

The presidential and parliamentary elections were concluded in January, with President Yoweri Museveni securing 71% of the total votes.

Although Museveni has worked well past the normal retirement bracket, his performance in the January elections was superior to that of his competitors like Robert Kyagulanyi aka Bobi Wine of the National Unity Platform. Perhaps his landslide victory ratifies the words of Warren Buffett: "It's hard to teach a new dog old tricks." It will take years of arcane grindset preparation for his competitors to learn the tricks.

An election in Uganda without accusations of rigging is not an election. Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere accused Apollo Milton Obote of rigging, Col Kizza Besigye hauled Museveni to court over the same.

Museveni is a tough and celebrated soldier like Samora Machel, the Mozambique revolutionary leader and his mental model. It is easier and safer to work with an alloyed leader like him than it is to democratically oust him. His competitors are reminded that he is a shrewd, disciplined, opinionated and unabashed soldier.

Museveni's win should be taken as a reward for his good leadership.

While we celebrate his victory, there is one unsettled issue in Parliament; the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, which are likely to determine the precise outlook of the transition; orderly or chaotic.

The main contenders for speakership are Anita Annet Among and Norbert Mao.

The language used by the duo lacks political hygiene. Mao declaimed against Anita as an "accidental speaker". Although the language is of a smart-aleck, it has dented the quality of political elitism. To some extent, it is derogatory, anarchic, machismo and doling out a keg of injustice against women. Much as Among did not gripe about it, the elite circles were not happy.

However, Mao rescinded his statement in

Museveni mandate, race for Parliament's top seat

**STEPHEN AMANU
ACAKARA EGE MU**

admission of fault by substituting it with an "act of God". Unfortunately, he had sealed his fate in Chinua Achebe's words: "You can't unsay what you said yesterday."

Among, the gnome of Parliament, a derivative of her party and the preferred candidate, has succinctly been endorsed by the National Resistance Movement (NRM) central executive committee (CEC).

The CEC's decisions are sacrosanct and are free from violations by its members. Against that, Mao's insistence to stay in the race amounts to swimming against the tide.

The NRM elites seem to perceive Mao as a wild ox with unpredictable political cisgender. Tacitly, he has treated as undocumented political immigrant in NRM. However, his political portfolio can

easily gain immense accretion in NRM if he disenfranchises from the Democratic Party (DP) and crosses to NRM. That will weigh heavy on his shoulders to unlearn opposition politics.

Mao was invited to work with NRM, but not to oppose it from within. I doubt the classified nuptial agreement between NRM and DP gives Mao free political dexterity to participate in NRM activities. His invocation of the co-operation agreement in the race for speakership is actually a plea for acceptance or a hug. That plea is indifferent with the story of a leper asking for a hug after being greeted. In a nutshell, he has been misconstrued as a guest dictating terms to the host at the table.

The ancient words warn generations born and unborn never to take a seat at the high table till the host directs. Mao seems to have been hornswoggled into the race by undiscerning advisors. There is one recommendation to

the advisors: "Don't ask a barber whether you need a haircut".

Corruption, integrity and profligacy have been cited by Among's competitors against her, but the plague has enslaved every leader. Corruption, leaders, voters and politics are inextricable. Today's voters have a slogan; "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing."

Godspeed to both Among and Mao in the battle to either retain or wrest the tiara. As we wish Museveni the best tenure ahead, we beseech him to remember the youth of the previously disadvantaged subregions: Teso, Lango, Acholi and others.

In Wera sub-county, we request for an allocation of shroob to ignite Wera Economic Zone.

The writer is a tax lawyer working in South Africa



The CEC's decisions are sacrosanct and are free from violations by its members. Against that, Mao's insistence to stay in the race amounts to swimming against the tide.