

DP, FDC will never rule, say inexperts

According to a crack team of political "inexperts," Uganda's Opposition isn't losing elections, it's losing the colour war, with green, white and blue allegedly carrying more colonial baggage than votes.

BY PHILIP MATOGO

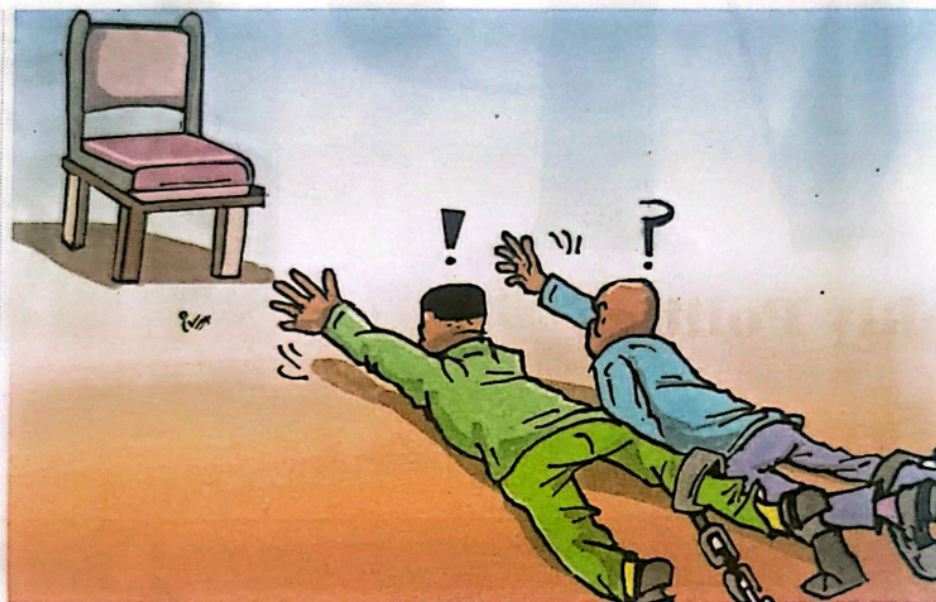
The Democratic Party (DP) is unlikely to ever rule Uganda, say inexperts. Not because of any leadership defects, but because of its party colours. The DP is officially represented by the colours green and white.

These colours are central to the party's identity, symbolising the "green pastures" and "white tranquility," and were historically designed to represent blessings and liberation. These days, however, the party lacks either.

It lost its blessings by not being in government and its liberation from being in government. It was damned regardless of what it did, or didn't do. If politics were martial arts, DP would be Jean-Claude Van Dam.

Yet, many a times, it was damned because of how it appears. DP is green and white, like Ireland. The white in Ireland being its people. Green, going further, is the de facto national colour of Ireland, symbolising its "Emerald Isle" landscape and nationalist history.

Unfortunately, Ireland has experienced conflict with England for



over 800 years, beginning with the Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169. This initiated centuries of military, political, and religious struggle, with significant uprisings and wars occurring throughout that period. Major conflicts between Ireland and England, such as the War of Independence, ended in 1922. But nobody sent this memo to the English.

So, the English are convinced that the green and white in DP party colours are the party's way of paying homage to the Irish. Accordingly, DP attaining the presidency is akin to Ireland breaking away from the UK. No way Jose (Chameleone), say the inexperts.

Uganda has never had a Roman Catholic head of State, for similar reasons. Catholics represent a large portion of the population of Ireland, as it is in Uganda. They actually constitute a majority. But the closest they have gotten to power is with Benedict Kiwanuka.

He was a Roman Catholic and the first Prime Minister (1961–1962), but he was not the president. There was Mzee. He used to be in DP, but recognised that the party colours affiliated it to Irish Catholicism. And, in Uganda, Anglicans rule because Irish can't.

The English jammed. The best they could do was give Catholics

the vice presidency, as a sop. That's why Catholics have served as vice president, including Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe and Prof Gilbert Bukenya, but not as president. The DP is traditionally associated with Catholic support, with just enough "pope" to hang themselves.

Historically, also, the Buganda establishment (Mengo) has had a strong association with the Anglican (Protestant) church and names ending in vowels, particularly during the colonial era, and many kings in the 20th century were Anglican. Even though Buganda means "Brotherhood", the Roman Catholic brothers were not part of

the kingdom's "bro code". Which states that "bros come before those" (Catholics).

Also, the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) is in similar excitement. Historically, St Patrick (of Ireland) was associated with blue, and this shade was used for centuries in Irish heraldry, including by the Order of St Patrick. Is it any wonder that the current President of FDC, Mr Patrick Obbo Amuriat (POA), has been observed attending Catholic Mass?

But Mass does not translate to mass support, even when the whole congregation prays for you during Mass. Unless that congregation is Anglican, then the English will "have your back" as part of a front to extend British neo-colonial control over Uganda.

It might be time for DP and FDC to change their accidental affiliation to the Irish by changing their party colours to something more neutral like purple. Historically, this colour was linked to monarchism, but now often used by centrist parties or to describe "swing" regions (like "purple states" in the US) that are evenly split between red (Republicans) and blue (Democrats).

Further, "purple" primarily signifies a blend of red and blue, representing a mix of ideologies, bipartisan cooperation. It symbolises unity, moderation, and a "third way" that bridges political divides.

Purple could be the new yellow, rising like the sun to shine on any coalition government. However, with parties being identified with warring colours, it's likely to be a Collision government instead.

Meanwhile, ex-green men like Mzee rule. While current green men walk the green miles opening before them by their Death Row-bound politics.