

Moses **Sekawata**

Now a citizen of the United States, I was born and raised in Uganda. As a young boy, I witnessed several traumatic events during the Idi Amin regime. My parents told me: "It doesn't matter how the government treats us, we will still dream our dreams." Those painful moments served to build the resilient person that I finally became.

I graduated from Makerere University as a high school teacher in 1989. I've served as a pastor since 1990. My travel history includes several

countries in Africa and Europe. My pastoral work in Uganda involved providing counsel and support to prisoners, exconvicts and their families. I encouraged the church and civic groups to address the needs of high-risk communities in the war-ravaged parts of Uganda.

I am a married man, father of four children and grandfather of five. I speak several languages fluently including English, Luganda, Swahili, Lusoga, Runyakitara and Lingala. Right now, I am learning Spanish. I am studying at Regent University for a bachelor's degree in law. After graduation, I plan to use my skills and experience to advocate for the rights of the disadvantaged people.

I hold a view that everyone is valuable, regardless of background, race, gender, age, beliefs, level of education or what society says about them. Human value is neither determined by one's achievements, or failures, nor by the opinions of society. This is well explained in our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." I believe everyone has rights, and a purpose. The Declaration of Independence further states that "to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their powers from the consent of the governed." So, I intend to cooperate with the government to ensure these natural rights continue to be protected.

I envisage a safer Greenbelt, free of crime, where the disadvantaged are motivated and the well-to-dos don't have to feel sorry for their success. I am also passionate about the protection of our environment.