

National News

Museveni cracks whip on ministers over poverty, corruption and failures in implementing government programmes nationwide.

BY ELIZABETH KAMURUNGI

President Museveni has said he will sack all ministers who do not follow up on government programmes designed to lift Ugandans out of poverty.

Speaking at the first sitting of the 12th Parliament at the Kololo Ceremonial Grounds yesterday, Mr Museveni said many Ugandans have remained in poverty despite the billions of shillings poured into poverty alleviation programmes, including the Parish Development Model (PDM).

This he attributed to non-performing leaders who do not care about those they lead.

"I don't want to hear that there is poverty in the homestead that has not accessed this money if they have the land. I demand this. And anybody who is a minister, if I come to your area and I find you have not done it, I will sack you," President Museveni warned.

He added, "Now, Vice President, ministers, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Members of Parliament, enough is enough. Every leader must use a government programme to fight poverty and create jobs."

Mr Museveni's remarks echo those he made at his swearing-in on May 12, where he christened his seventh term as "term no sleep." The President said he will focus on fighting corruption and poverty.

Mr Museveni, who is expected to name a new Cabinet soon, sent yet another reminder to those who are and will be in his government's new line up.

"All these years, we have been introducing programmes for the poor people. And those who listen do very well. Now I am in a position to really be very rough with people who want a level of leadership, but don't care about the people they lead," he said.

President Museveni also said his government is to increase the PDM money per parish from Shs100 million to Shs200 million annually.

"I am now in a very bad mood. Because in the past my case was not so strong because people would say how do we start, but now capital is there, Shs800 million in each parish already. Use it," he said.

Mr Museveni, also chastised leaders who revel in their titles and privileges without consideration of the citizens, and warned such leaders against corruption and diversion of public resources.

"I want to inform everybody that all this time I have been monitoring, and normally I don't want to embarrass people, mature people."

In the past, I have been polite. I talk as if I am a preacher, like John the Baptist. But now, as President of Uganda and Chairman of the NRM, I will be very, very, very rough with the people who want titles, but don't want to help, or who betray the people they lead," he said.

The President's remarks came at a time when the former Speaker of Parliament, Ms Anita Annet Among, faces investigation over accusations of illicit wealth accumulation and abuse of office.

The investigation, reportedly sanctioned by President Museveni and



President Museveni (with a hat) waves to newly-elected Speaker of Parliament Jacob Oboth-Oboth (centre), Chief Justice Flavien Zziwa (2nd right), and Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thomas Tayebwa at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala yesterday. PHOTOS/MONITOR

I am going to fire all the lazy ministers - Museveni



A lawmaker votes as his colleagues engage clerks during the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the 12th Parliament.



Some of the army representatives at the first sitting of the 12th Parliament yesterday.



President Museveni (right) hands over the Constitution to the new Speaker of Parliament, Mr Jacob Oboth, who is also the West Budama Central MP.

backed by the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, started on May 16 with a raid and search of Ms Among's Nakasero home. Since then, her other homes in Kigo, off the Kampala-Entebbe Expressway in Wakiso District, in her country home in Bukedea; her office at Parliament, have all been searched with multiple items retrieved

to be used as exhibits.

Ms Among became Speaker of Parliament in 2022, and quickly developed a reputation of opulence through her high-end designer clothes, and a collection of luxury cars.

Ms Among is also publicly known to own properties and businesses including schools, health and sports facilities,

FLASHBACK

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ties, besides her reputation for donating huge amounts of money at public events.

In 2023, anti-corruption crusaders, Agora, through an online exhibition, dubbed ParliamentExhibition, flagged the House for misuse of taxpayers money.

As the stewards of the 12th Parliament were inaugurated yesterday, President Museveni also issued a warning to its leadership.

Mr Jacob Markons Oboth, the Speaker, and his deputy, Thomas Tayebwa, both from the ruling NRM party, now face an uphill task of cleaning the image of Parliament, stained by allegations of corruption, maladministration, and tone-deaf leadership.

Ugandans will now be watching closely to see how quickly the President will follow through his promise to crack the whip on both non-performers and corrupt leaders.

In 2023, President Museveni promised political action after several members of his Cabinet were implicated in the Karamoja Iron sheets saga. He, however, did not act robustly and completed his term with some of the implicated ministers, who admitted to the wrongdoing.

Museveni cautions on Ebola

Mr Museveni also warned of the deadly Ebola haemorrhagic fever.

"Do you know there is Ebola? Why do you hug? Is there a danger? Please set an example. There is a problem in DR Congo. Stop this shaking of hands and all this," Mr Museveni said.

His remarks followed ecstatic celebrations by legislators that involved body contact after electing their leaders.

The Health ministry on Monday recorded two new cases of Ebola, which is transmitted through direct contact with the body fluids of a symptomatic person or with contaminated clothing or other materials.