

Uganda Peoples Congress

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UPC

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PRESS STATEMENT:

UPC CALLS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF RWENZORI CONFLICT:

1. Uganda Peoples Congress urges all Ugandans to seek peaceful solutions to the conflicts now raging in the Greater Rwenzori Region. The Greater North and Eastern regions of Uganda are only just returning to normalcy after conflict and the Party warns those in Western Uganda that the consequences of conflict will result in a price that is unimaginable as well as horrific. UPC urges the Government to address the underlying reasons of these conflicts, mainly centered on land and economic paralysis; in a sober, political and non-belligerent manner.
2. Uganda Peoples Congress reminds its members about the role of rebuilding the Party based on ideology and attention to its core roots:

“Fellow citizens, this Congress has roots. The UPC has roots and they are very deep roots. First the UPC is a party of the peasant farmers. They are to be found everywhere in Uganda. Second, the UPC is a party of the workers. Third; the UPC is not a party of the Past. It is a party of the future. Therefore; it is a party of the youth.

Fourth, the UPC is a party of ideas. For Uganda to develop, we need ideas. And, the UPC is that Party.

Fifth, the UPC is a party of internationalism. We engage in brotherly cooperation with all progressive people throughout the World. We

believe in giving assistance to all the oppressed people in the World. Their struggle, their slavery, is our slavery. Our freedom should therefore contribute to their freedom. That is why we support our brothers and sisters in Southern –Africa, in Namibia and in South Africa. That is why we support the people of the Sahara who are struggling for their freedom and self-determination.” *SOURCE: Address to the Nation by Dr. Apolo Milton Obote, President of the Uganda Peoples Congress on the occasion of the 21st Anniversary of the Party at the Uganda Club, Kampala on March 9th, 1981.*

3. According to the National Housing and Population Census report launched last week, the population of the country is increasing while the opportunities and resources are not. Uganda Peoples Congress notes with concern the manner in which agriculture which is supposed to be the backbone of the economy is not being focused upon. UPC proposes more direct interventions by Government:

- (i) Raising the level of production by channeling more funds to productive sectors, especially agriculture;
- (ii) Ensuring efficiency in the productive sector and in the provision of social services.

4. Uganda Peoples Congress would like to inform her members and the general public that the issue of individuals in the Milton Obote Foundation (MOF) working against the interests of the Party and her Leadership, going as far as planning to eliminate her Leadership as reported in the Red Pepper of March 26th, 2016 is being investigated by Police and we are treating it with utmost seriousness it deserves.

The Observer newspaper of 25th March 2016 also carried another story in which the Milton Obote Foundation was found to be linked to a fraud being investigated by the Public Accounts Committee. It was reported that a number of vehicles parked in the UPC headquarters basement car park have been there for reasons that the Committee found untenable. Those vehicles have been there for around ten years and not one as

reported in the paper. They were reported as having been invoiced to the Local Government Ministry at an amount that the Party can only deem to be a fraud, *circa* UGX 35 million for the past financial year under investigation. That amount represents double the amount that should have been incurred. It is in that vein that the Party will seek to advise P.A.C that its investigations should also focus on this issue as UPC is committed to the fight against corruption and will not have its good name associated with such abhorrent practices.

5. Uganda Peoples Congress would like to thank her members who actively participated, supported and funded those who contested in the lower Local Government Elections in which the Party performed considerably well. The statement by Joseph Bossa carried in the Saturday Vision, dated 26th March, in which he expressed surprise at the Party's performance simply confirms what the Party has been contending all along. MOF, Olara Otunnu & Bossa played a very big role in trying to fail UPC Candidates, by threatening candidates with annulment and withholding funds for their campaigns. UPC against such obstacles remained committed and resolute in fulfilling the Resolution passed at its National Council Meeting to on the re-building its grass roots representation.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

**EDWARD SEGGANYI
SECRETARY GENERAL**