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Museveni donates truck to Namawojjolo vendors. Mukono Resident District Commissioner David Matovu has asked Namawojjolo roadside market vendors to manage well government equipment intended to help them get out of poverty. When handing over a truck worth Shs80m which President Museveni donated to the vendors recently, Mr Matovu said the donation is intended to benefit all vendors at the market by transporting their merchandise from the villages. He warned their leaders against using the truck for their private businesses. [Fred Muzaale, Monitor]



Masaka NRM leaders blame loss on EC registers



Haji Umar Ssebulime, the Masaka District NRM administrative secretary, dishes out money to local council party flag bearers last Monday. PHOTO BY MARTINS E. SSEKWEYAMA

Blame. District NRM leaders blame loss in the recent elections on registration method used by the Electoral Commission.

BY MARTINS E. SSEKWEYAMA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MASAKA. National Resistance Movement leaders in Masaka District have blamed the party loss in the district in last Thursday's elections on the voters' registration method used by the Electoral Commission (EC).

According to results from the elections, NRM was beaten in the district both in the presidential and parliamentary elections save for only Bukoto Central Constituency where Vice President Edward Ssekandi managed to retain the seat.

Besides fronting candidates to oust Democratic Party's Florence Namayanya and Ma-

thias Mpuuga from Bukoto East and Masaka Municipality respectively without success, the NRM instead lost the District Woman MP seat to DP's Mary Kabanda. The seat is currently represented by NRM's Freda Kasse Mubanda.

According to the election declaration forms for Masaka District, the FDC presidential candidate Kizza Besigye also beat President Museveni with a difference of 4,551 votes.

However, during the district's polls review meeting on Monday with NRM flag bearers for the different local council offices, Mr Peter Ssenkungu, the district party chairperson, blamed the loss on what he described as faulty voters registration method applied by the EC.

Mr Ssenkungu argued that the system of freeing voters to cast their votes from anywhere they want, gave a chance to many Opposition supporters

from outside the district to register in Masaka, thus voting against the NRM.

Peanut facilitation

However, the meeting was suddenly thrown into utter confusion after the local council flag bearers got annoyed with the party authorities over underfunding them in the next round of elections.

NRM flag bearers vying for various local council offices as councillors were given between Shs100,000 and Shs1m to help them facilitate the polling agents.

However, the candidates were angry with the party authorities, accusing them of giving them peanuts, which they said cannot take them through the process.

But Mr Ssenkungu called for calm, pleading that the party could not foot all their campaign costs but contributed a "small token" to them.