



THE NATIONAL VOTERS REGISTER

GUIDELINES FOR VERIFICATION OF VOTERS AT VILLAGE LEVEL AND IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN THE NATIONAL VOTERS REGISTER

GENERAL ELECTIONS, 2021

1.0 Background

The Electoral Commission is established under Article 60 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) [as amended]. It is mandated to compile maintain, revise and update the National Voters Register (NVR) on a continuing basis.

Article 61 (1) (e) of the Constitution states that the Electoral Commission shall compile, maintain, revise and update the voters' register and Section 12 (1) (e) and (k) of the Electoral Commission Act, Cap 140 (as amended) states that the Commission shall, subject to and for purposes of carrying out its functions under Chapter Five of the Constitution and this Act, have the powers to take measures for ensuring that the entire electoral process is conducted under conditions of freedom and fairness; and to ensure that people with disabilities are able to vote without any hindrance.

For a person to qualify to be a voter in Uganda, he or she must be a citizen of Uganda of at least eighteen years of age and resides in or originates from the parish at which he or she applies to vote. The Electoral Commission may carry out this function by utilising data from the applicant or the registration of citizens maintained by the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA).

The Electoral Commission continuously receives statutory instruments creating new local governments and administrative units from the Ministry of Local Government. Where changes have occurred, it is necessary that the National Voters Register gets aligned accordingly.

Presently, there are voters who may be unaware that their villages now form part of new parishes, changed names or have been split due to the reason in the above paragraph. It is therefore, important to avail voters' rolls at village level so that residents who have registered as voters can verify their particulars as well as those of other individuals.

In addition to the above, where no elections or by-elections have been held since the last display of the National Voters Register conducted in 2015, many voters have moved places while others have passed on. These situations have a significant impact on the stability of the National Voters Register which if not addressed will compromise its credibility.

The data collected from this exercise shall be processed and fed into the Display Exercise.

2.0 The Purpose of Conducting the Verification Exercise

- a) To allow persons who may have applied for registration by NIRA and desire to vote, ascertain whether their names have been included on the National Voters Register.
- b) To provide an opportunity for public scrutiny of the voters' roll in each village in the district in order to identify particulars of persons who are ineligible (i.e. those who neither reside nor originate from the respective parish) from appearing on the register (i.e. the Dead (D), those persons who may have Left the Area (LA) and Other reasons).
- c) To raise awareness about and encourage participation in cleaning of the National Voters' Register at village level in preparation for the Display Exercise.

- d) To identify all **Persons With Disabilities** (PWDs) in the respective villages for purposes of compiling the registers for PWDs in preparation for the update exercise.

3.0 The Period for the Verification of the National Voters Register

The period for the verification of the national voters register is preceded by critical activities which shall be held, and culminating to the exercise, on the following dates:

- a) Half day district level briefings for **sub-county supervisors** by Returning Officers/District Registrars at **Electoral Commission district offices: Wednesday, October 16, 2019,**
- b) Briefing of **parish supervisors** and **village chairpersons** on the verification exercise at **sub-county level** on **Thursday, October 17, 2019,**
- c) Mobilisation of village residents to turn up to participate for three (3) days from **Friday, October 18, 2019 to Sunday, October 20, 2019,**
- d) Conduct of village council meetings to verify the national voters register to be carried out for a period of **eight (8) days from Monday October 21, 2019 to Monday, October 28, 2019.**

4.0 How the Verification Exercise Will be Conducted

Village Council meetings shall be convened at all villages within the parish/ward to be chaired by the respective Local Council I (LCI) chairpersons during which the parish/ward supervisors will be the facilitators on the item regarding verification of the NVR.

For avoidance of doubt, the Village Council meeting shall adopt on its agenda the item –

“Verification of Voters and Identification of Persons With Disability.”

4.1 The materials required for conducting the verification:

The parish/ward supervisor will be availed the following materials:

- a) a voters roll for each village,
- b) a list of villages per parish,
- c) a template of the **ATTENDANCE LIST,**
- d) **Form EC/VER1** for compiling the list of names of voters identified for removal from the voters register, and
- e) **Form EC/PWD** for compiling the list of names of PWDs, and
- f) **Form EC/OR** for compiling the list of names of voters identified for removal from the voters register due to **Other Reasons** (i.e. *Excluding Death or Left Area; e.g. Duplicate (DU), obvious Under Age (UA), etc.*).

4.2 How the Verification Official Shall Conduct the Exercise

The parish supervisor shall guide the verification of the voters roll during the village council meeting. She/he is expected to do the following:

- a) Show courtesy to the Village Council and project a good image of the Electoral Commission.
- b) Explain to the Village Council that the purpose of the meeting is to carry out **Verification of Voters and Identification of Persons With Disability.**
- c) Present a brief background to the verification exercise; especially on why it is being carried out and how it will be conducted,
- d) Conduct a roll call of the names on the village voters roll before all present,
- e) Document or record, and sign all forms availed; and
- f) Confirm that all materials used during the meeting are prepared for retrieval.

During the meeting, any complaints arising from inclusion of names on the village voters roll shall be received and documented as follows:

- i) **Form EC/VER1** for documenting all identified names of voters who have died, i.e. the Dead (Coded as **D**) and those who have Left the Area (Coded as **LA**). The codes **MUST** also be indicated against the respective names appearing on the village voters roll provided.
- ii) The **Form EC/VER1** shall be signed by the LCI chairperson on account of being in attendance and having convened the village council meeting.
- iii) The attendance list, duly signed and stamped, shall be attached to the village register used during the verification exercise together with the **Form EC/VER1** to be handed over to the sub-county supervisor for onward transmission to the District Registrar/Returning Officer.

Note: The voter being reported as having left the area (LA) in 4.2(i) above is that voter who has not only left the village but also the parish/ward.

The names identified for removal from the voters register due to reasons other than death or having left the area will be recorded on **Form EC/OR**.

5.0 Identification of Persons Living With Disabilities (PWDs) at Village Level

During the verification of the national voters registers at village level, the Electoral Commission will compile the lists of PWDs identified by the village councils. The identification of PWDs right from the village level is important for compiling registers needed for elections involving members of the Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

The Parish Supervisor will ensure that the PWDs identified are recorded for each village on the **Form EC/PWD** provided. The appropriate code associated with a disability type will also

be entered in the **Form EC/PWD**. The name of the person identifying the PWD **MUST** also be entered in the form.

NB: Where a person is identified as a PWD who is not registered on the National Voters Register, she/he should be advised to first register as a citizen of Uganda in order to qualify for registration as a voter.

60. Complaints Handling and Management

All complaints in regard to the verification exercise shall be addressed to the Returning Officer and shall be handled in accordance with Article 61 (1) (f) of the Constitution and Section 15 of the Electoral Commission Act, Cap140.

70. Monitoring and Supervision of the Verification Exercise

The verification of the National Voters Register exercise in the districts shall be supervised overall by the Commission. Other levels of supervision shall be as follows:

- a) Every District Registrar/Returning Officer shall be responsible for the verification exercise in his/her district. She/he shall receive materials used in the verification exercise from every parish submitted through the respective sub-county supervisors.
- b) The village level verification of the NVR shall be conducted by parish supervisors who shall report to their respective sub-county supervisors.
- c) The Commission Headquarters shall closely monitor and supervise the verification of the exercise.



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
CHAIRPERSON, ELECTORAL COMMISSION