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REVIEW LAW ON DONATIONS – MUSEVENI

BY CHRIS MUGASHA

President Yoweri Museveni, the NRM party presidential candidate, has called for a review of the electoral law on donations.

Museveni said there are some clauses which cripple development activities by halting them.

"How do you bar me from contributing towards a development project because the electoral law does not allow it?" Museveni asked.

The President was on Friday addressing Christians who turned up at St. Peters Kitabi parish in Bushenyi district to celebrate the new year and a thanksgiving ceremony for the parish.

A series of activities were launched in preparation for the parish to celebrate 100 years of existence slated for 2019. Among the activities include renovation and remodelling of the church, which require sh1.75b.

Museveni said he consulted NRM party lawyers about the electoral laws in regard to donations. Being that he is on a campaign trail for the presidential seat, he was advised not to give anything to



Museveni (right) being welcomed by Bakyenga at St. Peters Kitabi parish, Bushenyi on Friday

avoid legal implications from his challengers.

"How do I go to a church service and not give God a gift? What kind of laws are these?" Museveni said.

He clarified that the electoral laws on fundraisings are okay.

Despite the church's big budget, Museveni did not announce any contribution.

However, he directed the head of the Operation Wealth Creation campaign,

Gen. Salim Saleh, to support churches with improved seedlings so that they would distribute to Christians.

"Giving seedlings to a church is not politics," he said.

The President said the seedlings that the Government gives to farmers are not enough to satisfy the wants.

He, however, said the money for the National Agricultural Advisory Services has been increased from sh200b to

sh1,000b per year.

Museveni said the Government would tarmack the Bugangari-Kihihi-Democratic Republic of Congo road and also complete the Ishaka-Kitagata-Kagamba-Mirama hill road.

He advised people with small pieces of land to grow coffee, fruits, and engage in enterprises such as zero-grazing, poultry, piggery and fish farming to increase on

their household income.

Museveni asked church leaders to intensify sensitisation of their followers about the dangers of swamp reclamation.

"You want water to be extended to your areas and to support agriculture activities, yet you are making the sources to dry up, especially by encroaching on wetlands," Museveni said.

He noted that major wetlands such as Kandekye, Koga, River Rwizi in the region have been encroached on, yet most factories in Mbarara require water to operate.

He described wetlands as a big resource to the country, which must be preserved.

Museveni commended religion for preserving the Ankole culture, promoting education, starting the industrial revolution through colonialism and farming.

"Among the Banyankole, there was no forgiveness. One had to buy something to be forgiven, but religion introduced unconditional forgiveness," the President said.

Security minister Mary Karoro Okurut hailed the President for introducing the

concept of supporting each household with hoes.

"We still need those hoes because not everybody is going to use a tractor," she said.

Karoro said it is important to tell people, especially the young generation the history of the country.

"We cannot forget to tell people where you have brought the country from," Karoro added.

The Archbishop of Mbarara Diocese, Paul Bakyenga, called for promotion of culture and religion through institutions.

He hailed the Government for working on the Ishaka-Kitagata-Kagamba road, noting that some years ago, he missed conducting a service at Kitabi parish because of the impassable road.

"Let us vote leaders who will help us and our country to grow," Bakyenga said.

In attendance were the Bishop of West Ankole Diocese, Yona Katoneene and ministers; Gen. Kahinda Otafiire, Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere, Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, and Franklin Katumbwe, Uganda's deputy head of mission to European countries.