

Ministerial jobs up for grabs



JESSICA ALUPO

Although the education minister lost the Katakwi District Woman MP seat to NRM flag-bearer Violet Akurut, she might make a surprise return on the list of cabinet ministers.

Alupo has been a strong ally of Museveni from 2001, when she entered politics as a candidate for the Katakwi District Woman MP seat.

She is expected to be rewarded for her role in ensuring that Museveni wins the majority votes in Teso sub-region.

GEN. (RTD.) MOSES ALI

Observers say when the then 38-year-old Moses Ali was named finance minister in 1977 by former president Idi Amin and charged with revamping a free-falling economy, current education and sports minister Jessica Alupo was a three-year-old child playing with mud in her village in present-day Katakwi district.

Museveni is likely to re-appoint Gen. Ali as a minister in recognition of his efforts and the support the NRM got from the West Nile.

Despite having a long career in politics, having served both in the government of Amin and that of Museveni, Ali is likely to be retained in Cabinet.

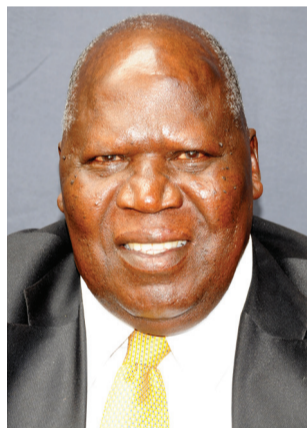
A lawyer by profession, Gen. Ali has represented East Moyo County in Parliament for several



BRIGHT RWAMIRAMA

Rwamirama is a former bush war hero and retired army officer. He was recently re-elected Isingiro North MP, where he has served since 2001. Rwamirama is also the agriculture state minister.

His loyalty to Museveni is unshakeable and was visible during the campaigns and no doubt, he stands a chance of being part of the new Cabinet.



terms and the President has always relied on him to strengthen the NRM in the West Nile.

During the recent elections, Museveni combed every district in West Nile region and defeated Besigye even in Arua district, which many view as an FDC stronghold.



RUHAKANA RUGUNDA

President Museveni maintained victory in Kigezi sub-region as he had done in the previous elections and the NRM. Therefore, will be indebted to the work of Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda.

One of NRM's strategists told *New Vision* that Museveni was keen on winning Kigezi, since it is the home area of his rival, Amama Mbabazi.

Rugunda, who headed the President's campaign team in the sub-region, did a good job for Museveni.

Observers say Rugunda is

a good mobiliser, one of the reasons he is among a few ministers who are ex-officios (not elected) in the Cabinet and will continue to be there.

Aware of the Banyakigezi's influence in Uganda's politics, Museveni realised the best way to defuse the boomerang of alienating them was to replace Mbabazi with Rugunda as premier.

The Rugunda-led team worked hard during the presidential campaigns to woo the hearts of those who were hurt by the mistreatment of Mbabazi by the Police and other security organs.

MIKE MUKULA

Capt. Mukula, the flamboyant outgoing Soroti Municipality MP, has proved to be a politician of all seasons.

Although in the cabinet reshuffle of May 23, 2006, President Museveni dropped him, he did not disappear from the political scene. Mukula continued campaigning for the NRM in Teso and across the country.

In the recently concluded elections, NRM retained Teso region because of his hard work.

He led the NRM helicopter crew. The helicopter, emblazoned with the picture of candidate Museveni and painted in NRM yellow colours, helped NRM take political campaigns in Uganda to another level.



Besides being a source of excitement, the chopper was an effective mobilisation tool for the ruling party. Many believe Mukula loaned a chopper to NRM for the just-concluded campaigns. His efforts will certainly not go unrewarded.

SAM KUTESA

Kutesa, the foreign affairs minister, may also not miss out in the next Cabinet, if he keeps his word and does not go for the position of the Speaker of Parliament.

Kutesa, who is the former UN General Assembly president, is one of the influential ministers in the NRM government.

The MP for Mawogola County in Ssembabule district has been in active politics since the 1980s.

Between 1980 and 1985, Kutesa was the MP for Mbarara North. Before he was appointed foreign affairs minister, Kutesa had served as the Minister of State for Investment.



The NRM party and President Museveni enjoy a lot of support in Ssembabule. This is partly attributed to people like Kutesa.

PROF. GILBERT BUKENYA

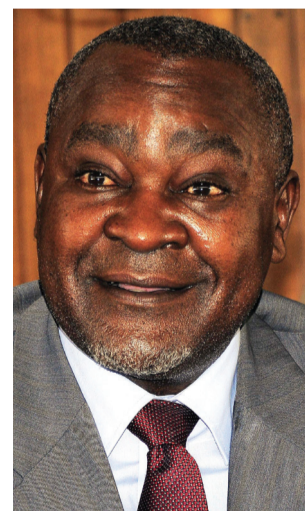
After clinching what Opposition leaders termed as "a juicy deal" in October last year, former vice-president Prof. Gilbert Bukunya made a U-turn and switched allegiance to President Museveni.

It should be remembered that Bukunya vilified Museveni after the latter sacked him as Vice-President in 2011.

He further felt humiliated when he had to do a stint in jail over allegations of misappropriation of funds meant for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that was held in Kampala in 2007.

News of his support to Museveni, a man he had vowed to take on in the last polls, thrilled NRM supporters across the country in equal measure as it riled opposition politicians, who had hoped to rely on his political clout to get votes from Buganda region.

Although many people say by losing the Busiro County MP seat after standing as an independent Bukunya ceased



being a mahogany tree (as he popularly referred to himself), some observers say Museveni may appoint him minister as consolation. Before he denounced Museveni, Bukunya had played a key role as a mobiliser in the NRM party. His upland rice project marketed NRM across the country.

Bukunya also continues to serve as a strong link between the NRM party, Catholic Church and Buganda Kingdom.



EDWARD SEKANDI

The 73-year-old is the Vice-President and former Speaker of Parliament. He was recently re-elected Bukoto Central MP and has been in Parliament since 1996.

Although his critics say he is one of the ministers who have been physically and mentally weakened by age, he is likely to be among the first names penciled down for ministerial duty after May.