

# Uganda Peoples Congress

National Party Headquarters  
6th Floor Uganda House  
Plot 8-10 Kampala Road  
P.O. Box 37047 Kampala

Tel: 0312 108551 / 0414 236748  
Email: info@upcparty.net  
Website: www.upcparty.net



## UPC

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### PRESS STATEMENT

#### UPC CALLS FOR PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

1. Uganda Peoples Congress urges her members to turn up in large numbers on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 to vote for UPC Candidates in the parliamentary race. The same call goes for the other subsequent days when the Local Council Elections will be held that many of our flag bearers are contesting for. UPC further reminds her membership to get their Voter Location slips (VLS) and ensure that their names are on the Voters Register.
2. Uganda Peoples Congress calls upon all Ugandans to refrain from violent acts, provocative acts and hate speech during this critical period. Individuals or groups or Parties may have different political opinions and views on government policies, programmes or projects. That is their democratic right. UPC urges that in exercising their democratic rights, they should do so with responsibility. As leaders of the people, our conduct will enable the people to judge whether or not we are discharging our responsibilities in the fulfillment of the hopes of the nation. Dr A. M. Obote put it this way in his address to Parliament in 1984:

**“Mr. Speaker, Sir, this young House of politicians has gained considerable experience and has performed fairly well, and Members are climbing on the ladder of political leadership. I would think that individual Members by now know the truism of the first rule of political leadership, which states that one has to be a good politician in order to get a chance to be a statesman. The emphasis is on ‘good politician’. Every politician aspires to**

be a statesman. The road is not an easy one. Mr. Speaker, a good politician has many attributes:-

- A good politician is one who knows that power lies with the people.
- A good politician is one who knows that power does not lie in Government or Parliament, but with the people.
- A good politician is one who knows that Government and Parliament exercise powers entrusted to them by the people and that the same power must be exercised solely in the interests of the people.
- A good politician is one who respects the will of the people.
- A good politician is one who knows that at an election the electorate has the power either to confirm the current representative or transfer their trust to another representative.
- A good politician is one who works relentlessly for peace, prosperity and goodwill and, as the distinguished American Statesman, Abraham Lincoln once said, works on the principle of “.....Malice towards none and charity to all.....”
- A good politician is one who knows that the interest of his country is paramount and all others are secondary.
- A good politician is one who knows that party differences are secondary to national unity and security. (Hear, hear.)” *Dr A.M Obote, President of Republic of Uganda in his address to Parliament’s first meeting, fourth session, Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 1984. The assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in Parliament house, Kampala.*

3. The Uganda Peoples Congress Party leadership is still committed to addressing the issue of reconciliation and notwithstanding the withdrawal of the case, urges those that still bear grievances, and or those that have been “confused” by the chaos following the attempted overturning of the results of the District Conference Elections, to accept its genuine offer of reconciliation. It is now time to unite behind the Party leadership and focus on the upcoming elections.
4. Much as the UPC Party Leadership and membership are focused on court cases, as well as the mediation and reconciliation processes as the avenues available to solve long standing issues within the Party, individuals within the Milton Obote Foundation (MOF) have continued with their provocative actions. Yesterday they

locked the main entrance to the Party Headquarters building and were only allowing access to their hired goons (Kanyamas). We thank the Uganda Police Force for their intervention in the matter.

The Party would like to remind the “MILTON OBOTE” Foundation that National Elections are taking place this week in which members of the Party founded by MILTON OBOTE will be participating. Such actions are a direct abuse of the letter and spirit of the Consent Agreement between the Party and MOF jointly signed in 2009. We strongly condemn those individuals within MOF who are misusing their offices and our Party resources.

**FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**

**EDWARD SEGGANYI  
SECRETARY GENERAL**