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"Black Yellow Red" Short Film about 2021 Uganda General Elections by George the Poet

On 14 January 2021, British Ugandan artist George Mpanga (also known as George the Poet) released a short film entitled "Black Yellow Red" in response to the 2021 Ugandan General Elections.

While former Reggae singer turned politician Bobi Wine is calling out election fraud against Yoweri Museveni's sixth bid win, George the Poet's 11 minute film takes a candid and critical view on the electoral process and how real change can be implemented outside politics: through music.

Much like Bobi Wine, George the Poet is a fellow Ugandan artist with an interest in politics. The film provides a long term look at Uganda's problems situated in the African context, and the role of music in implementing change.

"This short film is a reflection on Ugandan politics, from my diaspora perspective.

"Like many Ugandans, I'm concerned for our country. Politics divides our people, just like it does in the West, and everyone feels frustrated. Police brutality, civilian deaths and military involvement are regular features of our elections - this is not normal. No Ugandan has seen a peaceful transfer of power since colonisation and no Ugandan under 35 has seen a transfer of power at all.

"I don't believe the country's future can be reduced to an election result.

"I do believe Ugandans will find a way. I believe our young nation has potential that none of its leaders can fully control. We need to develop this potential through new opportunities for change, and we should build on what we're good at. For many Ugandans, like me, this starts with the creative arts. For others it could be cultural education, or responsible agribusiness.

"Our country's future isn't just in the hands of the next government - it's in the destiny of all Ugandans - home and abroad, we're all represented by the same flag: black, yellow and red," says George the Poet.

The film premiered on George the Poet's social media and YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWtKz_HFhrk&t=5s

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About George the Poet:

George the Poet is a London-born spoken word performer of Ugandan heritage. His innovative brand of musical poetry has won him critical acclaim both as a recording artist and social commentator and seen his work broadcast to billions of people worldwide. In summer of 2018, he opened the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle with his poem 'The Beauty of Union', and in 2019, his audio offering 'Have You Heard George's Podcast?' won a prestigious Peabody Award and 5 Gold British Podcast Awards, including the highly-coveted Podcast of the Year. The podcast was described by BBC R4 as "a story that could change the world".

About 2021 Uganda General Elections:

General elections were held in Uganda on 14 January 2021 to elect the next President. Long-time leader Yoweri Museveni, who has ruled the country since 1986, has been declared election winner. Opposition leader and former pop-star, 38-year-old Bobi Wine of the National Unity Platform, has alleged fraud and is urging citizens to reject the result of 'most fraudulent election in country's history'. Other presidential candidates included John Katumba, Willy Mayambala, Fred Mwesigye, Henry Tumukunde, Joseph Kabuleta, Nancy Kalembe, Patrick Oboi Amuriat, Mugisha Muntu and Norbert Mao.