

or emergency teams demonstrate that the ministry is far more prepared today than it was years ago.
However, the Government alone cannot defeat Ebola. Public co-operation remains the most important weapon against

infectious diseases. Ebola spreads through direct contact with infected persons and contaminated materials, making individual behaviour critical in stopping transmission.

media also have information and encourage compliance with official guidelines

Let's rediscover Uganda's soul as a nation built on God

During the President's swearing-in ceremony on May 12, the Ankole Diocese Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Sheldon Mwesigwa, offered a powerful prayer to God: that the President be guided to appoint leaders who are hardworking, conscientious, trustworthy and free from corruption. The most striking phrase in that prayer was "corruption-free" — a message that President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni himself strongly emphasised in his address to the nation at Kololo Independence Grounds.

It was, therefore, not by coincidence that, as he concluded his speech, the President declared that Uganda was transitioning from "*Kisanja Hakuna Mchezo*" to "*Kisanja No Sleeping, No Corruption*."

This was not mere political rhetoric. It was a deliberate call to national renewal. It echoed the President's earlier message during the induction of newly elected MPs at the National Leadership Institute (NALI) in Kyankwanzi, where he outlined 10 strategic priorities for the country and added an 11th pillar: zero tolerance to corruption.

President Museveni said the National Resistance Movement (NRM) has over the last four decades laid the seven foundational "bricks" of Uganda's transformation: peace and security, infrastructure development, wealth creation, jobs, service delivery, industrial growth, and regional market integration. Yet many of these gains are being undermined by the cancer of corruption, which diverts public resources, weakens accountability, and delays national progress.

This explains why the next phase of Uganda's development agenda is increasingly focused on wealth creation, industrialisation, value addition,



and accountability in public service.

RETURNING TO GOD

As the President rallies leaders and citizens alike to reject corruption, Uganda must rediscover something even deeper — the soul of this nation, which is rooted in the fear of God.

We must remind ourselves that Uganda is not just another country on the map.

Uganda is a nation dedicated to God Almighty, and the evidence of this calling is all around us.

First, our national motto is "For God and My Country." Our founding fathers intentionally placed God first, affirming that this nation would be guided by divine principles. Second, our national anthem itself is a prayer — a humble appeal for God's protection, wisdom and blessing upon Uganda.

It is, therefore, no surprise that Uganda has long been recognised as a blessed nation. We are gifted with fertile soils, favourable weather, abundant natural beauty, and resilient people. More importantly, we are home to the Uganda Martyrs; men of extraordinary faith and conviction whose sacrifice remains a spiritual beacon for generations. Great men and women of God

from across the world have visited Uganda and testified about the warmth, faith and spiritual character of our people. Uganda is also globally celebrated for its hospitality, yet hospitality itself is rooted in love — and love is the greatest commandment given to humanity by God.

It is, therefore, deeply ironic that a nation so richly blessed by God can at the same time be wounded by corruption, selfishness, greed and abuse of office.

Corruption is not merely an economic crime. It is a moral and spiritual failure. It reflects the erosion of conscience, patriotism and the fear of God. When public officials steal medicines meant for hospitals, funds meant for roads, or resources intended for the poor, they are not only betraying the country — they are betraying God and future generations.



A NATIONAL MORAL DUTY

This is why I commend President Museveni for intensifying the fight against corruption and making accountability a central pillar of this new political term. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, Uganda ranks among the most corruption-affected countries in the East African region. Reports from the Inspectorate of Government estimate that Uganda loses between sh9 trillion and sh10 trillion annually through corruption. These are resources that could build schools, equip hospitals, create jobs, and transform the livelihoods of millions of Ugandans.

Encouragingly, the Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, with the guidance and support of the President, has launched "Operation Maliza Ufisadi" to decisively confront corrupt practices. This initiative resonates with the long-standing cries of ordinary Ugandans who desire justice, integrity and accountability in public service.

However, the fight against corruption cannot succeed through arrests and operations alone. Laws can punish offenders, but only moral renewal can transform hearts. Uganda, therefore, needs not only institutional reforms, but also a spiritual awakening.

We must return to the values of honesty, sacrifice, patriotism and integrity. We must teach our children that success built on theft and corruption is not achievement, but shame. We must raise leaders who serve the nation before serving themselves.

If Uganda is truly to enter a new era of prosperity and middle-income transformation then we must rediscover our national soul — a soul anchored in God, righteousness, and love for country.

As we move forward, I pray that God grant wisdom, protection, and courage to President Museveni, the Chief of Defence Forces, and all leaders genuinely committed to fighting corruption. Above all, may God touch the hearts of all Ugandans so that we may walk once again on the righteous path upon which this great nation was founded.

The author is the Minister for Presidency emerita and MP for Budhope West.

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