

Polls > Since 1996, Mr Museveni has polled strongly in both Nyabushozi and Kazo during presidential elections.

Kajwengye on Museveni's 100% score in Nyabushozi

The Nyabushozi County MP says the President's excellent performance in the region is not surprising because the constituents keep voting him back.

BY DERRICK KIYONGA

In Uganda, there are constituencies, and then there is Nyabushozi County. What marks this voting district out is that it plays host to the country home of the ninth and current President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni. As he did in the 11th Parliament, Wilson Kajwengye of the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) will represent the constituency after the new Members of Parliament take their oath of office in May.

Kajwengye was largely vocal in the 11th Parliament after being named the chairperson of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs during his first term. During electioneering ahead of the 2026 polls, Kajwengye came in for a lot of criticism over how Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, was treated in Nyabushozi County. The principal of the National Unity Platform (NUP), Uganda's leading Opposition party, reported an attack on his entourage by "goons" at a campaign rally in Nyabushozi on November 5, 2025.

"I was in the constituency. We knew the date of the coming of the NUP president. By the time the rules of the Electoral Commission came out, he had indicated both the date and the venue and the route," Kajwengye recalls the episode.

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Politics.

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—Wilson Kajwengye, Nyabushozi County

He added: "At the 11th hour, he changed the route. He was supposed to have come through Lyantonde-Rushere-Kashongi and address a rally in Kazo. What did he do? From Lyantonde, he changed the route and went through Sanga, Biharwe and Kashongi. So, where we were waiting for him, nothing happened. Where they



Nyabushozi County MP Wilson Kajwengye. PHOTO/COURTESY OF PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA X HANDLE

responds, disclosing that Bobi Wine "went to Sanga Town Council, unnoticed and his goons started beating up people. Stealing phones from shops. So, it's not that Bobi Wine was beaten. It is actually his goons who beat up the people."

The media, he adds, never captured the shenanigans from Bobi Wine's entourage because "they only listen to Bobi Wine's version of the story." A version that, according to the Nyabushozi County lawmaker, could not have been more flawed.

"Our people are law abiding. Our people are very peaceful. They walk with their sticks. Their sticks aren't for fighting. Actually, if they had fought back, it would be a different story altogether. They didn't fight back," Kajwengye protests.

"[Our people] didn't know that Bobi Wine was going to go through that area because the media was announcing that he was going to go through

no response. Those who were beaten went to the hospital and the cases are in court," he adds.

Conclusions were drawn because the people of Nyabushozi "always hold sticks." This can be traced back to their past as pastoralists. Kajwengye says it is President Museveni who "started teaching them to settle down." The man who has led Uganda since January of 1986 "used Nyabushozi and Kazo as litmus paper, encouraging [its inhabitants] to settle down and practise modern farming and agriculture, which was unheard of at that time."

The light-bulb moment did not arrive immediately, but when it did, the once-upon-a-time pastoralists ended up "earning substantial amounts of money." This explains why the voting district feels "beholden" to Mr Museveni. Since 1996, Mr Museveni has polled strongly in both Nyabushozi and Kazo during presidential elections.

High percentages explained

ABOUT KAJWENGYE

In the run up to the 2021 General Election, Wilson Kajwengye defeated the incumbent Col Fred Mwesigye in the NRM party primaries, bringing an end to the historical eight year reign in Parliament. He later defeated two other contenders to become the Nyabushozi County MP during the 2021 parliamentary polls. He retained the seat in the 2026 General Election held on January 15.

polls, like others before it, all voters turned up at the various polling stations that dot Nyabushozi to vote for Mr Museveni.

"First, it's not a statistical impossibility. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni comes from Kiruhura [District]. Isn't that a fact? President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has been an excellent president. Isn't that true? Okay, for the people that I represent, he is their neighbour. He comes from them. He started his work in 1967 as a young man. He found them pastoralists and he started teaching them to settle down," Kajwengye tells *Weekend Monitor*.

"I have seen at my polling station old men and women who came and voted for the President and after voting for him, they walked away. They say, 'me I'm voting for President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. The rest sort it out.' So, it's there. There is no doubt. It was true yesterday, it has been the case since 1986, and it will continue. For as long as President Museveni is on the ballot, the people of Nyabushozi will, without any modicum of doubt, vote him en masse," he adds.

And vote him en masse they did early this year in January. Kajwengye says the sweeping mandate should not be viewed through a narrow lens.

"I think Ugandans need to understand that President Museveni is not a President for the people of Nyabushozi only. No, he is the President of the whole country. He is Statesman of the region," the Nyabushozi County lawmaker observes.

"What does diverse opinion mean? Voting for any other person rather than the President or NRM. They have done it before. Those who were there in the '70s and '80s. My mother voted in 1980. She is still alive. So yes, they have tasted diverse opinions, they are now comfortable with President Yoweri Museveni," he adds.

'Not simply a rubber stamp'

Kajwengye also speaks about his late father when asked why the 11th Parliament appeared to be a rubber stamp of the Executive, giving the green light to draconian legislations like the UPDF (Amendment) Act, 2025, which, among others, allows the trial of civilians in

ask for tiki ya musolo [graduated tax card]. So, my father used to say, if you have paid your graduated tax, why do you fear to go through a roadblock?" he starts.

"I have no idea why [many people] chose to misunderstand the UPDF Amendment Act. The issue is, if you are not a soldier, if you are not going to conspire with a soldier to plan to commit a crime, if you are not going to use a weapon, which is the preserve of the military, why are you scared about the amendment law? Because the UPDF Amendment Act says a civilian who has committed a crime using a weapon which is for soldiers exclusively?" he asks, rhetorically.

He continues with the rhetorical questions: "Or if they punish a soldier in the court martial, but he has jointly committed that crime with a civilian, why should you separate them? And the civilian, while doing that, knew that he was using a cover of the soldier. If you are not going to commit any crime which includes a weapon, which is the preserve of the soldier, why are you scared about the law?"

We also have a question of our country. Doesn't Mr Museveni use military tribunals to punish his political opponents?

Kajwengye's forehead crumbles into a frown. He responds thus: "It's those political opponents, who in my view, not only break the law but conspire with the soldiers to break the law. Because if you are going to use guns, okay, to commit treason, why should you be taken to a civilian court? How will civilian courts understand gun crimes? If you have stolen those guns from an armoury of the barracks or you have committed that crime together with soldiers, you have committed a crime jointly and severally. Why should you be separated at trial?"

Taking stock

Away from the issue of military tribunals, Kajwengye looks back at his first term in the House with lots of pride. He reckons that his constituents were not short-changed.

"You see, Nyabushozi constituency is predominantly a cattle-keeping area. And when I came to Parliament, these issues were affecting them: One, animal diseases, for example, the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. Once the disease breaks out, there is a quarantine that is slapped on my people. The quarantine restricts them from selling milk. It stops the sale of cows; it stops the movement of cattle from one part to the other. The economy is brought to a standstill," he notes, adding that his voice compelled the government to purchase "sufficient doses of FMD [Foot and Mouth Disease] vaccines."

His second achievement revolved around the sale of milk. "Remember, the prices were fluctuating. You remember when Kenya stopped giving our permits to the Kenyan company that was affiliated to Uhuru [Kenyatta] that was buying Ugandan milk. I brought the issue to the floor of Parliament as a matter of national importance and national concern. Immediately after my presentation, the Speaker tasked the Ministry of Trade to convene a meeting. So, the meeting between Kenya and Uganda was convened and they ironed that out and permits were given."

Kajwengye says he will return to the 12th Parliament older and wiser. That