

# FDC CANDIDATE PROMISES TO INTRODUCE AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE

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Geoffrey Mugerwa, a large-scale farmer, relocated to Gulu from the central region in 2019, drawn by the availability of free unutilised land. Despite generating profits all these years, Mugerwa expressed frustration with the farming challenges in northern Uganda.

He noted that the region largely relies on oxen for cultivation, which are expensive to hire, scarce and time-consuming. Mugerwa's key question for the next president of Uganda is: "What plans do you have to support farmers like me?"

Mugerwa's frustration is shared by farmers across northern Uganda, who also continue to grapple with rudimentary tools, unreliable weather patterns and high post-harvest losses.

It is these challenges that Mugerwa laid before Forum for Democratic Change presidential candidate Nathan Nandala Mafabi during his campaign in Gulu district on Wednesday.

In response, Mafabi said transforming agriculture would be his first priority once elected into the top office in the land. He outlined a package of reforms aimed at shifting farming from subsistence to full commercialisation, promising a

# MAFABI TO RESTORE TERM LIMITS

PHOTOS BY ALFRED OCHWO



**Mafabi campaigning in Gulu district on Wednesday.** (Scan the picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

government-backed mechanisation drive that would place tractors at every sub-county.

Mafabi further promised to introduce a national agricultural insurance scheme, through which farmers

## TERM LIMITS

Nandala Mafabi said he will restore presidential term limits and ensure that Parliament serves citizens rather than the presidency.

"We must restore term limits to a maximum of two. I will reduce the powers of the president to be a servant because no leader should rule forever. Once you serve your two terms, you go home," he said. On Parliament, Mafabi said, 'must be a house of the people not a rubber stamp or house of deals. We shall bring back independence, accountability and respect for the Constitution.' He questioned the delay of the cattle compensation programme in which government has now promised to give five cows to each household, saying this was impossible.

would be compensated in cases of; drought, floods or destructive pests. To strengthen rural financing, Mafabi committed to restoring farmers' cooperative banks, saying their collapse had left many at the mercy of predatory lenders and unreliable saving groups.

"In my government, 10% of the national budget will go directly to agriculture. We shall build silos to stop losses, revive cooperatives and ensure farmers can store, market and profit from their produce," he said.

Mafabi held rallies at Cwero town council, Te-got atoo and Gulu city.

Sunday Opio, a resident of Te-got Atoo trading centre, criticised the poor state of Te-got Atoo Health Centre III, saying it was almost non-functional, despite years of promises to revamp it.

Bosco Oryema from Cwero Town Council said: "Farmers cannot reach markets, ambulances get stuck and trading centres remain cut off because roads are bad. We want a leader who understands that development begins with accessibility."