



ADM72/01

23rd June 2010

Statement on Progress of Electoral Activities Under the Roadmap for the 2011 General Elections - Wednesday 23rd June 2010

Introduction

Our esteemed partners, members of the press,

I once again welcome you to the Electoral Commission, and I thank you for the good work you have done of informing the general public of the various electoral activities, especially the recently concluded exercise for Update of the National Voters' Register.

Today, the Commission would like to update the public concerning processing of returns from the update exercise and progress on implementation of other activities under the Roadmap for the 2011 General Elections.

Conclusion of Exercise for Update of the National Voters' Register

The Electoral Commission commenced with the exercise of update of the National Voters' Register on 3rd May 2010. The exercise, earlier scheduled to end on 4th June, 2010, was extended on two occasions for a period of ten (10) days, that is, from 4th June until 14th June 2010, and thereafter, for an additional four (4) more days, that is, from 15th June until 18th June 2010, to enable as many eligible persons as possible to register.

The update exercise for Mukono County North Constituency, where registration/update commenced on 24th May 2010, due to a by-election in the area, was also concluded on Monday 21st June 2010.

The Commission has now started receiving the registration kits from the field and processing of captured data is ongoing, including returns from Mukono County North Constituency, where the exercise was concluded on 21st June 2010.

By Tuesday 22nd June 2010, a provisional number of **4,718,829** voters had been captured in the update exercise.

The public should note that this provisional figure of 4,718,829 includes three categories of applicants:

- a. Applications for registration as new voters;
- b. Applications for transfer of voting location, and,
- c. Applications for re-take of missing photographs.

The Commission expects to conclude the compilation of all data by 4th of July, 2010; thereafter, the final figures from the update/registration exercise, including a breakdown of the respective categories (above), shall be officially published.

In the meantime, the Commission wishes to congratulate the people of Uganda on the successful conclusion of the update/registration exercise.

The Commission further, wishes to thank the stakeholders in the electoral process, namely, the government, political parties and organisations, civil society organisations, the international/donor community, the media, security agencies and the electorate for the support rendered towards the exercise.

The Commission appeals for similar support in subsequent activities in the run-up to the 2011 General Elections.

Progress of the exercise of Duplicate Analysis of the National Voters' Register

The Commission completed the installation of equipment and software for the duplicate analysis, and the exercise of identifying persons who have registered more than once is ongoing. The purpose of the duplicate analysis system is to ensure the integrity of our Register by weeding out double and/or multiple registrations from the system.

A complete report on the duplicate analysis with figures shall be availed to the general public at the end of the analysis exercise. And as you are already aware, a person who registers more than once commits a criminal offence under Uganda electoral laws. The Commission shall take action against the identified cases in accordance with Section 29 (1) (f) of the Electoral Commission Act, which provides a penalty of a fine of 30 currency points, or one year imprisonment, or both.

Roadmap for 2011 General Elections

The Electoral Commission is steadily implementing various activities under the EC Roadmap for the 2011 General Elections.

It is important to note that the extension of the Update/Registration exercise resulted in a revision of the Roadmap. A copy of the revised Roadmap shall be availed to all stakeholders as soon as it is completed.

At this moment, the Commission is making the necessary preparations for our next nation-wide activity, namely, the Display of the National Voters' Register.

Concerning Amendments to Electoral Laws

Following Presidential assenting to the amended electoral laws, namely the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act 2010, the Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act 2010, and the Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act 2010, the Commission has commenced with the process of interpreting the same and producing relevant guidelines to enable the electorate and aspiring candidates internalise and comply with the requirements.

However, the Commission has noted that some of the provisions in the amended electoral laws will pose challenges to the electoral process. For example, the requirement for the Commission to produce and avail hard copies of the National Voters' Register to all political parties and organisations participating in the elections, at least two weeks before the election, has big financial and logistical implications.

The Electoral Commission is also concerned about absence of the Code of Conduct for Political Parties, as well as the delay in implementation of the Political Parties Forum.

Conclusion

The Electoral Commission wishes to thank the Government of Uganda for the commitment made towards financing electoral activities in the Financial Year 2008/2009, 2009/2010, and 2010-2011.

The Commission also wishes to thank development partners who are supporting various activities of the electoral process.

Once again, the Commission would like to assure the electorate and all stakeholders in the electoral process that all planned electoral activities shall be aptly executed and the 2011 General Elections shall be held within the Constitutional provisions.

I thank you,

For God and my Country,

Eng. Dr. Badru M. Kiggundu
Chairperson, Electoral Commission