

Leadership is a gift from God

I believe God has the power and authority to appoint or remove leaders. Being created in his image, I can imagine him using something like a computer aided design application that generates the envisaged features of buildings and products. That just like humans use various measurements, materials, colours to generate output, he places each one of us in a position such as president and generates beforehand the effect of our leadership on a country.

The semi-illiterate Idi Amin, for example, ruled Uganda for eight years yet sophisticated men like Prof Yusuf Lule and Godfrey Binaisa altogether barely completed a year as presidents. Owing to the bad sectarian politics of 1960s and 70s marred by tribal and religious rivalries, the creator saw it expedient to allow a brutal leader survive a number of assassinations. Untill he went overboard and killed Archbishop Janaan Luwum, Tanzania had no mandate to spark his overthrow. Reports published in the press about the causes of the 1978/79 war with Tanzania suggest misconduct and rumours orchestrated by Amin's soldiers at Mutukula border post over probable invasion from Tanzania landed his overthrow.

President Yoweri Museveni quickly won the Bush War because of events that worked in his favour. Museveni confesses to

know God through experience and various escapades such as 1973 Mbale shootout, the family that died to conceal his hideout, among others.

Although Museveni has down quite well nationally and internationally, many controversies arise from his long stay in power having naively declared upon capturing power, "the problem of African leaders is sticking to power for too long".

Pressure has been exerted upon him to honour his word and relinquish power although circumstances like armed rebellions and cattle rustling warranted his long stay for peace to return. The fatigue of seeing the same leader for 30 years gave him stiff competition from main Opposition candidate, Dr Kizza Besigye, who swayed crowds of young people with his outbursts over the politi-

cal, economic and social status of the country. Despite not providing practical solutions to corruption among the mixed multitude of civil servants, high salary increases and sources of funding for development projects, many urban people believed his message of defiance except the rural areas (where the majority live) which the president trekked intensively to hunt for votes.

Instead of demonising Museveni as the worst leader, visible achievements like return of investors, security and infrastructure notwithstanding, it is better for the leaders and the people of Uganda (who profess to fear God) to work hand in hand with him to groom leaders as we forge a better future for our country.

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