CABINET: WHO IS IN, WHO IS OUT?

By David Lumu

In what seems to be a blend of experience and continuity, President Yoweri Museveni yesterday announced a new Cabinet, with experts noting that 80% of the list represents women's voices in the country's policy-making stage.

In his list, Museveni, who dubbed his new term as one of "no sleep" with a deliberate affront against corruption, also dropped some key ministers such as Raphael Magyezi, who midwifed the changing of age-limit in 2017 and shifted others from powerful dockets to soft portfolios.

Over 29 ministers have also been dropped as Museveni's seventh term in office takes shape.

In the local government ministry, the President replaced Magyezi with Balaam Barugahara, a move that stamps the increasing political influence of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU), a political platform chaired by the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba.

For the docket of works and transport, Museveni replaced Gen. Edward Katumaba Wamala with his junior minister, Fred Byamukama, while in the internal affairs ministry, Maj. Gen. Kahinda Otafiire has been replaced by veteran politician Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu.

Wamala has been posted to public service as a full minister, replacing Wilson Muruuli Mukasa, while Otafiire is now the Water and Environment minister, replacing Sam Cheptoris.

For the top-tier slots, Museveni maintained Maj. Jessica Alupo as Vice-President and Robinah Nabbanja as the Prime Minister.

The other key figures that have been retained include Kamuli district Woman MP Rebecca Kadaga, who has been retained as first Deputy Prime Minister and minister for East Africa Community Affairs, Lukia Nakadama (third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister without Portfolio), First Lady Janet Museveni (Minister of Education and Sports), Milly Babirye Babalanda (Minister for Presidency), Jim Muhwezi (Security Minister), Minsa Kabanda (Minister for Kampala), Hilary Onek (transferred from refugee docket to Office of the Prime Minister in-charge-of general duties), and Col. Tom Butime (Minister of Tourism), among others.

Frank Tumwebaze has also been retained as the agriculture minister.

In a move, experts say sustains the inclusive alliance with the opposition, Museveni has also maintained the president of the Democratic Party (DP), Norbert Mao, as justice and constitutional affairs minister.

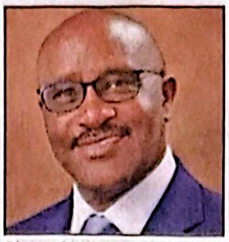
In the defence docket, the Speaker of Parliament, Jacob Oboth, has been replaced by Kiryowa Kiwanuka. For the Attorney General docket, Kiwanuka has been replaced by Sam Mayanja.



Joyce Acan Okeny, state minister for disability



Susan Nakawuki, state minister for tourism



Simon Mulongo, state minister for employment



Akifeza Ngabirano, state minister for defence



Jonard Asiimwe, science and technology minister



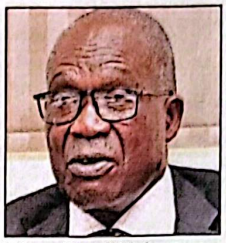
Kenneth Omona, dropped from state minister for northern Uganda



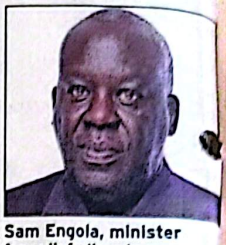
Okello Oryem, dropped from minister of state for foreign affairs



Evelyn Anite, dropped from state minister for privatisation and investment



Wilson Muruli Mukasa, dropped from public service ministry



Sam Engola, minister for relief, disaster preparedness and refugees

New faces appointed

As the old guard leaves the stage, President Yoweri Museveni has also hired new politicians, a trend one analyst said points to transitional politics.

The new faces include Beatrice Akello (state for northern Uganda), Phyllis Chemutai (state for primary education), Harriet Ntabazi (state for lands, who bounces back into Cabinet after a long haul), Adonia Ayebare (foreign affairs minister), Sanjay Tanna (minister of trade, replacing Francis Mwebesa, who has been drooped), Sandra Alum Santa (state for economic planning), Muhooza (state for agriculture), Grace Akifeza Ngabirano (state for defence), Cissyy Mulondo, Mukalazi (state for privatisation), Shartsi Musherure (state for microfinance) and Robert Migadde (state for fisheries, who is also the chairperson of the Buganda Parliamentary caucus).

Other new faces include Calvin Echodu (state minister for foreign affairs), Mary Kamuli Kuteesa (state for gender), Marcy Faith Lakisa (state for youth and children) and Simon Mulongo (state for employment and columnist for *The Weekend Vision*), Joyce Acan Okeny (state for disability), Alioni Yorke Odria (state for information), Justine Nameere (state local government), Mbabazi, Ayume and Dr Lawrence Muganga, who analysts said has been crafted into Cabinet to cool off the immigration stand-off between Ugandans of Rwandese origin and officials from passport office.

The appointments, which also indicate a dynamic response to the political appetite of some politicians who had expressed interest in the speakership and deputy speaker race, also saw Mbale City Woman MP Lydia Wanyoto Mutende, get appointed as state minister for public service.

Prior to these appointments, Wanyoto, Odria, Tumukunde, and Kamuli, among others, had expressed interest in the speakership race. They were later talked out of the race during the NRM parliamentary caucus meeting on Sunday last week at State House.

Other new faces that Museveni has crafted into the Cabinet include Susan Nakawuki, who defeated former Forum for Democratic Change MP Yusuf Nsibambi, in the 2026 Mawokota South parliamentary race. Nsibambi, who recently crossed to National Reistance Movement, was expected to be appointed in Cabinet, but Museveni instead rewarded his political nemesis, Nakawuki.

Tom Aza is the other new face that has been crafted into Cabinet as state minister for co-operatives.

The President also appointed some dropped ministers, such as Hamson Obua, Ruth Nankabirwa, Mwebesa and Anite, as senior presidential advisors.

On the other hand, Kenneth Omona has been transferred to the diplomatic service as an Ambassador at a station to be communicated later.

For the health and information dockets, Museveni switched Dr Chris Baryomunsi and Dr Jane Ruth Aceng Ocero from information and health respectively.

Other politicians that have retained their dockets or transferred to other portfolios include Rose Akello (ethics and integrity), Diana Nankunda Mutasingwa (state in the office of the Vice-President), Lillian Aber (state for relief), Esther Davinia Anyakun (state for Karamoja, replacing Florence Nambozo, who has been dropped), Alice Kaboyo (state for Luwero Triangle), Grace Mary Mugasa (state for Bunyoro affairs) and Dr Ongalo Obote (state for Teso affairs).

Amos Lugoloobi (state minister for planning), Judith Nabakooba (lands minister), Huda Oleru (state for defence and veteran affairs), Magode Ikuya (state for East African Affairs), Bright Rwamirama (state for animal industry), Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo (state for higher education), Jackson Kafuuzi (deputy Attorney General), Peter Ogwang (state for sports), Sidronius Opolot Okasai (state for energy), Phiona Nyamutoro (state for minerals), Haruna Kasolo (state for regional affairs), Hanifa Kawooya (state for health general duties), Joyce Ssebugwawo (state for information), Kabuye Kyofatogabye (state for Kampala), Persis Namuganza (state for housing), Margaret Muhanga (state for urban development), David Baha (state for industry), Gen. Wilson Mbadi (state for trade), Beatrice Anywar (state for environment), Aisha Sekkind (state for water) and Julius Maganda Wandera (state for transport).

REWARDING CADRES

The new cabinet, analysts said, Museveni has also rewarded senior National Resistance Movement (NRM) cadres with he directly shared wit Luwero bush war trenches during the 1981-1986 guerrilla war.

According to the lis Museveni has also appointed children of his political allies, who have long left active politics.

For instance, Dr Crispus Kiyonga has been appointed second deputy Prime Minister and deputy Leader of Government. Kiyonga, who has bounced back in Cabinet after a long haul out of active politics, replaces Gen. Moses Ali in the role that requires active presence in the house.

However, Museveni has appointed Ali's son, Siraji Musa Ali, as state minister for works.

Former foreign affairs minister, Sam Kutesa's daughter, Shartsi Kutesa Musherure, has also been crafted into Cabinet as state minister for micro-finance, while Desire Muhooza, the daughter of a senior Luwero bush war fighter, has been appointed as state minister for animal industry and fisheries.

Charles Ayume, the son of

CamScanner