

Supporters clash at Igara East campaigns

BUSHENYI

By Chris Mugasha

Supporters of Andrew Martial (NRM) and Michael Mawanda (Independent), who are both candidates in the Igara East byelection, clashed in Kabale district yesterday.

A supporter of Martial, only identified as Rweyeshera, reportedly beat up a rival, accusing him of abandoning Martial's camp.

The act angered the supporters of Mawanda, who later attacked Rweyeshera at Tuzza Hotel in Kyabugumbi sub-county.

Addressing journalists about the incident in his office on Wednesday, Bushenyi resident district commissioner Peter Mugisha said the Police intervened and dispersed the two rival groups during the "unfortunate episode".

Mugisha said they have summoned Rweyeshera to explain why he allegedly beat up Mawanda's supporter.

"If he fails to show up, he will be arrested because no one has powers to attack another," he said.

"We do not want to see anybody holding a gun or donning army uniform in this exercise (byelection)," Mugisha warned.

The district Police commander, Ronald Lutalo, said they are investigating Rweyeshera over allegations of owning a gun.

Efforts to get a comment from Rweyeshera were futile.

Other candidates in the race are Christine Ninsiima and independents Benjamin Katana, Bernard Kananura and David Armstrong.

The Igara East seat fell vacant after Martial was thrown out of Parliament by the Court of Appeal in October over electoral malpractices, including bribery and vote rigging during the 2016 general election.

After losing the seat to Martial, Mawanda filed a petition in court.

Voters will go to the polls on Thursday next week to elect their new MP.

On the same day, leaders for the newly created Rwentulia town council in Bushenyi district will also be voted into office.