

Otafiire warns NRM on vote rigging

BUSHENYI

By Chris Mugasha

The Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, has warned the National Resistance Movement (NRM) party against rigging votes.

Otafiire said there are people within the party working hard during elections to rig votes so as to discredit the party. He said practices of vote rigging affect the party's cohesion and solidarity, hence infiltration.

He explained that the reason why Parliament has many MPs on Independent ticket is a result of NRM primaries, which he said were full of irregularities.

"We are the ones who started the NRM. We were brought by a gun, but now things have changed. It is democracy that puts one in leadership. Whoever the people vote to lead them has the mandate," Otafiire said.

He was on Sunday addressing supporters who gathered to

"It is democracy that puts one in leadership. Whoever the people vote has the mandate to lead them." Otafiire

celebrate the victory of the new Igara East MP, Michael Mawanda, at Kyeizooba playgrounds in Rwentuha town council, Bushenyi district.

Mawanda, an Independent candidate, regained his seat after defeating NRM's flagbearer Andrew Martial in the just concluded byelection. Martial who had been the incumbent MP, lost the seat after the Court of Appeal threw him out on grounds of bribery and vote rigging during last year's elections.

Otafiire thanked the people of Igara East for voting the person of their choice.

Earlier, Mawanda decried the high rate of vote rigging, citing areas, such as Bwera polling station, where the voters stood by

him when they rejected money offers from his opponents.

"Thank you for standing with me because there was a lot of money and intimidation, but you (voters) remained brave and rejected the money," Mawanda said.

He noted that his win was a clear manifestation that the voters have been enlightened and no longer want to be directed on whom to vote for, a move he described as a "new chapter".

He said it is unfortunate some MPs do not return to their constituencies after being voted, only wait for their five-year term to end before trying to woo the voters with bribes.

Mawanda promise to serve his people diligently.



Otafiire addressing Mawanda's supporters at Kyeizooba playgrounds