



Driwaru



Angucia

Maracha District Woman MP aspirants pledge community transformation

By Robert Adiga

As parliamentary campaigns enter the third week across Uganda, contenders for the Maracha Woman MP seat are promising transformative leadership if elected.

Maracha district, which has two constituencies, has four women competing to represent it in the 12th Parliament. The candidates are incumbent Woman MP Jennifer Driwaru (National Resistance Movement), Vivian Angucia (National Unity Platform, NUP), Avako Jolly Dezu (Independent) and Lillian Masia (Forum for Democratic Change).

Dezu, an enrolled nurse, says her 22 years in the medical field have exposed her to the district's dire health challenges.

"I have been a medical worker for 22 years and yet I saw the people of Maracha are suffering from illnesses that can be avoided, and that is why my main focus will be on health since we don't have enough health centres IV and a district hospital that is worrying," Dezu said.

UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN

NUP candidate Vivian Angucia emphasises quality education, youth employment and better parenting.

"My candidature is all about the struggle for a great Maracha that people can admire, and my major focus will be on proper upbringing of the children to curtail the current high levels of immorality," Angucia said.

Incumbent Jennifer Driwaru pledges continuity of existing government programmes and her own community initiatives, including a skills centre.

"Our theme is *Protecting the Gains* and we have a lot that we want to build on. As a person, I have been embracing empowering the community through the skilling centre I have set up. So far, over 190 students have graduated from here and more are soon graduating. That is what I want to continue with since the presidential skilling hub in Zombo is far from Maracha,"



Avako Dezu

WHAT RESIDENTS WANT

Monday Kevin from Munju village requested for the upgrading of the Okokoro-Oluvu road.

"We face a lot of challenges accessing social services during rain because most of the roads become impassable," he said.

James Matuga of Nyala village urged the next MP to tackle poverty, low education levels and poor health access.

"We have health facilities that are far apart... coupled with washed-away makeshift bridges that affect the learning and education of our children," he said.

Widows Suzan Dezu and Jane Tisia appealed for programmes targeting widows and more secondary schools. Tisia praised the Parish Development Model but wants the programme's funding increased.

Driwaru said.

She said the centre, which has mainly supported girls, will now expand to include boys and will also focus on strengthening savings and credit co-operative societies created for women, bodaboda riders, village health workers and persons with disabilities.

Residents are calling on whoever wins to prioritise roads, poverty reduction, education and widows' welfare.