

Categories of people who owe President Museveni answers

Finally, President Yoweri Museveni has been sworn in. Congratulations, Your Excellency, and thanks to all those who made it possible, including visiting foreign leaders who graced the occasion at the Kololo Independence Grounds in Kampala on Tuesday.

As in 2021, there was hullabaloo in the opposition to the effect that the victorious candidate of the National Resistance Movement (NRM), who garnered a record 71.6% of the vote, would not take the oath, as though they were capable of stopping him or something supernatural would interrupt it.

Only God who put him in power and sustained him all through his struggles has that authority. The rest of us can only do our part as civically-aware citizens.

I saw one Benita, a social media personality based in the Middle East, being insulted and intimidated by opposition supporters, for simply stating that Museveni would swear in. She added that the opposition was powerless about it because they had no plan. For speaking the truth, Benita was threatened and her family profiled and publicised.

This is the standard that our opposition has reached. They failed to win over Ugandans and have decided to terrorise them. I call on security to be hard on these fear-mongers

who intimidate Ugandans to prevent them from celebrating hard-won democratic gains.

If Museveni should not have sworn in, let them prove that view by stopping their own from taking the oath as MPs and local council leaders.

The notion that NRM can fail to form a government after winning elections is wishful thinking. In 2006, 2011 and 2016, when there was notable heat, he took the oath on schedule, despite attempts to disrupt the occasions.

2021 was hilarious; it was about *emmcetri* (a supposed American warship) docked at the East African coast with a plan to attack Uganda. The President swore in and life went on. They then said he would not last a year in power. Here we are, five years on.

The opposition leadership should emphasise mentorship and discipline for its followers. The opposition must also align itself with government programmes because these are for all Ugandans.

This group needs to pay keen attention and learn from President Museveni. They, too,

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are accountable to the head of state.

The next category that should pay close attention to the President are the elected and appointed (current and incoming) leaders: ministers, MPs, resident district commissioners, local council chairpersons and councillors, security chiefs, as well as civil servants. Loyalty is not enough.

The chief executive needs answers from you in your dockets and

jurisdictions. Over the course of his leadership, President Museveni has articulated profound ideas that any leader should get acquainted with and put into practice.

Every leader must read his books, *What Is Africa's Problem?* and *Sowing the Mustard Seed*.

There are numerous other writings, press statements, speeches and commentaries that he has made over time. Each of these has lessons that any leader worth the title should draw from.

However, reading his writings and listening to old clips of his speeches is only one aspect. The most crucial is putting into practice what he preaches and backing him in implementing the winning manifesto. This is where legacies will be built.

As the head

of state took the oath, he represented all those to serve under him. The challenges afflicting Ugandans are not many or complicated. They all centre on poverty and how to live a better life. The 2026-2031 crop of leaders is challenged with the task of seeing the Millennium Development Goals and National Development Plans come to life among the people. This will be a big test.

Another category of people is the corrupt. Corruption remains a grave malaise affecting service delivery and citizens' quality of life.

Time has run out for the corrupt. If the system has been wasting a lot of time, this time it will be swift and precise, like in the Christopher Onyiah Okello trial. Government workers are particularly put on notice. Business will not be as usual.

The corrupt cartels, including those selling jobs, will be broken and their kingpins hit hard and shamed. It may necessitate amending the law so that staff recruitment at that level reverts to the Public Service Commission due to

the abuse of processes by politicians who have turned decentralised functions into get-rich schemes for themselves.

Another category is the Ugandans benefitting from wealth-creation initiatives: the Parish Development Model, Emyooga and the Generating Growth Opportunities and Productivity for Women Enterprises, among others. In the new term, the President needs to see real transformation in livelihoods, having spent the previous term laying the foundation.

Scientists also owe the President an answer regarding the affirmative consideration he has instituted that has seen their pay enhanced on top of increasing funding support for innovation that could power Uganda's economy of the future and create a new generation of creators in the high-tech global sphere.

Lastly, East Africa, at large, should assimilate the Ugandan leader's drive for federation/integration. The situation in the world demands consolidation and co-operation for collective strength and advancement in Africa, the opposite of which threatens a catastrophe.

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