

Speech

By

H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

President of the Republic of Uganda

At the

THANKSGIVING CEREMONY OF

Hon. Dan Kidega

Gulu

22nd August 2015

Hon Minister

Hon Members of Parliament

Chairpersons LCV

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would have loved to join you and your family as you give thanks to the Lord for all his bounty to you but it has not been possible due to prior engagements. I have, therefore, delegated the Prime Minister to represent me.

Hon. Kidega, what you have done is right and fitting. There is nothing you can ever give to the Lord that is more precious than Thanksgiving. That is all he wants from us.

As human beings, we are good at praying and asking God to listen to our prayers but once our hearts' desires are met and our supplications are fulfilled, we are prone to forget the source from which these bounties come from. Very few people put time aside to count their blessings and say, "Thank you Lord".

First of all, Hon. Kidega, you were elected unopposed to be Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly, You are hardworking, yes, but I think you have God's favour on top of everything. So we share in your joy today and we are profoundly grateful for the blessings bestowed on you.

The Bible says that God helps those who help themselves. You have struggled through life on your own and I think you have no regrets. The fruits of your labour are evident.

Hon. Kidega is a young focused gentleman. He was a Member of Parliament for a period of 5 years (2001-2006) representing the youth. He has been very active

in NRM politics and was a member of my national campaign taskforce in 2001, and the party's National Executive Committee (NEC) Member.

While he was working with the Vice-President as a Private Secretary, he exhibited a high sense of responsibility. Prior to joining legislative work, he was a youth leader at different levels including being Chairman of the National Youth Council (NYC), National Representative of the Commonwealth Youth Forum (African Region).

He is known from his school days as a strong student activist. He is an entrepreneur and he has been engaged in the struggle against HIV/AIDS and Women Empowerment.

Hon. Kidega was an all-rounder when he was a student. He is a scientist, he is an artist he is a lot of things. He studied Bio-Chemistry, he studied Business Administration, he has a Master's Degree in International Trade Policy and Trade Law.

Lastly, to you Honourable and your family, it was proper that you have solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged with one heart the providence of Almighty God who has carried you through and is still at your side and ready whenever you call upon Him.

I need to give one word to the parents. I always urge you to spare the little you earn and take your children to school. Education is the best insurance for your children.

Government has committed itself to give you the basic – yes primary and secondary education are just basics. You must strive to build on what government provides to enable your children go beyond the basic living. It is true the qualification for one to become a Member of Parliament is

successful completion of senior six, but I wonder how many members of parliament have only senior six! So it is evident that in order to rise on the horizon one needs to do more than the basics. We thank Hon Kidega for going beyond the basics and that is why we are here today.

I thank you and God bless you.