

DP sweeps polls in Masaka, VP returns

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BY MALIK FAHAD JJINGO
 editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

MASAKA. Democratic Party (DP) parliamentary candidates have swept most constituencies in Masaka District and only lost in one constituency of Bukoto Central.

According to the results from the Thursday general election, DP retained Masaka Municipality MP seat and Bukoto East constituency with Mr Mathias Mpuuga and Ms Florence Namayanja Nsamba, both incumbents, bouncing back.

The party also snatched the district Woman MP seat, currently held by the ruling NRM's Freda Kasse Mubanda. She lost to DP's Mary Babiye Kabanda, an educationist and former member of Buganda Lukiiko.

However, NRM's Edward Ssekandi, the vice president, bounced back in Bukoto Central after trouncing DP's Joseph Batemyeto.

But DP suffered a loss in Bukoto South where party secretary general Mathias Nsubuga terribly lost to NRM's Muhammad Mbabaali, who scored 14,410 votes, while Mr Nsub-



DP's Mary Babiye Kabanda (2nd L) shortly before she was declared winner for the Masaka District Woman MP seat
 PHOTO BY BRIAN MUGENYI.

uga got 6,296 votes.

While declaring results on Friday evening, Masaka District returning officer, Mr Nathan Nabasa, said Mr Mpuuga scored the highest number of votes after collecting 17,319 votes, while his arch rival, NRM's Herman Ssentongo, gathered 14,586 votes.

Forum for Democratic (FDC) party's Richard Muyomba got 935 votes,

while Raymond Ssebugwawo of Go Forward polled 135 votes.

In Bukoto East Constituency, Ms Namayanja defeated her closest opponent, NRM's Abdullah Nkoyoyo. Namayanja garnered 16,168 votes, Nkoyoyo got 15,775 votes, while Independent candidate Kizito Nsubuga got 506 votes. Two other Independent candidates Justine Nameere

and Moses Nsamba scored 134 and 89 votes, respectively.

In Masaka District Woman MP race, Ms Kabanda scored 53,938 votes against Ms Mubanda's 34,119 votes, while FDC's Lukia Nakigudde got 3,878 votes.

In Bukoto Central, VP Ssekandi polled 12,000 votes, followed by Mr Batemyeto with 6,679 votes.

Others in the race included Paul Migadde (Independent) got 3,467 votes, Magellan Kazibwe (2,595 votes), while Moses Matovu (Independent) got 465 votes and Fredrick Ddembe got 1,339 votes.

DP also retained Bukomansimbi South constituency and the district Woman MP seats with Deogratius Kiyingi returning to Parliament and late MP Suzan Namaganda's sister, Veronica Nanyondo, cruising to victory.

DP's Joseph Ssewungu also retained the Kalungu East constituency after trouncing three others in the race, with 13,376 votes.

THE BACKGROUND

Historically, Masaka District is known to be a DP stronghold due to the fact that one of its founders, Benedict Kiwanuka, was a son of the soil. The party has for more than three decades been in control of Masaka politics until when they started losing key constituencies like Bukoto East constituency and the district Woman MP seat to NRM in 2006 and 2011, respectively, due to internal party wrangles. During a recently presidential campaigns, NRM party candidate Museveni warned the electorate that voting DP candidates had retarded development in the sub-region. In direct reference to Ms Namayanja, President Museveni said by sending her to Parliament, voters in her constituency had committed what he termed as 'political suicide'.