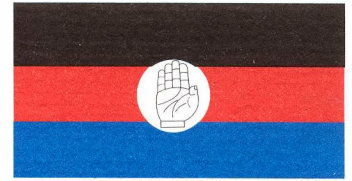


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PRESS STATEMENT

UPC POLICY POSITIONS ON COOPERATIVES

(Embargoed for release at 11.00am 15th July, 2015)

1. The Uganda Peoples Congress issues this statement on the premise of the just concluded National Agricultural Trade Show in Jinja District that started on 6th July 2015 and ended on 13th July 2015 in recognition of the significance of the sector since it employs 70% of our population and also in line with celebrations of the 93rd International Cooperative Day and 21st UN International Day of Cooperatives that took place in Kabale District on 4th July 2015
2. The Uganda People's Congress noted with great concern the adulteration and takeover of the agricultural sector by UPDF soldiers who are not extension workers engaged in NRM patronized operations wealth creation being carried out all over Uganda of which its implementation is against article 21 of the 1995 Constitution owing to its discriminatory tendencies since the beneficiaries are politically identified by NRM Structures. UPC warns that like all ill-conceived NRM policies on "Prosperity for All" this latest adulteration is bound to fail as the Rural Farmers Scheme, Entandikwa, Plan for Modernization of Agriculture, Okulembeka, NAADS, Bonnabaggawale and the Youth Livelihood Funds amongst other billions

Mission: A social democratic party that seeks to safe guard national independence and promote national unity, equality, equity and human rights for all.

Vision: An independent, united, democratic, just, peaceful and prosperous nation, where all its citizens have equal opportunities and equitable access to national resources.

worth of failed projects like the 2.4 billion maize projects given to MP'S that failed miserably.

3. UPC believes that improving farming methods of a few farms without a coordinated improvement of the production, transport and marketing infrastructure, cannot solve the teething and complex problems in rural areas. The NRM government right from Luwero bush war is responsible for dismantling the cooperative movement and the marketing boards that were the backbone of organized production, marketing and transportation. This was confirmed in Kabale recently when the Prime Minister admitted that the government will compensate those Cooperative societies after 30years in power???
4. Uganda People's Congress noting that Co-operatives in Uganda is predominantly agricultural based and have operated in a traditional structure from the villages or parishes where the primary societies are based through to the district unions, national unions and the apex organization - the Uganda Co-operative Alliance where its foundation is in the rural areas. Co-operatives have a great potential to handle rural poverty and food security better than other interventions that the government has tried to use for the last 30 years whose impact are glaringly negligible as compared to the resources in terms of financial and manpower that have been invested

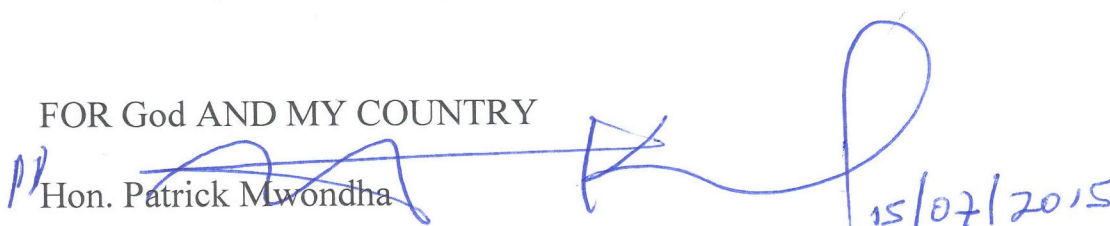
5. UPC POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR AN EFFECTIVE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1. Ensure that the war losses to the tune of approximately 500 billion caused by the NRA guerilla struggle of 1981-86 where co-operative unions and societies resources like plant and machinery, buildings, Lorries, stocks of produce and livestock were plundered by the bandits are compensated by government.
2. Unconditionally revive the co-operative bank and inject in seed fund where farmers can access cheap credit facilities to boost and modernize agriculture as a major economic activity in the country.
3. Lift the ban on recruitment of co-operative extension workers and ensure Assistant Co-operative Officers/ Assistant Registrars of co-operative societies are recruited in each sub county in the country to effectively and efficiently offer extension services to farmers and conduct mass cooperative education in the country.

4. Restore the Ministry of Co-operatives and Marketing and recruit all the required technical staff including Co-operative Officers in every district to effectively handle cooperative supervision and audit and to coordinate all cooperative development activities in the districts.
5. Set up a commission of inquiry into the mismanagement of agricultural cooperative unions in the country and ensure the recovery of members properties lost or sold illegally.
6. Establish laws and policies to incorporate youth and women in the membership and governance of co-operatives in the country in order to boost their demographic spectrum.
7. Harmonize laws and policies that favor co-operatives like tax exemptions and granting of agricultural subsidies in order to revamp the sector.
8. Provide adequate funding to co-operative training institutions and make it a government policy for all newly elected committee members and appointed management staff to be thoroughly trained on cooperative ideology and governance.
9. Guarantee co-operative organizations who desire to secure credit from development banks for value addition to agricultural products.
10. Increase national budget allocation to agriculture and co-operatives to adequate proportions in compliance with the Maputo Declaration that aimed at least 13% of GDP to be invested in agriculture and to ensure a growth of the agricultural output of at least 6 % annually.
11. UPC will accordingly continue to advocate for policies that focus on provision at affordable costs, of farm inputs such as tools, machinery, finance, extension services, improved seeds, pesticides and fertilizers to farmers.

Finally-The Uganda Peoples Congress calls upon the government of NRM to adopt the above proposed policies for better management, sustainable Agriculture system and Cooperative development for the good of our citizens.

FOR God AND MY COUNTRY

Hon. Patrick Mwendha

Vice President

15/07/2015