

DP calls for conference amid wrangles

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KAMPALA. Democratic Party (DP) has called for a national delegates conference (NDC) slated to take place in May amid wrangles between the outgoing president general Norbert Mao and party rebels.

According to the roadmap, DP had scheduled to hold the delegates' conference in March but it was postponed due to infights which erupted during the national registration process.

The party leadership called for a national council meeting which was held in Balintuma, Kampala to solve the matter but it ended up in a fist fight and suspension of the national organising secretary, Mr Sulaiman Kidandala.

DP parliamentary caucus had called for an emergency national council and accountability for the last 10 years before the delegates conference but up to now nothing has happened and the registration process is going on although they had agreed to halt it.

New leadership

Speaking to the media during their weekly press conference in Kampala yesterday, DP Secretary General Gerald Siranda said the party has finalised plans to hold a delegates conference to elect new leadership.

"DP National Delegates Conference will take place in Gulu from May 1 to 5 and we are set to discuss several issues as regard to the coming General Election," he said.

Mr Siranda said they would receive and consider various reports and set terms for the party's participation in the proposed 2021 Opposition electoral coalition.

"We wish to restate our reasons for coalition of democracy seeking forces in Uganda because as DP we seek to be a full partner not a subcontractor in any effort at joining forces," he said.

Mr Siranda said their reasons base on research they had carried out regionally and internationally.

"We are sure that combined force coalitions allow organisations or parties to gain something that they could not gain on their own because coalitions provide parties with tangible results that they could not accomplish on their own," he said.

The delegates

Mr Fred Mwesigwa, the Press Secretary to the party president, said they expect more than 3,000 delegates, adding that their focus is to rebuild party structures nationwide. "The issues of the coalition should not be mixed up with our internal party building efforts. Coalition talks will continue behind the scenes to allow the party carry out internal processes without any confusion," he said.

Five party members have shown interest to stand for party presidency including Mr Mao who has led for 10 years since he replaced the late John Ssebaana Kizito.

Tumukunde meets police over consultation for 2021

Progress. Police spokesperson Fred Enanga says they discussed guidelines and are waiting for Lt Gen Tumukunde to present his roadmap for assessment.

BY RISDEL KASASIRA
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The former Security minister yesterday spent more than an hour meeting deputy Director of Operations Senior Commissioner of Police John Nuwagira in preparation for consultation with the voters before 2021 presidential elections.

Lt Gen Henry Tumukunde arrived at the police headquarters in Naguru in company of Tororo North MP Annett Nyakecho, who he said is a principal member of his team, that will help canvass for the votes in 2021.

He also wrote a letter to the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Martins Okoth-Ochola yesterday asking for police guidelines to follow during his consultations.

"In view of the above, and as a law abiding citizen, I'm seeking that I be furnished from your office, with the

“ We want to know whether how they understand the law is the way we understand it. But also, we want to be seen to be law-abiding because the circumstances are such that accessing the public is very important because the voters have to know you.” LT GEN HENRY TUMUKUNDE

guidelines I and my team need to follow during those consultations. We intend to move across the country and the detailed programme will be submitted to your office as soon as we receive the guidelines," he wrote.

After the meeting, Lt Gen Tumukunde told the media that Mr Nuwagira had committed to respond by tomorrow. "He was specific and said we would get response by Thursday," he said.

The police spokesperson, Mr Fred Enanga, said they discussed the guidelines with Gen Tumukunde and were waiting for him to present his roadmap for police assessment.

"He went back to come up with a clear roadmap so that it is easy for us to gently evaluate the venues and the places where he will hold his consultations," he said.

Aim

Lt Gen Tumukunde said he and his lawyers wanted to be "on the same frequency" with the police before he rolls out his programme to consult his supporters across the country.

He said the IGP and his deputy, Maj Gen Sabiiti Muzeyi, were not in office.

"We didn't find the IGP present and it is understandable because we never fixed an appointment. We also didn't find the deputy," he said.

Lt Gen Tumukunde announced last week that he is planning to contest for President in 2021 but has not announced which political party he will contest under.



Discussion. Kyadondo East Member of Parliament Robert Kyagulanyi (right) and speaker of Kampala Capital City Authority, Mr Abubaker Kawalya, at the People Power headquarters in Kamwokya yesterday. PHOTO BY DAVID LUBOWA

There are oppressors in Opposition - Bobi Wine

BY DERRICK WANDERA
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KAMPALA. Kyadondo East Member of Parliament Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, has described some people within the Opposition as "oppressors".

Without naming individuals, Mr Kyagulanyi said the oppression tag refers to those who fight to get positions for personal benefits, neglecting the bigger picture of restoring democracy.

"I have always said there are two groups of people in Uganda, the oppressors and the oppressed. Although the latter group is predominantly in the ruling NRM party, there are oppressors within the Opposition," he said.

Mr Kyagulanyi made the remarks while receiving the newly elected speaker of the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), Mr Abubaker Kawalya, at the People Power head-

OTHER VIEWS

Mr Kenneth Kakande, the DP spokesperson, said: "It is true that the Opposition is a problem now. There are many times when FDC or UPC [Uganda People's Congress] is spending time fighting DP and vice versa. I think some Opposition leaders don't have the self belief so they keep fighting each other."

The leaders of FDC and UPC that *Daily Monitor* talked to about Bobi Wine's remarks declined to speak on the matter.

quarters in Kamwokya yesterday.

Mr Kawalya, a member of FDC party, but subscribes to People Power pressure group, pledged to work with Bobi Wine.

"We have seen where the truth is and that is why I decided to come to People Power. I wouldn't have won if I didn't have the support of the pressure group...," he said.

Values of the pressure group

Executive Secretary Lewis Lubongya reminded Mr Kawalya and other People Power supporters about the pressure group's core values.

"We stand for discipline, reliability, integrity, inclusiveness, fidelity and service. Whoever wants to stand for any position using People Power must observe these very jealously. I hope no one will come in to use the platform and abuse it," Mr Lubongya said.

Last week, Mr Kawalya won the race for speaker with 17 votes, beating FDC's Doreen Nyanjura, who got 14 votes, and Muhammad Segirinya, who got one vote. Ms Nyanjura is now the KCCA minister-in-charge of finance and administration.

Journalists tipped on safety ahead of polls

BY ANTHONY WESAKA
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KAMPALA. Journalists have been urged to be security conscious as they cover political campaigns ahead of 2021 presidential and parliamentary polls.

Lawyers and media experts predict that given the already charged political environment, violations against media practitioners are expected to increase.

"We are now building towards 2021 General Election and your guess is just like mine that it is not going to be a smooth road for sustaining freedom of expression and access to information," lawyer and executive director of Legal Aid Service Provider's Network, Ms Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, said.

Ms Mukasa said: "We have already seen aspiring presidential aspirants being denied to make consultative processes. We saw during Makerere [University] demonstrations and what happened to the journalists who were covering the events and how they were arbitrarily arrested."

The caution was made during a media refresher training of journalists and media lawyers on freedom of expression and access to information in Kampala at the weekend.

Ms Mukasa said these manifestations are not new and happened in the 2016 elections, there were gross violations of the right to freedom of expression and access to information.

Mr Peter Okello Jabwera, a member of the Uganda Media Council, asked journalists to always change personal passwords at their work computers to ensure that their work is secured from newsroom spies.

To those covering campaigns and riots, Mr Okello advised them to always wear their press jackets, carry identity cards, escape in case of life threatening eventualities and never mix with rioters.

Mr Peter Magelah from Chapter Four Uganda said part of their work is to come to the rescue of journalists arrested during the course of their work.

He added that sometimes they face challenges in pursuit of the detained scribes.

"Some journalists are not publicly known and so when they are arrested, you find it weird to go to a police station and ask to represent a journalist whose name you don't know. There is also the issue of us lawyers always wanting to get instructions from clients before we can represent...," Mr Magelah said.

RANKING

Human rights. Ms Catherine Anite, a media and human rights advocate, gave statistics by Reporters Without Borders of how Uganda is ranking low in as far as protection of media freedoms is concerned.

She said Uganda in 2019 was ranked 125th against Kenya's 100th position and Tanzania's 118th.