



THE SECOND SUMMIT OF LEADERS OF THE INTER PARTY ORGANIZATION FOR DIALOGUE (IPOD)

MONDAY 20th MAY 2019

PROTEA HOTEL ENTEBBE, THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The 2nd Summit of Leaders of the Inter Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) was held on Monday 20th May 2019 at Protea Hotel, in Entebbe.

The President of the Democratic Party (DP) Hon. Norbert Mao, The National Chairman of Justice Forum (JEEMA) Hon. Mohammed Kibirige Mayanja, The National Chairman of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the President of the Uganda People Congress (UPC) Hon Jimmy Akena attended the summit.

Also present were the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Secretaries General of the Democratic Party, Justice Forum, The National Resistance Movement and The Uganda People Congress. Also in attendance were the Minister of Finance and the Executive Secretary of IPOD.

The 2nd Summit of Leaders, having considered the recommendations from the IPOD Council has resolved as follows:

On increasing public funding for Political parties, summit has agreed that:

1. That Government shall increase funding to the Political parties and IPOD from the current UGX10bn to UGX35bn to a tune of UGX35bn Uganda shillings in the financial year 2019/2020.

2. That all parties in Parliament get an equal share for running offices of the same strength from the headquarters up to the district level (Basic administrative costs), 15% for IPOD and the rest based on numerical strength.
3. That the public funding to political parties in the opposition be distributed in accordance with the numbers as opposed to one element of the opposition.
4. That the secretariat and IPOD Council shall incorporate the costs of IPOD Secretariat for the minimum infrastructure. The council shall compute the actual costs including office rent, staff, logistics, etc.
5. That the amount that goes to the leader of opposition shall be allocated 40% equally and 60% committed based numeric strength.

On Public Order Management Act (POMA), summit has agreed that

1. That the draft POMA regulations proposed by the Council of Secretaries General in concert with the Attorney General and the Prime Minister be studied by the National Security Council team and give feedback to the IPOD enacted within two months.
2. The Summit has appreciated the steps taken by Government and calls upon the Government to adopt the proposed draft regulations and continued periodical interfaces between Government and IPOD on implementation of POMA.
3. That the Prime Minister who is also the chair of the National Consultative Forum consult with IPOD on the finalisation of the code of conduct, currently under the Attorney General's office for the political actors/leaders in the implementation of POMA.
4. IPOD is Council directed to come up with a framework of engagements with other stakeholders including the security agencies.

On Independent Political Actors/Candidates in a Multiparty Political System

Summit has adopted the draft bill on the regulation of independents as proposed by the National Consultative Forum with such amendments as have been proposed by the IPOD council of Secretaries General including the requirement for certified resignation of an individual from a Political party 12 months prior to general elections, and that once elections are lost in the Party Primaries, such an individual shall not take part in the general elections.

That the heads of Political parties with representation in Parliament shall be reflected in the National order of precedents to reflect the shift from the

Movement system to the current Multiparty dispensation that Uganda embraced through the referendum in 2005.

That the IPOD Council shall recommend the order of Precedence to the Government for consideration.

On electoral Reforms, the summit has agreed that:

- a) That candidates sponsored by Parties shall not be required to collect signatures from the electoral areas for representation.
- b) A review of the nomination fees be made to made the vying for political offices more affordable and inclusive.
- c) That the IPOD Council shall determine the threshold of the amount refunded to the candidates in case such a candidate loses elections.
- d) That the Electoral Commission and Ministry of local Government shall harmonise the procedures and processes of coming up with new electoral units.
- e) That bye-elections shall be held only when an MP dies or resigns. Newly created constituencies and administrative units shall only hold elections in either a specified period for example within the months between May – July of any given year or to hold such elections in the next election cycle to avoid the costs and disruption of over electioneering.
- f) That proportional representation as an alternative and more inclusive electoral system shall be studied in detail and consulted on as an alternative electoral system in the Country.
- g) That election petitions at Parliamentary level shall be handled conclusively within a year after the conclusion of elections to avoid unnecessary delays caused by protracted appellate processes.

On the institutionalization of IPOD, Summit has resolved that the IPOD shall be taken through the necessary processes of formal legal recognition including registration.

Done in Entebbe, 20th May 2019

Duly signed by:

Hon. Norbert Mao - Chairman of Summit and Democratic Party President
General

Hon. Kibirige Mayanja – Chairman – Justice Forum

H. E Yoweri K. Museveni – National Chairman of National Resistance Movement

Hon. Jimmy Akena – Party President – Uganda People’s Congress