

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT OF THE YEAR 2011
August to November 2011
From John Odit,
Secretary General UPC.

Introduction

I am pleased to present to you Party members, a second brief on the state of progress in your Party after our report of the first 100 days in the office which I provided in August this year. That report covered April to July 2011. This report covers the months of August to November 2011. December will stand alone to complete the work of the Party in the year 2011 that experienced the general election in our country.

Background

This report is coming at a time when we should be concentrating on implementing the Strategic Plan which has been our own product; and we thank International Republican Institute (IRI) for coming to our rescue at the time when we needed an independent view to critique our vision. I have no doubt that Ms N. Mwanga PhD. was the right choice recommended by IRI. She assisted to enrich our plan and the document we have embraces all strategic interest of the party as the current aspiration of the people of Uganda in general and UPC in particular. I also want to appreciate the timely intervention from The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, NIMD which together with IRI financed the publication of the final document.

The plan was officially promulgated by the Party President on 8 November 2011. This means that the document you will access is the official tool of the party, and it will be the duty of each party member to study it carefully and contribute in whatever way possible, materially, intellectually or financially to ensure its successful implementation.

Major achievements during the period:

House cleaning:

For most part of the period, the secretariat went through a series of challenges, which threatened the spirit of team work that had enabled the Party score success reported in the previous quarter. The headquarters experienced complications on matters of bureaucracy, conflict of interest and power struggle which stifled progress. There was lack of clear communication between the Party President and the entire cabinet and other senior headquarter staff and he resorted to issuing a series of internal memos pointing fingers to specific personalities and individuals and in some instances making the work of the Secretary General literally impossible.

The intervention of the National Chairman, Major Edward Rurangaranga, who steered the chair ably and with maturity enabled the secretariat to overcome the apparent stalemate. We were very much indebted to Mr. Peter Walubiri, the National Treasurer, who took extra care to listen very carefully in order to produce the records of the deliberations promptly.

We are happy that all those who had been named in one way or another through the various memos from the Party President found time to respond as concisely as possible, and this assisted in clearing their names and re-creating harmony among the leaders serving at the Party headquarters. All Presidential envoys made the best input in the meeting, and no doubt they worked to put the Party back on track.

November 2. 2011 made a difference in the life of the Party. All the recommendations from the meeting were considered and passed by the Cabinet meeting of November 8. 2011.

Among the most important decisions made was to officially approve and promulgate the Strategic Plan 2011/2016 by the Party President, save for areas which will need to be reviewed, especially the question of the Youth and Women Leagues. The endorsement of the new Party Constitution, and tasking the Secretary General to take up the responsibility of having it gazetted by the Electoral Commission as soon as possible was also no mean achievement.

Maintaining the Party within the greater family of the opposition parties in the Inter Party Organization Dialogue, IPOD was another key breakthrough. This decision enabled the Party to pursue the various project funds available in this partnership more vigorously and with more confidence than ever before.

Progress on implementation of the Strategic Plan:

During the period under review, the Plan was presented to a number of partners in the country. International Republican Institute, IRI and Deepening Democracy Program, DDP undertook to produce more copies for the party, and over 3000 copies were made. We are grateful to these partners who came into our rescue immediately to support our efforts to flank the party to its new phase.

The Party finally had the Strategic Plan made available to the public officially on 8 October 2011 at its Executive (Cabinet) meeting presided over by the Party President. It is now available for full implementation by all Party members in the country and abroad. We also urge partners and party well wishers to extend full support towards meeting the aspiration of the UPC through this plan.

Deepening Democracy Program (DDP) extended an immediate grant to start the plan off. With Uganda Shillings 199,000,000, (One hundred and ninety-nine million only) the Party is now furnishing and equipping the headquarters which was renovated in the previous quarter into a modern and fully functional Secretariat. The Conference hall too will be provided with the required communication machinery to meet the press and link the Party with party members abroad. Procurement is being done centrally by DDP, as it has always been their practice and to ease their accountability on matters of this nature.

The Secretariat will start producing the Party Newsletter and distributing it all over the country. For members and friends abroad, the monthly publication will be available online. We invite the public to take interest in reading the paper and give it support and contribute articles as soon as we come on the street.

UPC will make an effort to present its programs to be aired on local FM stations upcountry to provide the public with UPC programs and other issues of national and international interest. The paper will examine matters of governance in the country with keen emphasis in providing alternative policies for the country.

The second segment of the available fund was used in the country wide mobilization, and training of Party leaders. Buganda Kingdom was the first region to come on board in this phase. The region's program was started by the agents' sensitization and briefing on Wednesday 9 November 2011 in the Conference hall, at the Party headquarters Uganda House. Branch elections in ten districts in this region is being rated to be quite successful and it will culminate into electing

leaders at various organs of the party up to the Annual Delegates Conference. The Party President met and greeted the participants during the Uganda House workshop.

Regional conferences are on course and expected to cover all other remaining thirteen regions of the country beginning November 24. 2011 and ending on December 21. 2011. The national headquarters team is being jointly led by the Secretary General and the National Party Chairman in this countrywide campaign. We believe that this outreach will take the party message down to its members and the new leaders who assumed office during the recent branch and other party organs elections.

For record purposes the regional tour will reach the following traditional areas and the choice of the venues are mandated to the regional leaders to decide and confirm. These are: Busoga (Nov. 24.2011), Bukedi (Nov.26. 2011), Bugisu (Nov. 28. 2011), Sebei (Nov. 30. 2011), Teso (Dec. 2. 2011), Karamoja (Dec. 4, 2011), Lango (Dec 7. 2011), Aholi (Dec. 9.2011), West Nile ((Dec.12.2011), Bunyoro (Dec.14.2011), Toro (Dec.16. 2011), Ankole (Dec. 19.2011) and Kigezi (Dec 21.201.). You will notice that Buganda is out of this particular timetable. As reported earlier, Buganda has a much more intensive program which takes the Party direct to the parishes and is being conducted in parallel to the regional program.

Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue, IPOD, through NIMD provided some Ugandan Shillings 23,000,000.00 (Twenty three million only), to fund the Party research program, and it is our hope that the final outcome and recommendations of the study will form part of the party's effort to examine the NRM government performance in terms of what they have promised and delivered to the people of Uganda, and the gaps therein. That research report will also provide UPC recommendations on alternative policies and programs for the country. This is our mandate as a party in opposition. We must perform our oversight duty and call government to account for its promises to the electorate.

A national youth conference has been scheduled in Busoga region. This conference will involve over 1000 youth leaders from all 217 constituencies in the country. These young men and women will be commissioned to go out and mobilize and recruit their number in their locations into the Party. They will also be charged with the responsibility of mobilizing other resources to support Party programs.

Contacts with UPC Leaders and members abroad:

The Secretary General together with Leonard Okello, the Presidential Envoy to UPC abroad contacted and arranged for a teleconference with the Party members in Canada. We discussed with them an update on Party matters following the February 2011 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. We also shared with them the needs of the Party, both short term and long term plans.

The Canada group also looked at the draft Strategic Plan and sent their inputs which we treasured greatly. Finally, they constituted an organizing committee to initiate and coordinate resource mobilization programs for the Party. All they needed was a similar conference with the Party President before proceeding with the program. The coordination of this Presidential conference is in progress and is a function of the Envoy. Leonard Okello is tasked with the responsibility to take up the matter with the Party President.

Contacts were also initiated with Germany through the Party contact in Bonn, and the officials are optimistic of their contribution to the Party programs in the course of time.

Japan Bureau too has initiated its fresh contacts with Uganda House, and expressed excitement and satisfaction with the Party Strategic Plans. There are positive expressions to supporting the program and invitation was extended to the Party headquarters to visit the Bureau.

The London group received Rev. Onesmus Mutainduka who gave them full briefing about the plans of the Party. We received copies of the proceedings, and they were clearly demanding for regular and substantive reports and any other materials that may enrich their understanding of the Party activities here in the country.

We are convinced that the matter of information sharing with members abroad, and in the country will be addressed once the office is stabilized.

The New Party Constitution:

Party members will recall that a new constitution was promulgated at the 2008 Delegates Conference. All that remained was for the Secretary General to take it up with the Electoral Commission to have it gazetted in compliance with the laws of the land. We are happy to report that the Party fulfilled all these requirements, and soon you will receive a copy of the 2008 Party Constitution to replace the 1970 constitution. It is now within the Registry at the Electoral Commission. This is the final desk which handles the registration.

Disciplinary Committee:

You may also recall that the Party experienced discomfort arising from incitement from a section of its members. This agitation was not initiated in good spirit. The party has its procedures of handling its problems. A group known as the *upc pressure group* was identified, and its leaders were handed to the Party Disciplinary Committee for investigation and any action. We expect the Committee report soon after it has completed its work independently as required by the constitution of the party.

Court Petition:

As reported in the first release we started the task of completing branch elections to complete Party structures all over the country. My office was convinced that this would be great effort to improve and strengthen our Party mobilization and recruitment drive and make us more competitive. In any case the absence of structures was one of the weaknesses that were identified for poor performance in the February 2011 Elections.

The Secretary General's tour in western region indeed confirmed that we needed to do election which in some districts had not been done to allow leadership renewal since 1980s. This was started in western region and now is in central region.

Regrettably, the Secretary General has been petitioned in the High Court of Uganda by a few Party members from western region for having allowed the Party elections to proceed on the ground on allegation that they were not given sufficient time to organize! Imagine being unprepared for establishing Party structures for more than one quarter of a century. Worse of all as is required a district chair is occupied on rotational basis among the constituency chairpersons after one year, and

I discovered that some district executives had been in place since the election of 1980 and no structures exist below the district. Nonetheless court hearing is scheduled for December 15. 2011 in Kampala and the Secretary General will appear in court in defense of the Party.

Conclusion

It is important to recognize those who worked with the Secretary General to keep the program on course. First the National Chairman, who worked very hard and carefully to ensure the unity of the national team. The November 2. 2011 meeting which he convened to address what appeared to be *some disturbing development at the Secretariat* is given special honor. The National Treasurer and a distinguished lawyer who provided guidance on the proceedings and recorded the recommendations very well. The entire Cabinet team and Envoys for their candid contributions to restore order in the Party. The November 8. 2011 Cabinet meeting which endorsed the recommendations of the November 2. 2011 meeting provided the way forward and this is the very reason we are sharing the progress in this report.

Above all the teamwork and conviction of the heads of departments and programs must be greatly honored. These include Mr. Pulkol David, Moses Nuwagaba, Chris Opoka, Patrick Mwendha, Leonard Okello, Sosparta Akwenyo, Robert Kanusu, Ms Ruth Masika, Ms Winie Adio, Julius Ochen, Hon. Fr. Jasinto Ogwal, Emanuel Rukundo, Dr. Apollo Ikibbo, Francis Kiyonga and Michael Osinde, Cecilia Anyakoit and Rev. Onesmus Mutahindikah.

Last among the notable on the team, is Mr. Sewankambo Hamza the Administrative Secretary who has been very useful in providing all necessary logistics to make sure that the administration keeps running.

The time taken for the Party President and Vice President to listen carefully to the issues raised to provide better opportunity to take appropriate decision has been of tremendous help to move the party forward.

I thank you all.