

Tayebwa warns against begging from politicians

BY HILLARY TWINAMATSIKO

BUSHENYI. Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thomas Tayebwa has cautioned Ugandans against the culture of begging from political leaders, saying it entrenches poverty and undermines effective leadership.

Mr Tayebwa made the remarks last Friday at the burial of the late George Kanyarwanda in Kyeizooba Sub-county, Bushenyi District.

Addressing mourners, Mr Tayebwa, who represented President Museveni, said widespread poverty and the tendency of citizens to seek financial handouts from leaders have made it difficult for politicians to effectively serve the public.

"In the next term, our main aim is to fight poverty because it is very hard

for a leader to lead poor people. Sometimes you even get scared of holding a meeting because people will ask for transport, and you even get scared of greeting someone because a greeting becomes an invoice," he said.

Mr Tayebwa said many people wake up early in the morning to camp at the homes of Members of Parliament seeking financial assistance, a situation he said has forced some legislators to avoid their constituents.

He noted that the pressure to provide handouts often pushes some leaders to focus on distributing money during election periods instead of prioritising service delivery.

"I ask you to give your leaders some rest so that they can lobby for you and serve you better," he added.

Mr Tayebwa's remarks come at a



Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa (right) interacts with the heir of the late George Kanyarwanda at the burial last Friday. PHOTO/ HILLARY TWINAMATSIKO

time when elections and political campaigns in the country have increasingly been associated with monetary handouts, with many voters expecting financial incentives from candidates.

Speaking about the deceased, Mr Tayebwa said President Museveni had a personal connection with the late Kanyarwanda, who taught him at Kyamate Primary School.

"I have represented the President at many burials, but I have never received the President's call three times just to remind me of an appointment, as it happened after the death of his former teacher," he said.

Mr Eldard Karukiiko, a longtime associate of the deceased, described Kanyarwanda as a dedicated teacher who played a key role in promoting youth and community development.

He said the late teacher sponsored the first football tournament in Rwampara District in 1956.

"What we remember about him as Ugandans is his heart for the youth after sponsoring the very first football tournament in Rwampara," Mr Karukiiko said.

He added that the deceased also helped many learners continue with their education by paying school fees.

"The little education I attained was because of the late Kanyarwanda. I remember he paid 35 shillings for me when I was in Primary Three after my father failed to pay, and that is how I was able to continue to Bugongi Primary School," he said.