

Museveni on corruption: A stitch in time saves nine

A stitch in time saves nine" is a British proverb, meaning that taking immediate action to fix a problem prevents it from becoming a larger, more laborious issue later.

For the last few days, social media and traditional media have been in a frenzy following the joint investigations of the former Speaker of Parliament, Ms Anita Among, on allegations of corruption. The investigation began with searching Among's various palatial homes in Kampala and Wakiso on allegations of unexplained wealth.

The investigations follow a story published recently when she acquired a Rolls-Royce Cullinan, a luxury car believed to cost about \$1m (Shs3.7b). For quite some time, there have been allegations of corruption in the August House, where dirty deals are believed to have been taking place. The former Speaker is alleged to have amassed abnormal wealth, which people think

ing their national consciousness and become kleptocrats? Could this be a result of the neoliberal policies that we adopted along the way?

Hyper-neoliberal economic materialism is always dangerous to society. This is because it reduces all human interactions and societal values to market transactions. By prioritising hyper-individualism, relentless wealth accumulation, and unregulated free markets, it threatens democratic institutions, deepens wealth disparities and fosters social isolation.

The ruling NRM used to have a National Political Commissariat, whose role was to ensure that ideological clarity of the liberation struggle was attained by all Ugandans, preserved and to indicate where the country was heading in terms of socioeconomic transformation.

This political department was indeed, at one time, led by such senior political leaders as the late Eriya Kategaya, Col Kizza Besigye, Dr Crispus Kiyonga, and the late James Wapakhabulo, before the country's political landscape metamorphosed into the current political pluralist dispensation, which has since let loose all shades of ideological pluralism.

As a result, we now have Ugandans without ideological direction and are obsessed with self-aggrandisement. So this training is meant to achieve two fundamental objectives. First, to prepare Ugandans mentally (say ideologically), technically and physically to defend our motherland from all threats. Second, to empower Ugandans to engage in constructive criticism and principled disagreement, but be able to pull together on strategic issues of socioeconomic and political development of our country.

This ideological reorientation, which was the mandate of the National Commissariat, has since gone into abeyance as a national priority. Leaders have been, and legitimately so, absorbed by the ever-demanding needs to run the State and government. Unfortunately, to the detriment of the competences that help us to distinguish between the strategic priorities and the different tactical means to fulfil these priorities.

In short, not to confuse the primary 'what' with the secondary 'how'. It is this confusion, quite abundant among our people that has exasperated the President, which he has redefined as ideological disorientation.

Unfortunately, this disorientation can't be ignored, nor can it be wished away. It can only be tackled with a deliberate collective effort by all leaders at all

Ugandans want accountability, they want service delivery, integrity and responsibility.



Obed Katureebe
Politics

could be ill-gotten wealth.

For some time now, President Museveni has complained about the misuse of public funds and vowed to get tough on corrupt officials. People didn't listen and thought it was the usual noise. Now the music seems to have begun. Ugandans want accountability, they want service delivery, integrity and responsibility.

Many times, we have heard the President exhorting Ugandans to be ideologically focused, especially leaders at different levels and arms of government. He has also been extending the appeal to non-State or government leaderships, in order to be able to plan and prioritise together the ever-scarce national resources. However, all this is being failed by primitive greed that has become the new creed.

However, one would be right to ask, what went wrong? When did some Ugandans begin los-