

Praised. Area residents laud the legislator for initiating developmental projects in the county.

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SERERE. Although it is at times a little tricky predicting election outcomes, it looks like the Kasilo County Member of Parliament slot could again see the Opposition maintain its grip in the constituency for another five years.

In 2006, the opposition Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) party swept Teso sub-region right from the grassroots up to the district and parliamentary elections.

The story was, however, different in 2011 when the trend was reversed in favour of the ruling NRM which capitalised on the Opposition weaknesses to gain ground.

And now five years down the road, Kasilo County, like most parts of Teso, which had previously been considered a dependable ally of the NRM, are switching back to the Opposition.

Even when it has been under FDC for the last 15 years, Kasilo County is one among a few areas in the sub-region with a fairly good road network connecting villages to Soroti Town,

the hub of the sub-region.

A supporter of the NRM, who asked not to be named because party regulations do not allow him to make comments in the press, said because Mr Elijah Okupa has been defeating NRM since 2001 with a large margin, the defeats have confounded the ruling party.

"The party leadership (NRM) has not taken these losses lightly and has been working day and night to regain its support in the Kasilo County," the source said.

Mr Okupa usually sweeps the area with above 80 per cent of the vote. This time, he faces only two people in the race.

They are the NRM flag bearer, Mr George Owanyi and Mr Peter Ojiit (Independent).

With other Opposition stalwarts who joined Parliament at the same time with Mr Okupa struggling to maintain their seats in the forthcoming elections, the picture that comes to one's mind after listening to the residents here is that the FDC icon in the sub-region may have an easy sail-through to serve a fourth term as Member of Parliament.

The incumbent has taken it upon

Okupa on course for record



Mr George Owanyi, the NRM candidate in the race for the Kasilo County MP seat, campaigns recently.

himself to donate iron sheets, cement and culverts as a way of contribut-

ing to development of the poor infrastructure in his county.

Mr Okupa commands overwhelming support from the youth in Kasilo