

Man men fear empowered women - Wokuri Madanda



Margaret Wokuri Madanda (R) carrying out door-to-door campaigns in Busamaga Ward, Industrial Division, Mbale City. PHOTOS/DAVID WANDEKA

Margaret Wokuri Madanda, contesting as MP for Industrial City Division in Mbale City on Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) ticket. She is the FDC's vice president for the Eastern Region. In the last election, she contested for Woman MP for Mbale City lost to Connie Galiwango Nakayenze.

"The law does not restrict us to only the Woman MP seat, so I chose to run for direct representation. I was born in this division of the city, so it is easy for me to canvass for votes because I am conversant with the challenges the residents face," she says.

Madanda shares that one of the reasons she chose the door-to-door strategy of canvassing for votes is to correct the impression that every woman who campaigns while wearing a gomesi is running for the Woman MP seat.

"Women fear contesting for direct seats because of the high poverty levels among them, compared to men. Men have more money to spend on voters. However, I keep telling them that I do not have money and that

they should vote for me as their daughter," Madanda adds.

Her husband is a former lecturer of gender studies, and she says this is probably why he understands her political situation.

He appreciated empowered women, yet he is aware that men fear them. He has always been supportive of her political journey.

"Several female politicians have approached me with problems about their husbands not supporting them. I have been part of delegations that have gone into homes to intervene and counsel husbands. I tell them that their wives will not run away from home, and neither will the marriage collapse just because the wife has joined active politics," the politician intimates.

Some of the issues she intends to tackle, once elected, are the long distances women have to walk to access healthcare, the scarcity of clean and safe water, and the high interest rates charged by money lenders whenever women in business want to borrow money.