Politicians warned over govt devt programmes

MASAKA

By Dismus Buregyeya

The senior presidential advisor on political affairs in Buganda region, Mulindwa Bilimumaso, has said politicians should stop personalising government development programmes.

Bilimumaso told leaders from Greater Masaka during a consultative meeting with the Manifesto Implementation Unit (MIU) team on Tuesday that some politicians are rendering the NRM Government irrelevant by pursuing their own interests.

The meeting, chaired by the MIU deputy director, Fred Kamugire, at the Masaka district headquarters, was attended by district leaders.

"The politicians in our districts are scoring as individuals at the expense of the Government," Bilimumaso said.

He noted that the Opposition won most of the elective positions because of selfish individuals within the ruling party.

"It is time for the NRM to recapture Masaka district from the Opposition," Bilimumaso added.

He said under former district chairperson Vincent Ssempijja, the NRM was a model of effective service delivery.

Abdu Miwanda, Masaka district's secretary for production, claimed Opposition politicians stage riots when the Government is about to release funds for road construction.

He said such actors make such a move to hoodwink the public into believing they are the ones responsible for the development in the area.

Meanwhile, Masaka district NRM party chairperson Peter Ssenkungu said the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) has frustrated the NRM in Masaka by ignoring some bad roads.

"We have demanded the construction of the Nyendo-Bukakata road for over 20 years, but in vain," he said.

Francis Lukwago, the chief administrative officer, said government programmes in health, education, agriculture, roads and electricity infrastructure have transformed the people of Masaka.

He said the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme, free primary and secondary education and the youth and women funds will improve incomes and create jobs.

Lukwago, however, said farmers need fertilisers to improve the soils, hence boost crop production.

He also said the security in the area should be improved and civil servants' salaries enhanced for better service delivery.

Meanwhile, Kamugire warned politicians against discrimination.

"We are serving the same people. All of them should benefit from the NRM manifesto, regardless of their political, religious and tribal affiliation," he said.

Saying the NRM manifesto is development-oriented, Kamugire asked the district leaders and security organs to ensure government programmes impact on the people.

He warned district leaders against interfering with presidential pledges programmes, saying they should refer them to the principal private secretary to the President for follow-up.

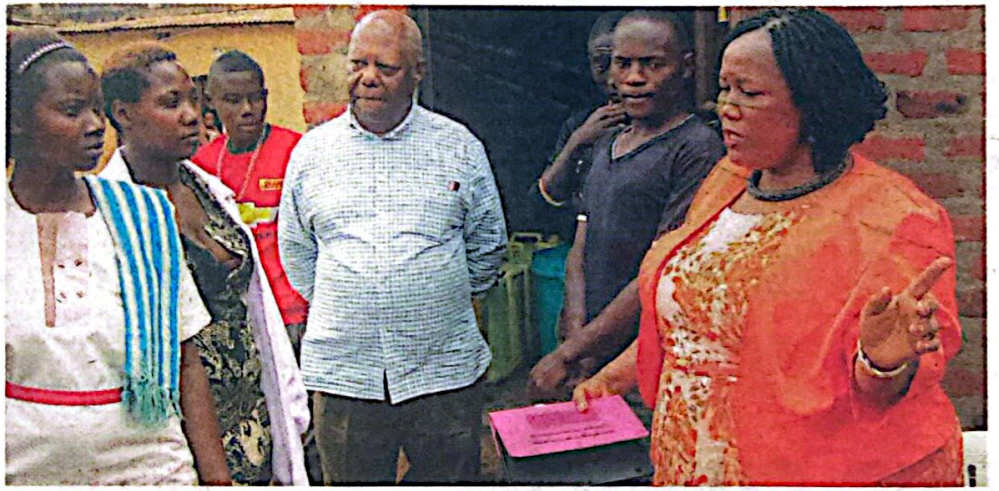
Kamugire said some presidential pledges can be handled under the State House budget while others through the National Development Plan and relevant ministries.

As regards bad roads, he said they would address the concern, especially for the pending road construction in Sembabule, Rakai, Kyotera, Nyendo, Bukakata, Kalangala and Lyantonde.

However, he asked the concerned districts to appreciate the improvements made thus far in the sub-sector.

The Lyantonde RDC, Tuguragara Matovu, said bad roads are hurting farmers the most, as they find difficulty in accessing the markets.

The MIU team later traversed Masaka on a fact-finding mission of government-funded programmes, including the Youth Livelihood Programme.



The MIU team, led by Kamugire (centre), talking to members of a Nyendo dairy business, which is under the Youth Livelihood Programme, in Masaka. Photo by Dismus Buregyeya

UNRA warns public