THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Closing Remarks by Deputy Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Hajjat Aisha Lubega Basajjanaku at the Launch of the Strategic Plan and Roadmap for 2020/2021 General Elections Hotel Africana, Kampala

The Guest of Honour

Hon. Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and all Minsters Present

Hon. Members of Parliament

Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors/High Commissioners

Other Government of Uganda Representatives/Heads of Institutions

Heads of Security Agencies present

Representatives of Political Parties

Civil Society Representatives

Electoral Commission Staff

Members of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am greatly honoured to give the closing remarks on this historic event of launching of the Electoral Commission Strategic Plan and Roadmap for the 2020/2021 General Elections.

I appreciate you all esteemed guests for honouring our invitation and attending this event, and staying through the programme, up to this closing point. First, I wish to thank you, our esteemed Chief Guest, for accepting to officiate at this historic launch. Thank you for the encouragement and expression of commitment by Government to the Plan and Roadmap. The assurance of funding by the Government particularly provides the needed impetus for us to roll out the programmes and activities.

Secondly, I wish to appreciate the Electoral Commission officials for the presentations which have clearly laid out the plan and the milestones for the 2020/2021 General Elections.

Thirdly, I thank you, esteemed guests, for your diligent participation in the programme. We deeply appreciate your considered reactions to the document and the guidance you have offered to the Commission as we roll out the Plan and Roadmap activities. The Commission values your continued feedback on the implementation of this Plan and Roadmap.

And now I will make some few observations as we close this launch event.

a. The Strategic Plan and the Roadmap are a clear invitation to all of us stakeholders to prepare and participate in the electoral process. It has been released early enough to ensure there is knowledge to guide decisions and actions. It has, in my view, set the agenda for us as stakeholders, and I believe it is going to provide needed direction and rhythm to our various activities in the coming two years.

It has been released early enough to ensure fairness for all stakeholders. You are urged to identify your areas of interest and make adequate and lawful preparations to participate.

b. The basis of this Plan and Roadmap is the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and the relevant electoral laws. The Commission is, therefore, executing a constitutional mandate, in which various stakeholders have a role to play. The Plan and Roadmap are important to the realization of your individual and collective aspirations, and we call on you to own it.

This calls for careful study of the programmes and activities and the relevant timelines, and ultimately, enthusiastic participation.

- c. We note that some of the presentations and discussions have listed areas that still require legal attention. I urge the various responsibility centers to take urgent action on such areas by way of amendment and/or enactment, and in a timely manner, so that any concerns are addressed and the relevant processes are improved in time.
- d. The Electoral Commission has not released or gazetted dates for the electoral activities indicated in the Roadmap. This is a plan where we have indicated the period as per provisions of the Constitution and relevant electoral laws.

The Commission will gradually roll out the programmes and activities and release and gazette the relevant dates in due course. Stakeholders need to take note of this and avoid engaging in any activity that may offend the laws of Uganda.

In conclusion, as the Electoral Commission, we believe the Plan and Roadmap will contribute to our effort to continuously transform our institution and improve the delivery of electoral service. We, therefore, undertake to use the Strategic Plan and Roadmap as a principle guide to implement a fair and credible electoral process.

A copy of the Strategic Plan and Road map have been availed to each one of you to enable you study the details and identify the necessary action to take. A soft copy of the same document has been uploaded on the Electoral Commission website for easy access by other stakeholders.

I thank you,

For God and my Country,

Amenbegan

Hajjat Aisha Lubega Basajjanaku **DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON, ELECTORAL COMMISSION**