

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Telephone: +256-41-337500/337508-11
Fax: +256-31-262207/41-337595/6
E-mail: secretary@ec.or.ug



Plot 55 Jinja Road
P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda
Website: www.ec.or.ug

Ref: ADM75/01
.....

Date: 19th January 2016
.....

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON, ELECTORAL COMMISSION ON THE OCCASION OF
PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF THE BIOMETRIC VOTER VERIFICATION SYSTEM (BVVS)
TUESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2016 HOTEL AFRICANA, KAMPALA

The Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament,
Leaders of Political Parties and Organizations
Representatives of Presidential Candidates
The Managing Director, Smartmartic International Holding
Distinguished invited guests,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Electoral Commission, I welcome you to this landmark event, where the Commission is officially introducing new technology that will be used in the upcoming General Elections.

Since the establishment of the Electoral Commission by the Electoral Commission Act of 1997 (as amended), the Commission has taken various measures to improve the management and conduct of elections in Uganda.

As you are aware, a National Voters' Register is a cornerstone for credible election. Through research involving benchmarking with sister election management bodies across Africa and different parts of the world, we have come to the position that the use of biometrics for verification and authentication at the polling station represents the best solution in strengthening the integrity of voter identification during the polling process.

The Electoral Commission has taken the necessary measures to ensure that only eligible persons appear on the Voters' Register, and that such persons (voters) do no vote more than once for the same election.

As earlier noted, the Electoral Commission is introducing the use of Biometric Voter Verification System (BVVS), which aims at improving the integrity of the electoral process through authentication of voter identity.

This system basically uses fingerprints to match voter details which will help the election officer to confirm that the voter is on the roll of that polling station.

Please note that the National Voters' Register for the 2016 General Elections bears the particulars of a voter, namely: photograph, names, date of birth, and location (that is, the district, county, constituency, sub county, parish, village and polling station) and fingerprints. This is already a good measure to prevent ineligible persons from voting.

The Commission has acquired **32,334** (thirty two thousand three hundred and thirty four) machines to cater for the **28,010** (twenty eight thousand and ten) polling stations in Uganda during the upcoming General Elections.

I appeal to all stakeholders in the electoral process to embrace this initiative to so as achieve a credible free and fair election.

The technical team is going to take you through how this system works at the polling station. I therefore, invite you to listen attentively.

I further call upon all stakeholders in the electoral process to follow the guidelines for the use of this technology, so that we get the desired result, which is a fraud-free election.

Finally, I wish to thank the Government of Uganda for supporting this important initiative. This is a sign of commitment towards strengthening of democracy in our country.

For God and my country,



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