

By Vision Reporters

Kyungu village in Nsube Parish, Mukono municipality, received an unprecedented number of VIP (very important person) visitors on Saturday, signalling the beginning of a new era for one of their residents, Jacobs Oboth-Oboth.

Unlike other parties that Oboth-Oboth had hosted, Saturday's thanksgiving ceremony was attended by a record number of politicians – more than 300 lawmakers and scores of other high-ranking government officials.

The party was held a day after he was endorsed by the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) as its candidate for the position of Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

On Tuesday, PLU withdrew its support for the incumbent, Anita Among and her deputy, Thomas Tayebwa.

During the thanksgiving ceremony, PLU secretary general David Kabanda assured Oboth-Oboth that the PLU chairperson, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, had endorsed him to be the Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

"I have been instructed by my chairperson to inform you, your family and MPs who are here that you are going to be the next Speaker of Parliament," Kabanda said.

His statement was received with a standing ovation from the guests present.

Before the ululations could fade away, Kabanda added: "Those of you who are standing, are you for it [endorsement] or against it? And before you sit, this message has come from my chairperson of PLU and he has instructed me to inform you that it [decision to support Oboth-Oboth] has been endorsed by His Excellency the President of Uganda [Yoweri Museveni]."

After Kabanda's speech, the deputy chief of Defence Forces, Lt. Gen. James Okiding, delivered Kainerugaba's message: "We have two streets in life; one leads us to Jesus and another one to Satan. There is a street for joy and one for bitterness. Proverbs 14:10 clearly explains it, if you remember God, he will always show you the right path."

The Chief of Defence Forces further challenged the members of the 12th Parliament to focus on issues that will help Uganda to prosper.

"Yes, you made it to the 12th Parliament; you are MPs, so what? Simply focus on priorities that our country needs. First, we must maintain the stability of our country; we need to increase the number of wealth creators to boost our economy and lastly, I

OBOOTH-OBOTH ENDORSED FOR SPEAKER

PHOTO BY STUART YIGA



Oboth-Oboth with his wives, addressing guests during the thanksgiving ceremony held at his home in Kyungu village, Nsube parish, Mukono municipality on Saturday. (Scan photo using Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

appeal to all Ugandans to get delivered to avoid the cancer of corruption. If this is fought, our country will be delivered," Kainerugaba said.

The defence and veteran affairs ministry was represented by state minister Huda Abason Oleru, permanent secretary Rosette Byengoma, under-secretary for finance and administration Judith Buturo, under-secretary for logistics Francis Chibita and under-secretary for air force James Mutaabazi.

Speaking on behalf of the ministry technical team, Byengoma, hailed the people of West Budama Central for voting Oboth-Oboth.

"Oboth-Oboth has been patriotic because he always talks about how to support the President, our party NRM [National Resistance Movement] and our country at large. Oboth-Oboth is somebody with a murderous sense of humour because in the ministry, when things are very difficult, he always throws in a word that will throw you off your chair through his



David Kabanda



Lt. Gen. James Okiding

jokes. As the ministry and UPDF, we are grateful for your contribution. I wish we could have you back in the next five years," she said.

I AM MODEST, SAYS OBOOTH-OBOTH

Oboth-Oboth said, despite heading the ministry with the biggest budget in the country, he still lives within his means.

"It is very difficult to be minister of defence and remain modest. There is no ministry in Uganda that has bigger budget allocation than defence. I am still the same Oboth-Oboth with a short-sleeved Kaunda suit. To cause a change, you don't need a lot of money in your pocket. You just need to have enough and that was the prayer of one person," he told his guests.

Oboth-Oboth said some people had persuaded him to shift the function from his Kyungu home to a bigger and posh venue, but he declined.

"I told them to leave me in my modesty. What is causing problems in the country are people who are pretending to be what they are not," he said.

EXPLAINS HIS SECOND WIFE

Before he ended his speech, Oboth-Oboth explained how he got a second wife.

SPEAKERSHIP RACE TIMELINE

■ On January 28, 2026: NRM CEC endorsed Speaker Anita Among and Deputy Speaker Thomas Tayebwa as the party's sole candidates to retain their leadership positions in the 12th Parliament.

■ On March 4: President Yoweri Museveni ratified the NRM CEC resolutions to back Among and Tayebwa for another term in the 12th Parliament.

■ On March 11: The Chief of Defence Forces, who is also the PLU chairperson, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, guided all PLU-leaning MP-elects to support Among and Tayebwa's re-election bids of the 12th Parliament.

■ On April 14: At the NRM leaders' retreat at the National Leadership Institute in Kyankwanzi, Museveni issued a stern warning against corruption in Parliament.

■ On May 10: Gen. Muhoozi announced that they were retracting their support for Among and Tayebwa. He said they would support any candidate the President would show them.

■ On May 12: After the swearing in of President Museveni, PLU secretary general David Kabanda called for a conference and officially announced that PLU was retracting its support for Among. On the same day, Museveni stated that there is no more sleep and corruption in his new Kisanja.

■ On May 13: The justice minister Nobert Mao welcomed PLU's decision to withdraw support for Speaker Among.

■ On May 13: A group of Kampala-based lawyers filed a complaint against Among over wealth declaration. The lawyers, led by Andrew Karamagi, are accusing the Speaker of allegedly breaching the Leadership Code Act through failure to declare or possible under-declaration of her wealth.

■ On May 15: The Inspector General of Government confirmed that the matter had been received by her office and was already undergoing the required administrative and legal procedures before investigations commence.

■ On May 16: During a thanksgiving ceremony at the residence of the Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, Jacob Oboth-Oboth, in Mukono, Kabanda revealed that he had been sent to officially communicate that Gen. Muhoozi has endorsed Oboth-Oboth for Speakership. Oboth-Oboth confirmed and accepted the endorsement for the speakership.

■ On May 16: On the same day, a joint security team raided the Kampala residence of Among on Mackinnon Road in Nakasero.

The two joined him at the podium as he explained how it started.

"This lady here is the mother of my five children, for five years she was not here, she had some medical issues, and as you know, it is very hard for an energetic man like me to stay without a woman, so I got another one. Those who want to judge me go ahead," he said.

CHURCH LAUDS OBOOTH-OBOTH
The thanksgiving service was led by the Provost of Mukono

Diocese, Rev. Can. Godfrey Ssendendo and was assisted by their counterparts from West Bukedi Diocese.

Ssendendo described Oboth-Oboth as an unassuming leader, who has contributed immensely to the development of the church.

"Oboth-Oboth is a very humble person. He attends church without people noticing that he is a minister," he said.

Compiled by Stuart Yiga, Simon Peter Tumwine and Michael Odeng

NRM SPEAKS OUT

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) secretary general, Richard Todwong, said they are yet to unveil their speaker nominee candidate.

"There is no way the party will fail to front a candidate for the speakership position and other parliamentary ones. We shall present them at the right time, to the right organ," Todwong told journalists at the NRM headquarters in Nakasero, Kampala on Saturday.

Sources said the NRM central executive committee will convene this week at State House Entebbe to take a final position on the matter. The Speaker of the 12th Parliament will be elected during the first sitting on May 25.

In February, the NRM CEC had endorsed incumbent Among and her deputy Tayebwa for the positions, but some party members criticised the decision.