

Museveni pledges tea factory for Kisoro, jobs for youth

BY TADDEO BWAMBALE

George Kakwerere, a 77-year-old resident of Nakashingi village in Kisoro district ekes a living as a casual labourer.

At the NRM party's presidential flag-bearer, President Yoweri Museveni's, last campaign rally in the district on New Year's eve, Kakwerere was eager to hear what the candidate would say about jobs.

Museveni, who arrived at Shaza playground in Kisoro municipality, renewed his promise to boost wealth creation by increasing budgets for each special fund set up for women, youth and the elderly. Kakwerere cheered and clapped when the President said the senior citizens grant would be increased to reach more beneficiaries.

"We will allocate sh234b for youth, up from sh54b. Women will get sh234b and savings groups will get sh180b up from sh44b, so that every village has at least sh2m revolving fund," Museveni said.

"I am poor, but after listening to him (President), I now have hope that I will have some income to take me through my evening days. I will vote for him," Kakwerere said in an interview with *New Vision*.

Also at the rally, Kenneth Munezero, a 20-year-old Senior Six student of Kisoro Comprehensive SS struggled in the midst of the crowd to catch a glimpse of the President and hear his plan on unemployment.

"I want to be sure that when I complete school, I have an opportunity to work," Munezero told *New Vision* at the start of the rally.

■TEA FACTORY

The President promised that the Government will set up a tea factory in Nyakabanda sub-county, as part of efforts to improve resident's income and create jobs for the youth.

"The Government will set up a tea factory in Nyakabanda. It will be a government facility, but managed by a co-operative," Museveni said, drawing ululation and cheers from the crowd.

He said industries were a key intervention in reducing high unemployment levels and creating wealth. He cited an example of a diary processing factory established in the district by Innocent Bisangwa, a prominent businessman.

"If I have a tea factory, it can create wealth for me, but also jobs for youth. We will work on roads and electricity, so that



President Museveni campaigning at Kabindi Primary School in Bufumbira South Constituency, Kisoro district on Thursday



PEOPLE'S AGENDA



Alexander Kamugisha, politician

The President should talk about how we can sustain the economy through privately-owned money lending institutions.



Geoffrey Bandeeba, businessman

He should tell us his plans for roads to enable transportation of local produce to the markets.



Museveni should share his plan on fighting corruption, especially in public offices across the country.



Robert Kabagambe, taxi operator

He should talk about the raising Uganda Revenue Authority taxes and fuel prices which are hitting us hard.

Museveni will be in Kabale today

Candidate Yoweri Museveni will campaign in Kabale today. A recent Vision Group poll showed the top five concerns for voters in this district as:

- Health related issues
- Water and Sanitation related issues
- Road network issues
- Education issues

Aloysius Byamukama asked residents what they expect from him.

Later, when given chance by the President to speak to the audience, Kwizera asked the crowd to vote him, attracting cheers. Museveni introduced to Kisoro residents the NRM party flag-bearers, including Kamara Nzeyimana (Bufumbira North MP), Rose Kabagenyi (Woman MP) and Abel Bizimana (LC5 chairperson).

Bufumbira South MP and agriculture minister, Tress Bucyanayandi, State minister for economic monitoring and MP for Rubanda County in Kabale district, Henry Banyenzaki and Kajara County MP, Ntungamo district and Stephen Tashobya also attended the rally.

■KIGEZI SUB-REGION

Museveni's rallies in Kisoro district marked his foray into Kigezi sub-region, which comprises Kisoro, Kabale, Kanungu and Rukungiri districts.

On Saturday, the President will start his campaigns in Kabale, where he has already promised that the NRM government will provide special equipment to crush boulders to create stones for road construction.

Kigezi sub-region is a key flashpoint ahead of the February polls, as it is home to two of President Museveni's contenders. Former prime minister, Amama Mbabazi, hails from Kanungu, while Forum for Democratic Change leader, Kizza Besigye is from Rukungiri, where he launched his campaign rallies.

more factories are set up here," he added.

■INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS

Museveni directed the NRM party leaders in the district to resolve wrangles resulting from the party primaries amicably, instead of jostling.

"If you lost the primaries, resolve the matter amicably,

instead of distablisng the party," he advised.

"Today, I sat with Sarah Mateke and told her Uganda will be here today, tomorrow and forever," the President said.

Mateke, the incumbent district Woman MP, lost the NRM party primaries and had vowed to stand as an independent candidate.

Ushered to the podium to

speak to the crowd, Mateke agreed that she had held a meeting with the President and announced that she had withdrawn from the race.

"I thank you for the support you have given me over the years. I appeal to you to give all the votes to the NRM flag-bearer," she said, drawing an applause.

Mateke is the daughter of the state minister for regional

affairs, Philemon Mateke, who also attended Museveni's meeting with top political leaders and contenders in the district at Kisoro State Lodge.

Among those the President met are Bufumbira East MP Eddy Kwizera and former ethics minister, James Nsaba Buturo.

Kwizera lost the primaries to Buturo and was poised to run as an independent.