

Luuka residents tell minister to restore presidential term limits

By Jackie Nambogga

Residents of Luuka district have asked the Minister for Presidency who also doubles as their Woman MP, Esther Mbayo, to support the age limit Bill.

During consultations which Mbayo held on Wednesday in Luuka North, the residents backed the age limit Bill, but suggested the return of term limits.

The minister accompanied by her husband, Eng. George Mbayo held three meetings in Bukooma and Bulongo sub-counties as well as Luuka town council.

During one of the consultation rallies, Mbayo said the Constitution had been amended four times and that it was normal to do so.

She said the Opposition was being funded by the foreigners to disorganise the prevailing peace and security that was ushered by President Yoweri Museveni.

"African leaders admire President Yoweri Museveni for what he has done. Unfortunately, the foreigners are funding the Opposition to disorganise what we have achieved," Mbayo told the

residents.

She wondered why the Col. Kizza Besigye was against the Bill yet he was part of the team that amended the Constitution.

Mbayo sent the crowds into laughter after she said the Constitution was tired and that it needed to be touched as it is with human beings.

While at Naigobya Technical Institute in Bukooma sub-county when the matter was put to vote, 670 backed the removal of the age limit while 47 were against it.

However, James Musisi, the councillor for Bukyangwa parish at Bukooma sub-county who was among those in support of the Bill called for the restoration of term limits.

Musisi said a president should rule for two terms of five years and hand over power peacefully.

"If term limits are not reinstated, all our achievements can be destroyed," Musisi said.

Also, Musisi suggested the regional rotation of presidency saying this should be rotational.

"If a president has been elected from western region then the next one should come from another region," Musisi said.



The Minister for Presidency, Esther Mbayo, handing money to one of the team leaders in Bukooma sub-county after age limit consultation in Luuka on Wednesday. Photo by Jackie Nambogga

Meanwhile, at Budhabangula Church of Uganda in Bulongo sub-county, Mbayo was welcomed by the priest, the Rev.

Esther Egesa. All the residents supported the Bill.

The area LC3 chairperson, Kusein Taitika, asked the

Government to avail copies of the Constitution at village levels.

This, according to Taitika will

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Mbayo said the Constitution was tired like human beings so it needed to be 'touched'.

reduce government expenditure of allocating legislators money for consultations in case of constitutional amendments.

"If such copies are sent to the villages where people can easily access them and read, it will reduce such expenses. Legislators will not be burdened with explaining the Constitution to people," he said.

In Luuka town council, the residents asked Mbayo the whereabouts of the Luuka North MP, John Bagoole.

"We have not seen Bagoole holding similar meetings. We also need part of the sh29m he was given," they said.

Meanwhile, Joy Nyiuro, the Luuka district councillor for the elderly, told the minister that the elderly persons lacked basic necessities.

Mbayo said she would go by the views of the majority who support the Bill