

ANOTHER BISHOP DISOWNS MBABAZI

BY UMARU KASHAKA

The Go Forward pressure group yesterday suffered another setback in its campaign to remove President Yoweri Museveni from power, with retired Bishop of Mbale Diocese, Samwiri Wabulakha, disowning it.

In a letter to *Sunday Vision*, Wabulakha was furious and accused the Go Forward team of spreading "a wrong message" that he was on independent presidential candidate Amama Mbabazi's campaign task force.

"I was shocked to know that my name appeared among the list of names of Go Forward to spearhead Mbabazi's campaigns. I have never declared whether orally or in writing that I am a TDA (The Democratic Alliance) or any other party

supporter," Wabulakha wrote.

The retired reverend categorically said he was a non-partisan and a pastor to all God's people with a deep conviction of being a voice of the voiceless and a lover of non-divisive politics.

"Owing to this, therefore, I request you to publish a notice in your widely-read newspaper, disputing the earlier information. This was a wrong message," Wabulakha stressed.

After the request, he warned: "Take my stand as serious before I can think of other steps."

A day after the Go Forward unveiled the task force, MPs Kassiano Wadri (FDC, Terego), Florence Kintu (NRM, Kalungu Woman), former gender minister Gabriel Opio and a retired Bishop named on the list

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said they were not consulted and therefore had nothing to do with it.

Retired Church of Uganda Bishop of Soroti Diocese, Charles Bernard Obaikol-Ebitu even demanded an apology from the group for involving him in "partisan politics" and using his name without consent.

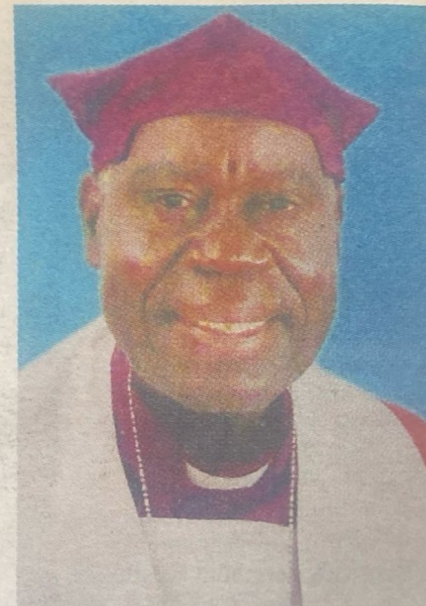
The Go Forward spokesperson, Josephine Mayanja Nkangi, told

Sunday Vision yesterday that members can change their minds if they see fit, but "we consulted every single person individually".

However, Mbabazi told journalists outside All Saints Cathedral, where he attended the Christmas service, that he would apologise to Bishop Obaikol whom he said was added to his campaign team without prior consent.

Mbabazi said other three who denied involvement in the campaign team were consulted. He added that nobody was forced onto the team and, therefore, those who had second thoughts were free to leave.

The campaign teams comprise 124 members that include former and current MPs from different political parties, religious leaders and members from the academia.



Bishop Samwiri Wabulakha