

... is not mourned, the NRM government doesn't act like that. We have managed to extend services nearer to you and more is yet to be done,"

... have been NRM MPs over the years, the conditions are not good. Take the example of Sembabule where all MPs are NRM, people still share water with animals,"

... be considered this time round. "Government is at the stage of procuring a contractor for this road and construction will commence in May at a tune of Shs120 billion," Mr Museveni

... managed to fight a rebellion and succeeded, rats cannot scare me," the President said. He urged people to guard themselves against HIV and also work hard to improve their household income.

# Shaka Ssali to moderate second presidential debate

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**KAMPALA.** Senior Voice of America (VoA) editor and host of the flagship Straight Talk Africa programme, Shaka Ssali, has confirmed he will moderate the second presidential debate due on Saturday, next week.

Dr Shaka (**pictured**) told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that he wrote to the debate organisers on Tuesday, formally accepting their invite.

"The invitation was flattering and frankly humbling for me, as a son of the soil, to be able to make a contribution to the democratic process of our motherland Uganda," he said by telephone last evening.

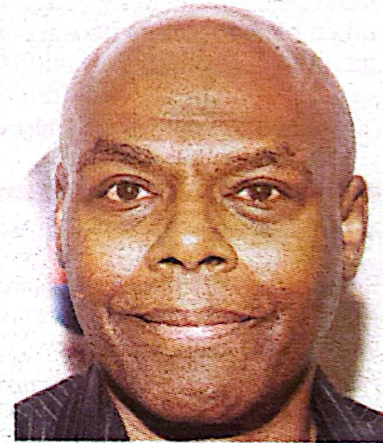
Dr Shaka will join Mr Allan Kasujja of the British Broadcasting Corporation and Kenya Television Network's Nancy Kacungira, the pair that moderated the inaugural debate on

January 15. The Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) secretary general, Mr Joshua Kitakule confirmed talks with Dr Shaka. "We want to maintain the same moderators but introduce a third one, most likely Shaka Ssali [Straight Talk Africa - Voice of America] because the numbers are many but we are also contacting the candidates to see that the person is agreeable," he said.

The second presidential debate has been set for February 13, three days to the end of the campaigns and just five days to the February 18, presidential and parliamentary elections, the organisers also confirmed yesterday.

Mr Kitakule said seven out of the eight presidential candidates have confirmed attendance.

"They have all confirmed apart from one that we are negotiating with, the one who



didn't turn up for the last debate. Remember, they (NRM) promised that given ample time, they would show up and that conversation is still on," Mr Kitakule said.

The seven who attended the debate which focused on Uganda's debt burden, social services, youth and governance included FDC candidate Kizza Besigye, that of People's Development Party, Abed Bwanika,

Farmers Party of Uganda candidate Benon Biraaro and independents Amama Mbabazi, Maureen Kyalya, Joseph Mubirizi, and Venansius Baryamureeba.

President Museveni, the NRM candidate, skipped the inaugural debate later explaining that debates are speech competitions that should be left to high school students and so he could not leave his busy campaign schedule to attend such a function.

This time, the debate will specifically focus on peace and security both within Uganda and the region, regional integration, international trade and investment and foreign policy. NTV has again been appointed the official broadcaster of the event but Mr Kitakule says the organisers are in talks with Bukedde TV to translate the event into Luganda for those that don't understand English.