

MUSEVENI DROPS 28 MINISTERS

By John Masaba

President Yoweri Museveni yesterday carried out a major shake-up of his cabinet, dropping at least 28 ministers in a sweeping restructuring that cuts across key portfolios, including finance, foreign affairs, energy, trade, and gender.

The changes, announced by State House and circulated through social media channels, including the President's official accounts, saw notable departures such as Gen. Moses Ali, the long-serving Second Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Government Business.

In the new appointments, during which Museveni invoked Articles 108(1) and (2), 108A(1), 111(1), 113(1), and 114(1) of the 1995 Constitution, Matia Kasaija (Finance) and Ruth Nankabirwa (Energy) were also among those dropped.

Matia Kasaija was appointed finance minister on March 1, 2015, a position he held until his removal. Until his dismissal, Kasaija had been one of the longest-serving ministers in government, having first joined the

Cabinet in 2006 as Minister of State for Internal Affairs. He later moved to the finance ministry, where he served as State Minister for Finance (Planning) in May 2011 before being elevated to the full cabinet position in 2015. The reshuffle affects 10 Cabinet ministers and 19 ministers of state.

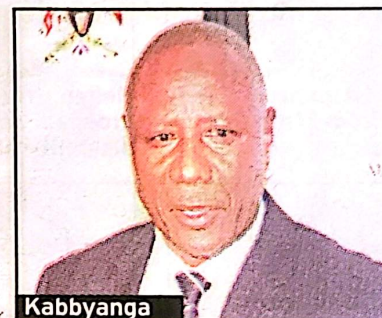
Several other long-serving ministers have also been dropped, including Jeje Odongo (foreign affairs), Ruth Nankabirwa (energy), Betty Amongi (gender), Raphael Magyezi (local government), Francis Mwebesa (trade), Muruuli Mukasa (public service), Sam Cheptoris (water and environment), and David Muhoozi (state for internal affairs).

The shake-up also affected state ministers Peter Lokeris (Karamoja) and state minister Florence Namboozo (Karamoja).

Others dropped include Evelyn Anite (Privatisation and Investment), Fred Bwino Kyakulaga (Agriculture), Hellen Adoa (fisheries), Musa Eweru (works), Joyce Kaducu (primary education), Janipher Namuyangu (Bunyoro), Kenneth Omona (northern Uganda), Peace Mutuzo



Magyezi



Kabbyanga



Amongi

(gender), Hellen Asamo (disability), Gidudu Mafabi (elderly), Godfrey Kabyanga (national guidance), Obiga Kania (urban development), Martin

Mugarra (tourism), and Fredrick Gume (cooperatives).

The shake-up has also reached Parliament, where Government Chief Whip Hamson Obua has been dropped from his role coordinating government business in the House.

AMONG MISSES OUT

Previous reshuffles have often seen former speakers of Parliament appointed to cabinet positions. When Edward Ssekandi left in 2011 after serving as Speaker of the Eighth Parliament, he was appointed vice-president. A similar case occurred when Rebecca Kadaga left the

speakership of the 11th Parliament, she was subsequently appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs.

However, although Anite is the immediate former Speaker of Parliament, she has not received a Cabinet appointment in this reshuffle.

The reshuffle comes against a backdrop of ongoing investigations into alleged corruption in Parliament and concerns over the accumulation of wealth linked to Amongi's tenure from 2021 to 2026.

When contacted, Okello, who has been serving as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (East African Affairs), declined to comment.

Oryem was appointed to the position in 2004 and has served in that position until this year. In the reshuffles of 1 June 2006, that of February 2009, and that of 27

2011, he retained his cabinet position. Kaducu said: "What I can say is to congratulate the people who have been selected to serve in government. I think they deserve to be there. In the analysis, they have not failed the elections."