

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Parliamentary and Local Government Councils Elections and By-elections, 2017

A. Introduction

I welcome you to this briefing, where the Electoral Commission will update you on the electoral programme for Parliamentary and Local Government Councils elections and by-elections and other election-related matters.

B. Programme for Elections in the Newly-created Districts

The Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the elections of District Woman Representative to Parliament, District Chairperson and Local Government Councilors (where applicable) for the five (5) newly-created districts that became effective on 1st July, 2017.

The new districts are Bunyangabu, Kyotera, Namisindwa, Pakwach and Rukiga.

The programme will commence with an update of the National Voters' Register from Friday 4th to Monday 7th August, 2017, at update stations in each parish in the above districts.

The Commission has appointed Monday 7th August 2017 as the cut-off date for registration of voters in the districts. Registration and transfer of voters from one polling station to another within the above districts will not be conducted after this date.

The display of Voters' Register will be conducted from Monday 14th to Friday 18th August 2017 at all the polling stations in the respective districts.

The nomination of candidates for the respective elective positions will be conducted on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th August 2017 at the respective district headquarters.

Campaigns will be held from Monday 14th August until Friday 25th August 2017 and polling will take place on Tuesday 29th August 2017.

C. Programme for By-election of District Woman Representative to Parliament for Kaabong District

The vacancy of the Member of Parliament for Kaabong District occurred when the Court of Appeal nullified the election of former MP Tubo Christine Nakwang. As required by law, a Parliamentary by-election must be conducted within sixty (60) days after notification from Clerk to Parliament on the occurrence of the vacancy.

The Commission received the notice on 27th June 2017, and therefore, the statutory deadline for holding the by-election is 28th August 2017.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the by-election of District Woman Representative to Parliament for Kaabong District.

The programme will commence with an update of the National Voters' Register from Friday 4th to Monday 7th August, 2017, at update stations in each parish in Kaabong District.

The Commission has appointed Monday 7th August 2017 as the cut-off date for registration of voters in Kaabong. Registration and transfer of voters from one polling station to another within Kaabong will not be conducted after this date.

The display of Voters' Register will be conducted from Monday 14th to Friday 18th August 2017 at all the polling stations in Kaabong.

The nomination of candidates for the respective elective positions will be conducted on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th August 2017 at Kaabong District Headquarters.

Campaigns will be held from Thursday 10th August to Friday 25th August 2017 and polling will take place on Monday 28th August 2017.

All stakeholders in Kaabong District are urged to note that during this by-election programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in the district. The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for all candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from Monday 7th August 2017, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Kaabong District, and will continue until polling day. Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

D. Programme for By-election of District Woman Representative to Parliament for Iganga District

The vacancy of the Member of Parliament for Iganga District occurred following the death of the former MP, Hon. Kaudha Grace Hailat. As required by law, a Parliamentary by-election must be conducted within sixty (60) days after notification from Clerk to Parliament on the occurrence of the vacancy.

The Commission received the notice on 18th July 2017, and therefore, the statutory deadline for holding the by-election is 15th September 2017.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the by-election of District Woman Representative to Parliament for Iganga District.

The programme will commence with an update of the National Voters' Register from Monday 7th August, 2017 to Friday 11th August 2017, at update stations in each parish in Iganga District.

The Commission has appointed Friday 11th August 2017 as the cut-off date for registration of voters in Iganga District. Registration and transfer of voters from one polling station to another within Iganga will not be conducted after this date.

The display of Voters' Register will be conducted from Monday 21st August to Wednesday 30th August 2017 at all the polling stations in Iganga.

The nomination of candidates will be conducted on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th August 2017 at Iganga District Headquarters.

Campaigns will be held from Monday 21st August to 12th September 2017, and polling will take place on Thursday 14th September 2017.

Please note the following:

i. Banning of fundraising activities

During these elections and by-elections, no fundraising activities shall be allowed. The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for all candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from the respective cut-off dates for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in each district, and will continue until polling day. Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

ii. Accreditation of Election Observers

Section 16 (1) (a) of the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organisations 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 organisations and institutions who wish to observe the said processes.

Interested political parties, individuals, organisations 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.

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 during the period indicated for each of the respective electoral programmes (attached) 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 from their mother 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.

F. Progress of Preparations for Conducting Elections of Administrative Units (LC I and LC II) and Women Councils/Committees

The Electoral Commission has received funds for purpose of conducting elections of Administrative Units (LC I and LC II) and Women Councils/Committees, and has commenced on the necessary preparations to conduct the above exercise.

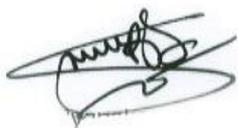
A detailed electoral programme and guidelines for the activities to be undertaken, will be issued in the very near future, to enable all stakeholders understand and participate in these elections.

G. Conclusion

The Electoral Commission calls upon all stakeholders in the above districts to participate in the activities in accordance with the guidelines for these elections and by-elections.

I thank you,

For God and my Country,



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission