

BY ELIZABETH KAMURUNGI

KAMPALA. When they start their term of office next month, members of the 12th Parliament have on their hands a packed to-do list with strict deliverables, including delivering prosperity for all, as charged by President Museveni.

In a keynote address to open the orientation retreat of newly-elected lawmakers yesterday at the National Leadership Institute, Kyankwanzi (NALI), Mr Museveni tasked the 12th Parliament to focus on curing societal problems, drive prosperity, and security and support the Executive to deliver transformation.

Stern in tone, the President said the incoming MPs must deepen their understanding of ideology and strategy and deliver the priorities set by the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party at inception. These include prosperity, security, and upholding the country's heritage.

"When we came, we decided that his-

Museveni sets priorities for 12th Parliament

torical mission number one must be prosperity. You achieve prosperity by teaching people how to work, not how to beg. You are not going to get prosperity through begging, you are not going to get prosperity through corruption. You get prosperity sustainably through work. Work to produce wealth. You must produce a product or a service," Mr Museveni said.

He added: "A political leader must carry out a diagnosis of the society you lead. These people, what are their problems and why? Then you do the prescription. This is ideology. Understanding the problems of society and then designing the prescription. Having understood the sicknesses of society, what strategy do we follow to implement our prescription?"

Key priorities

In this term, Mr Museveni wants to alleviate poverty, with citizens having

access to electricity and piped water, living in good houses, among others.

He urged MPs to adopt and drive patriotism, pan-Africanism, economic transformation, and democracy as key ideological solutions to Uganda's problems.

"I have been telling you that you should unite and be strong, but you like to become big fish in small ponds. When real challenges arise, you don't have enough. Africa needs to unite to be strong."

Mr Museveni also tasked the legislators to dream big for the nation, saying this is the House that must deliver prosperity for the nation and the continent.

"This generation must create prosperity for the African people. This generation must solve the question of prosperity. We could also go to the moon. It is a common property. We are just here in Kyankwanzi dancing pa-

ka chini while other people are on the moon looking at us like ants," he said, in reference to a crew of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Artemis II mission that is making a 10-day lunar flight to explore more of the Moon for scientific discovery to build on NASA's foundation for the first crewed missions to Mars.

Mr Museveni re-echoed the NRM's focus to transform Uganda, through the four key sectors of focus—services, manufacturing, commercial agriculture, and ICT. These he said, will translate into security and prosperity.

Warning on discipline, graft

President Museveni also warned the new Members of Parliament against indiscipline, alcohol abuse, and corruption, and urged them instead to focus on solving societal problems and delivering prosperity.

He cautioned the new leaders against greed and amassing wealth illegally by stealing from the country.

"Discipline. If you do not have discipline, even if your belief is correct, you may not implement what you know. Discipline covers so many things. Avoiding alcohol. That [alcohol] can cause many problems. You become disoriented," the President said.

He added: "On corruption, if you are corrupt, not only are you going to misuse government resources, you will also be a bad example. Don't involve yourself in corruption. Please, I beg you, do not tolerate corruption. Corruption is cowardice. You fear confronting life. You think the shortcut is stealing."

Mr Museveni, who is also the 10th chairperson, said corruption has undermined his government's effectiveness.

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