

PLU EARLIER BACKED THE DUO IN A STATEMENT ISSUED IN MARCH

By Nelson Mandela Muhoozi and Nelson Kiva

The decision by the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) to withdraw its endorsement of Speaker Anita Among and her deputy Thomas Tayebwa for re-election has escalated speculation in the corridors of power on who will clinch the coveted positions when the dice is cast next week.

Members of the 12th Parliament are expected to elect a new speaker and deputy speaker next week.

Although the National Resistance Movement (NRM) central executive committee (CEC) had earlier endorsed Among and Tayebwa for re-election, recent events in the party and PLU show that it is not yet *Uhuru* for the incumbents.

In a shocking turn of events, PLU secretary general David Kabanda, who is a close ally of Among, addressed a press conference, withdrawing the group's earlier endorsement of Among.

The announcement, which

WHAT PLU'S **WITHDRAWAL** OF SUPPORT FOR AMONG, TAYEBWA MEANS

PHOTO BY EDDIE SSEJJORA

was made yesterday at the organisation's headquarters in Naguru, Kampala, raised fresh questions about the future of the current parliamentary leadership.

In the statement signed by Kabanda on behalf of PLU chairperson Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, the organisation announced that it had withdrawn the endorsement it had earlier issued in March backing Among and Tayebwa for the top parliamentary offices.

"On March 11, 2026, the chairperson of the Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba guided that all PLU leaning members elect should support Anita Annet Among for Speaker and Tayebwa Thomas for Deputy Speaker of the 12th Parliament



Speaker Anita Among speaking to Gen. Muhoozi as her husband Magogo listened (left) at Kololo Independence Grounds yesterday. Inset is Thomas Tayebwa

LIKELY CONTENDERS

The development comes at a time of heated exchanges between the camps of Among and Democratic Party president general Norbert Mao, who is seen as her strongest challenger.

In recent months, Mao has repeatedly criticised what he described as incompetence at the helm of Parliament.

Other candidates who have already declared their intentions include Bukono County Member of Parliament-elect Persis Namuganza, Mbale City Woman MP-elect Lydia Wanyoto, Aringa South MP-elect Yorke Odria Alloni and Masindi Woman MP-elect Florence Akliki Asimwe.

Some analysts think that the a surprise candidate could join the race, pointing at defence minister Jacob Oboth-Oboth.

However, veteran journalist John Kakande, said the development could indicate that the NRM has not fully settled the question of the leadership of the 12th Parliament.

He said Muhoozi's shifting position may signal an attempt to avoid internal contradictions in endorsements.

"It could really show that the NRM has not yet concluded the issue of who to support for speakership," Kakande said.

He further explained that the development might also be intended to prevent competing endorsements between the party leadership and the PLU.

"Probably that is what they wanted to show, that there should be no conflicting endorsements where different structures support different candidates," Kakande said.

Kakande also raised the possibility that the move could be procedural, rather than a major political rupture between key actors.

"It may be just a procedural matter. We need to wait and see what happens between now and the swearing-in and election of the speaker," Kakande said.

He pointed out that, at the moment, there is no clear indication that the NRM CEC changed its earlier position or is going to change its position on speakership.

ENCOUNTER WITH MUHOOZI
During Museveni's swearing-in ceremony at Kololo Independence Grounds, Among was seen chatting with Muhoozi. As the ceremony wound down, Among's movements unexpectedly drew the attention of many observers at the venue.

Whereas several senior officials had already exited shortly after Museveni's departure, Among remained behind briefly and approached Muhoozi in what appeared to be a private conversation.

From a distance, the two were seen engaged in a prolonged conversation, with the general listening attentively.

A few moments later, Among's husband Moses Magogo Hassim, also joined the interaction, with the trio briefly continuing the discussion.

The interaction, though inaudible to onlookers sparked speculation among political observers.

Moments later, protocol officials could be heard repeatedly announcing the

of the Republic of Uganda," the statement read.

However, Kabanda said the endorsement had now been "retracted and withdrawn with immediate effect."

The document further stated that PLU legislators and supporters should instead back candidates who will officially be presented by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the positions of speaker and deputy speaker.

The statement further stressed that: "In the PLU, we follow the command, instructions and guidance of our chairman Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba at all times."

The role of Kabanda, who is also the Kasambya County legislator, adds another twist since he is widely regarded as one of Among's close political associates.

His prominent role in communicating the withdrawal of support underscored the shifting and often complex alliances ahead of the vote of the speaker and the deputy next week.

WHAT POLITICAL ANALYSTS SAY
The sudden reversal has triggered widespread debate within political circles, with analysts viewing it as a sign of possible realignments.

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