

fectured recruitment and confirmation of civil servants, leaving several offices understaffed.

"We are ending the term when there

BY JOSEPH OMOLLO

TORORO. Several Tororo District residents are in celebratory mood following the election of Mr Jacob Oboth as the Speaker of Parliament.

Villages and towns across the district marked the news with impromptu street gatherings, drumming, and thanksgiving services at churches and mosques.

Local leaders joined rallies in various sub-counties and urban councils, calling the Speaker's elevation a historic moment that recognises Bukedi's growing national influence.

The Prime Minister of Tieng Adhola Cultural Institution, Mr Josel Obbo, thanked the Head of State for supporting Mr Oboth's bid, saying his elevation is timely.

Mr Obbo said Mr Oboth is fit for the position based on his 15 years of experience in Parliament.

"We thank the President and the entire Parliament for entrusting Oboth-Oboth with the position. I'm confident that he will steer the House well based on the vast experience he has attained," he said.

Mr Obbo urged the Speaker to work together with his deputy to guide the House to come up with laws that promote peace and the observance of human rights.

Commenting on Mr Oboth's elevation, Uganda's former High Commissioner to Kenya, Ms Phibby Awele Otaala, who is the Tororo District NRM par-

Mr Ian Kyeyune takes oath as Wakiso District chairperson on May 18.
PHOTO/ NOELINE NABUKENYA

Tororo locals celebrate Oboth's election as House Speaker



Residents celebrate after West Budama Central MP Mr Jacob Oboth was elected Speaker of Parliament on Monday. PHOTO/JOSEPH OMOLLO

ty vice chairperson, said it facilitates regional balance.

She said the elevation, if properly utilised, would help answer some of the pending presidential pledges, especially the elevation of Tororo hospital to a regional referral hospital for the Bukedi Sub-region and expedition of compensation of Alice Lakwena war victims, among others.

Ms Otaala stressed the need for accountable representation.

Mr Benjamin Olem, a farmer and small-business owner, said they hoped the Speaker's position would translate into concrete support for agricultural inputs, market access, and rural infrastructure.

He appealed to the new Speaker to follow through on promises of training

rent, taxes, and take care of our families," she said.
Ms Bukirwa also complained

works are very slow and they have clients who stay that side," Mr Kafumbe said.

and employment programmes.

Equally, Mr Apollo Ekakoro, a businessman at Malaba border, appealed to the new leadership to consider how best to rejuvenate clearing and forwarding at Malaba border.

"I remember it's Oboth who officiated at the opening of the small gate at Malaba Border entry point that helped to rejuvenate cross-border trade in Malaba, and it's my prayer that he plays a role in reverting clearing and forwarding business at the border because being the son of the soil, he is well versed with the contribution of cross border trade to the surrounding communities," he said.

Mr Paul Gonza, the former aspirant for the Tororo District's LC5 seat, urged Mr Oboth to balance regional interests with the Speaker's constitutional role

ABOUT OBOOTH-OBOOTH

Lawmakers elected West Budama Central MP Jacob Oboth, alias Oboth-Oboth, on Monday. He will be deputised by Mr Thomas Tayebwa in the 12th Parliament.

Previously, Mr Oboth served as the Defence and Veteran Affairs minister and chairperson of the parliamentary Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. In his inaugural speech, Mr Oboth pledged to lead a people-centred and accountable House.

to preside impartially over Parliament.

"Aware that [in poverty rankings] Bukedi is the second hardest hit sub-region, sitting at the table where the cake is cut, will connect the region to many opportunities, and now the task of our son is to see how best to use the position to save the sub-region," he said.

The Bishop of Bukedi Diocese, Rev Samuel George Bogere Egesa, thanked President Museveni for guiding Members of Parliament through the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) parliamentary caucus, saying the move demonstrated a transition to mature politics.

"But I am sure that God will guide the new Speaker and his deputy because all of them seem to have experience and have learnt a lesson from the ongoing saga facing the former Speaker of Parliament," Bishop Egesa said.

The bishop tasked Mr Oboth to push for the implementation of the presidential directive on creating three districts and one city from Tororo District, which he said would help bring services closer to the people.

Tororo District Chairperson John Okea noted the symbolic and practical importance of the role. The Speaker sets the tone for legislative work, influences committee appointments, and can shape how Parliament holds the Executive to account.

"For those who may not know, the election of Oboth represents hope that Parliament will better reflect everyday concerns from jobs and healthcare to local services," Dr Olukol said.