



WITHOUT PREJUDICE

August 19, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTINUED DISRUPTIONS OF LAWFUL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BY
THE UGANDA POLICE**

The 2021 General Election, like any other, is not an event but rather a process, whose inclusiveness and credibility relies on the integrity of the events leading up to, on and following polling/tallying days.

Uganda's 1995 Constitution, diligently crafted by the Constitutional Assembly, of which General Henry Tumukunde was a member, enshrined the right of every Ugandan to freely participate in electing their leaders, and for qualified aspirants to offer themselves for elective positions.

The Constitution, the ultimate contract between the great people of Uganda and those that they elected to govern them, further prescribes the process one should follow as they seek the privilege of serving our beloved Ugandans as Head of State and Government.

The process envisaged by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, and further articulated in the Presidential Elections Act, provides for a consultative period within which Presidential Aspirants may freely traverse the country to obtain views and feedback from a wide array of stakeholders for the purpose of shaping their offer to the electorate.

Renewed Uganda (R.U) therefore, wishes to condemn, in the strongest terms possible, the actions of the Uganda Police in detaining its Presidential Aspirant General Henry Tumukunde while he undertook lawful consultations in Buikwe on the afternoon of August 18. More so, where our Candidate observed strict Standard Operating Procedures considering the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

We hereby also expose Uganda Police's thinly veiled attempts to intimidate our Presidential Candidate and the Campaign task force by arresting campaign volunteers/ mobilisers, and more glaringly by issuing unnecessary summons, among other disruptive tactics.

We challenge the Electoral Commission to go on record as to the specific process and procedure aspirants must follow to conduct lawful consultations, stipulating the legal basis under which the Uganda Police can interrupt such proceedings so that it can be duly scrutinised and where lawful, abided with.

We further challenge the Uganda Police to explain the selective application of the law, if any, as it continuously disrupts activities of opposition groupings while disregarding the flagrant breaches of established health procedures by elements within the ruling party as has been widely documented.



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We further urge Ugandans to be vigilant in protecting their right to elect their leaders without fear or intimidation. Tactics such as those on display in Buikwe, Nansansa (where our supporters were arrested last week) and in the CID summons to our Presidential Aspirant General Henry Tumukunde to answer to speaking to veterans, are deliberately designed to disrupt any opposing forces' political activities, thereby, disenfranchising the electorate from listening to other voices other than those of the ruling party. This should not be tolerated.

We urge all political actors to respect the rule of law and to consider public health and safety by conducting all their activities mindful of best practice in preventing the spread of Covid-19. However, this should not provide context for state machinery to disrupt lawful and complaint consultations.

Ultimately, the battle for the privilege of serving Ugandans as their leader should be one fought on the diversity, inclusiveness and practicality of ideas presented rather than on tactics to intimidate and disrupt opposition while disenfranchising the electorate.

Our campaign shall continue to focus our efforts on engaging the public in lawful consultations as we put together an elaborate set of proposals on our vision for *A Renewed Uganda*.

END



About Renewed Uganda

Renewed Uganda is a political platform and a campaign vehicle led by Gen Henry Tumukunde, who is also a Presidential Aspirant in the upcoming 2021 General Elections, under the belief of *It Is Possible*. It seeks to bring together Ugandans at home and abroad, and those that call Uganda home, irrespective of background, ethnicity, religion, gender to unite in causing democratic transition of governance. It aims to create an environment for equitable distribution of resources and opportunities for all the people of Uganda.

About Gen Henry Tumukunde

Retired Lieutenant General Henry Tumukunde is a graduate of Law, obtained a Diploma in Legal Practice, and holds an Executive Masters degree in Oil and Gas Management. For over 40 years, he has been a noteworthy activist for Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law in Uganda and across Africa. Immediately after his first degree, he joined the struggle to liberate Uganda from bad leadership. Subsequently he served the country in various capacities: as First Secretary and Defence Attaché of the Ugandan Embassy in London, a member of the Constituent Assembly, Member of Parliament Representing Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF), Army Chief of Personnel and Administration, Chief of Military Intelligence in the UPDF, and most recently as Minister for Security.

General Tumukunde is on record to have opposed the amendment of the Constitution to remove the Presidential term limits, to avert a likely situation of a President hanging on to power for life. For that, he was arrested and prosecuted in the army court martial, a process that held him down for 8 years while he remained under house arrest. Recently after declaring his intentions to contest for the Presidency, General Tumukunde was arrested on trumped up charges and remanded in Luzira prison for two months.

We on the Task Force of Renewed Uganda pride ourselves in offering Ugandans a processed and finished product, not a raw material. We would beg that he is treated with the respect and dignity that he deserves.