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Dar es Salaam. One day after President John Magufuli said he would not allow his successor to be older than him, political pundits yesterday reacted differently with some insisting that the qualifications of a person should be considered for the top seat rather than the age.

While swearing-in the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and two other ministers on Monday, President John Magufuli hinted that the party's Central Committee (CC) will not endorse a candidate older than himself.

Even though the now 61-year-old Commander in Chief's

thoughts seem not to be very strange in all the CCM-led governments since independence, the statement has since attracted mixed feelings.

With some of the political analysts saying the President seemed to have already prepared a young person to succeed him, others opined that during his (President) rain he had shown faith in the youth and provided opportunities for the group in the top leadership of the Nation.

United Democratic Party (UDP), political analyst and cadre Andrew Bomani told this newspaper yesterday that the move to have a young President began when Jakaya Kikwete ran for president in 2005, using it as his political capital.

However, Mr Bomani said it was important to look at the qualifications of the person who wants to be President and that his age should not be a barrier to his or her goals to serve the people.

"It is time to look at one's qualities which sometimes go hand in hand with one's experience. The issue of age should not be a barrier, let's look at the qualifications of the person applying for presidency," he said.

Mr Bomani cited the example of US President-elect Joe Biden who has been elected President at the age of 78 and set a record for being the oldest President-elect.

The pundit insisted that Americans were not looking at his age but at the qualities he possessed.

With a similar opinion, a political analyst Prof Gaudence Mpangala said President Magufuli was expressing his views and that he would probably

LOSS REPORT

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