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The proposed Cabinet list signals that a gradual political transition is unfolding quietly within the structures of Government, Parliament, and even the security forces.

This week, President Yoweri Museveni proposed 83 individuals to serve as vice-president, prime minister, ministers, and ministers of state in the new government. They now await parliamentary vetting before formally assuming office.

A close examination of the proposed Cabinet reveals a striking reality: a small fraction of the nominees is directly associated with the Luwero bush war or the immediate post-1986 period when the National Resistance Movement (NRM) took government. Only about 10% of the proposed ministers can be directly linked to the historical struggle that ushered the NRM into power. The overwhelming majority are political actors who entered public life long after the liberation war years.

The trend highlights one of the NRM's enduring political strengths; its ability to continuously absorb, promote and reposition new actors within its power structure. Over the years, individuals from different political backgrounds, including the opposition, have risen to influential positions within the system, helping sustain both the Movement and Museveni's longevity in power.

Former Speaker of Parliament Anita Among is one such example. She previously belonged to the opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) before rising through the NRM establishment to become Speaker. Her predecessor, Jacob Oulanyah, had roots in the Uganda People's Congress (UPC). Such transitions illustrate how the NRM has consistently widened its political base beyond its original liberation core.

The proposed Cabinet, therefore, reflects both continuity and renewal. While several historical figures remain prominent, nearly 30 nominees are entering ministerial office for the first time. Some represent a younger political generation like Justine Nameere (Masaka City Woman MP), who reflects the gradual reshaping of the Movement's leadership profile.

There are also signs of generational transition within political families. Sanjay Tanna, the trade minister, served as MP for Tororo Municipality between 2006 and 2016.

Today, his son, Shyam Tanna, occupies the same parliamentary seat in the 12th Parliament,

Proposed Cabinet list reveals gradual political transition

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reflecting how a younger generation is steadily entering Uganda's political leadership. There is a steady decline in the number of leaders who directly participated in the bush war that brought the NRM to power in 1986. Although no formal declaration of transition has been made, the changing composition of leadership increasingly points in that direction.

Among the proposed ministers, Dr Crispus Kiyonga stands out as the only figure who served in the first Cabinet formed immediately after the NRM captured power in 1986. At the time, he served as minister of co-operatives and marketing. Four decades later, he has been proposed as Second Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business in Parliament.

Rebecca Kadaga is another prominent historical figure who continues to occupy a central role in government leadership.

She entered national politics through the National Resistance Council, Uganda's Fifth Parliament, before rising through various ministerial positions to become Deputy

Speaker and later Speaker of Parliament. She has now been proposed as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Affairs.

Janet Museveni, proposed as Minister of Education and Sports, also remains one of the enduring figures associated with the liberation period through her close involvement alongside Museveni during the struggle years.

Other historical figures proposed for Cabinet include Kahinda Otafiire, designated Minister for Water and Environment; Jim Muhwezi, designated Minister for Security; Henry Tumukunde, designated Minister for Gender, Labour and Social Development and Tom Butime, designated Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. All participated in the bush war.

Magode Ikuya equally belongs to the older generation of NRM ideologues. Before joining the Movement, he had been a member of the UPC before later joining FRONASA, the Front for National Salvation, led by Museveni during the struggles of the 1970s and early 1980s. After 1986, Ikuya became one of the intellectual figures associated with the NRM Secretariat.

Bright Rwamirama also belongs to the historical group. He participated in the bush war, later became a paymaster in the National Resistance Army (NRA), now the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), before retiring from the military in 2001 and joining elective politics.

Jacqueline Mbabazi represents the older political generation as well, although she did

not directly participate in the armed struggle. Her husband, Amama Mbabazi, played a central role as the external co-ordinator of NRA activities based in Nairobi during the war years.

Hillary Onek, designated general duties minister with no links to the bush war, joined politics in 2000 after a long professional career as an engineer and lecturer. Gen. Katurumba Wamala, to be the public service minister, followed a different path from the bush war fighters. He was integrated into the NRA in 1986, having been a soldier in the Uganda National Liberation Army since 1980.

Besides the historical figures, the majority of the proposed ministers belong to a newer political class that entered leadership long after the liberation struggle. In many ways, they are gradually replacing the historical actors who dominated NRM for decades.

The transition is not limited to the Cabinet alone. Parliament itself is now dominated by MPs with no direct connection to the liberation struggle. Some were either born after the war or were too young to participate in the events that shaped the rise of the NRM.

Consequently, references to the Luwero struggle increasingly carry symbolic and historical significance rather than direct political experience for many legislators. Even the current Speaker of Parliament entered politics only in 2011, while his deputy, Thomas Tayebwa, previously emerged from the FDC.

The UPDF has undergone a similar transformation. Most of the historical military figures associated with the bush war and the early years of the NRM Government have since retired from active service. Today's military is largely commanded and staffed by officers and soldiers who were not part of the liberation struggle.

Nevertheless, the legacy of Luwero remains deeply embedded within both the military and the NRM. References to the bush war, the origins of the NRA, and the ideological foundations of the NRM continue to shape institutional identity and political messaging.

Whether formally acknowledged or not, the signs of transition are becoming increasingly visible. The proposed Cabinet, the changing composition of Parliament, and the evolving character of the UPDF all point towards a gradual shift from the old liberation generation to a new class of leaders.

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