



## Insecurity In Maska District –Publication Astate Of Insecurity(delete): The Political Economy Of Violence In Uganda’s Masaka District

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**ABSTRACT:** This article examines the problem of insecurity in Uganda in areas of Masaka district in the western part of the country. It provides a typology of the insecurity incidents which occurred in areas of Bukomansimbi, Lwengo, Rakai, Sembabule, Kalungu, Nyendo, Lyantonde districts and Kingo sub-county and examines the steps which government and other stakeholders have taken to address the problem. Using a qualitative approach, interviews were conducted in the affected areas with LCI chairpersons, locals and area members of parliament together with library research to explain why these measures have failed to reduce the high level of crime that takes place in and around the country. The article focuses on three related issues: the political economy of the Uganda state; catalysts for insecurity and the manner in which the government and other actors have sought to manage the country's insecurity situation.

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### I. OVER VIEW

#### Colonial Economy

The mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century was a period of Scramble and Partition of Africa. Whether African societies resisted or collaborated, by 1914 the whole of African continent had been put under colonial administration with exception of Ethiopia and Liberia. It was during this period of colonial administration that a colonial economy was developed. Of the things that developed during the colonial economy were: -

- a) Cash economy.
- b) Increased use of technology.
- c) Formal education.
- d) Cash crops.
- e) Infrastructures.
- f) Taxation.

It is important to note that however that these developments were not intended to benefit Africans and wherever such a benefit occurred, it was accidental. A colonial economy was basically intended to smoothen colonial administration. The colonial economy can be analyzed in the following ways;

- a) Before colonialism, African trade was mainly non-monetary. Much of the trade depended on barter system as a medium of exchange.

Barter trade has its own problem but it can be generally said that the volume of trade that can be conducted under barter system is usually low. The use of money started with coastal traders using cowries-shells but even then the volume of trade remained low.

However with the coming of colonialism, Uganda's economy was transformed into a cash economy leading to increased trade activities. Despite this increase in trade, Africans did not benefit much of the trade was in the hands of Asian traders. By the time Amin declared an economic war in 1972, over 80% of Uganda's economy was in the hands of Asians.

- b) As far as trade is concerned, the colonial administration put in place measures that would stop Africans from participating in trade e.g. license, experience etc. Apart from the cash economy, the colonial economy is praised for having introduced cash crops especially cotton and coffee. These two commodities have remained Uganda's major source of life. Before the coming of Europeans, African production was basically subsistence, people growing food crops that they would consume. What they could not consume, was usually given away as gifts. With cash crops, Africans were forced to abandon their traditional ways of production.
- In Buganda particularly, use of physical force was common for people to grow cotton. By the end of colonialism, Ugandans were producing what they could not consume and consuming what they could not produce. Cash crops grown were intended for European industries and Africans did not benefit at all from cash crop introduction.
- c) The colonial economy is praised for having improved technology. It is indeed true that there was increased use of modern technology during the colonial period, guns replaced spears, and cotton cloth replaced backcloth and many other changes. It is important to remember that Africans were not allowed to copy this technology and many artisans were forced to go and grow cash crops. By the end of the colonial rule, African technology had been lost completely and people were depending on imported products.
- d) It was during the colonial rule that there was wide development of infrastructure e.g. roads. The most important of them all was the Uganda Railway. Like in other fields on colonial development, the infrastructure was intended to benefit Africans. The Uganda Railway in particular was meant to carry goods to the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa. The Uganda Railway didn't at all improve on the internal communication. Public works on public roads was also usually done with a lot of force and even here, it was meant to ease the movement of administrators.
- e) Formal education also grew rapidly during the colonial era usually under a close supervision of missionaries. In many cases, formal education was supposed to produce clerks and future administrators to listen or to decrease administrative costs of colonial administration. In addition, missionaries used education as a way of converting Africans to like their faith . It is not surprising therefore those products of this education have played a role in sectarian politics.
- f) Improved taxation during colonial period was done at the expense of African lives. In particular, the Hut tax which influenced many people to overcrowd in one Hut and avoid taxes. This war was both hygienically and morally unacceptable.

### **Post-colonial economy**

The 1960s were years of African independence; Uganda was no exception, she got her independence in 1962. By the time Uganda got independence, majority of its population lived in rural areas and many were subsistence farmers. The levels of science and technology were still low and people greatly depended on spiritual explanations to understand the world around them. Communication was basically human to human. It was traditional society in all definitions.

The economy depended on few cash crops especially coffee and cotton and it was dominated by Asians. Asians controlled over 80% of Uganda's economy. Uganda's first post-colonial ruler (Milton Obote) was of a view of nationalizing the economy during his regime. It was in 1972 when Idi Amin was in power then an economic war was declared. Amin intended to expel Asians all of a sudden make a big class of black millionaires.

### **Economic war of 1972**

In 1972, Idi Amin expelled Asians and later on, the Jews. Businesses that were formerly controlled by Asians, were given to Africans for the first time since colonial period, Africans took full charge of Uganda's economy. Amin's intention was to create a class of black millionaires. However by the end of his rule, the results were disappointing. Although many Africans joined business, the economy in general declined sharply. It was a painful way of learning that trade is not only buying and selling.

The economy declined because of the following;

- a) Africans didn't have knowledge on how to run businesses. Many of those who were given shops were ignorant of the prices. They didn't know where to purchase goods from and lacked the basics of book keeping.
- b) African culture also played their role. Many carried relatives into urban areas and within a short time were crowded with families.
- c) There was increased shortage of consumer goods like sugar and salt which worked negatively against rural production. Many people in rural areas used to produce so as to buy those commodities. The absence of those basic commodities resulted into decreasing production.

- d) The economy had a well-connected system of Indian Dakawattas (dukawallars). Africans lacked a system of supplies like that of the dukawallars.
- e) The expulsion of Asians left Uganda in their need of skilled manpower. There was shortage of managers which forced companies to close down.
- f) The situation was even made worse when Amin appointed soldiers as managers. In bid (need) to install discipline, soldiers ended up becoming brutal.
- g) Insecurity made work difficult. It led to many educated people go to exile while traders found it risky to compete in trade.
- h) There was shortage of foreign exchange due to decreased exports. Without enough foreign exchange, Uganda's experienced shortage of basic goods.
- i) Shortage of goods forced the regime to print more money which also led to inflation. By the end of the regime , inflation over 100%.
- j) Increasing inflation led to increase in price of consumer goods like sugar, soap, salt yet prices of cash crops were still under government control. Because of this, many people abandoned growing of cash crops especially coffee and cotton.
- k) There was increased smuggling of cash crops especially coffee to neighboring countries more so Kenya. Smuggling of cash crops in neighboring countries led to shortage of revenue in government.
- l) Regional politics also worked against the economic war e.g. Tanzania maintained all sorts pf hostilities against Amin's reign from day one while Kenya disorganized Uganda's export trade.
- m) Economic war was a failure in many aspects. It failed to turn blacks into millionaires while the economy stagnated. However, the economic war should be credited because by the time Amin left, there was more African participation in an economy. By the time Amin leftover 80% of Uganda economy was in the hands of Uganda.

The historical assessment established the disorder of organizations, predominantly post-Independence, and the encounters that faced the NRM in 1986. These encompassed founding the rule of law, building a citizen army, and establishing mechanisms for guaranteeing respect for and resistance of human rights. The NRM had its own 'socialist' visualization of social equality, which involved wide-ranging representation of formerly downgraded crowds, such as women, and the youth. Additionally, it was committed on building a comprehensive arrangement that would prevent religious and political conflict. The one single party version of democracy had stemmed in costs and benefits for institutional development.

The 1995 Constitution offers for a unicameral Parliament embraced by 'participants right from elected to represent constituencies; every district has one woman representative; such statistics of legislatures include the youth, workers, army, persons with incapacities and other clusters as Assembly may regulate. The Constitution distinguishes between the Movement (single) political system, the multiparty political system, other self-governing and representative political system. The NRM is defined as a comprehensive grounded, wide-ranging and non-partisan party-political system, in which anybody can offer himself for appointment, and in which pronouncements are merit based rather than party-political affiliation. All Political parties in the movement political system were forbidden from attracting and mobilising for membership on the foundation of sections, ethnicity, ethnicity and religion or any other division'. The 1997 Movement Act and the 2002 Political Organisation Act levies limitations on political association and manifestation. Political parties couldn't operate or solicit contenders until 2005 referendum that opened the political space while the NRM system kept operational.

The Constitution also offers for a self-governing judiciary and a neutral army. Numerous flat responsibilities, liability, accountability mechanisms, together with the Anti-Corruption coalition Uganda, Inspectorate of Government and Uganda Human Rights Commission were established.

Multipartyists disliked the limitations on political institutions, expression and, as they identified the process as unfair and meant to advantage the NRM endowment, under the Movement Act. The movement receives subsidy from parliamentary appropriation and is preserved as a part of government although it has its own ideological party-political interests. The Museveni is central within the NRM and has considerable support, mainly among the Movement Assembly (caucus), within the House. Hitherto, the Assembly has a reputation of being an active establishment and numerous alliances are appropriately self-assured to test the President. However, Parliament would advantage from ability growth and better liberation would advance its effectiveness and efficiency. Upright answerability mechanisms (polls) are unmoving stained by benefaction, coercion, exploitation and dishonesty. Flat answerabilities are effective but have restricted influence. Attitude towards Civil society organisations has mixed feeling of restraints depending on the nature of their activities, donors, visibility, rural or urban. Academics argue that civil society is way to go for development which is regularly unpredictable with social realities. The Judiciary is undergoing the point of correctness; it has been labeled as unethical, unreachable to the poor and doubtful to make revolutionary verdicts. Forecasters query the role of the

army, which has been alleged of disorderliness as well as human rights abuse for its furthermore, its political role in elections.

Consequently, Uganda's establishments seem to be developing but they cannot be pronounced as standardized and foreseeable. Most of the essential organizations are statically and relatively vulnerable and fragile with continued poverty levels and lack of employment Ugandans benefit from more taxes collected through better salutation of their role and capacity building and value. The political change, risks and opportunities presented substantial improvement since 1986 and offered a political and development framework through Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). While PEAP is seen to be equitably open, inspiring Civil Service Organisation participation and representing local level voices, through partaking in poverty assessments to ensure that they kick poverty out of Uganda through due diligence. This coupled with president Museveni's move to reduce the number of government agencies; will decrease government spending and wastage of resources (Admin, 2017; Arinaitwe, 2017; Mugerwa, 2016; Waswa, 2017). During the concluded elections of 2016, the president preached a lot job creation and inclusive development as the basis to take Uganda to middle income level and usher Uganda into modernity (Musisi, 2017).

## II. INTRODUCTION

The first quarter of 2017 is now behind us and this is a look back at the news trends of the first three months of the year. The finest way to recapitulate this quarter would be that it has been a period of ambiguity and insecurity. In the political and economic areas, uncertainty dominates Uganda. The national optimism in mid-January that met Uganda's return to the Africa Cup of Nations football tournament for the first time since 1978 evaporated after Uganda's early exit from the competition in Gabon. After that, cold reality set in (Kalyegira, 2017). However the killings in the country can be traced from 2012 in the central region where the President Yoweri Museveni called upon the Police Force to investigate reports of alleged brutal killings and collection of victims' blood that he said has become a security threat in some parts of the country (GoU, 2012; YallAfrica, 2012).

Masaka District is a district in the Central Region of Uganda. Its main town is Masaka, whose estimated population in 2011 was 74,100 (UBOS, 2011). Masaka district population grew over the years according to (UBOS, 2011) the in 2002 national census, the population of Masaka was about 67,800. In 2010, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) estimated the population at 73,300. In 2011, UBOS estimated the mid-year population at 74,100. In August 2014, the national population census put the population at 103,829 (UBOS, 2014a, 2014b).

Masaka district has a population of 831,300 people with 420,000 females and 411,300 males. The population of is basically rural, with 754,000 rural dwellers and 77,300 urban dwellers (CityPopulation, 2017; Guide, 2017). Masaka district is located at the border to Bukomansimbi District to the north-west, Kalungu District to the north, Kalangala District to the east and south, Rakai District to the south-west, and Lwengo District to the west (department, 2017). It is situated about 37 Kilometers away from the equator towards the south with an average altitude of 1150m above sea level. Its main town is Masaka; the only municipality in the greater Masaka region and located at the road junctions to Rakai, Lwengo-Mbarara, Sembabule and Kalangala (District, 2017). The town of Masaka, where the district headquarters are located, is approximately 140 kilometres (87 mi), by road, south-west of Kampala on the highway to Mbarara (Calculator, 2017; wikipedia, 2016). The coordinates of the district are 00 30S, 31 45E (Revolv, 2017). The average altitude of the district is 1,115 metres (3,658 ft) above sea level (list, 2017; Revolv, 2017).

### Masaka District population by Gender and Settlement

#### Gender

Males	149,857
Females	147,147

#### Urbanization

Rural	193,711
Urban	103,293

source (CityPopulation, 2017)

## III. LITERATURE REVIEW- SYNOPSIS

Masaka District was established in the 1900s, composed of the Buganda Kingdom's former counties of Buddu, Kooki, Kabula, Mawogola, and Ssesse Islands. Kooki and Kabula were peeled off to form Rakai District. Later, the northern part of Rakai District was removed to form Lyantonde District. The Ssesse Islands were removed to form Kalangala District. In 1997, Mawogola County was split from Buddu and was named Sembabule District. Buddu remained as Masaka District. In 2010, Buddu itself was split into four districts,

namely Masaka District, Bukomansimbi District, Kalungu District, and Lwengo District. Administratively, the district council is the highest political authority. The council has 43 members headed by a district chairperson. The technical team at the district is subdivided into the following directories (Guide, 2017): 1. Education & Sports 2. Health & Environment 3. Works & Technical Services 4. Production & Marketing 5. Finance & Planning 6. Management Support Services 7. Gender & Community Services (Guide, 2017). Masaka Municipality emerged top in the 2008 Primary Leaving Examinations. In a ranking of 91 districts and municipalities, Masaka Municipality came number one, followed by Fort Portal District, Mbarara Municipality, Kabale Municipality and Lira Municipality and Kampala City (V. Reporter, 2017) and recently the government started boosting the social welfare of the local people through building and commissioning markets in the suburbs of Masaka Municipality in Masaka district like Nyendo Market (Reporter, 2016). The president assured the people that more industries, roads such Bukakata – Nyendo road and rehabilitate Kyotera, electricity supply network, cooperative unions and schools will be built in Masaka district in the near future. The market has created employment opportunities since it employs 2500 market vendors (Reporter, 2016).

### **Why Masaka District**

Masaka district was one of the first districts in Uganda to be hit by the AIDS plague and as a result many NGOs, both local and international, gathered at the area since the late 1980's. Particularly, World Vision International and Save the Children (the Norwegian Redd Barna) have been intensely involved in the construction of schools and paying school dues for children (Guide, 2017). People suffering from AIDS in Masaka district have received a consignment of 53 bicycles, to ease their movement to health centers. The consignment was donated by the Aids Health Care Foundation (Mugera, 2016).

The major economic activity in Masaka District is agriculture with food crops (bananas, pineapples, and tomatoes), cash crops (coffee and cotton), cattleranching, and fishing on Lake Victoria. While most of the people are farmers with both cattle and other crops, other economic activities include the following (Wikipedia, 2017):

- Meat and fish processing
- Furniture manufacturing
- Manufacture of footwear
- Manufacture of baked products
- Cattle rearing
- Manufacture of beads
- "Gathering grasshoppers" that can potentially earn a collector over 50 million shillings (\$190,000) annually.

The staple food is millet and bananas. Industries in the district include; coffee processing, soft drinks factories, metal works, and cotton ginning (Guide, 2017). Masaka is one place where most successful Ugandans come from in all walks of life; political, social and economic i.e., the likes of Assistant Inspector General of Police Andrew Kawesi (online, 2017).



Source: Google map (2017).-Map showing Masaka district

In an imitation of the well-known proverb, when prominent people fight, commoners would suffer, passengers, motorists and striders using the Masaka-Kampala road between Maya and Lukaya have lost their lives on the stripe as department of traffic police and Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA) indulge in a



battle of disagreements. According to Fifer (1967), the most dangerous road in the world is found in Bolivia in Northern part of the country known as Yungas Road. In 2006, statistics disclosed that between 200 and 300 travelers were killed every year on the road (Gadd, 2014; Romero, 2016) and the locals in Bolivia named it the “death road” for obvious reasons (Domínguez & Mitchell, 1977; Rayburn & Rayburn, 2000; Reporter, 2017; Straubmuller, 2014). According to Nnajjuma (2013) the statistics from Hellen indicate that there were 101 fatal accidents, 278 serious accidents and 231 accidents along Masaka-Kampala highway in 2010 and it became apparent why the Ugandan road is being labelled a ‘death trap’. Kampala-Masaka highway has claimed a number of lives, leaving some others incapacitated in chains of accidents that happened for years now hence nick naming the highway a “killer road”.

### **Problem statement**

According to Police; “at least 144 people were attacked and hacked by thugs since January 2017. Thirty people have lost their lives in the attacks since September 2016.” The latest attack occurred on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Kyabakuzza trading center in Masaka municipality where thugs raided ten homes armed with machetes, axes and guns. They hacked eight people injuring them critically and also raped two women before making off with their property among the injured included women and children. Thugs also raped victims, stormed homes at around 1:00-4:00am by breaking down the doors with strong objects to gain access into their houses demanding for money, valuable property and mobile phones. The teenage girl who was raped said that, four thugs had demanded money from her mother before they descended on her. She lost consciousness after the thugs raped her in turns. They made an earlier survey on homes which had money.

Residents spend sleepless nights and on the night when Felix Andrew Kaweesi (former deputy inspector general of police) was buried, they attacked Kyaluwubu, Nakatooke, Kamenyamiggo and Kingo. They reportedly tricked the residents by raising alarms, created the impression that, they needed help at the targeted homes. “Whoever opened the door to respond to the alarm fell victim. A community loud speaker which made an attempt to alert the residents about the invasion was vandalized. The most affected districts included Bukomansimbi, Lwengo, Masaka, Rakai and Mateete subcounty in Sembabule district.

### **Political and Administrative Structures**

The District Council is the highest political authority in the district. It has 18 members headed by a District Local Council Chairperson. The technical team at the district is under nine directorates and headed by the Chief Administrative Officer. The district is divided into one county and one Municipality. There are 6 rural sub-counties and 3 divisions in the Municipality. There are 39 parishes and 352 village councils. The table below indicates the administrative units in the District (District, 2017).

### **Methods**

The study followed a qualitative methodology where documents i.e., newspapers, police reports, parliamentary reports were reviewed and interviews carried out in parts of Bukomansimbi, Lwengo, Rakai, Sembabule, Kalungu, Nyendo, Lyantonde districts and Kingo sub-county and examines the steps which government and other stakeholders have taken to address the problem. The research aimed at ascertaining why insecurity had persisted which situation was worrying the populace. Interviewees were the Local Council chair persons, locals in the above mentioned districts and their members of parliament. The data was analysed using themes that were generated from the interviews and documentary analysis (Creswell, 2013).

## **IV. INSECURITY IN MASAKA DISTRICT**

The term insecurity is taken from insecure; both are from the Medieval Latin word “insecurus”. The word *insecurus* in Latin is from “*securus*” which means safe or certain.

The Advanced Learner’s Dictionary describes it as “the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury”, Insecurity is also seen as the anxiety you experience when you feel vulnerable. The main descriptive phrases and words that are central to understanding what constitute insecurity include: a state of danger, anxiety and susceptibility to harm or injury. Another meaning for insecurity is violence. Violence can therefore be defined as extreme natural force, often causing great damage; Extreme strength of feelings that can cause emotional shock.

The internal situation in Uganda for the first three months of 2017 is one of growing unwillingness amid what seems like harmony and stability. There is a universal sentiment, backed by a steady number of reports, of a noticeable rise in the number of murders country wide. The murders have become particularly pronounced in Masaka Town 120kms to the southwest of Kampala and surrounding areas. The government has organised the army and police to patrol the streets and localities of Masaka and there were rumors a curfew (E. Ssekweyama, 2017a, 2017b) restricting movement of persons and operation of bars beyond 11pm following increased reports murders and robbery in the region, although government establishments came out to deny the

claims(Mugume, 2017; Pepper, 2017; Television, 2017; Today, 2017a).The restriction on movement is to enable police better coordinate their efforts to capture these criminals who move in the night. Sserunjoji said that these criminals move in the night and claim that they are nightclub patrons moving from one discotheque to another.For the last thirty one (31) years in power, a semi state of crisis was in place in Acholi and, for a period in the late 1980s, in Teso. Although Kasese remains tense, with decayedbitterness and anger by the populace toward the army and police in turn upholding sensitive observance. Gradually and gently, the uncertainty that affected northern Uganda from 1986 to 2006 has converted a story of life in southern Uganda since 2013. There is now more security in the northern half of the country than in the southern half. Uganda is now starting to feel like Burundi, the other country like Uganda that deployed peacekeeping troops to Somalia but which itself is seeing a wave of murders that seem political in nature(Kalyegira, 2017).

The president Yoweri Museveni Kagutta has ordered security agencies to strengthen its security network in the rural areas of Masaka to stop the thugs (Buregyeya, 2017b).

“I do not want to hear about those incidents of thugs terrorizing residents and he emphasized that Police should build security networks with the locals through road blocks and effective patrols,” says the president.

The security authorities deployed a team in plain clothes, flying squad, normal police, mobile Police and crime preventers, the thugs in masaka will soon be history (Buregyeya, 2017b). Thugs distribute papers bearing messages of the areas they are going to attack and the Locals in masaka use an alarm and community radio public address system to alert residents about the presence of thugs in the area. The areas attacked include but not limited to Kasijagirwa village near the UPDF Armoured Brigade Barracks, Kijabwemi, Kimaanya, Buwunga, Nyendo, Ssazza, Kabonela and Kingo in Masaka and Lwengo districts.

The newly appointed Police spokesperson Asan Kasingye, the, said over 89 suspects have been arrested, 33 were presented in different courts of law and many are being investigated. He further argued that 19 are anticipated to appear in courts before the week ending 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. The security operatives have embraced community policing, joint security patrols between Police and UPDF, established a toll free line (080019999) and intelligence gathering as a way of cracking down criminals as well as preventing any future occurrence of the incidents. it was noted that some locals are not giving Police information before crime is committed and sometimes people don't call due to lack of airtime. Travelers to South Sudan were warned not use any other road but Nimule-Juba Highway to prevent attacks(Manishimwe, 2017).

The Inspector General of Police, Maj. Gen. Kale Kayihura, has supported the establishment of a youth vigilantee group in Masaka district to work with the Police to deal with insecurity. Saying the initiative was an act of bravery and promised to work together in support to stop insecurity in Masaka. This provoked gossip that a rebel group had emerged in the region and the Government, however, dismissed the claims and the youths in Masaka added to the voice of IGP (M. E. ssekweyama, 2017) indicating that there is fake intelligence and there is no group called Youth for National Salvation (YONASA), a regional pressure group mainly comprised NRM youth, who claim to be fighting widespread corruption, human rights abuses and bad governance, they argued that security circles could be targeting them in disguise. He further emphasized that without cooperation between the Police and the people, it would be hard to maintain security and promised to offer 500,000 for mobilization groups in masaka and countrywide to avoid more deaths since 93 murder cases had been registered in the area (Mambule, 2017).

A new police post has been established at Kaswa trading centre in Kingo sub-county, Masaka district worth sh3m to check insecurity in the area. Locals including councilors, residents also bought three new bicycles, furniture and stationary for the post and majorly started recruiting volunteers to participate in community policing alongside the Police(Buregyeya, 2009).

**Table I shows the summary of recorded incidents**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of people injured</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>April 7, 2017</b>	Hacking six people and raping three women.	Kasijagirwa village near the UPDF Armoured Brigade Barracks, Kijabwemi, Kimaanya, Buwunga, Nyendo, Ssazza, Kabonela and Kingo in Masaka and Lwengo districts
<b>July 27, 2009</b>	Gang of criminals had killed four people and robbed shops in the area.	Kingo sub-county, Masaka district
<b>March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017</b>	Three (3) of the attackers have been confirmed dead	in Kyabakuza trading center in Masaka municipality
<b>March 30, 2017</b>	Four people attacked	Kyabakuza and Kijabwemi
<b>March 31, 2017</b>	Eight (8) residents.	Kingo sub-county, Lwengo district
<b>April 20, 2017</b>	Injured ten people and over twenty (20) people dead	Kiryameenvu and Bukomansimbi Town Council
<b>April 14, 2017</b>	Thugs assaulted 30 people before robbing them	Kisekka village in Lwengo district

March 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Three (3) people died	Kyabakuza trading center in Masaka municipality
April 19, 2017	One trader left dead	Rakai

Source: -Researcher -Data collected from different media houses in Uganda

### **The institutional inquiry**

In 1986 president Yoweri Museveni assumed head of state, and he started the art and science of managing and consolidating power through the following steps;

- a) Challenge leftovers of the crushed national army, the UNLA, and fresh armed and fortified clusters that tried to defy the NRM government.
- b) Grasp rival armed groups such as the UFM, FEDEMU and West Nile Bank Front into the new national army, the NRA.
- c) The state's political and military power in the single hands of President Museveni for stress-free checking and supervision. This was attained 1989, the alliance of power by NRA/NRM was tracked and in the 1990s, the country curved to economic and social pursuits.

The above strategies after 25 years helped in centralization of power hence this stabilized the country by the 1990s and this has become a justification for unwillingness and indecision by the electorate. The new capitalist class is soundlessly guessing what comes next. According to Odrek Rwabwogo, an NRM comrade, a sympathizer, disparager and associate of the extended Principal Family, has latterly taken to all arrangements of media even print media and extensively requesting for a debate on the inquiry of who succeeds President Yoweri Museveni (Aine, 2015; Eisenhower, 2017; Lule, 2017; Rwakakamba, 2016; Waiswa, 2015). This move was perceived by many as a attention disorder and hostile alleged entitlement of scrubbing the National Resistance Movement (NRM) uprising (Kamwada, 2017), this has left majority excited as well as curious about the stimuli behind the provocative sequences of dossiers he transcribed criticizing the continuousness of NRM revolt and weighing-up the steadiness qualifications of its frontrunner who is his inlaw.

He further argued that, the ruling NRM party could lose support if does not get rid of bureaucrats who have created a disconnect with the common person and forgotten the ideals which the liberators fought for. That's the view of Kampala businessman Odrek Rwabwogo, who is also one of President Yoweri Museveni's sons-in-law. Rwabwogo who is venturing into politics by seeking to become the NRM Vice chairman for western region, recently took flak from the incumbent, Maj. Gen. Matayo Kyaligonza who asked him to wait for his time. Our reporter Sheila Nduhukire engaged Rwabwogo on why he is throwing his hat in the ring, his role in the First Family, NRM's internal wrangles, term limits and more (NTV, 2015). Many have concluded that the public discussion is an indication of indecision within State House, the ruling NRM government and the First Family as there is among the populace.

Some initiatives were taken by the Swedish government to start talks between President Museveni and the Opposition leader Dr Kizza Besigye in the anticipation of getting some break to Uganda's political situation (M. Reporter, 2017) and given the fact that there is no correlation between the two political heads. The two have barely seen eye-to-eye since they fell-out 18 years ago in 1998 when one later skipped out of the ship, claiming the Movement had deviated off their original ideals. Their relationship has not only overwrought the two, but also driven apart the country's political scenery, so much so that the fall-out has been the center of riots and protests. In the aftermath of the February 2011 general election, President Museveni cautioned Dr Besigye against demonstrations. He immediately started walk-to-work demonstrations over inflation and the rising cost of living hence proving that he is one man in Uganda who doesn't fear President Museveni hence disobeying his orders (M. Reporter, 2017). The daily monitor publicized that the envisioned arbitrator held secret but separate meeting with the two men (Butagira, 2017; Correspondent, 2017). Ugandans have generally welcomed the initiative, with some proposing that such talks should include an all-encompassing continuum of players because Uganda's glitches are further than what policies alone can address, and also argued that, the Uganda is much bigger than the two main political actors. The excitement from opposition led to a quick set of the preconditions for the dialogue, although president Museveni rightly overruled any absolute pre-conditions, such as FDC party's call for an international audit of the February 2016 presidential vote results (Correspondent, 2017). Rather than NRM executive committee thinking that Dr. Besigye will sit and accept that he lost the election, there are some serious matters that need to be addressed;

### **Serious Matters**

- a) The country's intractable problems include impunity and "state capture" that has rendered citizens powerless and subservient to those in power.
- b) Taking away power from the people such as Dr. Besigye asserted that, "you were all powerless over my detention [yet] you knew it was illegal; I was shouting but what could you do? Nothing!" he said.



- c) Police placed Dr Besigye under house arrest a day after the February 18, 2016 vote and he was later charged with treason after a video in which he purported to swear himself as Uganda’s president circulated online.
- d) His trial on treason and other charges have since stalled in court, and he has said he is reviewing any future appearance in court, calling the litigation prosecution.
- e) He alleged that, “We are in a situation where there is state capture”. How do we change the ‘captivity’?
- f) Besigye argued that, "he needs assurance that what will be discussed must be implemented?" he further cited Gambian President Yahya Jammeh’s and his process of conceding defeat.
- g) Besigye recalled the 2006 no-agenda collapsed talk between President Museveni and him. He further asserted that, “dialogue, is a very serious matter” to which he would be committed if there is commitment for “reforms that will take effect and be respected”.

As usually government was quick to dismiss reports indicating that, such talks might be underway (Byakutaaga, 2017). To the government, to hold talks with Besigye is to acknowledge that the results of the 2016 general election are in question which the ruling party cannot accept.

One can argue that, for Sweden to pledge talks between the two sides might propose that the Scandinavians trusts that, the results were not as clear cut as legitimately proclaimed and could be the understandable fact but they were broadcasted and Ugandans lived to accept it but deep in their thoughts they soundlessly grumpy of what went wrong in the concluded 2016 elections.

Further the head of the European Union delegation in Uganda, Kristian Schmidt also recommended talks between Museveni and Besigye as one approach to avert the political condition from worsening.

It is this persistent failure to appreciate the critical importance of talks, dialogue and reconciliation that has costed this country a lot in terms of life and property including the enormous loss of national assets and infrastructure. Uganda could have saved a lot if they accepted and embraced dialogue since the 60s;

- 1) Uganda would be very far if President Edward Mutesa had held talks with Prime Minister Milton Obote, which eventually led to a political stalemate and ultimately the 1966 Crisis , the abrogation of the constitution (a recurrent feature of Uganda’s political landscaped) with the subsequent instability that facilitated the emergence of President Amin with all the horrors he administered on the population.
- 2) If Mutesa and Obote had held talks the country could have been saved the loss of life and property that followed.
- 3) The post-1981 Uganda (life, property, national assets and infrastructure) we would have saved if President Milton Obote and Mr Yoweri Museveni had held talks after the so-called stolen elections of 1981.
- 4) Dialogue would have saved the country the massive loss of life and property that was caused by the so-called liberation war in Luwero.
- 5) Vice President Paul Muwanga and Mr Yoweri Museveni had succeeded we would have halted the Luweero destruction caused by the NRA/UNLF confrontation.

Ugandans are tired of war mongering; the emergence of Joseph Kony could have been anticipated and saved the destruction of the Acholiland, parts of Lango and Teso. Furthermore why should Ofono Opondo criticize the Swedish Government and Dr Besigye for demonstrating preparedness and willingness to partake in dialogue with the Head of State (Byakutaaga, 2017)? After all Dr. Besigye’s position too has changed after listening to many mediators pointing out the relevance of dialogue (African, 2017; Waswa, 2016). Besigye insisted that if there is going to be talks it has to involve everyone from both sides and right from;

the very “the very serious national political issues need to be discussed transparently in a structured National Dialogue involving all stakeholders.”

Uganda is bigger than the two individuals and intend even without both of them Uganda will prosper that is why a wider section of elites, semi elites, non-elites and sponsors in the country insists that;

“There is a reason for a political dialogue that can bring about collaboration between the opposition and the government to take the country forward,”

This explains why Ghana’s new President invites Kizza Besigye as Uganda’s ‘leader’ New Patriotic Party which won the election, is one of FDC’s major African allies. Besigye might have won, in the eyes of his supporters, but he has no State (Ugandan, 2016). Do Ugandan leaders want to see the future of Uganda as a failed state? Both sides want to overstate their strong point as well as the opponent’s faintness and this coupled with a happy majority in Parliament and having made electoral gains in former opposition headlocks in the north and eastern parts of the country, NRM officials say the party is at its strongest (African, 2017).

## **V. COMMITMENT FROM GOVERNMENT**

They have projected to install 800 LED street lights and seven distribution transformers covering an overall distance of about 16 kilometers which would be installed within Masaka Municipality (URN, 2017) although the delay is frustrating (Bindhe, 2017a, 2017b). This will help stop the anonymous letters, the thugs

have asked residents to prepare enough cash and more gadgets for them. The thugs ask impoverished residents to leave at least Shillings 20,000 at their doorsteps while the wealthy residents should keep more money with them and hand it over to them when they strike anytime.

One of the interviewees called Joseph Ssenzoga lamented that, “the failure by police to apprehend those attacking residents means government has failed to protect its citizens and their property.”

Another interviewee by the name of Joseph Ssekasamba, stated that, Masaka Deputy Resident District Commissioner, says;

“They have confiscated the anonymous letters as part of the investigations.”

According to Ssekasamba; “Police are holding six key suspects in connection to the current wave of insecurity.”

The Inspector General of Police, Edward Kale Kayihura ordered for deployment of the Flying Squad to boost UPDF and police to hunt the thugs (Bindhe, 2017a).

DPC John Mwaule stated that, crime preventers were ordered to patrol Kyabakuza, Kirimya, Mwalo and Kijabwemi including neighboring Kingo and Kisseka sub-counties.

The police spokesperson Asan Kasingye asked locals of Masaka greater area to, “remain calm amidst the increased insecurity in the area”.

Kasingye further argued the locals at Butenga A village, Butenga Subcounty in Bukomansimbi district that, “there is no need to panic over the fights there”. He further argued locals to be “reactivate security committees and use -village registers as measures to tighten vigilance”.

He further argued that, “the police officers should remain on the ground to find out what is always happening to the locals, relate with them until a permanent solution is found”.

The opposition in parliament tasked government to explain recurring mysterious killings of security officers and threats to citizens across the country. In a statement on the floor of Parliament, Leader of Opposition (LOP) Winnie Kiiza highlighted several killings in Masaka where attackers left behind leaflets mentioning their next targets and they are similar to those dropped in the areas of Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kabarole districts at the time the country is still mourning the late police spokesman Andrew Felix Kaweesi as he left his home in Kulambiro, a suburb of Kampala. Kaweesi was killed together with his driver Godfrey Mambewa and bodyguard Kenneth Erau. Since 2012, more than 10 Muslim clerics have been fatally shot by unknown assailants riding on motorcycles across the country not forgetting the Senior Principal State Attorney Joan Kagezi who was gunned down in Kiwatule on March 30, 2015. In November 2016, Major Mohammed Kiggundu, one of the former commanders of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) became another victim at Masanafu, a Kampala suburb together with his bodyguard Sgt. Steven Mukasa. The Teso Sub-region is experiencing similar attacks. She cited a need for government to ensure that there is security and safety of citizens. In a situation like this, there is need for a joint statement from the ministers of Internal Affairs, Security and Defence on the security situation in the country (Dispatch, 2017).

Kayihura dispelled baseless rumor and reports that the area had been put under a curfew (Kazibwe, 2017). The area has been characterized by insecurity since February 2017 with reports on bribery, robbery and house break-ins which left many people injured and loss of property. The thugs have been issuing threats using leaflets on streets warning of chaos. Early April head of opposition leader in parliament requested government to explain what is happening and argued police to protect the lives and their property.

The police boss went on a fact finding mission on top of assuring the residents of their security. He dispelled the baseless rumour and reports that the area had been put under a curfew. The area was for two (2) months been characterised by insecurity in form of robbery and house break-ins which have left many people injured on top of losing their property to thugs (ChimpReports, 2017).

He reaffirmed that, “these are not rebels but rather small elements of thugs who want to create fear in you,”! He added that “They are only intimidating you into fear so they can freely carry out their acts.”

The police spokesperson who apologized to the locals for the havoc caused to them by the thugs said, “Such a small group of people should not stop them from going about their businesses, adding that they would be dealt with”.

On the issue of the reported curfew, Kasingye assured locals that, “there is no situation that requires a curfew to be sanctioned in greater Masaka”.

Police claimed that, “they managed to arrest over 80 of them. They were sentenced while others are still on remand”. He further revealed that they had agreed to carry out joint patrols and intelligence gathering together with the UPDF in the area (Today, 2017b). The Police Homicide and Criminal intelligence Departments<sup>1</sup>, to further analyze the situation on ground and argued local for cooperation and support.

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<sup>1</sup>Kasingye revealed that 144 people had fallen victim to the thugs who have terrorized the eight (8) districts of greater Masaka region since September 2016. Three(3) of the victims were killed by the thugs.

The RDC<sup>2</sup> revealed that their joint security committee comprising of Police, Reserve force and Army convened and that resulted into a declaration of a curfew restricting movements of persons and operation of Bars beyond 11PM, in a bid to help them contain the situation (Buregyeya, 2017a, 2017b; Masaka, 2017).

Police argued residents

- 1) Hold security meetings to address land-related conflicts.
- 2) Suspend night prayers and restrict bar operations to 10:00pm local time.
- 3) Stop keeping money in the houses.

### **THE LOCAL PEOPLES' VIEWS**

Since the armed thugs had thrown around papers bearing warnings that they would attack Kyabakuza and Kijjabwemi on March 30 and 31. As many as six victims were in the aftermath rushed to Masaka Regional Referral Hospital in critical condition<sup>3</sup>.

The locals narrated to the police spokesperson that, “they live in fear after a number of attacks and leaflets promising to harm them were pinned in their areas”. Further expressed their worry and continued to narrate that, “they (thugs) attack, beat, cut and rob them. We are living in fear,” said John Bosco Kasenge, an LCII councilor in the area. The locals confirmed to police that, “Many were thinking of relocating to other villages for fear of their lives”.

### **The edge of murders**

In March police arrested close to 200 criminal gangsters in connection to the murder of 20 people and injury of 120 others in greater Masaka region. The suspects were arrested in joint operations conducted by the police and the UPDF since January. After a two-month break, the thugs armed with machetes and clubs and attempted fresh raid on four villages in Kingo sub-county, Lwengo, Bumakomansimbi, Kalungu and Nyendo injuring residents.

### **Cartelists for insecurity in the area**

Police is under staffed and have limited resources which cannot allow police posts in many parts of the country and the affected areas, additionally; countering the incidents of crime can be effective by empowering the locals and communities through village security teams and crime preventers.

“The crime rate is being supported by their own sons in the villages who act as informers of the thugs, and residents were argued to open up and deal with them without favor.

Thugs target women saving groups in the constituency because they keep the money in the houses. Residents were advised to keep money in banks or microfinance institutions.

Bukomasimbi is one of the largest coffee farming and trading areas.

### **Police’s move to curb insecurity in greater Masaka Region.**

The gangsters started their missions in Bukomansimbi district where they targeted residents who had sold land, coffee, and maize among others. Bukomasimbi is one of the largest coffee farming and trading areas.

According to police, “the thugs have networks in almost every village trading centre, coffee processing factories and financial institutions who tip them on victims who have made financial transactions”.

Police further argued that, “these are not rebels; they are thugs scheming for money from the victims through their networks spread in strategic areas like coffee processing factories.” Further police alleged that, “some of the boda-boda operators who transport the coffee traders at the processing factories are part of the crime network”. Is it not a coincidence that “thugs call residents by name when they attack their homes and instruct them to release the money from the sales you made in coffee or land”. Police took quite a number of measures in place and these include the following;

- 1) Police has deployed more officers to respond to the escalation of armed robberies in Bukomansimbi, Lwengo, Rakai, Sembabule and Lyantonde districts. Information from Greater Masaka Regional Police headquarters shows that at least 100 families have been robbed in the four districts since 2017 began.
- 2) Police has since recovered a gun that is believed to have been used in the attack.
- 3) The police deployed extra officers to respond to the insecurity in the affected districts.
- 4) The officers will conduct patrols in villages as one of the measures to combat the insecurity (Station, 2017).

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<sup>2</sup> Masaka Resident District Commissioner

<sup>3</sup> Some of the victims included but not limited to, Maninsuli Kizito, Malik Ntale, Saidat Namugema, Jastine Namaganda, Dorothy Najjemba and a 19-year-old school girl who was reportedly gang raped by the attackers. The spate of night attacks that started from Bukomansimbi district before spreading to Kalungu, and lately to Lwengo and Masaka districts.

- 5) Police established local intelligence networks which identified habitual criminal lists. Files of 40 suspects were compiled with charges ranging from robbery, assault, house break-in, murder, burglary and drug deals”.
- 6) In Nyendo, the operation recovered at least 15 stolen boda-boda motorcycles.
- 7) Police destroyed the thugs’ networks in Gomba district that encouraged exchange of the stolen motorcycles with their dealers in Nyendo”. The joint operation caught leaders of the robbery processes in area.
- 8) According to police, “Nyendo has finally enjoyed relative peace after the operation”. The tendency of releasing habitual criminals on police bond and court bail has been sorted; we have the majority of the habitual criminals behind the insecurity on remand in Masaka prison”.
- 9) Stores where stolen properties are kept were unearthed in Nyendo. As many as 20 culprits were arrested in criminal action in the area.
- 10) Police understood the patterns, organization, structures and the ring leaders of these thugs”.
- 11) The police empowered the communities by setting up village intelligence committees, patrols and crime preventers who report to the police stations and LCs.
- 12) The village security teams registered residents in their respective areas. Intelligence security teams also have developed lists of suspected criminals and their collaborators. The police leadership in Bukomansimbi was overhauled as administrative steps to address insecurity in the district.
- 13) Police further argued that, “some of the police officers were suspended, transferred while others are facing disciplinary actions because they were suspected to be part of the crimes committed.” The Police Standards Unit (PSU) controls and checks behavior of staff from Bukomansimbi for failing their duties.
- 14) It is understood the police managed to contain incidents of thuggery in Bukomansimbi district through intensifying community policing where stakeholders teamed up collectively.
- 15) Police used Kalungu district as an experimental area model where toll free lines were distributed to the 281 village security committees in the districts. Police said that, “the pilot system will be set rolling out countrywide as a measure to strengthen the security systems in the communities”.
- 16) The village security committees were equipped with motorcycles, bicycles and mobile phones to support their communication. This will help in effective patrols with police in controlling crime at the grassroots.”
- 17) Police further argued that, “30 youthful people were enrolled in the system per village and these will team up with crime preventers and the police”. Every 10 households were given a village security personnel to take charge.
- 18) The neighborhood watch approach was rolled out through the ongoing community policing programs in Masaka region. Police said, “the Kalungu security model was rolled out to Bukomansimbi district and proved to be effective.
- 19) The area MP Hajji Muyanja Mbabaali constructed three police stations in the area to beef up security. The police stations were opened up at Kingo, Kasswa, Ddongwa and Karegelo in Kisekka sub-county where the Police boss Gen Kale Kayihura officiated to commission the facilities.

### **What Government Has Done**

They have projected to install 800 LED street lights and seven distribution transformers covering an overall distance of about 16 kilometers would be installed within Masaka Municipality (URN, 2017). This will help stop the anonymous letters, the thugs have asked residents to prepare enough cash and more gadgets for them. The thugs ask impoverished residents to leave at least Shillings 20,000 at their doorsteps while the wealthy residents should keep more money with them and hand it over to them when they strike anytime starting this week.

One of the interviewees called Joseph Ssenzoga lamented that;

“ the failure by police to apprehend those attacking residents means government has failed to protect its citizens and their property.”

Another interviewee by the name of Joseph Ssekasamba the Deputy Resident District Commissioner Masaka, alleged that,

“ They have confiscated the anonymous letters as part of the investigations and promised to end suffering of the people in Masaka district”

According to Ssekasamba; “Police are holding six key suspects in connection to the current wave of insecurity and they were produced in courts of law to answer for the atrocities.”

According to Police; “at least 20 people have been attacked and hacked by thugs since January this year. Three people have so far lost their lives in the attacks.” The latest attack occurred on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 in Kyabakuzza trading center in Masaka municipality where thugs raided ten homes armed with machetes, axes and guns.”



They hacked eight people injuring them critically and also raped two women before making off with their property. They injured include five ladies.

Thugs also rape victims as grieved by one of the lady interviewee that; thugs storm their homes at around 1:00-4:00am by breaking down the doors with strong objects to gain access into their house and as they enter, thugs start demanding for money, valuable property and mobile phones.

The Inspector General of Police, Edward Kale Kayihura has deployed the Flying Squad to boost UPDF and police to hunt the thugs (Bindhe, 2017a).

The teenage girl who was raped said four thugs had demanded money from her mother before they descended on her. “I lost consciousness after the thugs raped me in turns.”

She said the thugs who were altogether about 10 forced their door open using an axe. She said that as some were busy making away with property, others gang-raped her as the heavy rain outside muffled her desperate alarm for help.

She said the thugs said they had made an earlier survey for homes which have money.

Masaka DPC John Mwaule told New Vision that police and crime preventers had made patrols at Kyabakuzi, Kirimya, Mwalo and Kijabwemi including neighboring Kingo and Kisseka sub-counties.

“We did not sleep at all the whole night. We combed all the areas but to our surprise shortly after, I had reached the Masaka Central Police Station, I received a call from the OC [officer-in-charge] of Kyabakuzi police that the thugs had attacked the area,” said Mwaule.

The thugs raided the villages in Lwengo on the night when Kaweesi was buried in the district. They attacked Kyaluwubu, Nakatooke, Kamenyamiggo and Kingo. They reportedly tricked the residents by raising alarms, creating the impression that they needed help at the targeted homes.

“Whoever opened the door to respond to the alarm fell victim. However the thugs did not take anything,” one Costa Ndagire said.

A community loud speaker which made an attempt to alert the residents about the invasion was vandalized by the thugs. The most affected districts included Bukomansimbi, Lwengo, Masaka, Rakai and Mateete subcounty in Ssembabule district.

The opposition in parliament tasked government to explain recurring mysterious killings of security officers and threats to citizens across the country. In a statement on the floor of Parliament, Leader of Opposition (LOP) Winnie Kiiza highlighted several killings in Masaka where attackers left behind leaflets mentioning their next targets and they are similar to those dropped in the areas of Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko and Kabarole districts at the time the country is still mourning the late police spokesman Andrew Felix Kaweesi as he left his home in Kulambiro, a suburb of Kampala. Kaweesi was killed together with his driver Godfrey Mambewa and bodyguard Kenneth Erau. Since 2012, more than 10 Muslim clerics have been fatally shot by unknown assailants riding on motorcycles across the country not forgetting the Senior Principal State Attorney Joan Kagezi who was gunned down in Kiwatule on March 30, 2015. In November 2016, Major Mohammed Kiggundu, one of the former commanders of the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) became another victim at Masanafu, a Kampala suburb together with his bodyguard Sgt. Steven Mukasa. The Teso Sub-region is experiencing similar attacks. She cited a need for government to ensure that there is security and safety of citizens. In a situation like this, there is need for a joint statement from the ministers of Internal Affairs, Security and Defence on the security situation in the country (Dispatch, 2017).

Kayihura dispelled baseless rumor and reports that the area had been put under a curfew (Kazibwe, 2017). The area has been characterized by insecurity since February 2017 with reports on bribery, robbery and house break-ins which left many people injured and loss of property. The thugs have been issuing threats using leaflets on streets warning of chaos. Early April head of opposition leader in parliament requested government to explain what is happening and argued police to protect the lives and their property.

The police boss went on a fact finding mission on top of assuring the residents of their security. He dispelled as baseless rumour and reports that the area had been put under a curfew. The area has for the last 2 months been characterised by insecurity in form of robbery and house break-ins which have left many people injured on top of losing their property to thugs (ChimpReports, 2017).

The police spokesperson Asan Kasingye asked locals of Masaka greater area to, “remain calm amid the increased insecurity in the area”.

Kasingye further argued the locals at Butenga A village, Butenga Subcounty in Bukomansimbi district that, “there is no need to panic over the skirmishes there”.

He reaffirmed that, “these are not rebels but rather small elements of thugs who want to create fear in you,”! He added that “They are only intimidating you into fear so they can freely carry out their acts.”

The police spokesperson who apologized to the locals for the havoc caused to them by the thugs said, “Such a small group of people should not stop them from going about their businesses, adding that they would be dealt with”.



Kasingye however, urged locals to be “reactivate security committees and village registers as measures to tighten vigilance”.

He further argued that, “the police officers will be on the ground to find out what is always happening to the locals, relate with them until a permanent solution is found”.

On the issue of the reported curfew, Kasingye assured locals that, “there is no situation that requires a curfew to be sanctioned in greater Masaka”.

The locals narrated to the police spokesperson that, “they live in fear after a number of attacks and leaflets promising to harm them were pinned in their areas”. Further expressed their worry and continued to narrate that, “they (thugs) attack, beat, cut and rob us. We are living in fear,” said John Bosco Kasenge, an LCII councilor in the area.

Local confirmed to police that, “We have been thinking of relocating to other villages for fear of lives.”

While the locals narrated of how in one night, “over 10 people were attacked and cut by the thugs in one village”.

Kasingye revealed that 144 people had fallen victim to the thugs who have terrorized the 8 districts of greater Masaka region since September last year. He noted that 3 of the victims have been killed by the thugs. “We have managed to arrest over 80 of them. Some have been sentenced while others are still on remand”. He revealed that they had agreed to carry out joint patrols and intelligence gathering together with the UPDF in the area (Today, 2017b).

The Police Homicide and Criminal intelligence Departments, to further analyze the situation on ground. At least four people have lost lives and several others nursing injuries from this spate of night attacks that started from Bukomansimbi district before spreading to Kalungu, and lately to Lwengo and Masaka districts. Masaka Resident District Commissioner, reveals that their joint security committee comprising of Police, Reserve force and Army convened on Monday declared a curfew restricting movements of persons and operation of Bars beyond 11PM, in a bid to help them contain the situation (Masaka, 2017).

Police warned residents

- 1) Hold security meetings to address land-related conflicts.
- 2) Suspend night prayers and restrict bar operations to 10:00pm local time.
- 3) Stop keeping money in the houses.

Locals told New Vision the armed thugs had thrown around papers bearing warnings that they would attack Kyabakuza and Kijjabwemi on March 30 and 31. As many as six victims were in the aftermath rushed to Masaka Regional Referral Hospital in critical condition. They are Maninsuli Kizito, Malik Ntale, Saidat Namugema, Jastine Namaganda, Dorothy Najjemba and a 19-year-old school girl who was reportedly gang raped by the attackers. Those attending to victims indicated that they are tested and found negative and are responding quickly to the treatment except Kizito who suffered heavy bleeding in the chest with multiple cuts.

## **VI. CONSEQUENCE OF INSECURITY IN THE SOCIETY**

### **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- 1) To Government: The government relies solely on the earnings derived from transactions that are operating in their domain. During insecurity time, government faced by dwindling in income generation as a result of insecurity.
- 2) Inter State Business collapse
- 3) New Companies will not come to invest their resources in Country faced by insecurity
- 4) Lull in Business Activities
- 5) Disruption of Telecommunication Activities
- 6) Loses of the region as a result of lingering problem

### **SECURITY IMPLICATION**

- a) Confrontation
- b) Illegal Activities
- c) Kidnapping, Raping and other evils will become order of the day
- d) Migration of citizens to other peaceful places

## **VII. CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS**

Ugandans should acknowledge the failure of the security agencies hence there should be a comprehensive refurbishment of the Security Agencies in the county to pre-empt these security breaches. In particular, the failure of the intelligence services to contain the recurring security breaches. The epidemic of corruption and internal security in different districts, rate of murders has once more brought to limelight the need for a Sovereign National Conference on security affairs. Until these structural distortions and anomalies are addressed, the monster of insecurity will loom large and Uganda will once more be listed as insecure. The

full implementation of the anti-terrorism law and punish culprits of such scandalous crimes capable of causing instability in the nation.

At the speed Uganda is deteriorating security wise, there is a strong desire for a dialogue so that all stakeholders make their stand known in view of insecurity in our country. The way forward is for us to keep laying emphasis on the need for the advancement to trickle down. Consideration of amendment in line with elections.

Secondly, the judiciary is not helping matters at all. This institution is heavily compounding our problems. It has got to really style up. Cases of corruption are not meant to be compromised at all, let alone adjourning them endlessly. The judiciary ought to have, at this stage in our development, evolved key performance indicators for cases. There ought to have been a time to determine a case; time to close that case; and time to deliver judgment and pass sentences. In Uganda, cases that bother on corruption and insecurity have most often been compromised thus the law is no longer acting as a restrictive. What is fashionable in Uganda is too unpleasant to narrate. The endless killing going on in some parts of the country is scaring. The country cannot just continue to walk the line of death. Some Ugandans do not value human lives. Most have become conditioned to act of carnages, brigandage, looting, massacre, butchery and bestiality.

Thirdly, the central government should always be decisive on issues that bother on insecurity. We have never had strong leaders. From Obote to Amin and now to Museveni, well as some where self-imposed, others have been voted in power by the people. Currently slowly but surely getting to the level of intertwined corruption and insecurity.

Ethnic and the foregoing problems and criminal activities individually and collectively create insecurity and breach of peace that are likely to or indeed affect legitimate social and economic activities in the country. These problems also have the very damaging consequence of giving the signal to the rest of the international community that Uganda is not a safe and secure place and as such not suitable for economic investment and activities. This is particularly important in view of the efforts being made to create the desired atmosphere to attract foreign investment.

Beyond the effects of security concerns on the economic fortunes of the country, the nature of the security challenges facing the country also have implications for the country's political system. As mentioned earlier, social cohesion among various groups and interests is important in the process of national political development. Therefore, the constituent parts of the country must be and indeed feel that they are being carried along in the process of national governance. Experience has shown that widespread discontent and loss of confidence in the system have ways of affecting national political stability. Consistently continuing escalation of violence and crises across the country will impinge on the survival of our democracy.

Accordingly, there is the challenge to rethink and improve on policy and institutional means of dealing with security concerns arising in the country. At the political level, the federal, state and local governments should evolve programmes of cultural and political education and orientation that seek to enthrone the fundamentals of democracy so that the political contestants as well as the generality of the citizens imbibe principles and practices essential for sustainable democracy. Such programmes must also address specific tendencies that create security breach and concerns in the country.

In addition, a process of legislative and constitutional review should be initiated to assess the country's constitution and amend or expunge as necessary areas that have been found to give rise to conflicts and security problems. The process should also introduce new provisions and legislations that will ensure better and more effective interplay of interests among all groups and stakeholders in Uganda. Such exercise should also embrace ways of making the country's democratic space more open, free, fair and tolerant as exists in other democracies around the world. Among specific lingering political issues that should be addressed are: the laws relating to political parties and their activities; the establishment, funding and activities of the electoral body; local and state government relationship; allocation of national resources and revenue; citizenship rights; devolution of security powers to states and local governments. In addition, the legislative and constitutional review should also embody security sector reforms that will make the security agencies and institutions more effective in combating crimes and other threats to national security and make them accountable to the democratic political system and structures. These democratic structures include the states and local governments. I believe that we need to give a more concrete understanding to the definition of governors as the chief security officers of the state.

## **VIII. CONCLUSIONS**

Ugandans need a good government, no more no less. And a good government is possible in as much as people who are put in positions of authority are allowed and are committed to discharge their duties without fear or kindness; are determined to serve with zeal and patriotism; are not ready to sell out to international capital and are ready to stand by the truth and die for it. In all, there is no mono cultural theory that is a cure-all to the diverse nature of insecurity in Uganda/Masaka but I believed and stand by the theory that Uganda should evolve

into six regions, each region having its Premier or Governor, each region has a right to retain its states or to abolish- the choice is theirs in the region to make; each region should be in charge of its Education, Security, Health, Agriculture, Housing, Transport and Energy policies. The Central Government should rethink of re-owning sensitive sectors such banks, health & education when public servants are working in the interest of the people they serve. Distrust is a social disease but in a society of rights, it is right!

"Democracy is a sought-after value. It is not a perfect system of governance, even theoretically. But as Aristotle argued, it is the least evil of all possible governments. The strength of democracy is drawn from the fact that it is supposed to be the product of the will of the majority of the people. Government is held in trust for the people. The citizens feel a sense of ownership of the state for they can identify with it as vital stakeholders whose will give existence and legitimacy to the state and the government. As shareholders of the commonwealth, the citizens will not only avoid such behaviours that hurt and sabotage the system, but join forces to resist any such attack on the collective interest. That in-fact is the real basis for the development of grand tactic, the mobilisation of the entire national asset for the protection of the nation, which I believe can work best in a democracy".

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