

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Final Preparations for Local Government By-elections in Nebbi District and Other Electoral Programmes 2019

A. Introduction

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

Today the Commission will update you on the following electoral programmes and activities:

1. Final preparations for by-election of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District;
2. Programme for Elections of Interim Chairpersons in the Seven Newly-created Districts; and,
3. Programme for Conduct of Residual Elections for Chairpersons of Villages and Parishes Administrative Units (Village and Parish) Elections 2019

B. Final preparations for by-election of District Chairperson and other Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District;

a) Nominated Candidates

As you are already aware, the vacancy of the District Chairperson for Nebbi District occurred on 25th September 2018, following the death of the former Chairperson, the Late Esrom William Alenyo. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The Electoral Commission approved and commenced with the programme for the by-election of District Chairperson and filling of vacancies in other Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District.

Following the nomination exercise which was conducted on 12th and 13th June 2019, three (03) candidates were successfully nominated to contest for the position of District (L.C. V) Chairperson as indicated below (*arranged alphabetically*):

No.	Name of Candidate	Political Party/Organisation
1.	Onyai Vicky Emmanuel	FDC
2.	Otuba George	Independent
3.	Urombi Emmanuel	NRM

Furthermore, a total of fifty-nine (59) candidates were nominated to context for vacancies existing in various Lower Local Government Councils in Nebbi District.

b) Conclusion of Campaigns and Polling Date

The campaign meetings for this Local Government by-election commenced on 14th June 2018 and were concluded yesterday, Tuesday 9th July 2019.

The Commission wishes to commend the candidates and their supporters for a generally peaceful campaign period.

The Commission further commends Uganda Police for ensuring compliance with the campaign guidelines.

Polling shall take place on Thursday, 11th July 2019.

Voting shall be by universal adult suffrage, and shall take place at all the **two hundred and twenty-three (223)** polling stations in the District, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 4:00pm.

Thereafter, counting of votes and announcing of results by the respective Presiding Officer shall take place.

Political parties and independent candidates are encouraged to appoint in writing and deploy their agents at each polling station.

Please note that other than observing the exercise, candidates' agents shall not be expected to interfere with the polling process.

c) Final Polling Register

The Electoral Commission has completed preparing the National Voters' Register for Nebbi District, which bears the names of all the **one hundred twenty-one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six (121,856) registered voters**, arranged alphabetically by surname, at each of the 223 polling stations in the district.

The Commission has issued a copy of the Voters' Register to participating candidates to enable them (*candidates*), through their official agents, ensure that only eligible persons are allowed to vote during the by-election and only at the polling station where they are registered as voters.

d) Dispatch of Polling Materials

Today, the Commission has dispatched the polling kit to the Office of the Returning Officer, Nebbi District.

There will be internal distribution of materials to all sub counties and municipal divisions for eventual distribution to polling stations, to ensure that polling commences on time tomorrow, Thursday 11th July 2019.

Designated candidates' agents are advised to report to the Sub County offices before 6:00am on the morning of Thursday 11th July 2019, to observe the dispatch of the polling kits to their respective polling stations.

e) Election Observers and Candidates' Agents

The Electoral Commission wishes to draw the attention of the political parties participating in this by-election to S.16 (1a) of the Electoral Commission Act, which provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organisations and any other duly registered institution, to observe electoral activities.

Accordingly, participating political parties and independent candidates have been permitted to deploy not more than five (5) observers per sub-county/municipal division.

These accredited observers will be required to limit their activity to the designated areas (sub county/municipal division), and Police has been notified to enforce this regulation.

The participating political parties and independent candidates have also submitted names of two (2) observers, who have been accredited for purposes of accessing the Tally Center and observing the tallying process.

The Commission has provided all those accredited with written clearance, relevant information and identification for the purpose of observing the by-election.

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

Any individual found to be doing the duties of an observer or agent without due accreditation, will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

f) Establishment of Query/Complaints Desk and Media Center

The Electoral Commission has established a Query/Complaints Desk at Necosoc Hall, Nebbi District Local Government, for the purpose of receiving and handling any complaints that may arise during the by-election.

The Query/Complaints Desk will operate on polling day, from 7am up to 4pm.

The Commission encourages each political party/independent candidate to appoint an official agent to sit with the (Commission) officials at this desk, to ease handling of any query and/or complaint that may arise.

The Commission has provided toll-free lines below to enable the electorate raise any issue of concern for prompt handling:

1.	0800 300121 (Toll free)
2.	0800 300122 (Toll free)
3.	0800 300123 (Toll free)
4.	0392 004120 (MTN, not Toll free)

The Commission has further established a media center at the same venue, namely, Necosoc Hall, Nebbi District Local Government, for purposes of co-ordinating information and providing updates on issues and progress of the electoral process.

The media center will be managed by the Head of Public Relations Department of the Electoral Commission and a designated Officer of Uganda Police Force. They will give periodic briefings on the progress of the electoral process and address any emerging issues.

g) Tally Center

The Electoral Commission has gazetted Necosoc Hall, Nebbi District Local Government as the election results Tally Center for this by-election.

Please note that access to the Tally Center will be restricted to only authorised persons who shall have the respective accreditation tags/cards.

h) Appeal

The Commission appeals to candidates, their agents and supporters to conduct themselves in accordance with the Law, and the guidelines issued by the Electoral Commission for the by-election. We should all work together to achieve a credible exercise.

I call upon the voters to come out early and freely cast their vote. I wish to assure you that Uganda Police Force has made adequate preparations to ensure a peaceful and secure electoral environment.

I wish to warn the electorate that any unlawful conduct will be decisively dealt with.

C. Programme for Elections of Interim Chairpersons in the Seven Newly-created Districts

The Electoral Commission informs the general public that the following seven (7) newly-created districts came into effect on 1st July 2019:

1. Madi-Okollo District, which has been created out of Arua District;
2. Karenga District, which has been created out of Kaabong District;
3. Kalaki District, which has been created out of Kaberamaido District;
4. Kitagwenda District, which has been created out of Kamwenge District;
5. Kazo District, which has been created out of Kiruhura District;
6. Rwampara District, which has been created out of Mbarara District; and,
7. Obongi District, which has been created out of Moyo District.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has appointed Thursday, 25th July, 2019 as the polling day for Elections of Interim District Chairperson in the above seven newly-created districts.

Voting shall be by Electoral College and secret ballot and will be conducted at the headquarters of the respective new district, starting at 9:00am.

The Electoral College shall comprise District Directly Elected Councillors and District Women Councillors representing the electoral areas forming the new districts.

Please note that the elections of District Woman Representative to Parliament in the above newly-created districts will be conducted in due course.

D. Conduct of Residual Elections for Chairpersons of Villages and Parishes Administrative Units (Village and Parish) Elections 2019

The Electoral Commission conducted the elections of Local Council (Village) Chairperson and Parish Chairperson on 10th July 2018 and 27th July 2018, respectively.

However, some villages and parishes in different parts of the country were not able to conduct or conclude the elections.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the conduct of residual elections for Chairpersons of Villages and Parishes where the electoral process was not concluded due to the following reasons, among others:

- a. Elections were postponed due to a tie
- b. No nominations were conducted
- c. Resignation of elected Chairperson
- d. Violence conduct leading to destruction of election materials (Register).

No.	Activity	Period
1.	Verification of residents and compilation/update of the Village Voters' Register	18 th – 19 th July 2019
2.	Cut-off date for compilation of the Village (LC I) Voters' Register	19 th July 2019
3.	Display of the Village Voters' Register in 149 Villages	22 nd –23 rd July
4.	Fresh nomination of candidates for Village (LC I) Chairperson at Parish Headquarters	23 rd July 2019
5.	Campaigns in the 149 Villages and 12 Parishes (<i>list attached</i>)	24 th July 2019
6.	Polling Day for Election of Village (LC I) Chairperson (<i>Lining, counting, filling forms, declaration of winner; nomination and approval of Executive by the Village Council Meeting</i>)	25 th July 2019

The Electoral Commission calls upon all stakeholders in this electoral process to participate in the above activities in accordance with the guidelines for these residual elections.

Hajjat Aisha Lubega Basajjanaku
Ag. Chairperson, Electoral Commission