

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

BY

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AFFAIRS)**

AT

**THE DEMOCRACY SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY UGANDA
COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

ON THE THEME

DISSECTING WESTERN DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

10th December, 2021

Mestil Hotel, Kampala, 2.00p.m

Members of the Uganda Council on Foreign Relations,
Your Excellences Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic
Missions, Our Presenter, Mr. David Mafabi-Senior
Presidential Advisor/Special Duties, Our Discussant, Dr.
Jerome Kansiime, the Board, Management and Staff of
Kampala International University and Uganda Council on
Foreign Relations; Distinguished invited Guests; the
Media; Ladies and Gentlemen. Good afternoon!!!

Thank you for inviting me to address this gathering of
stakeholders, friends and practitioners of foreign
relations at the Democracy Symposium organized by
Uganda Council on Foreign Relations in partnership with
Kampala International University.

The theme of your symposium- Dissecting Western Democracy in Africa is timely and very relevant especially at such a time as this when the world is discussing the very important of Democracy. Thank you for inviting me to officiate at the opening of this symposium.

Democracy has evolved since the days of the Greek democracy in the Greek cities of Athens and Sparta. As societies continue to change, so has the politics and our understanding of democracy continued to change.

Democracy is a common value of all mankind and an important aspect that the NRM Government upholds alongside Patriotism, Panafricanism, regional integration and socio-economic transformation.

The NRM under the visionary leadership of H.E the President Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has presided over democratic and responsive governance as enshrined in our constitution which boldly declares that all power belongs to the people. Our Constitution has the fundamental and inalienable human rights under Chapter 4 of our Constitution. We have one of the most progressive democratic constitutions in the world that provides for universal adult suffrage, the right to vote and be voted for, affirmative action for women, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities to be represented at all levels of governance particularly in our National Parliament.

I therefore want to emphasize that when it comes to democracy, the African people should be allowed to determine the democratic system that works best for them best on unique and peculiar history and conditions obtaining in each country. The one-size-fits all model of democracy cannot deliver the aspirations of the people and it's important that democratic assessment be made based on the unique and peculiar conditions and circumstances obtaining in each country. There is need

to respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity of each nation. The big and powerful nations should not prescribe, impose and super-impose their systems and values that may not be tailored to local circumstances. There is need for democratic adaptations based on what serves well the people.

The NRM Government remains fully committed to upholding democratic Governance, human rights and the rule of law. We have a responsibility to the Ugandans to deliver the socio-economic transformation and meet the human dignity and economic aspirations of our people. We remain committed to promotion of Patriotism, peace, security, regional stability, integration.

Once again I thank you for inviting me. I look forward to reading the report of the symposium. I wish you fruitful and interactive deliberations.

Thank You.

For God and My Country