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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Registered at the General Post Office for transmission within East Africa as a Newspaper



9504J

MAR 2 1971



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Published by Authority

The Uganda Gazette

Vol. LXIV, No. 8]

R

26th February, 1971

[Price: Shs. 1/75

General Notice No. 124 of 1971.

Declaration by the Officers and Men of the Uganda Army and Air Force made to the Nation on the 20th February, 1971.

IT IS HEREBY notified for general information that we, the soldiers and officers of the Uganda Army and Air Force, make the following Declaration to the People of Uganda on this 20th day of February, 1971:—

1. Since we took over power in a counter-coup to foil Obote's plan to assassinate Senior Army Officers including Major-General Idi Amin Dada and consolidate himself in a coup, we have been tremendously encouraged by the great public jubilation over our action.
2. Above all, we have been heartened by the tremendous support that the public has given to our fellow soldier to whom we handed over power, His Excellency Major-General Idi Amin Dada.
3. The actions which His Excellency Major-General Idi Amin Dada has taken since 25th January, 1971, to protect and administer the Second Republic of Uganda, have our full support and approval.
4. The Council of Ministers which His Excellency, in consultation with us, appointed to advise and assist him in running our Second Republic of Uganda, has our full confidence and support and they are all doing very good work. We ourselves are happy and content to stay in the barracks, ever ready and prepared to defend our Motherland Uganda.
5. We highly approve of the action of His Excellency and his Council of Ministers in setting up high-powered Commissions of Enquiry to examine the affairs of the General Service Unit, the National Trading Corporation, the Coffee Marketing Board, and of corruption in all Government Departments and in all aspects of public life in Uganda. We are confident that after this great exercise, a lot of information regarding the way the taxpayers' money has been stolen over the years will come to light.
6. We are confident that the findings and recommendations of the various Commissions of Enquiry will do a great deal to clean up public life in Uganda.
7. We realise that the state of the economy of our country is the backbone of our Nation, and therefore we welcome the policy of our Government to re-examine the economic and social policies of the last regime in order to make sure that the interests of the people of Uganda as a whole are properly looked after.

8. We also support the Government's plans to examine the position of prices and taxes to make sure that the ordinary Ugandan is not crushed by the cost of living. In view of the very bad state of affairs left behind by the last regime we fully appreciate that our Government led by His Excellency Major-General Idi Amin Dada is faced with a great task. Public life must be cleaned up and the economy must be put on a sound basis. In addition the people of Uganda have to be educated to think in terms of Uganda as a whole and to love and respect one another in the spirit of brotherhood, unity and equality. We have therefore decided that our Government as led by His Excellency Major-General Idi Amin Dada must be in power for at least five years. We believe that at the end of such a period national elections could be organised and held in a period of tranquility and mutual respect. From messages received by us we know that this proposal has the support of the great majority of Ugandans.

9. We want to remind everybody that the period of political activities has been suspended in the national interest, and everybody engaging in political activities during such period of suspension will be dealt with severely.

We say this because we are aware that Uganda's present difficulties and most of Africa's problems are caused by greedy and ambitious politicians. We note that some people especially politicians in Uganda are trying to re-open old quarrels and old wounds with a view to dividing the people of Uganda on a tribal, religious or other sectional basis. We want to warn strongly all people especially politicians including former Ministers and former detainees that anybody preaching hatred to the people of Uganda will be an enemy of Uganda. We welcome the announcement already made by the Government to expand the Uganda Armed Forces. This will make us better able to defend Uganda from external aggression and from internal enemies of society like *kondos* and those who engage in political sabotage. In this respect we wish to affirm our determination to fight and crush *kondoism* in Uganda.

10. We are aware that the former President Obote loved flatterers, and at the same time disliked men of integrity and above all hated people with good brains. We highly approve and appreciate the policy of our fellow soldier, His Excellency Major-General Idi Amin Dada, and his Council of Ministers of making use of the best brains in the country without any political, religious or any other bias whatsoever. It is only by making use of all our available manpower and brain power that we can develop our country effectively.

11. We highly commend our Government's policy of non-victimisation and its efforts to build a new Uganda based on mutual love, respect, understanding and unity. At the same time we warn people who want to help Obote to come back by force that they are being watched and that their activities are known.

12. Because Uganda is based on mutual respect and the equality and dignity of all people, we want to emphasize and suggest what has been stated by His Excellency on a number of occasions, that Uganda is a single and united Republic. We therefore re-affirm in very clear terms that there can be no return to feudal kings and kingdoms, because Uganda is marching forwards and not backwards.

13. We have learnt that some individuals outside Uganda do not recognise our fellow soldier, His Excellency Major-General Idi Amin Dada, as Head of State of our beloved Second Republic of Uganda. From clear evidence available to everybody who cares to look or listen, it is obvious that our fellow soldier has the tremendous support, love and respect of the vast majority of the people of Uganda.

For us His Excellency has our whole-hearted confidence, because whatever high rank or high office he has held, he has always remembered us and he has always remained a part of us. We know that His Excellency has said many times that he wants to re-organise Uganda and then come back to the barracks, and that he does not wish to be President of Uganda. To show our full confidence in His Excellency, and our trust in him, we do pray and implore him to take over the name and title of "President of Uganda", with effect from today. This would moreover fit in well with our Republican Status, because we are now a Republic but we have no President.

In addition, due to the size of the army he is now heading, and his military responsibilities, we hereby appoint him full General.

WE HAVE DONE THIS FOR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY.

*Published by: P. J. Nkambo Mugerwa,
Attorney-General, the 24th day of February, 1971.*