

Museveni cannot sack me, says minister Kibuule

BY MIKE MUSISI-MUSOKE
AND HENRY NSUBUGA

Water state minister Ronald Kibuule has said President Yoweri Museveni cannot sack him from Cabinet.

Kibuule, who described himself as a 'super striker' in Cabinet, told supporters that he is one of the key performers in Government, and that he is still needed in the National Resistance Movement (NRM).

"I am a scoring player in the NRM super league and reports suggesting that I am about to be sacked by President Museveni are mere speculation by opponents wishing to portray me negatively," he said.

Kibuule said this on Thursday while addressing his constituents at Kapeke village in Nama sub-county, Mukono district during a consultative meeting on the Bill that seeks to scrap the presidential age limit.

MPs are currently conducting consultations on the Bill that seeks to amend Article 102 (b) of the Constitution that seeks to scrap the presidential age limit. The Constitution caps the age for presidential contenders above 35 years and below 75.

Responding to reports that the President had asked him to explain why he smuggled a gun into Parliament during the September 27 session, which saw MPs, including Kibuule, suspended, he accused Kira Municipality MP Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda of concocting the gun story.



Kibuule (left) greeting leaders of traditional faith during the consultation meeting

However, Kibuule, who is also the Mukono-North MP, challenged those claiming he entered the House with a gun to produce CCTV footage to back up their claims.

"Ssemujju is a liar and as a Muslim, his fasting is in vain, because Muslims are not supposed to lie," he added.

However, Ssemujju told *Saturday Vision* that he had no time for Kibuule.

"It is not worth replying Kibuule because he sparked off everything, and even the Speaker penalised him for carrying a gun into the House," Ssemujju said.

On amendment

Stressing the need for the amendment, Kibuule said many youth are prohibited from vying for political posts because of the age limit. "For instance, I am 33 years and I cannot run for presidency".

Land grabbing

On media reports that he is at the centre of land wrangles at Kigaya landing site in Buikwe district, Kibuule said he could not discuss the matter because it is before court. In the suit, residents accuse the minister of grabbing land and forcefully evicting them.

But the minister, who residents say masterminded their eviction, said: "I genuinely bought the land and I do not intend to evict anyone outside lawfully binding means."

Earlier, the head of the cultural and traditional faith (Enzikiriza Y'obuwangwa N'ennono) Jumba Aligaweesa Lubowa, said traditionalists were in support of making constitutional amendments that will ensure President Museveni continues to lead Uganda.