AMONG, TAYEBWA ENDORSEMENT CHALLENGED IN COURT

By Nelson Kiva

A National Resistance Movement (NRM) member has petitioned court seeking the invalidation of the endorsement of Speaker Anita Among and her deputy, Thomas Tayebwa ,by the party's top organ to steer the 12th Parliament.

Apollo Kibira through his lawyers of MAALC Advocates filed a suit at the Civil Division of the High Court in Kampala on Friday (March 6), arguing that the process of endorsing Among and Tayebwa by the NRM central executive committee (CEC), contradicted the party constitution.



Speaker Anita Among (left) and her deputy, Thomas Tayebwa

PETITIONERS' ARGUMENT

Apollo Kibira through his lawyers of MAALC Advocates argues that the endorsement of Among and Tayebwa was made without affording other eligible NRM MPs the right to express interest, which he says is in breach of the rules of natural justice and internal party democracy.

He adds that endorsing the two without affording other eligible NRM MPs the right to express interest is procedurally improper, irrational and illegal. "The conduct of all the respondents violates the applicant's and other NRM members' constitutional rights to equality, fair treatment, political participation and just and fair administrative action under Articles 20, 21, 38 and 42 of the Constitution of Uganda," the petition states.

He argues that CEC's decision was unilateral, opaque and procedurally unfair and violated the legitimate expectation of NRM MPs to participate in a fair and competitive internal party process.

BLOCKING THE ENDORSEMENT

Kibira is demanding for an order quashing the decision of the NRM CEC endorsing Among and Tayebwa for Speaker and deputy for the 12th Parliament respectively.

The NRM, Among and Tayebwa are respondents in the suit.

Kibira wants court to issue an order prohibiting the respondents and their agents from implementing, enforcing, or acting upon the said endorsement.

He demands that court compels the NRM to conduct a lawful, transparent, fair and participatory internal party processes, allowing eligible NRM Members of Parliament (MPs) to express interest and be considered for the positions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

PRESIDENT SIGNED CEC RESOLUTION

President Yoweri Museveni, who is also the NRM party chairperson, has since signed the CEC resolution endorsing Among and Tayebwa to steer Parliament for another five years.

Museveni's approval followed CEC resolutions dated January 27, 2026, and February 20, in favour of the duo. What is now pending is the presentation of the names to the NRM parliamentary caucus for ratification ahead of the speakership race in May.

PARTY POSITION

In the wake of the decision, the party secretary general, Richard Todwong, said they opted to uphold the precedent by allowing the Speaker and Deputy Speaker to complete two terms. Todwong disclosed that any other party members interested in the positions were asked to step down to maintain unity and continuity in parliamentary leadership.

OTHER ASPIRANTS FOR SPEAKERSHIP

The other people who have expressed interest in contesting for the position of the Speaker are Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Norbert Mao, Bukono County MP-elect and state minister for housing Persis Namuganza, Mbale City MP-elect Lydia Wanyoto, Aringa South MP Yorke Odria Alioni and Masindi Woman MP Florence Asiimwe.

Despite the party decision endorsing Among and Tayebwa, Wanyoto insisted that the final decision on the party candidates will be determined by the NRM parliamentary caucus.

When contacted yesterday for a comment regarding the petition, the NRM director of information Emmanuel Dombo said "we shall respond after being served".