


Moses Byaruhanga 2016 election

February 18 is sure win for the NRM

James Ki-nda camp, been done OIL

the camp rised at :because I :are about eir votes :problem :o power. ister Ru-acting to that the released situation 960 peo- ad on the 1 Bukwo

le living Rwanda, id Teriet

that the it have he peo- eant to ted af- s, it re- se seen :tween g party ppositi- voters se.

As we come close to the end of the campaigns, it is clear that NRM presidential candidate Yoweri Museveni, the old man with a heart for Ugandans, will win come February 18.

What the NRM supporters have to do is come out in big numbers and vote. Why am I saying NRM will win? NRM is the only party that has organised party structures right from village to national level.

In every village, NRM has 30 leaders. With 60,000 villages, it means NRM has 1.8 million leaders at village level. At parish level, we have 30 leaders for each of the 7,500 parishes hence the total of 225,000 leaders at that level.

At sub-county level, we also have 30 leaders in each of the 1,500 sub-counties/town councils, bringing the number of NRM leaders at that level to 45,000. At district level, the leaders are 4,000. All the above add up to 2,074,000 NRM leaders.

If each of the two million NRM leaders turned up to vote with five other supporters, you will have 12 million votes for the NRM. With that strategy, how can President Museveni lose an election?

Sub-county councils

Apart from the level of organisation, the NRM has candidates at all levels, starting with sub-county councils whose constituency is the parish.

In each of the 7,500 parishes, plus the 30 per cent seats reserved for women, NRM has a total of 9,750 candidates running for councillor. Then you add on the 1,500 candidates standing for sub-county chairpersons.

At district level, the NRM has 1,500 candidates running for district councillors. If you add on the 30 per cent seats reserved for the women, the total is 1,950 candidates. That is minus the candidates running for district chairperson and Parliament seats.

There is no other party with candidates for all the elective positions mentioned above. The beauty with this is that when these candidates are campaigning, they do campaign for themselves and the NRM presidential candidate. So the campaign machinery of the NRM is unrivalled.

In the past few days, the NRM sent facilitation, a copy of the manifesto and a message from the presidential candidate to every village. As a result, village meetings are being held, which has led to the NRM message reaching the grassroots. No other party can match this.

Besides the above organisational structure, the NRM candidate has held rallies in all constituencies across the country. All the constituency rallies of candidate Museveni have been massively attended. And to match his big rallies, one of the televisions recently had to photo-

shop images to show that another candidate has big crowds. This is unprofessional, but it will be dealt with as the evidence is available.

Museveni will also win because his message appeals directly to Ugandans. He talks about the success in the road infrastructure, where Uganda's tarmac roads now total 4,000km from the 800km in 1986.

With increased revenue collection from ShS5 billion in 1986 to the current ShS13 trillion, we are able to tarmac more roads, including roads in Kampala city and all the municipalities where roads are being rehabilitated. In the next five years, 2,000km of roads will be tarmacked. The details of the roads are in the NRM manifesto which the President has read at his rallies.

The other big success is in the energy sector where out of 112 districts all, but four, have power. Even in the four districts - Buvuma, Kaabong, Kotido and Nwoya - construction of the power lines is at different phases. They will soon have power. The NRM has also invested in power generation. Karuma and Isimba dams are under construction. Uganda will never have power shortage again.

"In every village, NRM has 30 leaders. With 60,000 villages, it means NRM has 1.8 million leaders at village level. At parish level, we have 30 leaders for each of the 7,500 parishes hence the total of 225,000 leaders at that level."

COMMENT

On health, the NRM policy has been and continues to be immunisation and providing health centre IIIs with maternity wards at sub-county level.

Out of 1,500 sub-counties, only 225 do not have health centre IIIs. At constituency level, out of 290 constituencies, only 100 do not have health centre IVs. A health centre IV is supposed to have an operating theatre and is manned by two doctors while a health centre III is manned by two clinical officers.

On hospitals, we are rehabilitating the old hospitals and 14 new hospitals will be constructed. Our focus is going to be to ensure that all the health units are well equipped, have enough manpower and drugs all the time.

Education

On education, we are consolidating the achievements in UPE, USE, and the student loan scheme. We will focus on improving supervision so as to get better quality education.

The other day I met a student from Uganda Christian University, Mukono, who started primary in a UPE school. There are many out there. We will ensure that the about 387

If each of the two million NRM leaders turned up to vote with five other supporters, you will have 12 million votes for the NRM. With that strategy, how can President Museveni lose an election?

sub-counties without a USE school have a government school.

Already, 240 community or religious-founded schools are earmarked for grant aiding by government starting next financial year. This will immediately reduce the number of sub-counties without a government school to about 147. In these sub-counties, our plan is to construct a government seed school.

On primary education, our policy is to have a primary school in every parish. Out of 7,500 parishes, only 1,742 do not have government primary schools. Our policy is to construct primary schools in these parishes.

Other social programmes include the success in provision of clean water in the rural areas where now 65 per cent of Ugandans can access clean water within a radius of 1km. The other 35 per cent access water, but have to walk distances longer than 1km. Our policy is to reduce the distances people walk to get clean water, especially in the water stressed areas.

On wealth creation, the President is talking about increasing the Naads fund from ShS203 billion to ShS1 trillion. This will increase the number of households getting assistance from the government to engage in commercial agriculture.

Women will have the women fund of ShS2 billion for each district. The Youth Fund will also be increased so that every district gets ShS2 billion annually. This will help in addressing youth unemployment for those who will be able to borrow the money and employ themselves. For the others, we will increase the opportunities of job creation through industrialisation. Our policy is to equip the industrial parks to make it easy for those who want to set up factories. Other youth will be trained in practical skills to enable them get jobs easily.

We will support various groups like those in garages, carpentry workshops, shoe making, weaving and knitting, pottery with better work places and common use machines. The innovation fund will help those in innovation. The microfinance fund will be extended to the villages and in the city, we will give it to organise groups in arcades, Kikuubo, markets, garages, carpentry workshops, etc.

All these will lead to a Museveni success come February 18. Please come out and vote.

The writer is a senior presidential adviser on political affairs