

MPS APPROVE VP ALUPO, NABBANJA

By Mary Karugaba
and Dedan Kimathi

Parliament, by a simple majority, yesterday approved the appointment of Vice-President Maj. (rd) Jessica Alupo and Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja.

The House, chaired by Speaker Jacob Oboth, also approved a motion to increase the number of ministers from 21, as stated in the Constitution, to 51 for what Nabbanja said was the purpose of efficient performance of the state.

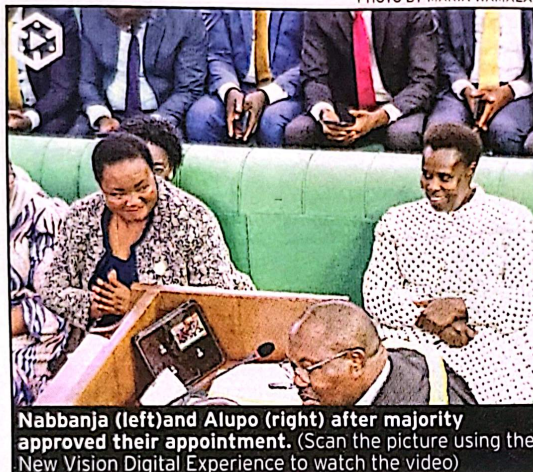
Approving the two women for the converted positions, 325 MPs voted in favour of Alupo, while 320 voted in favour of Nabbanja.

Speaking on the motions for the two women, the MPs said they have been tested and proven to be leaders capable of serving in the highest office in the land. Presenting a motion to approve her appointment, MP Ephraim Kamuntu described Alupo as a leader who has served as Vice-President with dedication, discipline and loyalty to the country.

He said her reappointment by the President is itself evidence that she has been tried, tested and found capable.

Furthermore, Kamuntu, who had earlier described the latter as a result-oriented person, said Alupo is also a patriot who served in the national army, where she attended various military courses.

Under Article 108 of the 1995



Nabbanja (left) and Alupo (right) after majority approved their appointment. (Scan the picture using the New Vision Digital Experience to watch the video)

Constitution, the President appoints the Vice-President subject to approval by Parliament.

Seconding the motion, Minsa Kabanda (Kampala Central Division, NRM) said Alupo had represented Uganda at international forums, including the United Nations and BRICS meetings.

Catherine Lamwaka, (Woman MP for Omoro district, NRM) described Alupo as a distinguished leader with a strong military and educational background.

David Calvin Echodu (Soroti West County, NRM) described Alupo as a humble and dedicated public servant.

Despite the support, MP for Bbaale County MP Charles

Tebandeke (NUP) cited Rule 86(3), arguing that referring to Alupo's accomplishments without evidence being laid on the table amounted to anticipatory debate, which is prohibited in the House.

Only to be reminded that the rule he cited was misplaced and immaterial to the matter at hand.

NABBANJA NOMINATION

In her motion for the nomination of Nabbanja, Lira City Woman MP Ruth Aceng described the Kakumiro District Woman MP as an exemplary performer as far as discharging Government business is concerned.

Buyaga West legislator Dennis Namara (NRM) said Nabbanja has great experience in international and regional

More ministers

Nabbanja said: "The President has realised that for the efficient running of the state, there is a need to increase the number of Cabinet ministers from 21 to 30 and the total number of other ministers from 21 to 51," she said. The increase, Nabbanja said, was necessary to strengthen service delivery and support government programmes across the country. Under the approved arrangement, the total number of ministers will rise from 42 to 82. The new structure will comprise 31 Cabinet ministers and 51 state ministers.

Seconding the motion, Jackson Karugaba Kafuuzi (Kyaka South County, NRM) said the Constitution allows Parliament to approve an increase in the number of ministers where necessary. The motion still passed, despite resistance from some opposition MPs who argued that recently, the Government passed the rationalisation Bills to cut down expenditure on some of the agencies and also the duplication of work. The house also approved the names of MPs of the appointments committee that will sit on Monday to vet the newly designated ministers.

leadership. Former Attorney General and Nakawa East MP Fred Ruhindi said: "Nabbanja is a versatile and effective Prime Minister and emotionally intelligent."

Unlike previous incidents where the Opposition has walked out on Government legislation, surprisingly, this

time, many MPs nodded in the affirmative. Which goes a long way to illustrate the likeable character of Nabbanja and the Vice-President.

But not without a piece of advice from Kalungu West MP Joseph Gonzaga Ssewungu, who asked the Prime Minister to prevail over absentee ministers.

"You, ministers who have been designated, respect the Prime Minister," Ssewungu cautioned.

On his part, Obongi County MP Hassan Kaps Fungaroo (FDC) said in the making of permanent records for generations, the views of the Opposition supporting Nabbanja's endorsement must be well captured on the record.

In her acceptance speech, Alupo thanked the President for trusting her again to serve as Vice-President for the second term and vowed to exercise her mandate as the MP for Katakwi and also serve diligently.

Alupo pledged total commitment to national service, promising dedication, patriotism and loyalty throughout her tenure.

Nabbanja lauded the President for the trust and confidence he placed in her for another term.

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