



Mujuni Asensio (centre) of Isingiro county South heading for the oath



Katuslime Jovia, the District Woman MP Kiryandongo gets ready to swear in



Mushabe Ruth Rujoki, the Woman MP for Kiruhura, before swearing-in



Norbert Mao, the Laroo-Pece Division MP, (right) heading for swearing-in

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The red carpet outside Parliament turned into a moving runway of culture, fashion and political symbolism as the swearing-in of Members of the 12th Parliament entered day two yesterday.

From flowing *gomesis* and elegant *shuka* to sharply tailored three-piece suits and Karamoja traditional regalia, the event went beyond a constitutional exercise. It was a celebration of culture, status, family and the dawn of a new political chapter.

The ceremony started at 8:00am and closed at 4:15pm with John Baptist Nambeshe as the last MP to swear in.

In total, 170 MPs were sworn in on day two, bringing the total to 354.

Throughout the day, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) aspirants transformed the swearing-in grounds into an active campaign arena. Candidates seeking seats in the regional assembly were seen hugging, congratulating and quietly lobbying newly sworn-in MPs while distributing manifestos and flyers.

The race for the speakership was equally visible in the background. Among those actively wooing legislators was Lydia Wanyoto, who camped at Parliament for the second consecutive day, engaging MPs and handing out business cards. But it was the dramatic return of Norbert Mao to Parliament as an elected MP after 20 years that became the emotional highlight of the day.

The Laroo-Pece division in Gulu city arrived holding hands with his wife, Beatrice Mao, dressed in a white shirt, yellow tie and dark-green three-piece suit.

170 MPS SWORN IN ON DAY TWO



Mpindi Bumali, the PWD representative heading for swearing-in

parliamentarians," he said, with a smile.

Mao also argued that Parliament must reassert itself as an independent democratic institution capable of holding government accountable.

"We are the watchdogs and we will encourage the people also to watch us," he said. "Because the watchdog cannot stay without being watched," Mao said.

OLD GUARDS BACK

Yesterday also saw the return of several familiar political faces. Former *New Vision* journalist Simon Peter Longoli officially took oath as Chekwii county MP after defeating longtime rival Moses Aleper.

Longoli reflected on his transition from journalism to politics and his efforts to reshape narratives about Karamoja through the Karamoja Development Forum.

"We needed to craft a new lens to change the storytelling in the region," he said.

Veteran politician Crispus Kiyonga also made a comeback after a decade away from Parliament. The former Defence minister and Makerere University Chancellor reclaimed the seat amid what he described as a political realignment in Kasese.

"We will work hard to ensure that the opposition doesn't return," Kiyonga said.

Journalists quickly surrounded Mao after his swearing-in, eager to hear his views on the speakership race and the future of Parliament.

"I am happy to be in

Parliament after 20 years. I left this place when I was just turning 39 years old. A lot has changed. We have a very young Parliament. I promise to mentor the young



Patrick Musinguzi of Kashari North county Mbarara heading for the oath

MPS SPEAK OUT

Erlasa Mukilbi, Butambala county

Expect a very tough fight to see how we make our government more effective and use the limited resources we have in a much better way.

Patrick Musinguzi, Kashari North

The priority of the new Parliament should be ensuring that Ugandans move out of poverty through hard work and accountable leadership. Corruption has killed everything. We must support the President's anti-corruption efforts.

Mpindi Bumali, PWD representative

My priority in this term is to follow the President's advice of waking up people from sleep. We must make sure that we have market for their goods, but also help them to add value to what they produce. Once we do that, we will reduce poverty.

Asensio Maari Mujuni, Isingiro South

This term is going to be good. It is a no-sleep term. We all become patriotic and love our country, we deliver services without being corrupt.

Mathias Mwesigwa Rwabugumi, Rubabo county

Rukungiri has lagged behind because of supporting the Opposition. Now that we have secured and brought it back to the party, I expect a lot from the Government.

Patrick Musinguzi, Kashari North

Corruption has killed everything. Corruption has killed service delivery.

Ronald Mutego Hangujja, Bunyole East,

I have worked with people. I know how to relate with them. I think that was the issue that was lacking. I explained issues and they understood and I won.



Lt Gen James Mugira, the UPDF representative after swearing-in



Manjiya county MP John Baptist Nambeshe heading for swearing-in