Daily Monitor
www.monitor.co.ug

ents.
ARY 9

didate found





mar-
never

Katikkiro cautions on war threats

The way out. Mr Mayiga says politicians should win people's hearts and not use force.

BY STEPHEN KAFEERO
sdkafeero@ug.nationmedia.com



Buganda Prime Minister Charles Peter Mayiga addresses the Buganda Parliament at the kingdom headquarters at Mengo yesterday. PHOTO BY ERIC DOMINIC BUKENYA

KAMPALA. The Katikkiro of Buganda, Mr Charles Peter Mayiga, has cautioned politicians to stop intimidating citizens during the electoral period.

Mr Mayiga's remarks at the opening of the Buganda Lukiiko (Parliament), come nine days to the 18 presidential election and follow reports of intimidation and pockets of violence in some parts of the country.

"We have heard some people saying that they will use bullets to shoot others and some who are threatening voters. My advice is, every politician should work hard to win the hearts of the people but not their bodies," said the Katikkiro, adding: "If a politician wins the heart of the people, they believe and trust him or her. But if he or she wins the bodies of the people by for example taking lives, they will fear that politician and he or she can rule the people for some time but in the end they will abandon that politician."

Using former presidents Idi Amin and Milton Obote as examples, whom he said had won over the bodies of the people by using guns to intimidate them, Mr Mayiga said any talk of killing people should stop immediately. "We don't want to hear anybody speaking about killing people. Kill people? Have they (people) become cockroaches? How can a leader jokingly speak about killing people? A person who speaks like that can destabilise a country," the Katikkiro emphasised.

The ruling NRM's secretary general, Ms Justine Kasule Lumumba, while presiding over the launch of NRM campaigns in Wakiso District at Nsangi Sub-county headquarters, is quoted as having warned parents that: " The State will kill your children if they come to disorganise and distablise the peace and security in Kampala and Wakiso."

Mr Mayiga appealed to Ugandans to maintain a peaceful coexistence after the electoral process. "I appeal to you Ugandans to maintain peace because in Uganda, no one is immortal. We shall all at one time leave this country. If they vote someone you don't like, that person will die at their own time. All of us...shall die and leave Uganda, so don't hate or fight your neighbour for supporting a candidate you don't like."

Citing the example of the 1980 elections, which he said sparked off the Bush War, Mr Mayiga asked the Electoral Commission to organise free and fair elections.

"We want to appeal to the Electoral Commission to organise credible, free and fair elections. When a person is defeated in a free and fair election, they will be at pain and will accept but if a person thinks there was no fairness, they will remain disgruntled and that is why they go to court," he said.

He challenged the people of Buganda and the rest of the country to turn up in large numbers and vote candidates who will work for the good of the country.

"Because of the inconsistencies in the management of the electoral activities, wrong people might get elected but you can get one good person elected who can help to develop Uganda. One good politician can stop 10 bad ones from passing a legislation that will destroy the country," he said.

He also appealed to the people of Buganda to attach value to their vote.

"You can't weigh Shs10,000 or Shs100,000 or even 1 million. If someone brings an envelope to you...become angry because a politician has treated you like a commodity.

Mr Mayiga then dismissed reports that he had been paid to serve certain interests as false.

Scanned with CamScanner