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UPC says anti-otunnu youth are NRM

By Henry Ssekanjako and Andrew Ssenyonga

THE Uganda People's Congress (UPC) has denied the existence of a youth group calling for the resignation of Olara Otunnu.

Party spokesperson Edward Kakonge said on Friday that the group belongs to the National Resistance Movement.

"At Makerere University, we don't have any UPC branch. This group was used to mobilize for the NRM during the recently concluded national election campaigns," he said.

Kakonge said the same group was at the last NRM rally in Kololo and is now confusing a few party members to cause internal divisions in UPC.

"That group is funded by NRM, they are spending lots of money on this we have the information," he said.

But NRM spokesperson Mary Karoro Okurut dismissed the claims.

"NRM does not have any motive to use anyone to fight the UPC. They should face their problems and not use us as a scapegoat," she said.

On Tuesday, about 200 youth from Makerere University, calling themselves the UPC youth demanded the resignation of Otunnu as party president. They accused him of failure to address key issues such as the establishment of party structures, including a disciplinary committee and cabinet.

But Kakonge noted that the groups' demand for the resignation of the current party leadership is impossible before their term of office expires.

"Otunnu was elected by party members during our delegates' conference last year. He was given a term of office he will not go out until his term is over" Kakonge stressed.

Kakonge said that besides the negative publicity about the party, the group was also planning to dress impersonators in UPC party T-Shirts to camp at Uganda House demanding for the resignation of the current party leadership.

He however warned the group against their move to protest at Uganda House. "I warn you if you come to Uganda house and behave any manner that intends to disrespect the party leadership; you will be arrested, exposed and your masters will be revealed," Kakonge cautioned.

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