

Corruption 'a cancer eating image' of NRM

By Robert Atuhairwe

Although the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) government has made strides in implementing manifesto pledges, there is still need to fight corruption, if the country is to register more growth.

Richard Bakojja, an assistant director, manifesto implementation in the office of the President listed the NRM gains in the last three decades as expansion of social services, including increased power generation capacity, roads and schools, among others.

However, he said the gains are being diluted, as people associate NRM with corruption.

"It is a cancer that is eating away the image of the party," he said.

Bakijja blamed the continued theft of public funds to lack of patriotism and the failure to report the corrupt members of the party, which have deprived the people of the quality services that they deserve.

He was speaking at a Bunyoro sub-region consultative meeting on the implementation of the NRM manifesto at Kontiki Hotel in Hoima town, Hoima district recently.

Bakijja urged the local leaders, including the resident district commissioners (RDCs), chief administrative officers (CAOs) and district heads of departments to ensure every penny sent to local governments is accounted for.

He urged, particularly CAOs, to ensure the manifesto activities are streamlined and budgeted for in the local government estimates considering strategic objectives by the President and the five-year

development plan (Vision 2020).

"It should not be near-releases by the finance ministry. It should help all the people in the area through service delivery or provision," he added.

Bakijja also urged people to report the corrupt through Government investigation agencies, such as the Inspectorate of Government and the Police, so that appropriate action is taken.

He decried the lack of positive publicity about such developments, noting that it has given detractors the advantage to discredit the Government.

The government official urged the NRM local leaders, especially district chairpersons, to popularise and sensitise the masses on the benefits of several Government income-generating programmes, as they act as the link between the Government and the people.

Progress made

Presentations by district officials indicate that although there is work to be done in some sectors of the economy, there has been improvement in the areas of water coverage, health, infrastructure and agriculture in Bunyoro.

William Byakaga, the Hoima district planner, said immunisation had improved to 67% in 2015 to 92% now and HIV prevalence to 5.6% in 2015, to 6.9% due to implementation of the HIV prevention national strategy.

He said malaria has been reduced to 21% from 34%, adding that the area is on the right path to achieving less than 10% by 2020, as per the manifesto, due to free mass mosquito distribution by the Government.

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