

# independence medal?



President Yoweri Museveni (centre) with some of the people who received medals during the Golden Jubilee Awards ceremony at the Kampala Serena Hotel last month. Over 1,000 current and former MPs received medals

struggle, were also awarded posthumously. But what are these medals and how did they come about?

## Origin of medals

According to Businge, the law that brought the National Honours and Awards Act into place was passed by Parliament in 2001.

"Four years later, in 2005, the President Yoweri Museveni assented to the law," Businge said as he traced the genesis of

the medals.

He said the law provides for two main offices; that of the chairperson for the presidential awards committee, which consists of nine members, and that of the chancellor/committee secretary, who runs the day-to-day activities of the committee. Businge said the committee came into place in 2007 and the office of the secretary in 2008.

"The first committee was sworn in on October 7, 2008.

Between 2008 and 2013, Prof. Mondo Kagonyera was its appointed chairperson. He was replaced with Dr Beatrice Wabudeya," Businge said.

The committee is charged with nominating awardees, purchase and custody of insignia and organisation of awarding ceremonies. Gen. Elly Tumwine is the committee's master of ceremonies.

Businge revealed that the first medals were awarded on June 9, 2009, during the Heroes'

Day celebrations in Hoima district.

"We have six main functions at which we award medals.

They are; Independence Day on October 9, Liberation Day on January 26, Tarehesita celebrations on February 6, Women's Day on March 8, Labour Day on May 1 and Heroes Day on June 9," he said.

He further explained that there were 26 different types of medals that they give out, which started with

army officers who exhibited exceptional bravery during the liberation war (1981-86). Businge said they have now added to the list of awardees, civilians and Police officers who have exceptionally served the country.

In a paper he presented at the National Leadership Institute in Kyankwanzi in April 2015, Businge revealed that 14,263 medals had been awarded then since 2009.

The first medals awarded were 191 and they included Luwero triangle (108), Nalubaale (15) and Damu (68) medals. Since many more medals have since April last year been given out, Businge estimated that the committee has given out about 19,000 medals to date.

## Regulations

In his presentation at Kyankwanzi last year, Businge said the Government had formulated the national honours and awards regulations, which are expected to further guide the implementation of the National Honours and Awards Act.

The regulations are expected to extensively guide the nomination procedure, how the honour must be used and privileges of the awardees.

Formulation of the National Honours and Awards Regulations 2014 No. 46 was finalised. "This will guide in the implementation of the National Honours and Awards Act, 2001 to enable a broader category of civilians to qualify for the national honours and awards."

## Cost of medals

Businge said some MPs expressed dissatisfaction with the way the medals were being awarded, prompting the President to agree with Speaker Rebecca Kadaga on a convenient day to organise a special ceremony to give out the medals to the MPs. "The Speaker did not participate in buying these medals as some people alleged," he reaffirmed.

Asked how much each of the medals costs, Businge said prices vary depending on the type and number of medals to be procured.

"For example, medals reserved for heads of state are the most expensive. They can go up to £15,000 (sh66.2m)," he noted.

Businge revealed that medals are sourced from abroad because "for the time being, we have not had someone to manufacture them to our satisfaction locally."

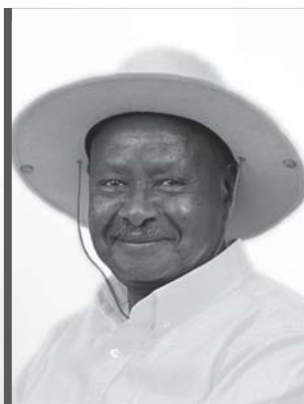
However, he could not say how much the Government has so far spent on the about 19,000 medals given out so far and the award-giving ceremonies.



## UGANDA NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



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HE. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni  
President of The Republic of Uganda



Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye  
Minister of Science,  
Technology and Innovation



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