

National News

Women of power, influence running Museveni's govt

BY BUSEIN SAMILU

President Museveni on Sunday said women have proven to be better leaders and managers than their male counterparts.

In a speech read by Vice President, Maj (rtd) Jessica Alupo, on the occasion to mark the International Women's Day at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, Mr Museveni said women, having been empowered by his government, have not only taken over positions of leadership but also served well with more diligence.

"During our resistance against dictatorships, we treated everyone equally; and I found the women to be much more resolute than many men," he said.

"Women have additional seats, which they compete for. That way, we have been able to increase their numbers in public office, and the women have proved to be better leaders and managers than the men," he added.

To interrogate the statement, *Daily Monitor* takes a deep dive into President Museveni's current 2021-2026 government, and analyses the line up of women in his Cabinet, the

Parliament, Judiciary, the armed forces, ministries, departments, and agencies.

Over the last six elective terms, Mr Museveni has been deliberate in increasing the number of female ministers in his Cabinet, although political experts say the number is still disproportionate, given the fact that women make up the biggest percentage of the population.

Cabinet

The Cabinet formed by President Museveni in July 1996, following the general election, comprised a 57-man team.

The available data shows that Ms Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe was named Vice President in that Cabinet, which Mr Museveni constituted.

In his speech at the weekend, regarding the power, influence, and efficiency of women in his government, Mr Museveni said the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party, upon taking over power, put in place reforms that helped the women attain their potential.

In President Museveni's subsequent 2001-2006 government, the number of women in the Cabinet were 15 out of 64, but this rose to 16 in the subsequent 2006-2011 government, with four more ministers added.

When the number of ministers rose to 80 in the 2011-2016 government, President Museveni gave out 22 ministerial positions to the women. This number climbed up by eight women in the next 2016-2021 government and finally to 37 in the current government, formed in 2021.

President Museveni in the current government picked his former Education minister and Katakwi District Woman MP, Maj (rtd) Jessica Alupo, as his deputy.

Current statistics further shows that 13 of the 32 Cabinet ministers are women. Relatedly, 23 of the 50 ministers of State are women.

Permanent Secretaries

Mr Museveni's gender balancing efforts have also cut across ministries, with 17 of the 34 Permanent Secretaries being

female. The former State House Comptroller, Ms Lucy Nakyobe, is the Head of Public Service and Secretary to the Cabinet.

President Museveni also picked Dr Aminah Zawedde from Makerere University to manage the IGT and National Guidance ministry as its Permanent Secretary. The Ministry is led by the Kinkizi East legislator Dr Chris Baryomunsi, and deputised by two ex-officio Dr Joyce Ssebunyu and Mr Godfrey Kabanyanga.

Other female Permanent Secretaries are Ms Irene Batebe of Energy and Mineral Development; Dr Diana Atwine for Health, Catherine Bitarakwate (Public Service), and Dr Kendrace Turayagenda for Education and Sports.

Judiciary

President Museveni has over the years exercised the appointment of justices of the Supreme Court, justices of the Court of Appeal, and judges of the High Court, with a gender lens.

The list of judicial officers as of January 28 indicates that female Justices, judges, registrars and magistrates make up 50.7 per cent of the total 706 members. Of the judges and justices, 61 are female. A total of 44 (55.6 per cent) of the 79 registrars are female, and at least 49.8 per cent of the 508 magistrates are also female.

The position of the Principal Judge, the third highest in the Judiciary, is held by the former Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Jane Frances Abodo.

Five of the current 11 Justices of the Supreme Court are female, with nine of the 19 justices of the Court of Appeal also being female, and 32 of the 66 High Court judges also being female, as well as making up the biggest number (14) of the 22 acting judges.

In total, the Judiciary has 358 female and 348 male officials.

Parliament

Of the 556 members of Parliament, 189 are women, with 146 of them being District Woman MPs, 16 directly elected constituency representatives, three Female army representatives, two Female Workers representatives, two Female Youth MPs, three Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) female MPs, and three Older Persons representatives, and 14 Ex-Officio female MPs.

However, in terms of numbers of chairpersons heading the Sectoral and Standing Committees, the female MPs head only four of the 16 Sectoral committees, and four of the Standing ones.

Army and police

Noticeably there are fewer women holding key positions in the army and police. For example, in police, out of the 11 Directorates, there are only

FULL LIST OF WOMEN IN NRM GOVERNMENT

Cabinet Ministers	
Name	Ministry
1. Jessica Rose Epel Alupo	Vice President
2. Robinah Nabbanja	Prime Minister
3. Rebecca A. Kadaga	First Deputy Prime Minister
4. Rukia Nakadama Isanga	Third Deputy Prime Minister
5. Janet Kataha Museveni	Education and Sports
6. Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Ocio	Health
7. Milly Babirye Babalanda	Office of President (Presidency)
8. Betty Ongom Amongi	Gender, Labour and Social Dev't
9. Minna Kabanda	Kampala Capital City
10. Judith Nabakooba	Land, Housing and Urban Dev't
11. Ruth Nankabirwa	Energy and Mineral Development
12. Dr Monica Musenero	Office of the President (Science)
13. Justine Kasule Lumumba	Office of Premier (General Duties)

State Ministers	
Name	Ministry
1. Florence Nambozo	Office of Premier (Karamoja)
2. Phiona Nyamutoro	Energy and Mineral Development
3. Lillian Aber	Office of Premier (Relief, Disaster)
4. Diana Nankunda Kagyenyi	Office of the Vice President
5. Rose Lilly Akello	President's Office (Economic Monitoring)
6. Beatrice Akori Akello	Gender (Labour, Employment)
7. Esther Davinia Anyakun	Office of Premier (Luwero)
8. Alice Kaboyo	State for Public Service
9. Mary Grace Mugasa	Agriculture (Fisheries)
10. Hellen Adoo	Office of Premier (Bunyoro Affairs)
11. Jennifer Namuyangu	Defence (Veteran Affairs)
12. Huda Abason Oleni	Education (Primary)
13. Dr Joyce Kaducu Monku	Finance (Privatisation)
14. Evelyn Anite	Water and Environment (Water)
15. Aisha Sekindi	Water (Environment)
16. Beatrice Atim Anywar	Lands (Housing)
17. Persis Namuganza	Health (General Duties)
18. Anifa Kwooya Bangirana	Health (Primary Health Care)
19. Margaret Muhanga Mugisa	Local Government
20. Victoria Rusoke Busingye	Information (Information)
21. Joyce Ssebunyu	Gender (Gender and Culture)
22. Peace Regis Mutuzo	Gender (Disability Affairs)
23. Hellen Asamo	

Permanent Secretaries	
Ministry	Name
1. Head of Public Service	Lucy Nakyobe
2. Deputy Head, Public Service	Deborah Katuramu
3. State House Comptroller -	Jane Banteke



Office of Premier
Alice Kaboyo



Deputy Premier
Beatrice Anywar



Deputy Director
CID Beata Chelimo



Ministry of Energy
Phiona Nyamutoro



State, Water
Aisha Sekindi



PS, Health
Dr. Diana Atwine



Head of Public Service
Lucy Nakyobe



Deputy Head, Public Service
Deborah Katuramu

Women-led Agencies	
Agency	Name
Kampala Capital City Authority	Sharifah Buzeki
Equal Opportunities Com.	Aisha Nalule
Inspector General of Govt	Lady Justice Naluzze Aisha Bataala
Deputy IGG 1	Dr. Patricia Achon Okila
Director Law Dev't Centre	Dr. Pamela Tibihikira-Kalyegira
Deputy IGG 2	Anne Twinomugisha Muhairwe
Electricity Reg. Authority	Eng. Ziria Tibalwa Waako
URSB	Mercy Kalobwiso
UHRC	Mariam Wangadya
Microfinance Reg. Authority	Edith Tusubira
Judicial Service Com.	Dr. Singiza Douglas Karekora
National Id. & Reg. Authority	Rosemary Kiseembo

Women in top Judiciary Leadership	
Post	Name
Principal Judge	Jane Frances Abodo
Chief Registrar	Pamela Lamunu Ocaya

Key women judges in Supreme Court	
Lady Justice Prof. Lillian Tibatemwa Ekirukubiza	
Lady Justice Percy Night Tuhaise	
Lady Justice Elizabeth Musoke	
Lady Justice Catherine K. Bamugemereire	
Lady Justice Monica Kalyegira Mugenyi	

Women Justices at Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court	
Lady Justice Irene Mulyagonja	
Lady Justice Eva Luswata	
Lady Justice Margaret Tibulya	
Lady Justice Cornelia Kakooza Sabiti	
Lady Justice Stella Alibateese	
Lady Justice Florence Nakachwa	
Lady Justice Ketrach Kitarilisiba Katunguka	
Lady Justice Esta Nambayo	

Women leaders in Parliament	
Anita Among: Speaker of Parliament (Bukedea)	
Women Chairpersons of Parliamentary Sectoral Committees	
Agnes Auma: Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Lira)	
Agnes Kunihiira: Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development (Workers)	
Sylvia Nayeibale: Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry (Gomba)	
Catherine Lamwaka: Committee on Foreign Affairs (Omoro)	