



A photomontage of Rubaga North Member of Parliament Abubaker Kawalya and Speaker Anita Among. PHOTO: ABUBAKER LUBOWA

# Shaking hands with the 'enemy'

**Unacceptable?** Rubaga North MP Abubaker Kawalya's decision to attend last week's iftar dinner organised by Speaker Anita Among, has been met with rage within the Opposition ranks.

BY DERRICK KIYONGA

**T**he decision by Abubaker Kawalya, the Rubaga North Member of Parliament (MP), who also belongs to the National Unity Platform (NUP), Uganda's biggest Opposition political party, to attend last week's iftar dinner organised by Speaker Anita Among, has been met with rage within the Opposition ranks.

Ms Among is also the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party's 2nd National Vice Chairperson for Women.

The onslaught was led by another NUP member, James Mubiru, who also represents Rubaga North at City Hall. Mubiru accused Kawalya of dining with their tormentors—the ruling party.

"Why are you dining with those who are responsible for the baseless arrests of our comrades? I am won-

dering: how could you accept Anita Among's invitation to attend the iftar at her home, considering she is behind the arrest of comrade [NUP party deputy spokesperson] Waiswa [Mufumbiro] and others?" Mubiru said. "At a time when our president [Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu] is still unsafe, and Ugandans are rallying to demand their victory, it is disheartening to see you socialising with the oppressors. Whose side are you on, Abubaker Kawalya? While many of us fear associating with NRM supporters due to safety concerns, you are busy attending their events."

Mubiru wasn't done, insisting that in dining with Among, Kawalya, a Muslim, had brought shame to Rubaga North and his party, NUP and thus owed them an apology.

The Rubaga North councillor quoted Holy Bible's Psalms 1:1, which says that blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand

in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.

Another NUP member, Zahara Luyirika, who won the Makindye West MP seat, replacing Allan Ssewanyana, didn't take chances. She came out and flatly denied having participated in the dinner organised at Among's abode in Nakasero, Kampala.

"I strongly refute the false reports circulating that I attended Rt Hon Speaker's Dua. This is completely untrue. I did not attend any Dua, I have not spoken to any media, and I am not contesting for any position. I urge the public to disregard this misinformation," Luyirika, who has been the speaker at City Hall, said.

## The Nsibambi experience

This conundrum comes months after outgoing Kira Municipality legislator Ibrahim Ssemujju Nganda

Continued on Page 8