SPEAKERSHIP RACE: PLU ENDORSES AMONG, TAYEBWA

By Charles Etukuri

The Patriotic League of Uganda (PLU) has backed the National Resistance Movement (NRM) Central Executive Committee (CEC) resolution endorsing Speaker Anita Among and her Deputy Thomas Tayebwa to preside over the 12th parliament.

PLU Secretary General David Kabanda, in a letter dated March 11, 2026, said the PLU patron and Uganda People's Defence Forces Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, asked legislators affiliated to PLU to maintain the status quo of the Parliament leadership.

"Congratulations on your successful elections to the 12th Parliament of the Republic of Uganda. Your victory reflects the trust and confidence that your electorates have in your abilities and competencies. I urge you to uphold principles dear to the PLU, which include; patriotism, integrity, transformation and socio-economic development," Kabanda said.

Kabanda further said: "In the spirit of *Tuko Pamoja* (let us be one), the chairperson of PLU, Gen. Kainerugaba, has guided that PLU-leaning MPs-elect should support the candidates, who have been endorsed by the CEC of the NRM, that is, Among and Tayebwa respectively, for the 12th Parliament of the Republic of Uganda."

Kabanda said the decision to support the duo was based on their experience and commitment to guiding parliamentary debate and steering the legislature. "The leadership of PLU appeals to you to maintain decorum, dignity and discipline during the selection process of these important leaders," Kabanda said.



Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among (left) with her deputy, Thomas Tayebwa, at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala during the State of Nation Address in 2023

NRM INFLUENCE?

The decision by PLU comes hardly a week after it emerged that the NRM top organ endorsed Among and Tayebwa for re-election as Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament respectively.

The endorsement positions Among and Tayebwa as NRM's official flagbearers for the top two parliamentary seats.

An official letter issued by CEC dated February 20, 2026, indicated that during its 8th meeting held at State House, Entebbe, members of the 5th CEC deliberated extensively and in a cordial atmosphere before unanimously resolving to endorse the two candidates.

BETWEEN THE LINES

The decision to support the duo was based on their experience and commitment to guiding parliamentary debate and steering the legislature.

"To reiterate resolutions number 12 of the 7th meeting of the 5th CEC meeting, to the effect that in line with precedence, the names of the incumbent Speaker Among and deputy speaker Tayebwa shall be forwarded to the NRM Parliamentary Caucus for their adoption as candidates of the party on the floor of Parliament. Any issues that arise shall be addressed on merit," read the resolution. President Yoweri Museveni signed the resolution.

Among and Tayebwa, were among others credited for supporting the NRM to win the 2026 elections. CEC members observed that Among traversed the whole country, mobilising support for the party chairperson (Museveni) and party candidates, besides helping the party raise finances.

"CEC notes with great satisfaction, the increase in electoral performance from the entire country, and at all levels of government," the resolution read in part. CEC members, who spoke to *New Vision* on condition of anonymity, said the decision was informed by what members described as the "unwavering loyalty" demonstrated by both Among and Tayebwa to the party leadership.

According to sources, CEC considered the working relationship between Parliament and the Executive under the duo's stewardship, noting that a significant number of Government Bills were processed and passed during their tenure.

AMONG HAILED

Beatrice Wembabazi, the Woman MP-elect for Hoima district, said Speaker Among has demonstrated inclusive leadership. "Among has shown us that she is for everyone and does not segregate," Wembabazi said.

Kanyum County MP-elect Simon Peter Opolot Okwalinga endorsed Among for Speaker of the 12th Parliament, citing her handling of more than 141 Bills and her firm articulation of the Government's position on the floor of the House.

Karim Musa, the newly-elected Independent MP for Aringa North in Yumbe District, also praised Among's leadership style, particularly Parliament's regional sittings.

Other candidates, who have shown interest in the speakership seat include Justice minister and Laroo-Pece Division MP-elect Nobert Mao, housing state minister Persis Namuganza, Mbale City Woman MP-elect Lydia Wanyoto, as well as Aringa South MP-elect Alioni Yorke Odria.