

# Archbishop Kaziimba prays for NMG journalists ahead of elections

BY ANTHONY WESAKA

**KAMPALA.** The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, the Most Rev Dr Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, has prayed for journalists of Nation Media Group-Uganda (NMG-U) ahead of the general election that begins tomorrow with presidential and parliamentary polls.

Dr Kaziimba made the prayers yesterday during a courtesy visit to NTV Uganda, one of NMG's broadcast outlets, where he acknowledged the challenges

journalists face, especially during election periods.

The archbishop said journalists often work under pressure and may not always receive public appreciation, but urged them to remain steadfast, adding that their work does not go unnoticed by God.

"People may not appreciate what you do, but God does," Dr Kaziimba said, drawing from the biblical account of the woman who poured expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus. "What you are doing might not be acknowledged by

people, but God knows it."

He encouraged the journalists to remain strong as they carry out their duties during the critical electoral period.

"So I am here to pray with you, to appreciate you, and to commit you to God as you go into this crucial time of January 15. God cares," the archbishop said.

Dr Kaziimba also shared a scripture from Philippians 4:6, urging journalists not to be anxious about anything but to commit their concerns to God through prayer and thanksgiving.

"My prayer is that the Lord helps us

all to go through this period. May Ugandans care for one another regardless of our different ideologies. We are all Ugandans," he said.

Dr Kaziimba added that he was born in Uganda and would die here, stressing the need for national unity.

Ugandans head to the polls tomorrow to elect a President and Members of Parliament for the next five years.

Eight candidates are contesting for the presidency, including the incumbent, Mr Yoweri Museveni of the National Resistance Movement (NRM); Mr

Robert Kyagulanyi Sentamu, popularly known as Bobi Wine, of the National Unity Platform (NUP); Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) candidate Nathan Nandala Mafabi; and Alliance for National Transformation (ANT) flagbearer Gen Mugisha Muntu.

Other contenders are Mr Elton Joseph Mabirizi of the Conservative Party, Mr Mubarak Muyagwa of the Common Man's Party, Mr Robert Kasibante of the National Peasant's Party, and Mr Frank Bulira of the Revolutionary People's Party.