



THE PAN-AFRICAN PYRAMID

One Struggle, Many Fronts

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: Thursday, 4th, June 2026 (Time: 14:30 Kampala time)

STATEMENT ON THE VETTING OF DR. LAWRENCE MUGANGA AS STATE MINISTER FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, FROM A PAN-AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

As Pan-Africanists and members of the Pan-African Pyramid (PAP), we have followed with keen interest the debate surrounding the appointment and subsequent vetting of Dr. Lawrence Muganga. We find it necessary to offer a Pan-African perspective on a matter that goes beyond one individual and touches the broader aspirations of African unity, integration, and shared destiny.

In 2023, PAP proudly recognized and awarded Dr. Lawrence Muganga with a Pan-African Education Award for his outstanding contribution to the transformation of higher education in Uganda and Africa. The award was presented to him by renowned Zimbabwean Pan-Africanist Bishop Joshua Maponga III in recognition of Dr. Muganga's relentless advocacy for authentic, skills-based, and African-centered education. Muganga traveled the whole world including Canada, Rwanda, Europe, Asia and America gathering knowledge, and when got it, he returned home, together with his entire family to share the same with the Ugandan youth selflessly, in order to build his mother land.

Today, the same man who has dedicated his intellectual energies to advancing Uganda and Africa's educational future finds himself at the center of questions regarding citizenship and belonging! As Pan-Africanists, we must ask ourselves a fundamental question: What does it truly mean to be African? Why is Elon Musk living in America and only sending "aid" and his products to his mother land for sale? So Dr. Muganga's crime was to return home?

Dr. Muganga was born and educated in Uganda. His roots are in Uganda. His parents were buried in Uganda. His academic contributions have benefited Uganda. His public service has been dedicated to Uganda. Yet some would seek to reduce his identity and contribution to technical debates that appear to be selectively applied.

If dual citizenship was indeed the issue, Ugandans deserve an explanation as to why other public officials who previously faced similar questions were allowed the opportunity to regularize their status and proceed with their appointments. Why should Dr. Muganga be treated differently? Justice must never be selective. Laws must never become instruments of convenience, invoked against some while overlooked for others.

Equally concerning are procedural inconsistencies that have emerged over the years regarding public appointments. We have witnessed officials vetted remotely via zoom, where you're not even sure that person exists. Others serve extensive periods without physically appearing before Parliament and yet when reappointed, Parliament is quick to vet them via zoom again. If such precedents exist, it becomes legitimate for citizens to ask whether standards are being applied uniformly or whether they only become rigid when particular individuals are involved.

We've even seen where Parliament puts the vetting process to majority vote (the Ayes have it), which is contrary to the law. So when does the law apply? On Dr. Muganga only?

However, beyond the legal and procedural arguments lies a much larger issue: the Pan-African dream.

The fathers of African liberation did not sacrifice for a continent permanently divided by colonial boundaries. Thousands of Africans crossed borders to fight for the freedom of neighboring nations. Rwandans fought and died in Uganda's liberation struggle. Ugandans equally participated in struggles beyond Uganda's borders, including in Rwanda. They did not ask for passports before making sacrifices for African freedom.

The Pan-African vision championed by Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Muammar Gaddafi, Thomas Sankara, Patrice Lumumba, and many others was not one of fragmented identities but of a united Africa. It was a vision of One Africa, One People, and ultimately One African Citizenship.

It is therefore disappointing when discussions that should inspire continental integration instead reinforce artificial divisions inherited from colonial cartographers. Moreover, by Parliament which should be the champions of the unification of Africa!

Uganda and Rwanda are not enemies. Their peoples share history, culture, language, bloodlines, and destinies that long predate colonial borders.

As Pan-Africanists, our aspiration remains a borderless Africa, a single African passport, the free movement of African people, and ultimately a United States of Africa. We cannot continue speaking about East African integration, African Continental Free Trade, and continental unity while simultaneously treating fellow Africans as foreigners whenever it becomes politically convenient.

The case of Dr. Lawrence Muganga should challenge us to reflect on whether we are genuinely committed to African integration or merely paying lip service to it. It should compel leaders and policymakers to educate citizens on the true meaning of Pan-Africanism rather than perpetuating narrow interpretations of nationality that undermine continental solidarity.

Dr. Lawrence Muganga remains a respected member of the Pan-African Pyramid and a distinguished Pan-African intellectual whose contributions to education, leadership, and African development are undeniable. We stand with every African who believes that our continent's future lies not in division, suspicion, and exclusion, but in unity, integration, and collective progress.

Africa's destiny will not be secured by the walls that separate us, but by the bridges that unite us.

Africa must rise again—not against each other, but together.

One Africa. One destiny. One people. I thank you

Africa, Don't Agonize_Organize!



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