

BY DAVID WALUGEMBE

PARLIAMENT. Uganda's largest Opposition party, the National Unity Platform (NUP), has fronted seasoned politician Paul Mwiru to contest for the much sought-after position of the Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

According to NUP, the Jinja South East legislator is a visionary and progressive figure dedicated to fighting corruption, promoting fairness, and upholding the dignity of Parliament.

Article 82 of the Constitution states that there shall be a Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament, elected by Members of Parliament (MPs).

Some sections of the public have, however, called for an independent and non-partisan Speaker, with a legal background to ensure strict adherence to constitutionalism and uphold the rule of law.

They believe one elected by Parliament

Sleep".

NUP fronts Mwiru for Speaker race

ment could compromise the institution's neutrality.

Mr Mwiru joins a hotly contested Speaker race, alongside other candidates who include West Budama Central MP Jacob Marksons Oboth (Oboth-Oboth), Bukono County MP Persis Namuganza, Mbale City Woman MP Lydia Wanyoto, Masindi District MP Florence Asiimwe Akiki, and Laroo-Pece MP Norbert Mao, who is also the Democratic Party (DP) leader, among others, who also earlier expressed interest in the position.

Former Speaker Anita Among initially expressed interest in contesting, but withdrew after a security investigation into her wealth and conduct.

On Saturday, Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU), Secretary General David Ka-

vice, providing essential administrative her residences in Kampala on the same funded.

banda announced that President Museveni, the NRM party chairman and First Son, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, who is also Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), had endorsed Oboth-Oboth for

WHO IS MWIRU?

Mr Mwiru is a lawyer who previously represented Jinja East Constituency in Parliament under the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party before joining NUP.

The outspoken legislator is known for his He is known for his anti-corruption stance and advocacy for human rights.

Speakership of the 12th Parliament, although the NRM caucus is yet to make a decision.

Mr Mwiru was unveiled yesterday after the NUP caucus meeting attended by nearly all NUP MPs at the party headquarters in Kampala, where party legislators unanimously agreed to endorse him for the influential parliamentary position.

NUP acting President Dr Lina Zedriga, outgoing Opposition Chief Whip John Baptist Nambeshe, outgoing Leader of the Opposition in Parliament (LOP) Joel Ssenyonyi, and NUP legislators, handed over a flag to Mr Mwiru to confirm his candidacy.

Speaking shortly after his unveiling, Mr Mwiru, a lawyer, emphasised that the office of the Speaker should repre-

sent all Ugandans and not serve sectional or partisan interests.

"The Speaker's office is a matter that involves all Ugandans because it is central in providing oversight, appropriation, and representation of the people," Mr Mwiru said.

He pledged to champion accountability and restore public trust in Parliament through impartial leadership, emphasising that Parliament must remain a national institution that serves every Ugandan equally without discrimination.

"We need a Speaker who will firmly fight corruption, protect the values and dignity of Parliament without discrimination, and ensure effective sharing of national resources," he said.

He announced that he will officially launch his Speaker bid on Friday at an event expected to attract Opposition figures, where he is expected to outline his vision for Parliament.