

DAILY MONITOR


TRUTH EVERY DAY

 National

Matembe calls for sexual uprightness in leaders

By Emmanuel Mulondo ([email the author](#))

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 In Summary

The former minister said leadership structures were modelled along patriarchal lines, making it difficult for women to bring out their full potential. Alluding to the Bible, she said leaders needed to know the purpose for which God calls them to lead his people and leave when the mission is accomplished.

Kampala

Sexual morality should be used as one of the benchmarks for leadership, the former ethics and integrity minister Miria

Matembe has said.

Ms Matembe, who was on Thursday speaking during the seventh Makerere University Business School (MUBS) leadership seminar in Kampala, said sexually compromised women who are in leadership cannot criticise those in authority.

“If you have been seeing them (men) all, how will you have the courage to tell them what is wrong?” asked Ms Matembe, a self confessed born again Christian.

She singled out the late Mother Theresa of Calcutta and Rosa Parker, an icon in the American civil rights movement as women of valour. Ms Matembe drew eight lessons, one of which was morality, to learn from the two women.

“We should always look for people of a good moral standing. That is why there’s only one man privileged to know my womanhood,” the former minister said. She said her sacking from Cabinet in 2003 was prompted by telling President Museveni that it amounted to corruption to tamper with the Constitution.

She opposed the removal of presidential term limits to enable the President stand for an extra term in 2006.

Other qualities she cited included determination, courage, faith in God , integrity, sacrifice and firmness. She said these were qualities that the two women, Mother Theresa and Rosa Parker possessed to change the world.

“Uganda has reached a time when one woman needs to rise up and say ‘enough is enough.’ Who is that woman? If you are not ready, me I am ready like Rosa Parker rose up,” she said.

The former minister said leadership structures were modelled along patriarchal lines, making it difficult for women to bring out their full potential. Alluding to the Bible, she said leaders needed to know the purpose for which God calls them to lead his people and leave when the mission is accomplished.

“But our leaders have wasted their and our generation. They should park up and leave. We should rise up and tell them.” She said the leadership in Uganda was getting more oppressive. “When you give in the more the system becomes oppressive. Even when you are a woman, you are not armed; police descends on you and beat you up.”

Greater heights

Ms Matembe said she had temporarily retired from politics to “charge for greater heights.”

MUBS principle Prof. Wasswa Balunywa said no country or organisation could move forward without leaders and that research had shown ladies to be more stable than men in decision making.

However, he said, women were socially discriminated making their participation in leadership minimal.