

BY UMARU KASHAKA

## Kadaga, Kayihura meet over age limit campaigns

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has met the Inspector General of Police, Gen Kale Kayihura, on the security of MPs during their consultation with their constituents on the Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2017.

The Bill, tabled last month by Igara West MP Raphael Magyezi, seeks, among others, to remove the age limit by quashing Article 102(b) of the Constitution, which caps the upper age for a prospective president at 75 years.

Kadaga's meeting with Kayihura follows reports that the Police have been using teargas and live bullets to

disperse consultative rallies organised by the Opposition MPs in various parts of the country.

Kadaga confirmed to *Saturday Vision* yesterday that she met Kayihura and internal affairs minister Jeje Odongo on Thursday.

She said they agreed that processions should not be held in favour or against the Bill.

Kadaga said the MPs should inform the Police about their meetings with their constituents.

"There should not be processions in the roads. They should sit down and discuss,"

she added.

She, however, denied media reports that she had met Kayihura over circumstances surrounding the September 27 attack on Parliament by plain-clothed security operatives.

### ■ LETTER TO MUSEVENI

Kadaga recently wrote to President Yoweri Museveni seeking an explanation as to the identities, mission and purpose of "unsolicited forces", who evicted MPs from the parliamentary chambers.

Kadaga said in the letter, also copied to Kayihura, that she took action to suspend 25 MPs from the services of the House



Speaker Kadaga

for three sittings of the House.

She, however, said after she had requested the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove the MPs from the precincts, unknown people entered the chamber and beat up MPs, including those not suspended and a fight ensued

for over an hour.

"I have had the opportunity to view camera footages of what transpired and noticed people in black suits and white shirts, who are not part of the parliamentary staff or the staff of the Sergeant-at-Arms, beating members," Kadaga wrote.

She added: "Additionally, footage shows people walking in single file from the Office of the President to the Parliament precincts."

She also demanded to know why they assaulted, arrested and confined MPs at Police stations.

However, asked in an earlier

interview with *Saturday Vision* to reflect on what happened in Parliament and whether she thought she would have handled the issue differently to avoid mayhem, Kadaga said there was an attempt to capture Parliament.

"A situation where the prime minister of this country is prevented from addressing the House and the Parliament is unable to work because some MPs do not want that kind of work, is capture of Parliament," she said.

Presiding over a plenary session early last month, Kadaga vowed not to apologise for what she described as putting in practice the Parliament rules of procedure.