



The entrance to the parliamentary chambers. PHOTO/FILE

## NMG journalists resume covering Parliament

BY KARIM MUYOBO

**KAMPALA.** Nation Media Group-Uganda (NMG-U) journalists yesterday returned to Parliament chambers after months of being blocked from accessing the premises under the leadership of former Speaker Anita Annet Among, who is now under investigation.

Security officers, reportedly acting on orders linked to the former Speaker's office, had previously confiscated accreditation cards from some NMG members, effectively locking the media house out of Parliament.

For the first time since August last year, the NMG team stepped back into the chambers after months of exclusion from the August House.

However, the return did not come through an official clearance from parliamentary authorities.

Instead, it followed the personal intervention of Aringa South MP Alloni Yorke Odria, who walked to Parliament's gate, picked up the stranded NTV crew, and escorted them into the parliamentary buildings after security officers once again temporarily denied them entry.

Mr Odria said the ongoing investigations should not stop with Ms Among alone.

"The alleged corruption and abuse within Parliament had become deeply institutionalised and extended beyond the office of the Speaker," Mr Odria said.

The moment unfolded quietly but carried deep political symbolism within Parliament, now overshadowed by corruption investigations involving the former Speaker.

Inside the chambers, legislators watched as cameras returned to spaces where they had long been absent. Some MPs exchanged smiles while others whispered among themselves as journalists resumed coverage from the press gallery.

For close to a year, NMG journalists remained outside Parliament's gates following the ban imposed after the media house extensively covered allegations of corruption and controversial expenditure within Parliament. The restrictions sparked criticism from Opposition politicians, civil society organisations, and press

freedom advocates, who accused Parliament of undermining transparency and accountability by blocking journalists from accessing a public institution.

Yesterday's developments came at a time when Parliament itself remains under intense scrutiny following corruption allegations that have shaken the institution's leadership and widened political divisions within the House.



**What they say.**

The alleged corruption and abuse within Parliament had become deeply institutionalised and extended beyond the office of the Speaker," **Alloni Yorke Odria, Aringa South MP**

Mr Joel Ssenyonyi, the Nakawa West MP and former Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, accused the outgoing Speaker of allegedly turning Parliament into a centre where public resources increasingly served private interests while ordinary Ugandans struggled with economic hardship outside Parliament's gates.

"The corruption allegations surrounding Among may only represent part of a much wider political contest within the ruling establishment," Mr Ssenyonyi said.

The Opposition legislator argued that Ms Among's growing political ambitions may have unsettled powerful figures within government, triggering what he described as quiet efforts by the country's "trinity of power" to politically contain her before her influence expanded further.

Mr Ssenyonyi warned that the investigations risk becoming meaningless political theatre if accountability only focuses on one individual while other powerful officials linked to the same system remain untouched.

As proceedings continued inside the chambers, NMG-Uganda journalists once again moved through Parliament corridors with cameras and microphones after months of covering events from outside the gates.