

...to repent his consuming hatred for President Museveni who cared for him and gave him important positions."

Poor John, he cannot remember that when we used to socialise together, I once caught him

...more than any political party or individual. The dilemma Uganda faces today is the kind of blind support Nagenda exhibits: Simply because the President appointed one to public office, or did one a personal favour, one should never criticise the President's decisions or his

guishing between personal favours and public duties, it is no wonder that Uganda is where it is today.

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Bernard Tabaire Inside Source

Here's what I would do in my first 100 days as Mr President

Often, those of us not particularly involved with any campaign side do rubbish the quality of governance proposals candidates for president articulate. We are like those know-all coaches who coach from the stands or in the pub during any given game of sports.

This is why one of the more innovative things to happen this electioneering period is the campaign *Sunday Monitor* and its sister publication, *Daily Monitor*, are running: encouraging members of the public to write in explaining what they would do in the first 100 days if one were president of Uganda. It has been a neat way to challenge the wiseacres amongst us to go on the record, but more substantively to draw the public into the political conversation at a critical moment.

I am not one to be left behind for this sort of thing. So, here we go with what His Excellency Bernard Tabaire would get up to in his first 100 days in State House, riding in a bullet-proof limo, and with bomb jammers all around.

First, I would appoint no more than 21 ministers and no more than 21 junior ministers as the Constitution advises. With this move, I would be signalling my high regard for the supreme law of the land. I would also be signalling that I am not for patronage. President Museveni and his supporters say the gargantuan Cabinet we have is good for national stability. That may be true,

but certainly it has not been good for service delivery. Primarily, it has helped Mr Museveni buy off elites in return for their support.

Two, I would order value-for-money audits of selected public works projects going back 15 years. I would be interested in establishing whether projects were completed on time, on budget and according to technical specifications. The findings would be the basis for reforms in how the government selects, designs, costs and prosecutes major projects. Of course, anyone who stole or misused money or was negligent or took kickbacks would be prosecuted and if guilty forced to pay back or his or her property is auctioned off.

Relatedly, I would order all government employees under investigation by the police or the Inspectorate of Government to step aside until after the findings are in. This administrative approach would be made a standing procedure in my government. I would not use the excuse that President Museveni uses for inaction: I have no evidence to order official X or Y to temporarily vacate office.

I would also tag pay of government employees to performance. Everyone would be assured of basic pay as per rank. I would then introduce an incentive scheme where an excelling employee would get a bonus at the end of the year or, say, up to three times his or her annual sal-

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ary. The idea is to reward excellence and punish mediocrity. Obviously, all this would have to be based on a transparent and sound system of goal setting, strong supervision and regular appraisal. The practice of everyone at the same rank earning the same salary regardless of level of performance is one of the things crippling the public sector in Uganda. We need competition in the bureaucracy.

I would amend or repeal laws such as the

miniskirt one, the public order management one, the NGO one, the press one, to remove all silly provisions therein so as to deepen the enjoyment of rights by Ugandans.

I would also amend the relevant law to make Makerere University focus on research and training students at the post-graduate level. I would leave undergraduate teaching to the other public universities.

More controversially, I would use my honeymoon to start the process of amending the Constitution and relevant laws to make it much easier for the government to acquire land for public works and related uses. In the same vein, I would make reality talk of Kampala Metro encompassing Entebbe and Mukono.

To encourage savings and therefore investment, I would give some incentive to companies and civil society organisations to start work-based savings and credit co-operatives.

Finally, I would order a strategic review of Uganda's membership in the various regional and international organisations and formations such as the East African Community to establish what the minimum is that Uganda can settle for. I think we are members of some of these bodies without having defined clearly what we want out of them.

Indeed, after nine years, I would announce a plan to withdraw within a year Ugandan troops from Somalia. It is time another AU member-state did the heavy lifting.

As you can see, fellow compatriots, my first 100 days would make John Pombe Magufuli's pale in comparison. And, lest some of you cynics snigger, I would serve no more than two terms: term limits or no term limits. Read my lips.

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