

BY FRANKLIN DRAKU

KAMPALA. The ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) has summoned all its Members of Parliament and allied independent legislators to a caucus meeting expected to endorse candidates for Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the 12th Parliament.

The meeting comes ahead of Monday's first sitting of the new Parliament, during which MPs will elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker before commencing legislative business.

According to a notice issued by NRM Secretary General Richard Todwong, the caucus meeting will take place on May 24 starting at 2pm at State House.

"Notice is hereby given for the first

NRM MPs summoned to endorse Oboth-Oboth, Tayebwa

meeting of the National Resistance Movement Parliamentary Caucus, which has been scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at State House Entebbe," part of the notice reads.

The elections for Speaker and Deputy Speaker are expected to attract significant political attention following reports that the ruling party has settled on Mr Jacob Oboth-Oboth and Mr Thomas Tayebwa for the two top parliamentary positions.

Mr Oboth-Oboth, the MP for West Budama South and former Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs, is being fronted for Speaker, while Mr Tayebwa, the outgoing Deputy Speaker and Ruhinda

North MP, is expected to retain his current position.

The Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU), a political pressure group associated with Chief of Defence Forces Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has publicly endorsed the two legislators.

The development comes amid growing political tension within the ruling establishment following the fallout between former Speaker Anita Annet Among and President Museveni.

Ms Among, who had previously indicated interest in seeking a second term as Speaker, has since stepped back from the race amid ongoing investigations into allegations of corruption and illicit

enrichment.

Chief Justice Flavio Zeyya will oversee the election of the Speaker. Once elected and sworn in, the Speaker will then preside over the election of the Deputy Speaker.

The NRM, which holds the majority in Parliament, is expected to have a decisive influence over the outcome of the elections.

The 12th Parliament comprises 529 MPs, of whom 372 belong to the NRM. Another 68 legislators are independents, many of whom are former NRM members who lost in party primaries but later won parliamentary seats.

In a move seen as an effort to consol-

idate numbers, the ruling party has also invited independent MPs willing to cooperate with the NRM to attend the State House meeting.

"By copy of this notice, all independent Members of Parliament who have expressed interest in cooperating with the National Resistance Movement are invited to attend," Mr Todwong said.

The Secretary General also directed all MPs attending the meeting to undergo mandatory Covid-19 testing before accessing State House.

According to the notice, MPs will undergo testing at the Parliamentary Conference Hall between Friday and Saturday ahead of the caucus meeting.