

Seated: Alupo (left), Museveni (second-left) and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Thomas Tayebwa (right), with a visiting delegation from China, led by Losang Jamcan (second-right), the vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress



Former prime ministers Amama Mbabazi (second-left) and Ruhakana Rugunda (second-right) with officials from South Sudan's ruling SPLM party during the dinner at Serena Hotel on Tuesday

MUSEVENI URGES AFRICAN POLITICAL PARTIES TO PRIORITISE WEALTH CREATION

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has called on African political parties to focus on science and technology as well as wealth and job creation if the continent is to overcome poverty and safeguard its independence.

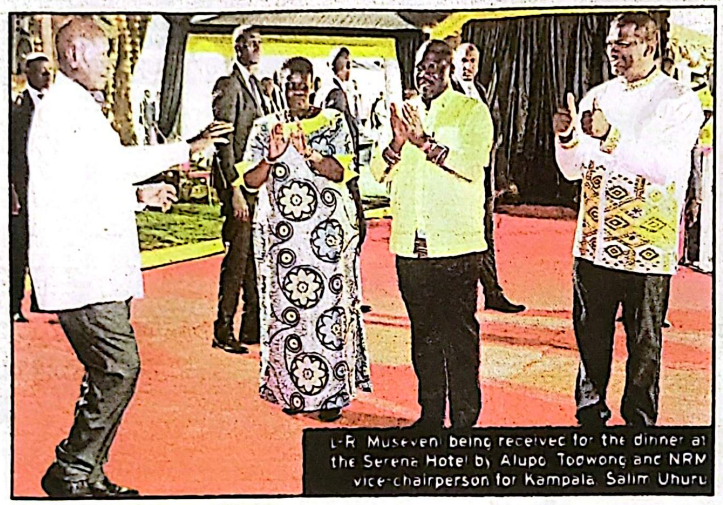
The President made the remarks on Tuesday evening during a dinner organised by the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Secretariat at Kampala Serena Hotel, following his inauguration earlier in the day.

The dinner brought together delegations from several African political parties and diplomatic representatives who had attended the swearing-in ceremony.

"I thank you for joining us for the inauguration ceremony and for this fraternal dinner. We are linked by history and by the struggle against colonialism and imperialism," Museveni said.

The President traced the historical relationship between Africa and Europe to the year 1453, when the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople, blocking the overland trade route between Western Europe and Asia.

"That forced Europeans to search for alternative sea routes around Africa. Eventually, by 1900, almost the whole of Africa had been colonised, except for a few countries, mainly because of our own weaknesses," he said.



L-R Museveni being received for the dinner at the Serena Hotel by Alupo, Todwong and NRM vice-chairperson for Kampala, Salim Uhuru

Museveni said African leaders and political organisations must move beyond "shallow analysis" and instead focus on understanding why Africa "missed the bus of history".

"We should share experiences on how Africa can rectify its historical mistakes and ensure our people harness nature through science, technology and commercial agriculture to get out of poverty," he said.

The President warned that weak economies make African countries vulnerable to external domination.

"If our economies do not perform well, then we shall become vulnerable again," he noted.

Museveni also stressed that sustainable liberation must go hand in hand with socio-economic transformation.

"We must discuss how our people will create wealth, get jobs and improve their standards of living because there is no way political freedom alone can sustain society without economic strength," he added.

The Vice-President, Jessica Alupo, congratulated President Museveni upon his swearing-in and thanked the various leaders and party structures for ensuring the success of the inauguration ceremony.

She urged political leaders across Africa to prioritise economic empowerment and security as key pillars for sustainable development.

"We must add wealth creation to our struggle because if we do not, our people will remain trapped in poverty and unemployment."



Officials from Burundi's CNDD FDD party attending the dinner on Tuesday

Meanwhile, Dr Asha-Rose Migiro, the Secretary General of Tanzania's ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), commended Uganda for strengthening Pan-African solidarity through continued engagement with sister political parties across the continent.

Migiro congratulated Museveni upon his inauguration and praised Uganda's contribution to regional peace, stability and African unity.

"Our parties must remain focused on improving the livelihoods of our people through economic co-operation, industrialisation, education and job creation," she added.

Richard Todwong, the NRM Secretary General, welcomed delegates from sister political parties and thanked them for standing in solidarity with Uganda during Museveni's inauguration.

Todwong commended President Museveni for providing ideological leadership on the continent and consistently championing Pan-Africanism, regional integration and socio-economic transformation.

He said the NRM remained committed to strengthening co-operation with sister political parties in promoting peace, stability and prosperity across Africa.

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