

Opposition dominates Masaka seats

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MASAKA. After Democratic Party's Jude Mbabaali winning the Masaka District chairperson slot, the Opposition swept more sub-county representative seats in the district.

In last Wednesday local council elections, the Opposition won more than 18 seats out of 24 in the district council. Directly elected sub-county representatives, who form the district council, are the ones that make resolutions which inform the district development agenda.

The DP won in six out of the nine sub-counties in the district on top of scooping eight women representative slots from the sub-counties.

The Ruling National Resistance Movement got at least six councillors. Previously, Masaka District Council was dominated by NRM and the Opposition had only five DP councillors.

Masaka Municipality MP-elect Mathias Mpuuga described getting more slots in the council as a major breakthrough for the Opposition, saying the new team is focused and will deliver to the electorate.

"What has happened is really part of the major political struggle of liberating this country from the jaws of dictatorship," he said. He said during this ending council, the NRM-dominated district leadership failed to perform to the expectation of voters, adding it was the reason they were voted out.

Bukoto East MP-elect Florence Namayanja (DP) said Masaka District is still stuck with the problem of land grabbing because the NRM-dominated district council failed to denounce the district land board, which has for long been implicated in fraudulent land transactions.

Masaka District Woman MP-elect Mary Babirye Kabanda promised to work with the new district leadership to ensure that Masaka District gets a befitting district office since the outgoing leadership failed to put up a district headquarters. Masaka District administration has for decades been housed in Buganda Kingdom premises at Saaza County headquarters.

According to results from last week's general elections, the NRM was beaten in the district in both presidential and parliamentary elections save for Bukoto Central Constituency where Vice President Edward Ssekandi retained his seat.

Historically, Masaka District is known to be a DP stronghold due to the fact that one of its founders Benedict Kiwanuka is a son of the soil.