) To contribute to transforming power relations within the party by dismantling the patriarchal system to influence policy and decision making in the DP for gender equality and enjoyment of basic human rights for women;
- f) To coordinate activities of women in the DP and ensure that their issues and interests are mainstreamed in the Party's policies, programs, plans and budgets;
- g) To promote among women and young women, in particular, national consciousness, unity and a sense of accountability at all levels and building their confidence to interpret their needs nationally.

The Draft Constitution of the Women's League establishes the organs of the league which include the National Assembly, National Executive Council with the positions of President, Vice President, five regional Vice Presidents, National Secretary, Deputy National Treasurer, Deputy National Publicity Secretary, women with disabilities, women in employment, women in business, young women, older women, five Committee Members.

The President of the UYD Mr Kiirya Ismail also presented the Draft Constitution of UYD with article 5 providing for the aims and objectives as indicated below;

## Aims

- a) UYD shall champion, defend and advocate for the rights, interests and aspirations of Ugandans especially the young people.
- b) UYD shall serve as a political breeding ground for the young people of the Democratic Party.
- c) UYD shall organize the young democrats in the institutions of higher learning, professionals, em-

ployed and unemployed youth in townships, villages, suburbs and informal settlements and, everywhere else where young people are found.

## Objectives

- a) To recruit young people into the party.  
To restructure the youth all over the country.
- b) To mentor and train young leaders.  
Support and reinforce the Democratic Party in the attainment of the goals and objectives of the party.
- c) To Champion the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.
- d) To Promote unity and patriotism among the youth;  
Strive and work for the educational, moral and cultural upliftment of the youth;
- e) Promote gender equality in all spheres of life, especially amongst the youth;  
Promote among youth a spirit of international solidarity, peace and friendship with other nations:

These Draft Constitutions are pending being tabled before the department of the Legal Advisor for necessary modifications and alterations to align them with the DP Constitution. These constitutions are subject to the DP constitution meaning that in circumstances of a collision between the DP constitution and any of the Constitutions of these special organs the former will prevail.



# — Editorial —

## He Did Not Need Posters to Win: Meet Kalibata Deo The Lion of DP in Butebo District

**F**rom the newly created District of Butebo, carved out of Pallisa District, comes Mr Kalibata Deo. This unwavering DP stalwart was voted overwhelmingly as the LCIII Chairman of Petete Sub-county for the year 2021-2026 on DP ticket. The curious thing about his election is that he did not put up a single campaign poster. In his campaigns he emphasized the Democratic Party symbol which is the hoe. His personality and the conviction with which he campaigned galvanized the voters to tick the hoe. The voters identified with him because the hoe is the main tool used in household agriculture which is the main backbone of the Ugandan economy. Kalibata's victory shocked those who had underestimated him and validated the faith of those who believed in him. He is now regarded as the Lion of DP in Petete Sub-county.

Kalibata Deo's story is interesting. He was born in a humble family and he didn't go far with formal education. He says that reaching Primary seven was a miracle to many, es-

pecially those that knew him. This humble living made him realize rather early that offering himself in the service of humanity is what constituted his calling.

Mr Kalibata started his political journey through the Democratic Party at a time when DP's Rainer Kafiire was still a member of Parliament of Kibuku County which was then under Pallisa district. From the beginning he started building the foundation of his leadership on truth and justice. Kalibata states that he has always been loyal and genuine to his electorates which have kept him afloat on the political spectrum in Petete Sub-County. He disclosed to the National organizing Secretary of DP, Mr Herbert Rutagwera who together with the Party spokesperson had visited him at his home that he needed no posters to win an election, and that, all that he wanted was the Party endorsement.

Democratic Party has embarked on the campaign to consolidate support in all regions of Uganda because we are a nationalistic party with an

agenda of offering good leadership hinged on truth and justice to the country at all levels. The Democratic Party is grateful to the people of Petete Sub-county for voting Kalibata on the ticket of Democratic Party. His is one of the inspirational stories that will continue to motivate party members as we regroup and renew our party.



*Mr. Kalibata Deo (Third from Right) posing for a photo moment at his home with the National Organizing Secretary and the Party Spokesperson together with other leaders of DP in Butebo District.*

*“Democratic Party has embarked on the campaign to consolidate support in all regions of Uganda because we are a nationalistic party with an agenda of offering good leadership hinged on truth and justice to the country at all levels.”*

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# From Our Archives

## The Letter That Catalyzed The Assassination Of Ben Kiwanuka

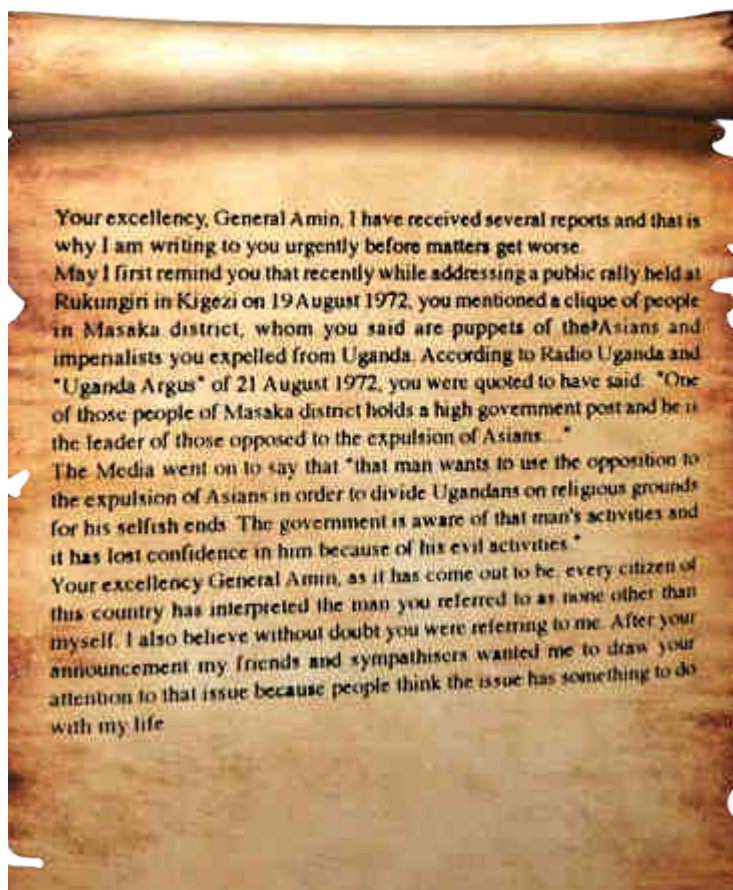


*Kiwanuka (with a stick) and Idi Amin pose for a group picture with Catholic leaders at Bukalasa in 1972. Shortly after that, Kiwanuka was killed.*

**A**ccording to Adam Bade's book, *Benedicto Kiwanuka: The Man and His Politics*, from August 1972, Ben Kiwanuka's relationship with Idi Amin had considerably deteriorated.

The reason was simple. Though Ben Kiwanuka had accepted to serve as the first African Chief Justice in Idi Amin's military government, he was determined to remain true to his principles whose pillars were Truth and Justice. Idi Admin who came to power promising democracy and prosperity had become a paranoid tyrant.

A clash between the two was inevitable. Matters came to a head when Amin expelled Asians. Though many Ugandans praised the action, Kiwanuka, who frowned on populism, denounced it as illegal and morally unacceptable. On 31st August, 1972, Kiwanuka penned a bold letter to Amin. This letter, which we reproduce from Adam Bade's book, was the catalyst that led to Ben Kiwanuka's assassination.



Your excellency, General Amin, I have received several reports and that is why I am writing to you urgently before matters get worse. May I first remind you that recently while addressing a public rally held at Rukungiri in Kigezi on 19 August 1972, you mentioned a clique of people in Masaka district, whom you said are puppets of the Asians and imperialists you expelled from Uganda. According to Radio Uganda and "Uganda Argus" of 21 August 1972, you were quoted to have said: "One of those people of Masaka district holds a high government post and he is the leader of those opposed to the expulsion of Asians..." The Media went on to say that "that man wants to use the opposition to the expulsion of Asians in order to divide Ugandans on religious grounds for his selfish ends. The government is aware of that man's activities and it has lost confidence in him because of his evil activities." Your excellency General Amin, as it has come out to be, every citizen of this country has interpreted the man you referred to as none other than myself. I also believe without doubt you were referring to me. After your announcement my friends and sympathisers wanted me to draw your attention to that issue because people think the issue has something to do with my life.

I cannot imagine you implicating me to be in the pockets of imperialists and Asians. If you believed so I should by virtue of my high post be told the truth directly. Your excellency, may I inform you that the reports you get about me which are leading you to say that about me are completely false because I have never taken part in opposing the expulsion of Asians of any category. I should be informed in detail about this issue because the position I hold is not that of a common man; a person of such a post must be of the highest standard of behaviour or else he ought to resign. I am sure I have behaved well since you appointed me Chief Justice and I had behaved in the same way even before the appointment. I therefore think what you are talking about has no connection with my behaviour. If I could see those reports about me, I would have a foundation of defending myself against what is alleged about me. I think those reports are made by your and my enemies who want to cause misunderstandings between us. If what you said has nothing to do with me, I ask of you to announce so in public so that no rumours go on and clear my name which has now sunk so low before the public.

Let me take this opportunity your excellency to say something about what some of your ministers say, that of late I have not been attending national functions. This is true, but it is because your Chief Justice has even no official seat prepared for him. This is contrary to your decision of 29 December 1971, that the Chief Justice had to take his seat before the cabinet ministers. Now, he sits amongst permanent secretaries or amongst other government officials.

Your excellency, my office has been degraded even to the extent of equating it to a ministerial post. The office of the Chief Justice is so important that it cannot be treated anyhow. In Britain where we got our system of government the head of the judiciary is more respected than the Prime Minister.

Your excellency I still remember what you told me when you were inducing me to accept the Chief Justice post in June 1971. You said that my appointment to this post was known by only one of your cabinet ministers. This, you said, was so because you knew people have envied me and even several ministers would have advised you not to appoint me. I thought that you were right because I am aware myself of the various enemies I have as a human being. But I assure you that I have no ill intention against you and your government. We may not agree on one point or another but as the Chief Justice, what I have to do is to keep quiet except if you ask me to respond or comment.

This should not be interpreted as not favouring you and your government. On the other hand, everybody has the right to decide on what he sees as right and our human rights must be preserved. Your excellency, you always preach democracy to prevail in this country. It is that same democracy I am stressing to you.

*“Your Excellency, General Amin. I have received several reports and that is why I am writing to you urgently before matters get worse. May I first remind you that recently while addressing a public rally held at Rukungiri in Kigezi on 19th August 1972, you mentioned a clique of people in Masaka District, whom you said are puppets of the Asians and imperialists you expelled from Uganda.”*

*“...My office has been degraded even to the extent of equating it to a ministerial post. The office of the Chief Justice is so important that it cannot be treated anyhow. In Britain where we got our system of government the head of the judiciary is more respected than the Prime Minister.”*





# Re-Branding The Democratic Party - The Grassroot Model

By Tom Darlington Balojja, PhD

**D**emocratic Party is the oldest Political Party in Uganda. Although it assumed a short stint in offering leadership of Uganda before independence, it still enjoys support from its members and well-wishers because of its ideology and principles deeply seated in the hearts of its supporters. I partly support the party due to the love my mother has for it but also recognizing that no party holds values and an ideology that is pro-people like the Democratic Party (DP). Fortunately, even those who tend to abandon or switch membership to other parties, it is not that they fault the ideology of the party but it is due to other factors like personal gains and conflicts held on the party leadership.

DP therefore still holds the confidence of its supporters and the potential ones. It is only that we miss out on helping the communities especially the young generation understand the party values, ideologies and principles. Going out to sell the party and aggressively mobilise the youths and the elderly is still our main weakness. Otherwise, we have the message, we have the package and we have adequate illustrations to demonstrate that it is DP that holds the future of this country by offering the best administration of the affairs of government. The reason behind party weakness is reflected in the elitist approach the party has maintained in terms of looking at headquarters as the major focus of attention and centre of activities. We have hardly thought about decentralizing these activities to the smallest unit of the community which is the household.

Uganda is largely made up of a rural-based population whose social and economic preoccupation is agribusiness. Most people are en-

gaged in agricultural activities for the better part of their daily activities. Few of these people are the ones who happen to go out in the evening to visit urban centres like trading centres and towns. These, however, interact more with those who also are from the different villages, not those who have been exposed to information that can help them understand the dynamics and interest in the political and governance issues. Ultimately, the community is fed on information that does not help them appreciate the role of politics in determining their livelihood and development. Those who happen to mobilise them are those whose interest is winning them for personal gains. These are people who come up to be elected in various offices and those who are paid to propagate the propaganda of the sitting government. Although people listen to and appreciate some government undoings, they think that they have little they can do to change the leadership of the country. Some have even abdicated the fundamental right of voting because they feel that it's of wastage of time.

Accordingly, we need to re-engineer ourselves by rethinking, redesigning and retooling our modus operandi from an elitist Kampala based management of the party activities to the grass-root model of operation. We need to divide the country into village units of not more than 50 households. These should be supported to have a five five-member committee where each of the 5 members is charged with 10 households that s/he engages regularly by sensitizing them about the party ideology, educate them about their rights and obligation but also inform them about available opportunities for economic development. Such members can regularly be trained by the top leaders to empower them

*“Accordingly, we need to re-engineer ourselves by rethinking, redesigning and retooling our modus operandi from an elitist Kampala based management of the party activities to the grass-root model of operation. We need to divide the country into village units of not more than 50 households. These should be supported to have a five five-member committee where each of the 5 members is charged with 10 households that s/he engages regularly by sensitizing them about the party ideology, educate them about their rights and obligation but also inform them about available opportunities for economic development.”*



*DP President Norbert Mao Meets Kyotera District Executive Committee Members. On his Left is DR. Tom Baloja Kyotera District Chairman.*

with the information they need to articulate issues. I appreciate that this needs facilitation but to some extent, the most critical facilitation is in empowering people with information. In the medium term, we need to lay a strategy as branches to encourage voluntarism with minimal facilitation as the top leaders champion resource mobilization. Of recent I have noted that when we talk about DP at community functions, many people come up to identify themselves with the party yet earlier, these would be distancing themselves from politics. Some of these are wealthy people who seem to be willing to even fund the party activities.

The 50 household model can be supported by the established party structures. These are constitutionally indicated and the positions are known, However, in many places, these are inactive and in some cases not even filled. We need to revamp and reinvigorate their operations by filling them at village level upwards. Once we are done, we need to move from uppermost structures downwards through filling positions of those people who may have been promoted to higher offices. Nonetheless, this is a huge task that needs the commitment of resources for transport and safari allowance. I implore stakeholders to plan and budget for this critical activity though. We need to ask the headquarters to think about minimizing the headquarter activities to facilitate decentralized services like this one.

This model will as well be successful if we empower our people economically. We need to find mechanisms of encouraging these established political units as cooperatives that should position themselves in benefiting from the government initiatives like the Parish model and Emyoga where possible. We should attack government policies as we enjoy them than abandoning them yet other people are benefiting. We need to help the people to have associations and cooperatives which are legally binding, registered and recognized. This will be one avenue that will empower people to mobilise others not only with messages but by being exemplary to them.

DP needs a clear roadmap to recovery early enough as we plan for the future. Five years down the road, with structures all over the country, with empowered people and with clear-headed leadership, I envisage a party that will be ready to capture power. We need to do this as a party not as individuals. We need to breed a culture of discouraging individualism by promoting a disciplinary approach to working as a team. We have easily been penetrated basically because of this element of individualism.

*Tom Darlington Balojja, PhD  
Lecturer, Education Management  
East African School of Higher  
Education Studies And Development(EASHESD)  
College of Education and External*

*Studies,  
Makerere University  
P.O.Box 7062, Kampala  
Telephones: +256 703 589430,  
0784008853.*

*“DP needs a clear roadmap to recovery early enough as we plan for the future. Five years down the road, with structures all over the country, with empowered people and with clear-headed leadership, I envisage a party that will be ready to capture power. We need to do this as a party not as individuals. We need to breed a culture of discouraging individualism by promoting a disciplinary approach to working as a team. We have easily been penetrated basically because of this element of individualism.”*

# Regional News

## West Nile

### Dp Calls For Redrawing Of Arua City Boundaries



Fadhil Lemeriga addressing the press conference as Mr. Christopher Afayo the DP Parliamentary Candidate, Ayivu West Constituency (Right) and Onapa Kalisto the DP Parliamentary candidate, Terego East Constituency (Left) look on.

The Democratic Party through its Regional spokesperson based in Arua, West Nile subregion Mr Fadhil Lemeriga has joined hands with certain Arua residents to demand the redrawing of the boundaries of Arua City. He declared the Party's commitment to supporting the demands of the residents of Ayivu Division to have some of their parishes in the Sub counties of Pajur, Dadam, Oluko and Manibe severed from the jurisdiction of Arua City.

Last year the Parliament of Uganda approved the elevation of ten Municipalities to City Status thus affecting the geographical construction of urban areas that did not meet the statutory requirement of five hundred thousand (500,000) dwellers. This was because at the time Parliament passed the resolution, most of the municipalities highlighted for City Status lacked the required minimum number of people living there as per the Local Government Act. To remedy this challenge, the responsible leaders moved to join these municipalities with the

neighbouring sub-counties to form the geographical construction of present-day Cities.

Speaking at the Party regional office in Arua City, Fadhil stated that severing these parishes from the City would protect the majority of vulnerable people who cannot cope with city life and whose land and livelihoods are in danger and that the culture of the Ayivu people would be preserved.

Speaking to Egumire, one of the residents of these affected sub-counties who is also the former DP Parliamentary candidate for Ayivu West Constituency, Mr Christopher Afayo stressed how they are not economically situated to meaningfully belong to Arua City. "Our main activity as residents in these parishes at the periphery of the previous municipality is farming, how can we be considered when it comes to projects funded in cities. I don't think that there can be an argument that farming can be done in a city, let the parishes near the urban centre remain part of the city but those in the far ends in the highlighted

sub-counties be removed," Mr Afayo said.

The DP leaders in Arua called upon every stakeholder to hasten the signature collection process to petition parliament for redress. A decision by parliament to redraw the boundaries in line with the petitioner's prayer will benefit every Ayivu resident regardless of their socio-economic status.

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*Christopher Afayo  
Former DP Parliamentary  
candidate for Ayivu West  
Constituency*



# Should Sports And Education Be In Separate Ministries?



By Okoler Opio Lo Amanu  
DP Spokesperson

**T**he sporting sector World over has transcended into a huge commercial venture that has contributed substantially to the economies of countries however in Uganda the sports industry has not been given the due attention it deserves, in Uganda sports have been used as an instrument of grandstanding and self-glorification.

While giving out cars to the medalists who had returned from Tokyo, President Museveni boasted of underfunding the sporting activities and yet still winning the medals. The meagre funding he referred to is also hinged on the President's kindness and the patronization system it serves. Patronage is intended to keep the sports fraternity beholden to him. In most cases this funding only goes to those that have won. Differently put, strive to be recognized and then see a penny from the big man.

His statements, unfortunately, demonstrated how the government has ignored the sporting sector. This argument can be supported by the extent to which sports facilities have either been sold to developers by government functionaries or has been given outrightly to other developers instead of sports. An example is the original sports field at Lugogo which was given to private developers to construct a shopping mall.

It is also worth noting that, Sebei sub-region in Uganda has produced

World-class champions over the years namely, Kiprotich, Cheptegei, Chemutai, Kipsiro, Kiplimo, etc and yet the government has deliberately ignored aiding the thriving of athletics in this region. The NRM government promised to construct a high-performance centre in Sebei to tap the budding talent, many years down the road the government has failed to complete the building. Obviously sporting is not their priority.

Elsewhere in the world, there are very many Ugandan football players working and handsomely earning a lot of money which they send back home for development projects. Football is a lucrative sporting activity. Cristiano Ronaldo earns \$663,000 weekly, Messi earns \$646,000 weekly. This translates into an average of 2.4 billion shillings per person per week. Why can't a country invest in such a lucrative sector! We can only conclude that the NRM's priority is not in developing talents.

Today, the fund associated with sports is shared between the sports department and the National Council of Sports. This reduces the impact that that money could do on the ground. There are those who have called for splitting the Sports Ministry from the Ministry of Education. Many reasons have been given for the proposal but we believe that the mere knee jerk response of creating a separate Sports Ministry is inadequate. The proposal may appear

radical but its impact would be low.

Instead we propose a number of measures that will reboot the sporting sector. First, the government should merge the departments of Physical Education

and Sports with the National Council of sports to form a new National Sports Authority with better funding and structures nationally. This shall keep a consolidated fee which could cause great impact when channelled to a single activity.

Secondly, tax incentives equivalent to the respective sponsorship packages should be introduced for private sector companies that sponsor sports. This will attract more investors to the sports sector. Tax incentives have worked in other sectors. They can work in Sports too.

Thirdly, the government should introduce Regional Sports Officers answerable to the National Sports Authority to supervise sports programs initiated at the National level.

Fourthly, the government should also restructure the education system to produce sportsmen and women and learners with double qualifications in academics and sports. This can be done at primary seven, senior four, senior six and University. Graduates with these qualifications will find it easier to find jobs.

We also propose that the government should create income-generating projects for all ex-internationals. The indignity that sportsmen and sportswomen suffer when their sporting days are over is an embarrassment to the nation. In order to enable them to live a befitting life, they can, for instance, be made regional coaches attached to clusters of schools to impart knowledge to students in the sporting sector. The same way we honor retired people in other fields is the way we should honor retired sports stars.

The plan we propose requires education and sports to move hand in hand. It cannot be achieved when these two sectors fall in different ministries. Therefore these two should remain under one Ministry - the Ministry of Sports and Education.





## From the Desk of **THE PRESIDENT**



# DP Shall Rise and Shine Again

By Norbert Mao  
*President General DP*

**U**ganda's oldest party, the Democratic Party, has a solid social base and a heroic historical mission. These notwithstanding, it has not been able to enjoy electoral success or the opportunity to govern since Uganda's independence in 1962.

Besides the hostile climate of tyranny that has thwarted the efforts of the party there are also internal weaknesses in the party that must be diagnosed correctly and treated bearing in mind that you cannot treat a cancer using Vaseline. Most of these weaknesses relate to the absence of an inspired and united leadership and membership to lead the mass crusade for the party's noble ideals.

No one can deny that the DP has noble ideals. After all is it not the party of the under-dogs? Is it not the party that challenged the sectarian colonial hierarchy? Is it not the party that has been the most consistent flag bearer of human rights? Is it not the party that is most pro-private enterprise? But as it is said, you cannot launch a missile from a canoe! The DP must make itself capable of launching a political fight for its values, which are also indeed mainstream values cherished by Ugandans.

A ship that sails the oceans and rides the rough waves must have both a strong anchor and tough sails. In DP's case it can be said that it has a solid anchor but its sails are in tatters.

While the party cannot drift because it has a firm anchor of values of principles and values, at the same time it cannot embark on its charted voyage to power because it lacks the sturdy sails of political strategy to tap the many winds.

I have observed that the party has lacked the will to seize the time and make itself the flagbearer for our national aspirations. I have watched as a dejected membership has drifted either into apathy or petty radicalism. I have watched as the party leadership has been co-opted into the anti-democratic schemes of the hegemonic NRM and its leader Gen. Yoweri Museveni. I have watched as the twin vices of indiscipline and opportunism have kept the party preoccupied with petty squabbles as opposed to a focused march on the path to power.

I did not keep my frustrations to myself. I have discussed them at every available forum. I dare say mine was one of the voices that started calling out for serious reforms in the party way back. But it has always not received the required response from the leadership of the party. At one point I even toyed with the idea of starting of a new political party. But I felt that I was running away from a good fight. I have to fight the good fight.

I recall that, in one meeting I had with young supporters of the party who felt that instead of abandoning the party, I should play a greater role

in the reforming the party. A young man told me that it was only among the Pygmies of Ituri forest that one death in the homestead leads to the whole family abandoning the homestead. He challenged me not to abandon support for the DP just because of the current mishaps and apparent lack of direction. I call upon all party supporters to heed that wisdom and join the struggle to rebuild the party. A mishap in the homestead is not reason enough to abandon the homestead, but rather a challenge to strengthen it -- a challenge that should bring out the best in each of us. I therefore advocate fight not flight!

This common wisdom fired me up. It led me to the current question, which I pose. Whose party is it anyway? Does the DP belong to the top leadership, a section of the membership or does it belong to all the members, supporters and the nation, which looks to it to actualise their aspirations? The DP belongs to all of us who believe in its ideals, and any one who seeks to make it the property of an oligarchical or sectarian clique is wrong and should be told so in no uncertain terms.

I am also convinced that the party now has a strong nucleus that seeks a rejuvenation of the party as a democratic, united, people's party. Like I did in my first race for the party presidency in 2005, I still proclaim myself to be one of that number. I proclaim myself to be a New Democrat. There are many New Demo-

crats in Uganda who want to see a reformed, combat ready party and their time has come. As Franklin Roosevelt once said, "new conditions impose new requirements on government and those who conduct government". Therefore DP must renew itself. While its timeless anchor of values remains impregnable it must make its sails capable of weathering hostile storms and riding strange winds that beset our voyage as a party.

So what is to be done to revive the Democratic Party? We need to do five things to remain relevant. First, we must realise that ideas are what make an organisation. Voters will elect us not because of the organisations we stand with, but rather what we stand for. Second, we must clarify our historical fundamentals. Our credibility must be beyond reproach on issues like human rights and good governance, on private enterprise etc. The party should resist the temptation to reduce its agenda to a mantra of regime change. Yes, we want regime change, but regime change is but a means to an end. It is not an end in itself. The fundamentals of change must be crafted, agreed upon and articulated. Third, we must reach out beyond our traditional core constituencies and historical base. We must speak to the middle class and also to those aspiring to get there. Fourth, we must begin to talk to the electorate, as it will be, not as it was. Old messages do not work anymore. We must not churn out party messages as if we were addressing a 1960s electorate. Fifth, we must seek to get elected because the "best government is the best politics". Those who when given the chance to lead, lead well, will continue to be re-elected again and again. There is no point in being mere commentators without transforming ourselves into the party of choice at elections.

The writing is therefore on the wall. Do we remain on the old beaten path of smug partisanship or do we embark on a new course leading to the kind of politics in which the day to day problems of the people are met with fresh ideas? How can we build a modern, vibrant and progressive DP that deals with Uganda's teething problems with bold and innovative ideas? These are not only key to winning elections but also to the re-building of our party and the

grassroots as well.

How do we reverse our party's flagging fortunes in national politics? All of us are summoned to make our contributions. The Democratic Party is the party of ideas. No party beats us in the arena of public policy. Our party needs a thinktank to initiate, debate and prepare the policy positions of the party. The party needs a leadership academy to spearhead a training program for up and coming leaders. As a beneficiary of these training programs I want more young people to benefit too. Our goal should be to further traditional DP values with modern means. The old way of politics are becoming increasingly irrelevant as the voters become more educated, independent and less partisan. Moreover, the composition of the voters is changing. There is a demographic shift. Many of the voters are young people. There is the generation X which is more skeptical and has a different attitude towards government as a whole. These new voters hold the key to power. These new voters do not want any intermediary. They have to be talked to directly in the language they can understand. Is it any wonder that many of them say politics is boring?

If the Democratic Party is to shape and dominate public debate it must not only renew itself radically but deliberately. If we are to be the party of choice we must renew our organisation. There will never be enough card carrying members of any party to enable a party to win on the basis of its members' votes. To win, a party must appeal to multitudes based on its ideas and values and also its political strategy.

We live in a country that has been dogged by armed conflicts from all corners, that has a weak economy, that is more divided than ever and whose promise of democratisation has been betrayed. Is our party in its current form capable of inspiring Ugandans to grapple with these challenges? I say unless we collectively resolve to rebuild our party, we shall have betrayed the millions that cherish the ideas and values that the party stands for. And who is going to rebuild this party? Whose party is it anyway? It is ours - all of us who believe in it!

So if the party is going to end it's days

of wandering in the Sinai Desert of confusion and toxic dissension, and walk confidently towards Canaan, then the leaders and members have to stop worshiping false gods in the shape of golden calves fashioned to assuage short term goals. Instead, we should believe in ourselves and our historical mission as Uganda's indispensable party and indeed the conscience of the nation. This analogy also applies to the Ugandan opposition as a whole. Our failure to have an urgent mind-shift before the last elections, has sentenced Ugandans to the proverbial 40 years of Musevenism!

And I don't speak lightly about this because the problems of Uganda are systemic. We're not just dealing with a man. We're also dealing with the machine and the mindset he has created. A machine that suffocates democracy and paralyzes efforts at change and a mindset of confusion and an inflexible view that every difference of opinion is a difference of principle. A curious fact according to Deuteronomy 1:2 is that the journey that took the children of Israel 40 years of rudderless wandering should have actually taken 11 days!



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