

Internal NRM fights cost me – Obua

Government Chief Whip Hamson Obua says “invisible hands” within the NRM cost him his MP seat, but vows to steer the caucus through the final months of the 11th Parliament.

BY ARTHUR ARNOLD WADERO

After losing the January 15 parliamentary election for Ajuri County, the Government Chief Whip, Mr Hamson Denis Obua, spoke to the press at Parliament about his defeat, internal party wrangles and the future of the 11th Parliament. Excerpts:

What is your assessment of the parliamentary elections held last month?

First, I congratulate all those who were elected. The people of Uganda have exercised their constitutional right under Article 59 to choose their leaders, and that decision must be respected.

Defeat is not final. I conceded and made it clear that I would not go to court or seek a recount. Let the will of the people prevail.

In Ajuri County, I thanked God and the people for the opportunity to serve them. I even organised a thanksgiving to appreciate their support over the years.

I served as Member of Parliament for Ajuri County and lobbied for a number of programmes and projects for Alebtong District. I leave with my head high, knowing that I did my best in representing my constituents.

At the same time, I am back to focus on my responsibilities as Government Chief Whip and chairperson of the NRM Parliamentary Caucus.

This is a very critical period in the budget cycle. Ministers are tabling their ministerial policy statements and Parliament must process them in time.

The 11th Parliament still has a constitutional mandate until May 2026.

We must continue to execute our responsibilities of legislation, representation and oversight until the end of our term.

Some MPs who lost their seats appear demoralised, yet Parliament still has work to do. How does this affect your role?

When you enter a competition, you must expect either to win or lose. That is the nature of politics.

However, as long as we are still members of the 11th Parliament, we have a constitutional duty under Article 79 to carry out our responsibilities.

This is not the first time Parliament has experienced high turnover. In previous elections, we have seen significant attrition, yet members regrouped and continued to work until the end of the term.

As leader of the majority side in the House, I appeal to all members of the NRM Parliamentary Caucus to remain committed.

Committed. There is a need for serious introspection within the NRM. As a senior leader in the party, I believe we must assess ourselves honestly and determine whether we are moving in the right direction. If we address internal contradictions and infighting, the party will remain strong and continue to win elections. However, if we ignore these issues, we may face challenges in the future. For my part, I remain committed to serving the NRM in whatever capacity I am entrusted with. Politics has its ups and downs, but service to the country must continue, with them,” Hamson Obua.



Hamson Obua speaking at Parliament recently. He lost the Ajuri County seat, ending 20 years in office citing internal NRM fights as the cause. PHOTO/FILE.

20 YRS

ELECTED YOUTH MP FOR N. UGANDA IN 2006. OBUA WENT ON TO REPRESENT AJURI COUNTY FROM 2011, SECURING RE-ELECTION IN 2016 AND 2021 BEFORE LOSING THE SEAT THIS YEAR.