

Legal committee meets President Museveni over age limit Bill

By Mary Karugaba

President Yoweri Museveni yesterday met MPs on the legal and parliamentary affairs committee over the controversial Constitutional Amendment Bill currently being scrutinised by the committee.

The closed-door meeting took place at State House Entebbe and was attended mainly by National Resistance Movement (NRM) MPs on the committee after the Opposition members boycotted.

According to the committee chairperson, Jacob Oboth-Oboth, the President was one

of the last witnesses that the committee had scheduled to meet before writing its report.

"We want his views as one of the presidential candidates and, secondly, there has been an allegation that the Bill is meant to benefit him as an individual. We shall also want to know his views on the proposal to restore term limits," Oboth said.

The Bill that has raised a lot of dust was tabled in Parliament by Igara West MP Raphael Magyezi.

The Bill is intended to provide for the time within which to hold presidential, parliamentary and local



Raphael Magyezi

government council elections, to provide for eligibility requirements for a person to be

elected as President or district chairperson, to increase the number of days within which to file and determine a presidential election provided, to increase the number of days within which the Electoral Commission is required to hold a fresh election where a presidential election is annulled and related matters.

According to Magyezi, the controversial article 102 (b) should be amended to remove the presidential age limit of minimum of 35 and maximum of 75 years and replace it with any registered voter.

This means anybody registered as a voter should

be allowed to stand for any electoral position, including presidency.

While presenting their views to the committee, the Opposition said the Bill should be thrown out and comprehensive amendments be tabled by the Constitutional Review Commission.

They argued that the Bill is out to give President Museveni a life presidency ticket.

The committee is expected to write the report within the next five days and present it to Parliament before the House breaks off for recess.

Seven out of over 25 committee members were

seen leaving Parliament in a van for the meeting yesterday afternoon.

Oboth however, said other members drove to the venue.

Seven other committee members are currently in Tanzania, participating in the 8th EAC inter-Parliamentary games.

The committee was scheduled to hold nationwide consultations, but later dropped the move after Parliament failed to give them money.

By press time, the outcome of the meeting were not yet available to the media.