

## HOMENEWS

# Museveni intervenes in Kyaligonza-Odrek row

## OUR REPORTER

President Yoweri Museveni, the ruling NRM chairman, has intervened to calm a row between Maj Gen (rtd) Matayo Kyaligonza and the political novice Odrek Rwabwogo, *The Observer* has learnt.

Rwabwogo, the president's son-in-law, has brought unwelcome attention to the first family in recent weeks, with his campaign to unseat Kyaligonza as NRM vice chairperson for Western Uganda.

*The Observer* understands that a meeting took place at State Lodge Nakasero on Tuesday, where President Museveni met both Rwabwogo and Kyaligonza largely to mediate an amicable solution to their political rivalry for the NRM position.

Maj Gen Kahinda Otafire, another contender for Kyaligonza's seat, has been quietly going about his campaigns and did not join the belligerent duo at State House.

Since Rwabwogo announced his intention to claim the seat held by Ky-



Maj Gen Matayo Kyaligonza



President Museveni



Odrek Rwabwogo

aligonza for many years, the bush war veteran launched a sustained attack on the president's son-in-law, which persistently sucked in the first family.

Although details of the meeting are still scanty, *The Observer* has learnt that the president asked the two principals to furnish him with their credentials to show who is more suitable for the job. According to our source, Museveni said the credentials should include

academic qualifications and working experience in terms of sustaining the party.

This writer, however, couldn't independently verify this development.

Our repeated telephone calls and text messages to Rwabwogo have gone unanswered.

Contacted for a comment on Wednesday, Kyaligonza denied knowledge of a meeting between him, Museveni and Rwabwogo but vowed to defeat his rival hands down on

degree], he has only one and I have got a clean track record," he said by telephone on Wednesday.

Asked about the meeting, NRM secretary general Justine Kasule Lumumba said: "There were efforts to bring harmony [among] them [Kyaligonza and Rwabwogo] but it hasn't [happened] yet."

Kyaligonza has complained that Rwabwogo was riding on his first family connection to unseat him. But he was even more incensed by Rwabwogo's suggestion that the old guards in NRM should give way to younger blood.

both counts of education and track record in terms of sustaining the party.

"I am not aware of that development [meeting], but in that case, Rwabwogo can't beat me in education because I have two master's degrees if he has [a master's

said Rwabwogo's candidacy would "set a dangerous precedent in NRM."

"I will bring [Rwabwogo's bid] to the attention of the party organs if an opportune time comes and you are making me do the wrong thing of talking about this issue in the wrong forum [media] because I know where I am supposed to take this issue," he added.

Rwabwogo, in subsequent interview with *The Observer*, said: "I give him [Kyaligonza] the due respect and honour that you give to an elder. However, I stand on the shoulders of the elders in order to do something better because there is always an evening of something and dawn of another."

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## New parliament works could start in January

## LAWRENCE MISEGE

Plans to build new, larger parliamentary chambers have gained momentum, following construction permission from city and environmental authorities.

According to parliamentary sources, building plans were recently approved by Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) and the National Environment Management Authority (Nema).

The Parliamentary Sergeant at Arms, Ahmed Kagoye, confirmed the development, revealing that the building plans were done by Sentoogo and Partners and submitted to the office of the parliamentary clerk mid this year.

"We are now waiting for the consultant to make the final tender document to be submitted to the office of the clerk so that the procurement process for a contractor can begin," Kagoye

said.

Asked when construction would start, Kagoye said: "We have some money in this financial year's budget to kick-start that process; if we get that [tender] document now, by January or February the contractor will be on site."

According to Moses Bwalatum, the parliamentary principal information officer, the new state-of-the-art chamber will have a semi-circular debating hall that will seat 500 MPs and over 700 members of the public. He said it will also have cutting-edge technology with an electronic voting system; each member will have an electronic screen to access bills, the order paper and the constitution.

The speaker will be able to cue members wishing to speak and monitor MPs present. The new building will also have MPs' offices, committee rooms,

a library, a restaurant, a fitness centre and a press lounge sitting over 84 people. The new chamber will be constructed in the North Wing Car Park of Parliament and the existing chamber could be turned into a museum.

"We have made enough research from various parliaments in Africa, Europe, Asia...because most of them are either new or recently refurbished," he said.

The existing chamber was originally designed to accommodate 82 members but the current 9th Parliament has 375 MPs and the 10th Parliament could have well over 400 lawmakers. Recently when President Museveni ushered his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta into the chamber to address MPs, he claimed he was shocked by its sheer small size. He described it as a "kafunda" (small local bar).

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## THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## Press Release

## Guidance to all Presidential Aspirants Conducting Consultative Meetings

The Electoral Commission started issuing nomination forms to aspiring Presidential candidates on 17th August 2015, and the exercise is ongoing. A number of aspirants have already collected the forms and have embarked on consultative meetings to obtain the required signatures in preparation for nomination.

Section 1 of the Presidential Elections Act, 2005 defines an aspirant to mean a person intending to stand as a candidate during election for the office of the President.

A candidate under the Presidential Elections Act, means a person duly nominated as a candidate for a Presidential Election, under Section 10.

According to the Electoral Commission's Election Roadmap, campaigns for the various elective positions, Presidential Elections inclusive, as guided by law commences after the Electoral Commission has duly nominated candidates for the respective elective offices.

However, Section 3 of the Presidential Elections Act, 2005, enjoins aspiring candidates to carry out consultations in preparation for nominations and the aspirant may:

- carry out nation-wide consultations;
- prepare his or her manifesto and other campaign materials;
- raise funds for his or her campaign through lawful

means;  
d. convene meetings of national delegates.

While consulting, the aspirant is required to introduce himself or herself to the Electoral Commission and notify the relevant Local Council and the Police of the area to which he or she goes.

It should be noted that Section 3 of the Presidential Elections Act, 2005, provides for aspirants to consult, activities involved inclusive, in preparation for nominations.

**These consultations, however, should be distinguished from distribution of campaign materials, campaigns, holding rallies and mass meetings and canvassing/soliciting for votes envisaged under Sections 21 and 24 of Part V of the Presidential Elections Act.**

The Electoral Commission advises all aspirants to comply with the requirements of the Presidential Elections Act, 2005 and other applicable laws in regard to undertaking the consultative activities.

Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu  
Chairperson, Electoral Commission