Kalangala byelection: Who will replace Nakimuli

BRIAN MAYANJA

Major political parties in the country have started to camp in Kalangala district, preparing to participate in a byelection that some analysts predict will be influenced by local issues.

The byelection is slated for June 24, according to the road map released by the Electoral Commission (EC), to fill the district woman parliamentary seat, which fell vacant following the death of area MP Helen Nakimuli last month. Nakimuli died on April 9 following a surgical procedure at a private hospital in the city.

Within the National Unity Platform (NUP), 13 party members have expressed interest in contesting on the party ticket. These include Nakimuli's younger sister Irene Nampala, whom the family endorsed as the suitable candidate to take over the seat. Others are Jessica Tusabe, Nakimuli's former political assistant; Roy Nakigozi; Alice Namugerwa; Beatrice Nanyomo Kirabo; and Irene Nakanwagi, the district woman councillor. Expression of interest for the seat at NUP headquarters opened on Monday.

John Mary Ssebuwufu, one of the members of the party's electoral management committee, said the exercise will close on June 10.

"We shall also have a debate amongst the aspirants, as happened last year when we were looking for a candidate to contest for the Kawempe North byelection. We want all the aspirants contesting for the party ticket to tell us their programmes for Kalangala district. On June 10, the party shall endorse its flag-bearer," he said.

One of Nakimuli's family members, Nicholas Ntege, said: "As a family, we already said Nampala is the best person to replace our late sister Nakimuli."

The Forum for Democratic Change party president, Eng. Patrick Amuriat, has also called for a joint opposition candidate for the Kalangala woman MP seat.

For the Democratic Party, Kennedy Mutenyo, the chairperson of the party's electoral commission, also called for expressions of interest in the seat from members.

"Members who wish to contest in the byelection are free to apply now," he said.

ENTER NRM

According to the National Resistance Movement road map, the party district conference of Kalangala is expected to convene a meeting next week to decide whether to front Aidah Nabayiga again or conduct fresh party primaries.

Nabayiga was defeated by Nakimuli in the 2026 general election.

Rogers Mulindwa, the communications manager at NRM secretariat, told *The Weekend Vision*: "It is not automatic that if you were the official flag-bearer in the January general election, you will have the party ticket in the by-election. The district conference must sit to evaluate your performance. Some research is done to find out whether you are still very popular in the constituency. Also, the former candidate might not be interested in contesting in the byelection, and the party has to find another one."

In the run-up to the 2026 polls, Nabayiga went through unopposed after her rival, Flavia Nagawa, stepped down.

In the final race, Nakimuli defeated Nabayiga by only 300 votes.

Kalangala district has 84 islands.





CamScanner