



ADM72/01

2nd June 2010

Statement on the Progress of the General Update of the National Voters' Register and Preparations for the 2011 General Elections - Wednesday 2nd June 2010

Introduction

Our esteemed partners, members of the press,

I welcome you to our weekly press conference. Today, the Commission will update you on various ongoing electoral activities as follows:

Progress of Exercise for Update of the National Voters' Register

The nationwide exercise for update of the National Voters' Register has now entered into the fifth week. To-date 1,895,034 voters have been registered at the various centers across the country. This figure is provisional, because these statistics are as of the last capture date of 26th May 2010.

The registration continues and the Commission remains positive that the targeted eligible citizens of Uganda will have an opportunity before the exercise ends on 14th June.

Meanwhile, the update of the National Voters' Register in Mukono County North Constituency started yesterday, 31st May 2010, and shall continue until the 14th of June 2010.

The people of Mukono County North are reminded that this is not a fresh registration of all voters in the Constituency, but an exercise to enable Ugandan citizens (in the constituency), who have attained the age of 18 years and above, to register as voters in order to participate in elections.

Concerning Payments of Field Election Officials

The Commission has disbursed more funds to the districts for purpose of payments to various field officials. All parish and sub county supervisors who submitted their accounts to the Commission should expect their salary for the month of May 2010.

Appreciation to Stakeholders

The Electoral Commission wishes to appreciate our field officials who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that all eligible persons register as voters, and at the same time, attend to register-related matters (re-take of photographs and applications for transfer of voting locations).

We would like to appreciate all local leaders who have mobilized eligible persons in their respective communities to participate in the registration exercise. On this note, the Commission appreciates His Highness the Kabaka of Buganda, Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, for mobilizing eligible persons from the Buganda region and beyond, to participate in this exercise.

The Commission further appreciates the support extended to our activities by religious leaders, who, besides mobilizing the people to participate, have also allowed our officials to use their church and/or mosque grounds to put up registration update stations.

The Commission wishes to appreciate the print and electronic media houses for disseminating information about the exercise. Some radio and newspaper proprietors have gone as far as offering the Commission free airtime to educate the public on the exercise.

The local artists (dramatists and musicians), radio presenters and talk-show hosts, as well as people who call in during programmes to promote citizen participation in governance issues, especially elections, are also appreciated.

A successful electoral process is a product of the effort of all people of Uganda, and we appreciate your input so far. We call upon all of you to keep the spirit through the rest of the Update exercise, and other activities, as well as beyond elections, into your everyday lives, for the betterment of our country, Uganda.

Conclusion

The Commission appeals to all eligible voters to turn up at the designated update centers within their respective parishes and register. We also encourage any persons who may have any matter related to the electoral process to bring it up to the attention of the Electoral Commission for necessary redress.

I thank you,

For God and my Country,

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