FDC leader Amuriat meets Muntu, calls for restraint

By Umaru Kashaka

The Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) president, Patrick Amuriat, has met with his predecessor Maj. Gen. (rtd) Mugisha Muntu in a bid to resolve the contradictions arising from the recently concluded party presidential elections.

The meeting took place last week at an undisclosed location in Kampala.

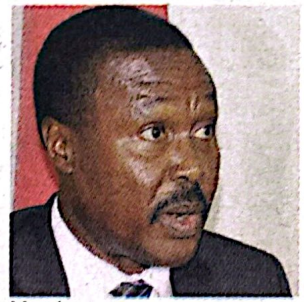
Amuriat posted on Twitter that the meeting was cordial and in the spirit of friendship.

"A number of issues were raised and discussed. To me, this is the first step in our attempt to harmonise our relationship and to try to establish a new working arrangement," he tweeted.

Amuriat noted that although the meeting was not conclusive, a lot of progress was made.

"I kindly request for restraint from our supporters and the membership of FDC... Allow the healing process to proceed soberly," the former Kumi County MP urged.

Amuriat stated that he and Muntu were committed to holding follow-up meetings



Muntu



Amuriat

The two agreed to have their next meeting in January

"resuming at the turn of New Year".

"I salute president Muntu for his commitment to keep our party intact amid media speculation that there could be a split in the party," he said.

Former Bukonjo East MP Yokasi Bihande, a member of the FDC national executive committee, attended the meeting.

'Internal contradictions'

Muntu also took to his Twitter account to say the reason for the meeting was to initiate the process of dialogue that their team had committed to in the aftermath of the November 24 elections.

"During the meeting, I reiterated to him (Amuriat) the need to deal with the root causes of the party's internal contradictions in an honest, open and conciliatory manner," Muntu said.

He that it was the first of what he hoped would be several productive meetings.

"We agreed to have the next meeting in January, upon my return to the country," he tweeted.

FDC, which is the main opposition party, has been split into two camps since last month's delegates conference, where Amuriat scored 641, representing 57.6% of the votes cast, against Muntu's 463, which was 41.7%.

The split sparked speculation that Muntu's camp may quit the party and form their own, although Muntu has since dispelled the clams.

However, he has left his options open until after his nationwide consultations.

While appearing on a local radio talkshow this month, Muntu admitted there were factions in the party that were formed in 2004 by politicians who had unsuccessfully campaigned for Dr Kizza Besigye against President Yoweri Museveni under the Reform Agenda.

He told party members towing the defiance line that their efforts were in vain.

"My major concern was to build a strong party and prepare it to take up office. Defiance alone, which I am blamed for not supporting, cannot take us to power. We need to think of other avenues," Muntu said.

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