

Keep children out of politics

EDITOR: Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a 'child' as a person below the age of 18. Uganda is one of the member states of this convention domesticated within its Constitution and the Children Act (2016).

Article 3, of the convention further provides for the best interests of children which explicitly provide that all matters concerning children must be a primary concern by all adults. It is, however, paradoxical that some adults have violated these.

Of recent, some adults have engaged children in the politics, by coaching them to make statements on the current political discussion over constitutional amendments.

The unsuspecting minors have appeared on social media where

they are seen 'reciting' and expressing 'political' sentiments. This violates the right of the child to protection against exploitation.

The principle of privacy of the child is also being violated by the child's identity being exposed, this categorisation poses a risk of negative reprisals - including physical, psychological harm, or to lifelong abuse, discrimination or rejection by their local communities.

The parents and or adults doing this should know that publishing a story or an image in the media places the child, siblings or peers at risk – even when identities are changed or obscured. Doing so is illegal and punishable by law as provided for in the Children Act 2016.

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