

PRESS STATEMENT

4th November, 2015

UPC EXTENDS AN OLIVE BRANCH TO IT'S MEMBERS FOR NOMINATIONS

1. Following the ruling of Hon. Justice Yasin Nyanzi of the High Court of Uganda (civil Division) on an application for Interim order filed by Olara Otunnu and Five others Misc.application No 412/2015 arising out of Civil Suit No 238 of 2015 made on 30th October 2015, in which Amb. Olara Otunnu (Ex-UPC Party President) had sought an injunction against the UPC Leadership of Hon Jimmy Akena from performing his duties and functions, the decision of UPC members across Uganda as affirmed in the UPC District Conferences presidential Elections and the UPC Delegates Conference of 30th May 2015 and 1st July 2015 respectively was reaffirmed by the High Court of Uganda.

This therefore clears the confusion created by the Ex-President of UPC Amb Olara Otunnu about the legitimacy of the Leadership Hon Jimmy Akena. The Leadership of Party President Jimmy Akena extends an olive branch to all Party members who had been caught up in this confusion to rally behind the party.

2. The Party Electoral Commission (PEC) calls upon Party Members who because of the above confusion that did not pick nomination forms to do so as quickly as possible in order to register as candidates at the various levels of leadership in the National elections of 2016 .

An appeal is made to all candidates who have completed our Party primaries and are now our flag-bearers to be ready for the National Nomination exercise run by the Independent Electoral Commission with all the requirements especially the **Tax clearance Certificate** by Uganda Revenue Authority.

3. Uganda People's Congress (UPC) is in solidarity with the outcome of our sister ideological political party, the African National Congress (ANC) during their 4th National General Council (NGC) meeting that pronounced itself clearly on the matters of the characteristics, principles and core values of ANC.

“ Delegates to the NGC sent a strong message that we must defend the essential character of the ANC, that of being unashamedly pro-poor, a progressive and internationalist organization of the Left. The ANC must remain rooted amongst the people and continue to give effect to its working class bias. The NGC was unequivocal that “practices and tendencies inconsistent with the values of the African National Congress threaten the effectiveness of our movement as an instrument for liberation.” In line with this renewed resolve, the NGC took many decisions to return the ANC cadre-ship to our core values and strengthen discipline, address practices such as corruption, factionalism, buying of members and gate-keeping. There was recognition that the ANC must increase political education at all levels and that branches must be actively engaged in political work and involved in their communities”

Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) joins the African National Congress in honoring the legacy of Oliver R. Tambo. We thank the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) for having had special activities and events in the Honor of Comrade Oliver Reginald Tambo with a women's march to the Union Buildings on 30th October 2015. ANCWL stated clearly that **“as part of our October Program, we are celebrating the life of the Longest serving President of ANC, President Oliver Reginald Tambo as October is his birthday month, President O. R. Tambo played a major role in the growth**

and development of the movement and its polices, and displayed efforts in championing the emancipation of women”.

Uganda Peoples Congress strongly support and Identifies with the resolutions made by the ANCWL as stated below;

1. The right to dignity of the citizens including the President as a person and his office as an institution.

2. The right to education as the future belongs to our children.

3. The emancipation and mainstreaming of women’s development in the radical socio-economic struggle of the movement.

4. The recognition that a non-sexist society encompasses the space of women’s leadership to be appreciated by society as we continue to fight against patriarchy.

5. The fight against gender-based violence in light of the period of 16 days of activism against abuse of women and children.

6. The fight against the portrayal of women as objects and their bodily integrity that reflects a degeneration of societal values, under the guise of freedom of speech and freedom of expression, using the President to undermine the agenda of women.

4. Uganda Peoples Congress joins her sister ideological Political Party, the Indian National Congress, the citizens of India and their Government in the commemoration of the legacies of Sadar Patel, who served as the Home Minister and also served as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1931, at times referred to as **iron Man**. It was during his tenure that:

“He fully recognized that India was home to multiple cultures and religions and that for the Nation to be strong all would have to live in harmony. He was instrumental in the passage

of Articles 29 and 30 in the Constituent Assembly, guaranteeing to the minorities in India the right to practice their own faith, maintain their own culture, and establish educational institutes of their choice.”

In the same way as India celebrated the birth anniversary of Sadar Patel 31st October 2015, India remembered him alongside the former Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi who was martyred on the same day. **“During Indira Gandhi’s tenure India became one of the most influential nations in the world. It was under her Premiership that India launched her first satellite, conducted its first nuclear tests, and was instrumental in the creation of Bangladesh. Two days prior to her martyrdom, she said in a public speech “Even if I die for the service of the Nation, I shall be proud of it. Every drop of my blood, I am sure, will contribute to the growth of this nation and make it strong and dynamic.”** UPC therefore in solidarity and fraternal relationship identifies with Indian National Congress, the people of India and their Government in remembrance of the legacy of such great and illustrious leaders.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

LAWRENCE OKAE

NATIONAL-CHAIRMAN