



Why NRM deserves your vote on February 18

Ofwono Opondo Election platform

The day is finally here, and those who have been intimately involved in the election campaigns especially for the various presidential candidates know the toll it has taken on them.

That said, however, it is crucial that while we keep or even increase the momentum to the finishing line, we should all maintain the dignity that has characterised much of the campaigns.

We extend appreciation to all who have supported the National Resistance Movement (NRM) and its presidential candidate Yoweri Kaguta Museveni during these campaigns the *Daily Monitor* included for this platform enabling us reach a wider audience.

NRM and Museveni have fought a hard, good, and issue focused campaign and therefore deserve your, the Ugandan voter's vote on February 18 to continue the good work it has been doing over the past 30 years.

We hope our competitors will graciously accept NRM's victory and permit the wider spread of the Mustard Seed.

NRM implores its members and the general public to turn up on polling day to cast their votes without any fears, and to remain peaceful throughout the election period. NRM government with broad support from all Ugandans has over the years built a strong foundation and formidable pillars of state to

guarantee freedom, peace, and stability to all that reside in Uganda.

Legal, peaceful and democratic avenues have been established and are functional to handle and resolve any disputes that may emerge in the course of governance, and therefore no one, those few, who may be misguided, should be permitted to disturb the tranquility we are all enjoying.

Museveni has been very consistent, sincere, and steadfast in tackling the multi-thronged thorny, local, national, regional and global issues, and providing the leadership Uganda so badly needed.

Needless perhaps to point out that the NRM knows and isn't afraid to publicly admit that there have been huge occasional failures, and letting downs to the public on some fronts as often cited against corruption and sometimes low quality public service delivery.

Some of these failures have indeed been systemic, while others are a result of negligence and deliberate calculation by the shenanigans in the political and government civil service bureaucracy. It is only NRM and Museveni that have had the courage and honesty to publicly admit failure, and so deserve great acknowledgment.

Without appearing to be decampaigning the other presidential candidates it is safe to say that especially some of them who have been

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in government have vacillated on the big issues when they thought the times were hard. The others as this campaign has ably demonstrated are too thin on credentials, naïve or even uninformed to have picked the nomination forms in the first place, and therefore don't deserve much attention on polling day.

Remember, we are not only electing a president but rather the whole government including Members of Parliament 409 of them, 112 district local government chairpersons and thousands of sub-county leaders.

It is, therefore, crucial and prudent that you, the voter take all these into consideration if you want to have a stable and functional government including the presidency, without political paralysis.

While one or two presidential candidates have been boastful that they can win, we highly doubt they can because they have not

been able to table visible viable policy alternatives to that of NRM and nor do they have the necessary political infrastructure to generate an election victory.

Only the NRM has fielded candidates in all the elective seats and has already got some 14 MPs and 14 district chairpersons returned unopposed. FDC, the main Opposition party has only 190 and 60 candidates for Parliament and district chairpersons respectively meaning that it is far below the election majority mark. Apart being loud in the media it is doubtful how FDC can generate Besigye's victory.

These two Dr Kizza Besigye of the Forum for Democratic Change and Mr John Patrick Amama Mbabazi have been more visible on the criticism side of what NRM has failed to do, rather than what they as president would actually do to broadly lift up Ugandans.

And as the saying goes in politics, "frustration with and criticism of a government, leader and policies are legitimate, however they are not a plan."

The anger especially as Besigye has shown during this campaign is not a plan either that can lift Ugandans out of the many problems we can still see ahead of us.

And when the political dust finally settles, we hope all will re-evaluate their positions on broad policy issues so that together we can build an inclusive Uganda.

Mr Ofwono Opondo speaks for the NRM.