Museveni: Fourth-longest serving president in Africa

BY ANDREW BAGALA

KAMPALA. After today's swearing-in, President Museveni will consolidate his fourth position as the current longest-serving head of state in Africa with four decades in power.

The Equatorial Guinea President, Teodoro Nguema Mbasogo, who has been in power for 46 years, is the current longest-serving president in Africa.

Mr Nguema is followed by Cameroon President Paul Biya, who has ruled the West African country for 43 years.

Mr Biya became Cameroon's President in 1982 after the resignation of Ahmadou Ahidjo. He has remained president, contesting several disputed presidential elections.

The President of the Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, comes in the third position. Mr Sassou has ruled his country for 42 years, first from 1979 to 1992, then he returned to power in 1997 to date.

Mr Museveni comes in the fourth position, ruling Uganda for 40 years since he captured power in 1986. He has ruled for seven elective terms since 1996.

Behind Mr Museveni is King Mswati III of Eswatini. King Mswati III has ruled his country for 39 years. He is an absolute monarch. The prime minister is appointed by the king.

Eritrea President Isaias Afwerki comes in the sixth position as the longest-serving head of state in Africa. Mr Afwerki captured power after the breakaway from Ethiopia in 1993.

President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti became president after his uncle, Gouled Aptidon, retired in 1999. Mr Guelleh was chosen as his successor in the political party. He later won an election in the same year, and he has since sought more elective terms.

The King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, has been reigning since 1999 when his father died. He is the head of state. Morocco is ruled by a unitary parliamentary semi-constitutional monarchy, which allows elections at the prime minister level and below.

Rwanda's Kagame

In the ninth position is Rwanda President Paul Kagame. Mr Kagame has been the head of state for Rwanda since 2000. However, he had political control of the country since 1994 when the rebel group he was leading captured power. He remained the vice president and the minister of defence up to 2000, when he took over the presidency after Pasteur Bizimungu resigned.

Mr Faure Gnassingbé assumed power in 2005 after the death of his father, Gnassingbé Eyadéma, who was the president of Togo. He continued to lead Togo up to 2025 when the constitution was changed to establish a new system and positions. He stepped down as the head of state, and he was made the President of the Council of Ministers, a post that gives him executive powers.

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