

IF I WERE THE

president.

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Reader feedback. As we prepare for the 2016 general election, the Monitor is giving you a platform to challenge those with power and those seeking power on the best ideas that can drive the country towards a better future. Tell us the first things you would do in the first 100 days if you were elected President of Uganda! Send an accompanying full profile photo of yourself to: editorial@ug.nationmedia.com.

Pardon capital offenders, launch a continental railway network

The change. Reducing the size of Cabinet, introducing a Shs34.5m penalty for illegal cutting of trees, is part of what **Earnest Benjamin Kivumbi**, a politician, would do if he were president.

Under prerogative of mercy, I would pardon capital offenders, who were sentenced and have been remanded for more than five years and those imprisoned for light offences and political-related cases.

CITIZENSHIP FOR REFUGEES

Refugees, who have been in Uganda for at least eight years, would be granted Ugandan citizenship and would be accommodated in the society with all privileges. Those who have been working and staying in the country illegally for more than 10 years, would also be granted citizenship.

We would give grace period of 50 days to the corrupt to declare and return public funds as well as surrender properties they have established as a result of using public funds. At the elapse of this ultimatum, we would prosecute them and confiscate their wealth. Taxi defaulters will also be required to seek pardon. Citizens who have wealth worth \$ 50,000 (about Shs173.2m) would be required to declare the source of their wealth.

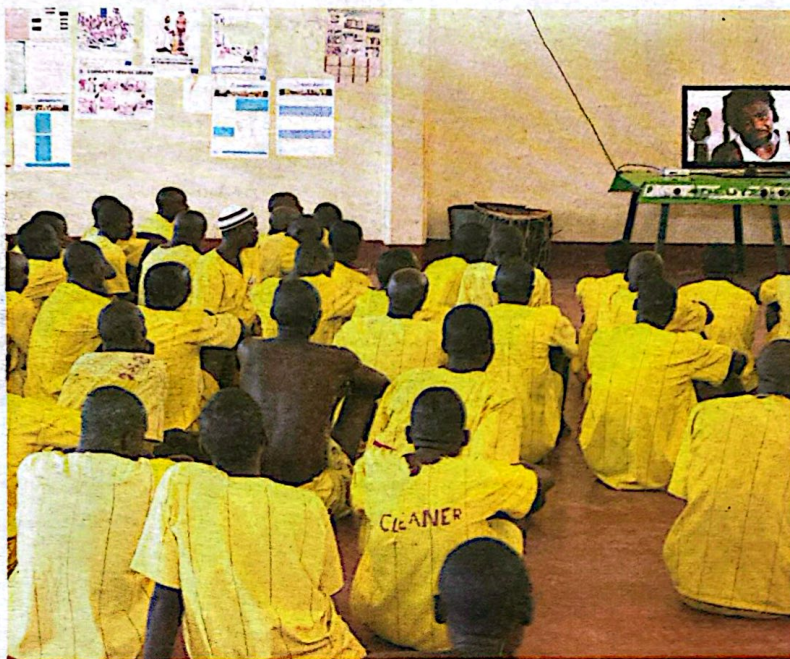
SIGN DEALS WITH SUPER POWERS

I would take official world tour to visit and meet G20 heads of State separately [Group of 20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies]. I would hold talks and win or sign trade, military deals to make Uganda a superpower.

We would extend Uganda's foreign missions to additional 99 UN recognised nations and in countries where we are renting, we would purchase land and buildings and have the Uganda flag raised high there. Different categories of staff, including, intelligence, military and other specialists, would be deployed there. We would ensure all Ugandans serving in jails of different countries in mutual and diplomatic efforts be released and allowed to come back home. For those on death row, we would ensure they are pardoned. (Currently, we have more than 2,000 Ugandans in US jails and hundreds in Asia and others on death row, especially in China).

NATIONALISE CRUCIAL SECTOR

We would nationalise crucial sectors of the economy and social benefit such as electricity distribution, primary health-care, primary and university education to enable all citizens benefit. The nationalisation would also include mineral wealth exploration and natural resources to



Nakasongola prison inmates watch TV during their leisure time. Earnest Benjamin Kivumbi, a politician, says if he were president, he would pardon capital offenders. PHOTO BY JAN BANNING

maximise revenue by the government. We would also set a price ceiling on specific domestic essential goods such as sugar, milk, bread whose prices would determine periodically. I would ban importation and manufacture of sub-stand goods.

UPDF RECRUITMENTS

We would recruit one million young able-bodied and healthy people into UPDF to serve our agenda to take over the security of Africa. We would rain marines, navy seals, build strong air and artillery forces. We would establish military bases and fleets across the continent for security, stability and defence as well as prevent and defend the continent against any foreign invasion and aggression.

We would establish Africa Aeronautic Space Agency-AASA aimed at navigating space and deeper outer Space as well as launch the first four satellite in space.

I would champion efforts for the unification of Africa and propose and agitate for United States of Africa. In this regard, we would ease transport and communication and free mobility of labour and trade.

CONTINENTAL RAILWAY NETWORK

A continental railway network would be launched and Uganda would revamp airline services with 94 national passenger

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EARNEST BENJAMIN KIVUMBI, A POLITICIAN

carriers launched on expanded airports constructed in different parts of the country for international routes and destinations. The aviation industry would boost business, tourism and transport sectors as well as create jobs.

I would commission world class cities in various parts of the country to bring a balanced development and reduce on congestion and rapid population settlement. We would identify one region of the country as an international trade hub like Dubai.

INVEST TECHNOLOGY

We would invest heavily in Science and Technology, research and also introduce medical engineering. We shall aim at Uganda leading in innovation for major breakthroughs in scientific discoveries and advancements.

I would commission establishment and investment for the world's leading entertainment in cinematography and movie production with a 10-mile square piece of land given to the industry aimed at vast productions and distributions internationally. This would

result in creation of four million jobs remitting trillions in revenue, beating Hollywood. We would also invest in sports and promote talent in various fields.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

We would present a Bill in Parliament aimed at protecting the environment and reducing global warming in which nobody shall be allowed to cut a tree whether it is private or public without permission and approval by the authorities. One would be required to submit an application seven days earlier and the authorities will look into the matter. Doing so without approval would attract a penalty of \$10,000 (Shs34.5m) or imprisonment for not less than five years.

We would embark on developing nuclear for both energy and military defence.

Individuals with more than five acres of land with no development on it or agriculture and are not willing to invest in the subsequent two years, will be required to allow government to hire it for agriculture and temporary development as part of expanding revenue for government.

The size of Parliament and Cabinet would be reduced to decrease on public expenditure.

We would establish four satellite and cable television networks and international radios to promote Africa in the global face. One channel would be dedicated to News broadcast 24/7 and others to tourism broadcast, African music and movies as well as political, social and economic issues. All radios and televisions would broadcast in 33 languages and have offices in different regions on every continent. This would guarantee fair coverage and focus on the interests of Africa.

Uganda would start lobbying to host international events and high profile summits, including the World Cup, African Union Summit and Common Wealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM).

"Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions — who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short. For they have forgotten what this country has already done; what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage," says US president Hussein Barrack Obama.



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