



Growing and Serving Together

UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

A Statement on Arua Municipality By-Election Aftermath

Uganda Joint Christian Council is deeply concerned with the developments connected with Arua Municipality By-Election held on 15th August, 2018. The Council is particularly concerned about the ramifications of the violence that occurred on the eve of the by-election which resulted into the death of the driver of the Member of Parliament for Kyadondo East Constituency, Hon. Robert Kyagulanyi and the subsequent arrests and incarceration of several Members of Parliament, the MP-Elect for Arua Municipality, Mr. Kassiano Wadri, and others in various places of detention including military facilities.

The above developments have given rise to heightened political tension and unrest in the country, especially in the Capital City, Kampala. The unrest is characterized, among others, by youth-led demonstrations and demands for the release of Hon Kyagulanyi and other people being detained.

The truth regarding what sparked off the violence on the eve of the Arua Municipality Constituency by-election can only be established by an independent panel of inquiry established by the Parliament of Uganda or through a judicial process presided over by the ordinary courts of law. At the moment, we are dealing with allegations and counter allegations and there are very many unanswered questions.

For example, who hurled the stone which allegedly damaged one of the vehicles in the Presidential motorcade? Who witnessed the alleged hurling of the stone? Has the alleged culprit been arrested? Under what circumstances was the driver of Kyagulanyi shot? These questions call for honest answers.

In our view, Ugandans would like to see concerted actions directed at moving the country away from the current state of political machinations and tension which, if

not handled wisely, can easily plunge the country into political instability. These actions are urgently needed from the State, political leaders across the political divide, the Church and all social forces who value peace and stability.

In the circumstances, Uganda Joint Christian Council wishes to make the following appeals:

1. We urge Parliament to investigate the circumstances that led to the violence which occurred on the eve of Arua Municipality By-Election and the events that followed including the arrest and incarceration of Hon. Kyagulanyi and other people who are being detained in various facilities.
2. We urge the Uganda Police Force to investigate the circumstances that led to the killing of the driver of Hon. Kyagulanyi and the wanton beating of Hon. Francis Zake, Hon. Kyagulanyi and other MPs following the violence that occurred on the eve of Arua Municipality By-Election.
3. We urge President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to reach out to opposition political leaders with a handshake in order to move the country away from the current politics of confrontation.
4. We urge all political leaders to embrace the spirit of dialogue and reconciliation.
5. We urge all Ugandans to re-dedicate themselves to the spirit of Uganda's Anthem **For God and My County** without which it will not be possible for us to achieve national unity and stability.
6. To allow those who need medical attention to access medical attention of their choice
7. To embrace a human rights based approach to peace building and conflict resolutions for purposes of fostering the spirit of peaceful co-existence in our country
8. We should reflect on the Golden rule "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the Prophets" (Mathew 7:12). As we reflect on our country's Motto – **FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY**



Rt. Rev Archmandrite Constantine Mbonabingi
Executive Secretary

Kampala, 20th August, 2018