

Last week turned out to be far shorter than is usually felt in normal length of time. The mercurial former Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among, who is also the current Woman MP (unopposed) for Bukedea district, won the precedent to be the first MP to be sworn in as MP for the 12th Parliament. The swearing-in programme for the MPs was three days from May 13.

From her previous stature as the Speaker of the 11th Parliament, she earned approbation of top NRM echelon as a rare astute political treasure.

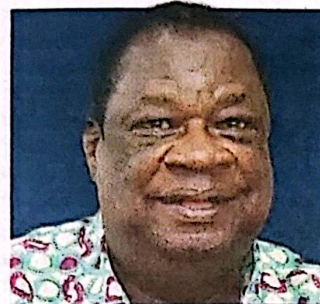
Consequently, she had already been ring-fenced by NRM CEC, its top-notch organ, for another round of office. Yet, immediately after her oath of tenure, spates of events, usually spanning years to mature, glared into form within the instant of a twinkle of the eyelashes.

Reflection on why the obscene has gained roots

Last week, her name indeed filled the headlines. It was not for her immaculate poise in public affairs, but from the Police cordoning off her residence in reported investigations into the much less salubrious involvement in alleged larceny and sleazy dispensation of office.

The amazing spurt left her admirers in complete bewilderment. As the breath-heaving footage of tight-lipped state security agents besieged her known places of abode, splashes of tales about huge stashes of money and lavish properties were claimed to have been picked.

Then, there followed flurries of announcements by the new MPs. Many who had pledged unstinted support for Among's speakership ominously



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recanted from the assurance.

It was difficult to know whether the sudden change of face was out of their improvement of sight over social questions, or it was impulsive veering to the gusts of unforeseen winds.

The cast moved to announcement by Among of her withdrawal from the speakership race. The unexpected standing down of a hitherto esteemed starlet, added to the experiencing of how time in politics gets warped and contracted; a seemingly invincible body cream vanishes in moist at the simple rubbing of fingers.

Time will tell the true tale of Among. Whatever is the outcome of police scrutiny, there ought to be no denying that management of public affairs in our country has been frightfully plummeting.

This is not confined to a few odd individuals occupying public offices. It is a craze enveloping a whole spectrum of the state.

The field of politics alone, which should be the crucible

for inspiring the ideals longed for African society, has become ventures for positioning of individual desires.

Ruthless networking to fulfil mainly private ambitions, often couched as a social service, has nakedly displaced political debate. The un-led organs, in turn, transform into lifeless monolith to society. Civil servants and bureaucrats of such bodies gloat to drape themselves in the same image.

Certainly, Police probes are welcome to determine and punish any offences stipulated in criminal statutes.

In the past, sacred values of clan society in Africa were inviolably observed through strict social organisation.

The obscene could not be disseminated as

exciting pieces of news. Serene meetings of leaders, "kacooke maadit", the various "watalaamu" and well versed in culture would convene to exculpate, cleanse and punish the curse of abhorrence from society.

Instead of only anticipating police enquiry for prosecution, inclined patriots should be rousing political dimensions, "How did we get to this point! What must we do to escape the curse in our midst?"

Only reflections of such magnitude at all levels of our society can re-draw and address the prevailing effrontery.

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