

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

**Programme for the By-Election of District Woman Representative to Parliament,
Rukungiri District, 2018**

1. Introduction

Dear esteemed members of the press, it is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to this press briefing.

Today the Commission will brief you on the electoral programme for by-election of District Woman Representative to Parliament for Rukungiri District.

**2. Programme for By-election of District Woman Representative to Parliament for
Rukungiri District**

The vacancy of the District Woman Representative to Parliament for Rukungiri District, occurred on 22nd March 2018, when the Court of Appeal nullified the results of the 2016 Parliamentary Elections.

As required by law, the statutory deadline for conducting a Parliamentary by-election is sixty (60) days after notification from Clerk to Parliament on the occurrence of the vacancy. The Commission received the notice on 4th April, 2018, and therefore, the statutory deadline for holding the by-election is 3rd June, 2018.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for this by-election as follows:

a. Banning of Fundraising Activities in Rukungiri District

During this by-election programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in Rukungiri District. The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from **Friday 20th April 2018**, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Rukungiri District, and will continue until polling day.

Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

b. Stakeholders Meeting: Thursday, 19th April, 2018

The Electoral Commission will hold a stakeholders meeting on Thursday 19th April 2018, at Rukungiri District Council Hall, to discuss any issues of concern that should be addressed by the Commission to ensure a free and fair by-election.

This meeting will also help to foster collaboration between the Commission and stakeholders in Rukungiri District, in order to achieve high participation in the various activities, in accordance with the electoral laws.

The stakeholders who have been invited to the meeting include the district leadership, representatives of political parties and organizations, representatives of civil society organizations, security officials, religious leaders, opinion leaders, sub county supervisors and members of the press.

c. Update of the National Voters' Register: 16th – 20th April 2018

An update of the Voters' Register will be conducted from Monday 16th to Friday, 20th April, 2018, at update stations within each of the eighty seven (87) Parishes/Wards in Rukungiri District, starting at 8:00am till 6:00pm, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

This exercise will enable Ugandan citizens of 18 years and above, who either reside or originate in Parishes/Wards within Rukungiri District, and who have not had their photographs and bio-data taken before by the Electoral Commission for purposes of registration for elections, to do so.

All registered voters who wish to transfer to new voting locations shall be able to do so during this update exercise.

The Electoral Commission has appointed Friday, 20th April, 2018 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location in Rukungiri District.

d. Display of the National Voters' Register and Issuance of Voting Location Slips (VLS): 30th April - 9th May 2018

The Electoral Commission has appointed Monday, 30th April to Wednesday, 9th May, 2018, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in Rukungiri District.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at all polling stations in the District, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

During the display, voters are urged to turn up in large numbers and check for the correctness of their particulars, and confirm that photographs appear against correct particulars.

Voters are further urged to report to the display officer: the dead, the non-citizens, the under-aged, and those who belong to another Parish/Ward, with evidence, so that they are removed from the Register.

During this display period, the Commission will also issue Voter Location Slips (VLS) to voters, to enable them conveniently locate their respective polling station on polling day.

There will be a display of lists of persons recommended for deletion from the Register for a period of seven (7) days, from Monday, 14th to Monday, 21st May, 2018, at the respective Parishes/Wards headquarters.

The purpose of this supplementary display is to enable any person who may have been wrongly recommended for deletion to raise an objection to the Parish/Ward Tribunal.

The Parish/Ward Tribunal may reinstate the person if convinced of the genuineness of the objection.

e. Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns and Polling Day

The nomination of candidates shall be conducted for a period of two days, that is, Wednesday, 2nd and Thursday, 3rd May, 2018, at Rukungiri District Headquarters.

The nomination will be followed by a period of six (6) days, that is, from Wednesday, 2nd May to Monday, 7th May, 2018, during which members of the general public will have access to the candidates' nomination papers, and will be able to lodge complaints, if any, on suitability of the candidates to contest in the by-election.

Campaign meetings for candidates for Member of Parliament shall be held for a period of twenty six (26) days, that is, from Friday, 4th May to Tuesday 29th May, 2018.

The campaign meetings or public rallies shall be conducted only within the stipulated time, that is, from 7:00am until 6:00pm on each of the campaign days.

All candidates are urged to observe law and order during this exercise and to conduct their campaign meetings in accordance with the harmonized programme.

Hate language will not be tolerated at all.

Polling for by-election of Member of Parliament shall take place on Thursday 31st May, 2018 at all polling stations in Rukungiri District.

Polling shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

f. Compliance with the Law

The Electoral Commission urges all aspiring candidates and stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws, in order to appreciate their respective roles and responsibilities, before, during and after the by-election.

g. Accreditation of Election Observers

Section 16 (1) (a) of the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and any other duly registered institution to observe electoral activities.

For purposes of transparency, the Electoral Commission shall accredit observers to the various activities which will be undertaken during this electoral process. Accordingly the Commission invites written expressions of interest from political parties, individuals and duly registered organizations and institutions who wish to observe the said processes.

Interested political parties, individuals, organizations and institutions should submit their applications with two (2) recent passport photos to the Office of the Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Plot 55, Jinja Road, Kampala, P.O. Box 22678 Kampala, or to the Office of the District Returning Officer, Rukungiri District, not later than 22nd May 2018.

Please note that political parties and independent candidates shall be permitted to deploy not more than five (5) observers per sub-county, and two (2) persons at the Results Tally Center.

The Commission shall accredit election observers from 7th May to 29th May 2018, and shall provide all those accredited with identification tags for the purpose of observing the various activities of the electoral process.

Please note that media personnel will be required to present valid identification cards from their media houses in order to access polling stations and the Results Tally Center.

Any individuals purporting to perform duties of or act as an observer or agent without due accreditation, will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

3. Conclusion

The Commission urges all stakeholders in Rukungiri District, to turn up in large numbers and participate in the above electoral programmes, and to do so in accordance with the guidelines for each activity. This will ensure a smooth electoral exercise.

I thank you,



Hajjat Aisha Lubega Basajjanaku

Ag Chairperson, Electoral Commission