



Time: 5:12pm



20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The Executive Committee,

National Unity Platform

**RE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO REPRESENT THE NATIONAL UNITY PLATFORM IN THE FORTHCOMING EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

My name is Roy Rugumayo Kusemererwa a card holding member of the National Unity Platform Party, currently serving as the General Secretary of Uganda National Students Association (UNSA) and Vice President of the East African Students Union (EASU). My candidature is alive to the decisions of the National Executive Committee (NEC) held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July at Namanve, particularly on resolution (f) where it was resolved that the party will not field a candidate for EALA in the upcoming elections.

This letter serves to beseech the party to review that position and to express my interest in ably holding the party flag.

NUP was in a unique way founded to give platform to those who had for long been suffocated from the management of society by those who enjoyed capitalistic tools of influence including but not limited to elite education and wealth that controlled the media and all channels of information at the expense of us the youth and the children of the have nots. It is a platform that unites us on the major aspirations of building a better country for each of us.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 50 of the Treaty, the National assembly of each partner states is mandated to elect 9 members, who represent, **as much as is feasible**, the various political parties represented in the National Assembly of each Partner State may determine.

I have had the opportunity to crosscheck the details of all candidates forwarded by the various parties and interest groups and none has considered the youth. I therefore call upon you members of the National Executive Committee to unlike other formations be awake to the reality that the young people need to be directly represented at the regional legislative assembly.

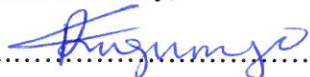
As the East African community gears up to the next stage of actual integration that will include the single currency and preparation for a political federation, the National Unity Platform cannot afford to sit back without meaningful contribution in these processes that will directly affect people's lives.

My candidature will in clear terms represent the position of the party for an East Africa of shared prosperity for all and not simply the usual gathering of political beneficiaries and boardroom technocrats.

I totally understand the fears and reservations of the party regarding this election. It is true that the ruling establishment has totally disregarded Article 50 of the Protocol for the establishment of the East African Community by hijacking all the 9 positions and patronizing the entire system but as Harvard students Bo Seo and Fanele Mashwama once debated 'self defence even when one is guaranteed to fail is a justified thing to do', I would also wish by principle extension to assert that the pursuit of a greater public agenda even when it is not guaranteed to succeed at the hands of those with the tyranny of numbers is a justified venture to pursue in this particular context. It doesn't matter whether we shall succeed.

The National Unity Platform agenda on issues of the East African community must be heard. Let it be recorded that the parliament disregarded the agenda of the youth in this country at the prioritization of other secondary considerations. The silence and non-participation of our party can also be remembered and interpreted in history as a sign of conformity, let it not be recorded as well that we chose silence and abstinence when we had an opportunity to have our aspirations represented.

Yours sincerely,

  
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ROY RUGUMAYO KUSEMERERWA

EALA MP CANDIDATE NUP

CC. SECRETARY GENERAL

CC. PRESIDENT GENERAL

CC. REGIONAL COORDINATORS

CC. LEADER OF OPPOSITION

CC. OPPOSITION WHIP

CC. PARTY MEMBERS

