



REF: ADM61/01

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CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, 2006

I. Law applicable

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995
- The Presidential Elections Act, No 16 of 2005
- The Electoral Commission Act (Cap 140)

The Commission may issue guidelines to be complied with by every candidate while conducting his or her campaign for the election.

The Commission may determine the manner and the period during which campaigns shall take place giving at least one day in each district.

II. Candidates' Meeting Programme

1. Every candidate may hold individual public campaign meetings in any part of the country in accordance with any existing law.
2. A candidate shall not hold any public campaign meeting except in accordance with a programme of meetings submitted by the candidate to the Commission.
3. A candidate's agent may carry on campaign meetings on behalf of the candidate.
4. The Commission may, after consultation with all the candidates, organise one or more joint candidates' campaign meetings for those candidates who consent to such meetings.
5. A candidate or a candidate's agent authorized in writing by the candidate to do so may hold a consultative meeting with the candidate's campaign agents for the purposes of planning and organising the candidate's election campaign.

III. Security, Protection and Facilitation of Candidates

1. The Commission shall ensure that the relevant organs of the state provide during the entire campaign period-
 - (a) protection of each candidate; and
 - (b) adequate security at all meetings of candidates.
2. The Commission shall offer to each candidate as contribution to be used solely for the election-
 - (a) the sum of Ug.shs. 20,000,000= (Twenty million shillings)
 - (b) such other facilities as may be approved by Parliament.
3. A candidate or a candidate's agent may raise additional funding for the candidate's campaign through lawful means.
4. A candidate or candidate's agent shall not obtain, solicit or receive any financial or other assistance for the purpose of the candidate's campaign, from any foreign government, institution, body or person which or who has demonstrated an intention to overthrow the lawfully established Government of Uganda, or to endanger the security of Uganda.
5. Each candidate shall maintain a record of all assistance obtained or solicited and shall within thirty days after the election-
 - (a) account to the Commission for all the facilitation given to him/her.
 - (b) submit a return to the Commission disclosing all assistance obtained by the candidate from any source.
6. A person who contravenes the provisions under the foregoing paragraphs (4) and (5) commits an offence and in the case of an offence under paragraph (4), he/she shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs. 2,400,000= (Two million four hundred thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

The commission of an offence under paragraph (5) shall on conviction attract a fine not exceeding Ug.shs. 1,440,000= (One million four hundred forty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding three years or both.

IV. Equal Treatment to all Candidates

1. During the campaign period, every public officer, authority and institution shall give equal treatment to all candidates and their agents.
2. Every candidate shall enjoy complete and unhindered freedom of expression and access to information in the exercise of the right to campaign.
3. A person who contravenes the provisions in paragraph (1) above commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs. 2,400,000= (Two million four hundred thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.
4. A person who contravenes the provisions in paragraph (2) above commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs. 480,000= (Four hundred eighty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both.

V. Rights of Candidates

1. All presidential candidates shall be given equal treatment on the State owned media to present their programmes to the people.
2. A candidate may use private electronic media for his or her campaign.

A person who contravenes the provision in the foregoing paragraph commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs 960,000= (Nine hundred sixty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

3. During the campaign period, any candidate may either alone or in common with others, publish campaign materials in the form of books, booklets, pamphlets, leaflets, magazines, newspapers or posters intended to solicit votes from voters but shall, in any such publication specify particulars to identify the candidate(s) concerned.

A person who contravenes the provision in the foregoing paragraph commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs 960,000= (Nine hundred sixty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

4. A person shall not, during the campaign print, publish or distribute, a newspaper, circular or pamphlet containing an article, report, letter or other matter commenting on any issue relating to the election unless the author(s)' name and address(es), as the case may be, are set out at the end of the article, report, letter or other matter or, where part only of the article, report, letter or matter appears in any issue of a newspaper, circular, pamphlet or matter at the end of that part.

A person who contravenes the provision in the foregoing paragraph commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs 480,000= (Four hundred eighty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding one year or both.

5. A candidate shall not while campaigning, do any of the following-
 - (a) making statements which are false knowing them to be false or in respect of which the maker is reckless whether they are true or false;
 - (b) making malicious statements;
 - (c) making statements containing sectarian words or innuendoes;
 - (d) making abusive, insulting or derogatory statements;
 - (e) making exaggerations or using caricatures of the candidate or using words of ridicule;
 - (f) using derisive or mudslinging words against a candidate; or
 - (g) using songs, poems and images with any of the effects described in the foregoing paragraphs.

A person who contravenes the provision in the foregoing paragraph commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs 960,000= (Nine hundred sixty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

6. The proprietor or operator of a private electronic media shall not knowingly use the media or allow it to be used to do any of acts prohibited in the foregoing paragraph (5).

A person who contravenes the provision in the said paragraph commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not

exceeding Ug.shs 960,000= (Nine hundred sixty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding two years or both.

NB. Electronic media includes television, radio, internet and e-mail.

VI. Non-Sectarian Campaigns

1. A person shall not use a symbol or colour which has a tribal, religious affiliation or any other sectarian connotation as a basis for that person's candidature for election or in support of that person's campaign.

A person who contravenes this provision commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug. Shs. 2,400,000= (Two million four hundred thousand) or imprisonment not exceeding five years or both.

VII. Interference with Campaigns of Other Candidates

1. A person who before or during an election for the purpose of effecting or preventing the election of a candidate either directly or indirectly-
 - (a) by words, whether spoken or written, song, sign or any other representation or in any manner seeks to excite or promote disharmony, enmity or hatred against another person on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion;
 - (b) organises a group of persons with the intention of training the group in the use of force, violence, abusive, insulting, corrupt or vituperative songs or language calculated to malign, disparage, condemn, insult or abuse another person or candidate or with a view to causing disharmony or a breach of the peace or to disturb public tranquillity so as to gain unfair advantage in the election over that other person or candidate;
 - (c) obstructs or interferes or attempts to obstruct or interfere with the free exercise of the franchise of a voter or compels or attempts to compel a voter to vote or refrain from voting;
 - (d) compels or attempts to compel a candidate to withdraw his or her candidature;

(e) in any manner threatens any candidate or voter with injury or harm of any kind; or

(f) induces or attempts to induce any candidate or voter to fear or believe that he or she will suffer illness or will become an object of divine, spiritual or fetish displeasure or censure;

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ug.shs. 1,440,000= (One million four hundred forty thousand shillings) or imprisonment not exceeding three years or both.

VIII. Use of Government Resources

1. Except as authorised by law, no candidate shall use Government resources for the purpose of campaigning for election.
2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a candidate who holds the office of the President, may continue to use Government facilities during the campaign, but shall only use the said facilities which are ordinarily attached to and utilised by the holder of that office.

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