

Power dynamics between the First Son and Speaker

In Uganda's political arena, names open doors. But timing, networks, and votes keep them open.

The First Son carries three things most politicians only dream of — that's; a name that echoes across the country, a legacy tied to the State's founding story, and the military capital that comes with it. It is a formidable hand. Those advantages give him visibility, access, and the ability to shape debate before it begins. In a country where history and pedigree matter, that is no small thing.

Yet if you look closely at Parliament and the ruling party's inner circles, another player keeps showing up a step ahead and that's Anita Among.

She is quick, quicker than most expect. While others are still reading the room, she has already read the minutes, counted the numbers, and made the call. Her instincts were sharpened over years navigating opposition politics in the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) and the rough edges of Uganda's parliamentary system. That background taught her how to survive without institutional cover and how to build coalitions where none seemed possible.

Colleagues describe her as a master of timing. She knows when to speak, when to stay silent, and when to move in a way that changes the game before anyone else notices. In Parliament, procedure is power. Whoever controls the gavel and the agenda con-

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Politics

trols the pace of politics and the "Arrow girl" Among has mastered both.

That is where the "mafia" in her politics comes in, not in the criminal sense, but in the old-school sense of loyalty, networks, and discipline. Among's strength is mobilisation, she is known for sleepless nights driving to MPs' homes, listening, negotiating, and securing commitments long before a vote is cast. This was tested during the Kadaga Vs Among for an NRM party top job. You see the result both on the floor during debates and off the floor in the backroom deals that decide those debates before they start. That is why many say she runs deeper than the First Son on the political terrain.

Her web stretches from FDC strongholds in Bukedea, where she built her base, to the Speaker's chair in the House chambers. Her entry into the NRM Central Executive Committee was unexpected, but it placed her at the table where decisions are sealed. From there, she can influence party direction, candidate selection, and legislative strategy.

Joke with her, and you meet that network. Underestimate her, and you find yourself outflanked. In politics, the person who has done the groundwork often wins even when they appear quiet.

The First Son brings force. Among brings finesse. Force can shift a room in a moment, but finesse keeps the room aligned over time. In a system where procedure, votes, and alliances often matter more than rank, the smarter move is patience. It means studying the rules, building trust, and waiting for the moment when the numbers are on your side.

This is not about personality. It is about structure. Parliament runs on rules, committees, and votes. The Executive runs on appointment and command. When those two systems meet, the person who understands both holds the advantage.

In Ugandan politics, the person who strikes first is not always the one who stands last. Among has made a career out of proving that point. For anyone navigating the next phase of power, the lesson is clear, measure the board, respect the networks, and move only when the calculus is in your favour.

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