

POLITICAL AGENDA

Your guide to what is planned in the corridors of power

MP ANGERED BY GARBAGE

Makindye East MP Ibrahim Kasozi has expressed concern that cholera, dysentery and typhoid outbreaks are eminent in Makindye division due to uncollected garbage on most of the roads within the suburb. "I blame private companies which Kampala Capital City Authority awarded tenders to collect garbage for failure to deliver the service. For over a month, I have observed uncollected garbage heaped at the collection centres on Kabalagala, Kansanga, Salaama roads and I suspect the worst to be at markets. "I want the Kampala Mayor Erias Lukwago, to find a solution to this problem before it escalates." Kasozi hired youth in Kansanga and Kabalagala to collect the garbage using wheelbarrows borrowed from residents, but they were later blocked by the contracted companies. Kasozi said the residents also complain that the contractors charged exorbitant fees for garbage collection.



OULANYAH ADVISES MPs ON MONEY

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Jacob Oulanyah, has advised legislators to prioritise their expenditure in order to live comfortable lives. "Do things for yourself and not somebody else; live comfortably within your means because that is what matters "You need to learn to prioritise your spending and avoid things that are unnecessary." Oulanyah advised the MPs subscribing to the Parliament SACCOS recently not to "spend money that they do not have, on items they do not need." Oulanyah said through personal experience, he would wish to come up with a principle of "myth of ownership of money" to explain how the funds people claim to own do not belong to them since they are spent on various items. "It is a myth for one to think that the money we have is ours because in one way or another we spend it," Oulanyah said.

KADAGA ADVISES YOUTH TO CARE

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, said there is a tendency among the youth in Uganda to bully and neglect the elderly. I have observed that the youth who are energetic assume they will not grow old; this is a wrong assumption. She called on the youth to treat the elderly with dignity and care, because, they are the source of wisdom. "When we are getting into taxis or queues in hospitals, or at functions we need to give priority to the elderly," Kadaga said. She was speaking during the re-launch of the Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Social Protection at Parliament recently. Kadaga said there was need for a traditional social protection mechanism for old people, especially those who are living on their own.



Send ministers to the field, residents ask Museveni

Vision Reporter

The people of Masindi have tasked the Minister in charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mary Karoro Okurut, to advise the President to direct ministers to leave the comfort of their offices in Kampala and go to the field like he does.

"The President is always checking on the progress of service delivery. But the ministers stay seated in the swinging chairs in their offices.

"Madam, tell the President to order his ministers to go to the field, monitor what is happening and do something about it," Milly Mateeba said during the "Baraza" held at Boma grounds in Masindi municipality on Saturday.

The people in particular want the ministers of health, education, agriculture, energy, works and transport, water and



Karoro Okurut

environment, gender, labour, justice and local government to spend time traversing the country to listen to the people's concerns regarding service delivery.

A prominent moneylender, Abdallah Sserunkuma, broke down as he narrated how a doctor in Masindi Hospital chased away a woman with an ectopic pregnancy, because she did not have the sh300,000 required for an operation. She

BETWEEN THE LINES: Why the Barazas?

They are a presidential initiative under the Office of the Prime Minister and act as public accountability fora where local government leaders give an account of how they have spent money given to their dockets.

only had sh130,000 which the doctor rejected insisting that she pays the full amount or seek help elsewhere. The woman went to Sserunkuma for help.

The Baraza was graced by all MPs from Masindi; Ernest Kiiza, the Minister of State for Bunyoro Affairs, Masindi Woman MP Jalia Bintu, Prof. Nyira Zrubaberi and Patrick Kasumba. Others included the district leaders.

Karoro told residents that the Government is committed to providing better service delivery to them and that is why it has organised Barazas.

She assured the residents that

the concerns raised would be followed up. She said the Office of the Prime Minister would work closely with the area MPs, who would in turn work with the local government leaders for better service delivery.

Barazas are a presidential initiative under the Office of the Prime Minister. They are a public accountability fora where local government leaders give an account of how they have spent money given to their dockets. Barazas are also commonly referred to as "courts of public opinion" where the *waininchi* respond to their local leaders.

13 express interest in EALA seats

By Nicholas Wassajja

Although nominations for elections to the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) will not be open until next year, the contest is already taking shape with 13 people expressing interest in the coveted slots.

Political parties with representation in Parliament and any other citizen with the qualifications for MP are the prerequisite to contest for EALA.

EALA members should be elected by the Parliament at least by April 15, in the last year of the five-year term of office. The current assembly was elected in 2012.

The current EALA delegates include Daniel Fred Kidega, who is also the Speaker; Dora Byamukama, Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Bernard Mulegani, Mike Sebalu and Tiperu Nusura, all from the National Resistance Movement (NRM) while the Opposition has Fred Mukasa Mbidde of the Democratic Party (DP), Chris Opoka from the Uganda People's Congress (UPC) and Suzan Nakawuki, an independent.

Out of the nine, only Nakawuki, Mbidde and Opoka are eligible for the next election, since the other six have served two terms of office.

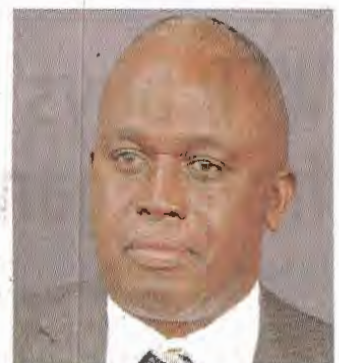
During the Buganda caucus parliamentary retreat held in Mukono last weekend, Nakawuki and Mbidde declared that they will be seeking re-election when



Suzan Nakawuki to stand



Mariam Nalubega



Tashobya is a contestant

nominations are opened.

Mbidde, who is also DP vice-president, asked the caucus to accord him a chance next year to be able to complete the work he had started as EALA chairperson for the committee on information, communication and trade.

Nakawuki confirmed seeking re-election so as to keep the institutional memory and see through the EALA Youth Council Bill and sensitisation of local populations about the federation. It is not yet established whether Opoka will seek another term, but, sources at UPC said he is already doing underground campaigns.

The former Makindye East MP and Social Democratic Party leader, Michael Mabikke is also lobbying MPs to back him as an independent candidate. Mabikke said his rallying points will be covering Uganda's gaps in the EAC to capitalise on its growth.

Parliament director's of communications, Chris Obore, said people are free to lobby MPs for votes before the official nominations as long as they

"EAC desires fresh and young people with enthusiasm to work." Nalubega

do not violate the rules of engagement for the elections.

If elected, the former Kigulu South County representative, Milton Muwuma, said pushing to curtail undercurrent trade barriers among member states would be high on his agenda and seeing through the establishment of an EAC standing army to protect regional security interests.

Emmanuel Dombo the former Bunyole East MP, said his tags along with 20 years of experience as a legislator back home and will drum for constructive engagement and participatory democracy.

For Mariam Nalubega, the

former Butambala district woman representative, "EAC desires fresh and young people with enthusiasm to work hard for a brighter future, while not leaving out the women."

Other names making rounds in the corridors of Parliament are Stella Kiryowa Mukama, the programme manager Medical Services Reproductive Health Services Uganda, former Mbarara Municipality MP, Medard Bitekyerezo, former Kajara County MP Stephen Tashobya, former Ntenjeru County MP Patrick Nsanja and Rosemary Nyakikorongo, the former Sheema district Woman MP.

Journalist turned politician, Nancy Anek Obita is also said to be interested in the race.

The 2012 EALA election left the Opposition parties polarised when DP and UPC nominated candidates for the race, in the face of a boycott by the Forum for Democratic Change. The Opposition wanted NRM to surrender more of the six slots it hold in the assembly to them, but the ruling party rejected the idea.