



President Yoweri Museveni (centre in hat) welcoming Besigye and Mbabazi's agents and others defectors in Kisoro on Friday

BESIGYE, MBABAZI KISORO AGENTS DEFECT TO NRM

BY JOHN MASABA

Presidential candidates Kizza Besigye and Amama Mbabazi campaign agents in Kisoro district have defected to the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

According to a State House statement, President Yoweri Museveni, the NRM flag-bearer, received the agents on Friday at Kisoro State Lodge.

They include the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) Kisoro district co-ordinator, Archangelo Nshimiy'Imana, and chief mobiliser Dedan Balinda. Mbabazi's co-

ordinators; Henry Tumusabe and his vice, Alex Matata and the Uganda People's Congress national chairman of the workers' council, David Wilson Musekura.

"They revealed that they had to come back to work with the NRM Government after seeing that the movement is the only party that can propel the country forward," said the statement.

The statement added that President Museveni and the defectors agreed to work together for the betterment of the people of Uganda.

The defectors assured

Museveni that they are going to mobilise for him and the NRM party.

When contacted for a comment, FDC denied losing their agents in Kisoro to the NRM and labelled those received by the President as "fortune hunters", seeking money.

"We do not know those people being spoken about," FDC spokesperson Semujju Nganda said.

"Our campaigns are co-ordinated through our district chairpersons. We do not have chief mobilisers or district co-ordinators as is being alleged," he added.

Nganda claimed that many people have started making FDC T-shirts and party cards in order to dupe the President that they are supporters of the party crossing to NRM.

UPC officials could not be reached for a comment, but Go forward spokesperson Josephine Mayanja-Nkangi, downplayed the impact of the defection.

"It is part of the political game. We have prepared for such eventualities," she said, adding that the campaign team has more people willing to step in to fill the gap.