

Muntu warns Amuriat about FDC members

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The outgoing president of Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Gen. Mugisha Muntu has warned his successor Patrick Oboi Amuriat to be careful with party members.

Muntu, who was speaking yesterday during handover at FDC headquarters in Najjanankumbi, Kampala Friday, said it was riddled with differences, adding that these are hampering the party's aim from capturing leadership from NRM in order to transform the country.

"Be careful about people you are to work with. You should be tough. Some of the people have two sides; they will be after your downfall," Muntu warned.

■ MUNTU CAUTIONS

Muntu said: "In this struggle to capture power and

transform the country, many people will be against you but the party leader should stay focused."

"During my term a number of people called me a mole and a person who is going to destroy the party, yet I have stuck to the values of the party through building structures and rooting for members at the grassroots," he said.

"We should investigate indepth the conflicts in the party. These have made the party lag behind. There are fundamental issues we have to focus on instead of the unending wrangles," Muntu advised.

He pledged to work with the incoming party president for the development of the party and capture of the state leadership.

"Both our goals are to capture power and transform this country so I am ready to work with you but if you

have divergent views I will disagree," he said.

However, Muntu told his successor that he was inheriting a party that was intact and urged him not to destabilise it.

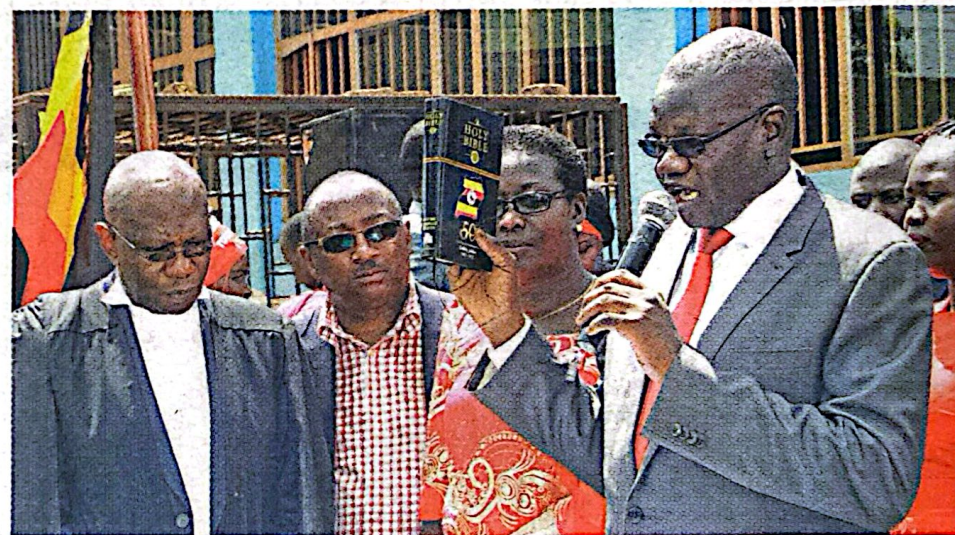
Amuriat defeated Muntu and two other candidates in the elections held last week.

■ UNITED PARTY

At the ceremony that was attended by hundreds of opposition leaders and supporters, Amuriat assured Muntu that the party will remain intact.

"We really appreciate the time and energy you rendered to the party, please do not go away if we are to achieve our main goal of capturing power," Amuriat said.

He said despite their differences, the party members should be guided by two things — capturing power and transforming the



Amuriat swearing in as FDC president at the party headquarters yesterday

country.

■ FORGING AHEAD

Amuriat becomes the third FDC president after Muntu and its founder Dr Kizza Besigye.

Amuriat promised that after the dust has settled, there will be time for the two party leaders to speak calmly with each other to iron out the differences in the party.

He said he assumes the party leadership at a time when the country is faced with a number of challenges ranging from demoralised civil service, corruption, poverty, poor roads and lack of services.

"In my first 100 days, I

pledge to work with the civil society organisation, sister political organisations, embassies and Diaspora chapters to fight some of underlying challenges in the country," he noted.

■ RECONCILIATION

Amuriat promised to meet different party leaders on how the party can iron out the differences.

"I will also fast track the founders and elders forum as well as set up the reconciliation and harmonisation committee," he said.

Amuriat also told party members that top on his agenda would be setting

up a team to kick start the development plans of the party headquarters complex at Najjanankumbi.

The former party presidential flag bearer Dr. Kizza Besigye, Leader of Opposition Winnie Kiiza and Ssemujju Nganda the party spokesperson were conspicuously absent.

The deputy secretary general Harold Kaija, said Besigye was out of the country while others declined the invitation.

When contacted, Winnie said: "What makes you think I must attend? I have never attended any of those functions since I joined FDC so what makes today's special for me to cancel my flight.