

HOW HE MANAGED TO RETAIN HIS STATUS IN THE TAYEBWA'S BOUNCING BACK INTO DEPUTY SPEAKERSHIP

By Nelson Mandela Muhoozi

Like Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, Thomas Tayebwa asked for more. However, unlike *Oliver Twist*, who was offered for sale to all and sundry, Tayebwa got his request honoured by sailing against political headwinds and being elected as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

If events surrounding the August House, including a corruption probe that sucked in his former boss, Anita Among and several staff, over the last fortnight are to go by, Tayebwa has emerged stronger.

ABOVE DISSENTING VOICES

He rose above dissenting voices calling for his head on the chopping block over alleged abuse of office during his time in the 11th Parliament, bouncing back as Deputy Speaker of the 12th Parliament. Many were looking at the alleged corruption as the likely chink in Tayebwa's armour for the deputy Speaker seat. It was likely because of this that there were initially over 10 people within the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party, who expressed interest in unseating him.

However, NRM's top decision-making organ, the central executive committee (CEC), put all doubts about Tayebwa's standing in the party to rest by backing him to retain the seat.

The backing left all contenders in disarray, causing them to self-sacrifice to back the party's will.

As a result, Tayebwa's political stature continues to rise amid growing backing from NRM and Chief of Defence Forces Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba-chaired Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU).

MUHOOTI'S ENDORSEMENT

An earlier endorsement by Muhoozi Kainerugaba also aided in the galvanisation of Tayebwa's prospects of retaining the deputy speakership position he has held since March 2022.

In a social media post, Muhoozi congratulated Tayebwa and said after getting guidance from Commander-in-Chief President Yoweri Museveni, all PLU MPs and PLU-leaning MPs would support him for the Deputy Speaker of Parliament position.

Full backing from NRM and PLU camps meant that the Opposition stood no chance at dislodging Tayebwa from the seat. This is because the ruling party enjoys a majority of MPs in the House.

Over the years, Tayebwa has steadily evolved from a first-time legislator into one of the most influential political



Thomas Tayebwa, the elected Deputy Speaker of the 12th Parliament

Why Tayebwa

The Central Executive Committee of the National Resistance Movement listed three reasons for backing Tayebwa's re-election:

Proven mobilisation skills demonstrated through his ability to organise, galvanise and mobilise party structures, communities and the electorate at large.

Tayebwa's youthfulness, which brings the energy, dynamism and fresh perspective of a

younger generation to one of Parliament's most important offices.

Institutional continuity, arguing that prior parliamentary experience as Deputy Speaker and his sustained engagement with the legislative process provides a measure of institutional continuity that is of significant value to the orderly and effective management of parliamentary business.

figures within the country's ruling establishment, earning a reputation as a skilled negotiator, consensus builder and articulate defender of government positions both at home and internationally.

TAYEBWA'S BACKGROUND

Born on November 10, 1980, to Daudi Bangirana and Abby Komuhangi of Bitereko village in Mitooma district, Tayebwa's rise reflects a journey rooted in rural western Uganda before ascending to national prominence.

He attended Kigarama Primary School before joining Kigarama Senior Secondary School for his Uganda Certificate of Education. He later proceeded to Ruyonza Secondary School for his Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education studies.

His academic path would later take him to Makerere University, where he obtained both a law degree and another of arts in social sciences.

He later earned a Master of Business

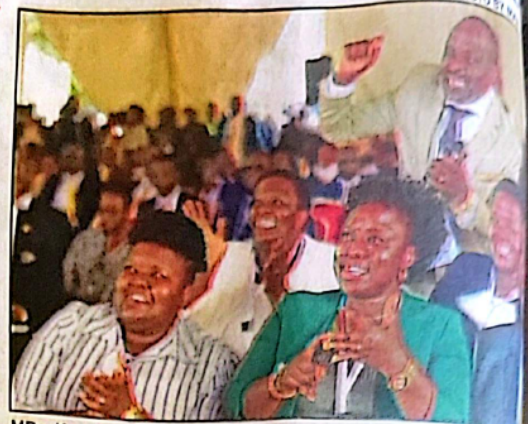
Administration from the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute, in addition to a certificate in negotiation from Harvard Law School and a professional certificate in parliamentary affairs from the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies in London.

Tayebwa entered elective politics in 2015 and emerged unopposed as Member of Parliament for Ruhinda North Constituency on the NRM ticket. He successfully defended the seat in the 2021 and 2026.

AT PARLIAMENT

Inside Parliament, Tayebwa established himself as a calm, but effective political operator. During the 10th Parliament, he served on both the natural resources committee and the national economy committee, where colleagues increasingly viewed him as a bridge-builder capable of navigating sensitive debates.

Following the 2021 General Election, President Yoweri Museveni



MPs: Kasajja Matla (right), Katusilime Adrine Mwebesa (center) and others celebrating after Jacob Markons Oboth and Tayebwa were elected speaker and deputy speakership positions during the elections at Kololo ceremonial grounds yesterday



Tayebwa, interacting with Asinansi Nyakato, the Woman Member of Parliament for Holma city, who contested against him during the elections at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, yesterday

appointed him Government Chief Whip, a role that placed him at the centre of managing government business in Parliament during a politically tense period.

His tenure as Chief Whip further elevated his profile before legislators elected him Deputy Speaker in 2022.

As Deputy Speaker, Tayebwa has projected himself as a vocal advocate for governance reforms, accountability and institutional dialogue, while also championing Uganda's interests on the continental and international stage.

GLOBAL SCENE

In February 2025, he was elected President of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and co-president of the OACPS-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly, positions that boosted his diplomatic standing beyond Uganda.

A committed pan-Africanist, Tayebwa has consistently spoken in support of Africa's push for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, arguing for greater representation of African voices in global governance structures.

BEYOND POLITICS

Away from formal politics, Tayebwa is also known as an entrepreneur with interests spanning media and communications, transport, education, manufacturing, culture and security.

His philanthropic footprint has equally shaped his public image. Through the TARU Foundation, he has supported vulnerable children with education and medical assistance, facilitated youth entrepreneurship initiatives and backed community projects across different parts of Uganda.

His supporters often describe him as approachable and community-oriented, qualities that have reinforced his popularity both within Parliament and among sections of the public.

A Rotarian holding the title of Mayor Donor, Tayebwa is also known for his passion for golf, Formula One racing, reading and community engagement activities. Political analysts say his combination of party loyalty, parliamentary experience, diplomatic visibility and growing alliances within influential political circles has positioned him as one of the most formidable figures in the country's evolving legislative politics.