

**PERSONAL STATEMENT REGARDING THE DEFAMATORY AND MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST ME BY THE HON. NANDALA MAFABI NATHAN ON MISAPPROPRIATION OF ONION SEEDS FOR BUGISU MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT- 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

Rt. Hon. Speaker, thank you for according me an opportunity under our rules of Procedure, Rule (54) to give a personal statement.

I rise to give an explanation on allegations contained in a letter authored by Hon. Nathan Nandala Mafabi in which he states that I received onion seeds on behalf of Members of Parliament from Bugisu sub-region from NAADs and misappropriated the same.

I would like to categorically refute these allegations as baseless and extension of grudges arising from the last elections. It is not only malicious but also fabricated to destroy my otherwise impeccable reputation. I would therefore like to set the record straight as follows:

- i. On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016, I wrote to HE, the President and among other issues asked for his support for onion seeds through NAADs to improve livelihoods for the farmers in Budadiri East.
- ii. I was later informed that my request had been considered and that Hon. Dr. Mary Goret Kitutu would coordinate and ensure other constituencies in Bugisu are included.
- iii. On July 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, the issue of onion growing was again raised to HE the President by Bugisu Parliamentary Caucus through Hon. Mudimi Ignatius the Caucus Chairperson.
- iv. Dr. Kitutu met NAADs officials and a decision was reached to give all Members of Bugisu Parliamentary Caucus some onion seeds.
- v. Each member was individually called by NAADs to pick his/her share of the seeds from **Smilow Seeds Company** in Industrial area.
- vi. As Secretary to the Caucus, I equally communicated to all the members the same message through SMS.
- vii. All members of Bugisu Caucus should have by now picked their seeds, if for any reason a member has not picked his/her seeds, how can I be held responsible.

- viii. In a latest communication with Hon. Nandala, in which he threatened me with IGG and Police Investigation, I calmly replied him to proceed to Simlow Seeds and pick his share of the onion seed.
- ix. I do not know the criterion followed by NAADs in allocating different quantities to different beneficiaries and if this was his concern, he would be at liberty to contact NAADs for details.
- x. Lastly, I am neither the custodian nor the storekeeper of the said seeds. My role was simply to lobby for my people and communicate to the other Colleagues.

In concluding Rt. Hon. Speaker, I would like re-affirm that I did not play any other role in the allocation of the seeds other than picking my share from Similow seeds like the rest of my colleagues.

The Hon. Nandala should therefore, substantiate his allegations against me and offer an apology to me and the people of Budadiri East by withdrawing his letter and write back to the IGG and the IGP clarifying the falsehoods. Otherwise I will have no option but to institute a civil action against him for libel.

Attached for your kind consideration is the malicious letter herein+ referred to.



Webboya Vicent -MP

**BUDADIRI COUNTY EAST**