



NRM can't lose - Museveni

Weak opposition. Mr Museveni said his opponents are too weak to pose a meaningful challenge

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ENTEBBE. Three days to the general election, the NRM presidential candidate Yoweri Museveni yesterday said the ruling National Resistance Movement party cannot lose the February 18 general election and called his opponents too weak to pose a meaningful challenge.

"NRM cannot lose, we don't have competition. You cannot compare Museveni with others," Mr Museveni told journalists at State House Entebbe yesterday. Describing himself as "Ssabulwany" [warrior], he bragged that of all the candidates in the race for presidency, he is by far the most qualified candidate with a track record and matchless knowledge needed to run the country.

However, at the start of the cam-

paigns in November last year, Mr Museveni said: "If I lose elections, I have got a job at home. I am a cattle keeper." He said this while responding to a question from journalists on whether he will accept defeat if he loses the Thursday poll.

The NRM candidate was addressing his 14th press conference after completing his vote-hunt in Buganda, one of the critical enclaves in the country with majority swing voters in political contests. By the end of the presidential campaigns tomorrow, Mr Museveni would have addressed a total of 304 rallies in 85 days.

Commenting on his performance at the just concluded televised presidential Debate, Mr Museveni said, "Ugandans are the ones to rate my performance."

And on whether he would contest again in 2021 after 35 years in power if he wins the February 18 contest, Mr Museveni promised to follow the Constitution, adding, "Uganda is not

my farm, Ugandans elect who they want to lead them, I am just their staff."

Asked to explain the role of crime preventers, a band of civilian vigilantes recruited by police to help detect and prevent crime, Mr Museveni, who rushed through answers because he was going to address last-minute rallies in Arua, Gulu and Lira districts said "crime preventers are a

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MR YOWERI MUSEVENI

reserve force of the Uganda Police". He said they are civilian volunteers trained by police to beef up security. Although Opposition leaders have accused crime preventer of human rights abuses and some politicians view this group as "rigging machinery" of the ruling party, Mr Muse-

veni said: "Crime preventers are mere volunteers and we can welcome more."

Explaining how he intends to ensure that this week's elections are peaceful, Mr Museveni said: "We have the capacity to maintain peace during and after elections. No one can disturb our peace." He promised to have the criminals arrested and put in jail before he promised heavy deployment of security agencies ahead of the polling day.

Summarising his campaign message, he said NRM has for the last 50 years ended sectarianism, brought unity, strength, peace, development, wealth creation and job creation. He promised to focus on wealth and job creation.

He also promised to start an innovation fund to the tune of Shs500 billion, invest in Naads-Shs1 trillion as well as contributions to the Women fund Shs234b, Youth fund Shs234b, and microfinance Shs180b to aid in poverty alleviation.

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