



of the day

Forum for Democratic Change candidate Kizza Besigye on Electoral Commission. "They will be responsible for the consequences if they declare wrong results."

CARTOON South Sudan's President Salva Kiir has re-appointed his rival Riek Machar as vice president, a deal to try to end civil war in the nation.

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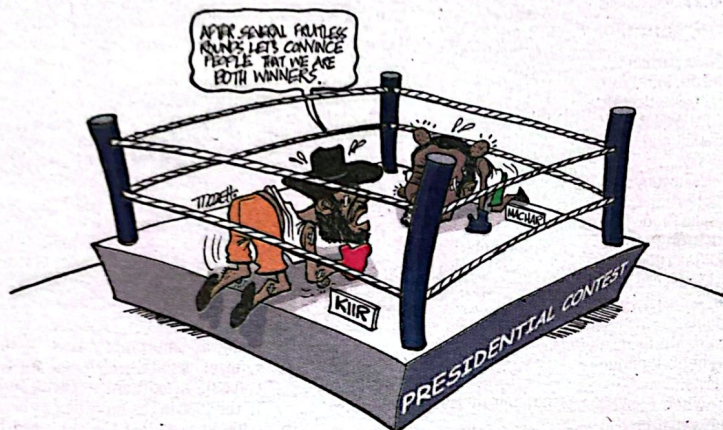
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Candidates must address the East African federation issue

Kavuma Kaggwa Federation

Ugandans are anxiously waiting to see whether President Museveni will participate in today's, presidential debate.

One of the moderators, Dr Shaka Ssali, is a PhD holder, former army man and Sandhurst trained. He is a director for East and Southern Africa for the Voice of America famous radio, and a highly qualified journalist. He is not coming to moderate a "high school debate" as President Museveni called the first debate which took place on January 15.

Dr Shaka Ssali was in the Uganda Army during President Amin's time but decided to leave army service due to tribal frustrations and went to America where he is serving the whole world. His radio programme is called "Straight Talk Africa" on the Voice of America Radio in Washington DC.

As we say that birds of the same feathers flock together, therefore President Museveni, an army man of high standing should be more than happy to answer questions from Dr Ssali who has an army background, and is a well known "son of the soil" from Kigezi.

Ugandans are now at an advanced level politically and that is why they take much interest in these debates. The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) organises the Presidential Candidates Debates to enable the voters to understand and assess candidates who have been on the campaign trail promising to do all sorts of things if they are elected President.

Some Candidates get gripped by what we call election-euphoria and they promise things which they do not even

understand. Others get into a situation where by they talk what is known as street politics. They talk of something today and they change the language the next day.

This time the debate will specifically focus on peace and security both within Uganda and the region, regional integration, international trade and investment and foreign policy.

Ugandans would like to know how each one of the presidential candidates will deal with the Burundi crisis and end the terrible killings now taking place there. Ugandans would like to know from each candidate how soon he/she would restore presidential term limits.

The thorniest issue is regional integration which means creating an East African political federation. Besides the high degree of political ineptitude among some people in East Africa, most Ugandans will never surrender their sovereignty to any other African country.

Ugandans strongly believe that they did not fight for the Independence of Uganda only to be swallowed up by other African countries. Uganda will continue to fly its own flag and Uganda will continue to have its own Parliament, its own government and president.

What Uganda can accept is to share the common services with other African countries. The Common services are: East African Airways, East African Railways, East African Harbours, East African Research on Veterinary and Agriculture, Trade and some sectors of Communication.

In Uganda the Baganda rejected the

The thorniest issue is regional integration which means creating an East African political federation. Besides the high degree of political ineptitude among some people in East Africa, most Ugandans will never surrender their sovereignty to any other African country.

Political Federation of East Africa right from the time of Kabaka Sir Daudi Chwa II in 1921. Again in 1948, the British tried to establish it and the Buganda Lukiiko passed a strong resolution rejecting the political federation of East Africa. In 1953, the then British governor, Sir Andrew Cohen, brought the proposal again for the East African Federation and Sekabaka Muteesa vehemently rejected it and he refused to sign the papers and referred the matters to Buganda Lukiiko. He demanded Independence for Uganda and told the governor that it was time that the Protection Agreements that were made with Britain came to an end.

In August 2011, there was the First Tracking Committee setup by the three Governments to get the views of the people on the proposal for the East African Political Federation. The Committee

Presidential candidates, who will answer questions about regional integration and political federation of East Africa, must bear it in mind that the Baganda rejected and that they will never accept the Political Federation of East Africa.

Mr Kavuma-Kaggwa is an elder from Kyamba.