

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Commencement of Display of the National Voters' Register and Registers for Special Interest Groups (SIGs), 19th February – 10th March 2020

A. Introduction

- Dear esteemed members of the press
- Representatives from Political Parties
- Representatives from the Civil Society Organizations in the field of Democracy and Governance,
- Members and staff of the Commission, and all the key stakeholders in the electoral process present,

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you to this launch of Voter education and publicity campaign for the display exercise of the National Voters Register and Registers of Special interest groups.

I take this opportunity to thank you for responding to our invitation, and the support you have rendered to the Commission in the successful accomplishment of electoral milestones, so far handled.

Today, the Commission will update you on final preparations for conducting the nationwide Display of the National Voters' Register and Registers for Special Interest Groups, and other matters related to the implementation of the Roadmap for 2020-2021 General Election.

B. Commencement of Display of the National Voters Register and Registers for Special Interest Groups, February – March 2020

In preparation for the 2020-2021 General Elections, and in accordance with Section 25 of the Electoral Commission Act (Cap 140), the Electoral Commission has appointed 19th February – 10th March 2020 as the period for the Display of the National Voters' Register.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00 am and end at 6:00 pm on each of the appointed dates including weekends, at all polling stations throughout Uganda.

The Commission has further appointed 19th – 28th February 2020 as the period for display of the Voters' Registers for the following Special Interest Groups (SIGs) at the village level:

1. The Youths;
2. Persons with Disability (PWD); and,
3. Older Persons.

The purpose of this display exercise is to enable voters to:

1. Check for the correctness of their particulars on the Voters' Register;
2. Confirm that their photographs appear against correct particulars on the Register;
3. Raise objections to the inclusion and/or removal of a voter's particulars from the Register;
4. Report to the Display Officer, the following categories of persons (*if they appear on the Register*) for removal:
 - a) Those who have died;
 - b) Those who are under 18 years of age;
 - c) Those who reside or originate from a parish other than the one they are registered in; and,
 - d) Those who appear more than once on the Voters' Register.
5. In the case of Special Interest Groups, the Display at the village level is scheduled to take place from 19th to 28th February 2020. This will enable persons comprising the Special Interest Groups to check for the correctness of their particulars on their respective Voters' Register:
 1. In the case of Registers for Youths, the voters will be able to verify that the date of birth is correct. Eligible persons on the Registers for Youths must be aged 18 years and above but less than 30 years as defined by law;
 2. In the case of Registers for Persons with Disability (PWDs), the voters will be able to confirm that their particulars (nature of disability) were correctly captured on the Voters' Register;
 3. In the case of Older Persons, voters will be able to verify that the date of birth is correct. Eligible persons on the Registers for Older Persons must be aged 60 years and above at the time of cut-off of registration of voters, that is, 23rd December 2019.

During this exercise, the Electoral Commission will display lists of persons who were recommended for deletion from the National Voters' Register during the Verification Exercise which was conducted at village level in October 2019.

Please note that any eligible voter who applied for registration but whose particulars are missing on the Voters' Register, will be able to present his/her case and seek to be included on the Register.

After the display exercise, the lists of all persons recommended for deletion from the National Voters' Register, shall also be displayed for a period of ten (10) days, that is, from 11th to 20th March 2020 at the respective Parish/Ward Headquarters.

The purpose of this supplementary display exercise is to enable any person who may have been wrongly recommended for deletion to raise an objection to the Parish/Ward Tribunal.

The Parish/Ward Tribunal shall consider and make the final decision concerning recommendations for inclusion, deletion, or correction made by the public.

For avoidance of doubt, the Parish/Ward Tribunal is appointed by the Magistrate of the area, and is comprised of two elders (*of 60 years and above*) one male and one female, and three other members appointed in consultation with political parties and organisations participating in the elections in the area.

At the end of the entire exercise, all returns will be retrieved from the field and recommendations effected by the Electoral Commission. A final National Voters' Register for the 2020/2021 General Elections will then be produced.

The general public should carefully note the following:

1. This is a very important exercise, which could determine whether you vote on polling day or not;
2. Fresh application for registration as a voter or application for transfer to another voting location shall not be accepted during this Display exercise;
3. Persons who have applied and changed their particulars on the National Identification Register, for example, the names and/or date of birth, are required to notify the Electoral Commission in writing about the changes. Such persons will be required to provide relevant supporting documents to our Display Officers so that the changes are effected on the Voters' Register.
4. The display officers shall be physically stationed at the respective polling station, throughout the entire display period. This is to enable voters conveniently locate their polling station, especially those which might have been affected by the exercise of re-organisation of polling stations.

5. In the case of display of SIGs Registers, Display Officers shall be physically stationed at a display centre in each Village, throughout the entire display period, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.
6. The Registers for Special Interest Groups will be displayed for a shorter period because the elections for Older Persons, Youth and PWDs Committees will be conducted earlier than the others.
7. The Display of Voters' Registers shall be conducted with utmost impartiality and officials should allow any interested member of the public, including agents of political parties, to witness the exercise.
8. As part of our awareness and mobilisation campaign, the Electoral Commission conducted stakeholder workshops in each of the twelve electoral regions of Uganda and met with respective district leaders to underscore the importance of participating in this exercise.

The Commission is further conducting an extensive public awareness and mobilization campaign through print, electronic and digital media, as well as other public engagement initiatives to achieve high stakeholder participation in the cleaning of the National Voters' Register and Registers for Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

9. All complaints arising from the Display Exercise of the National Voters Register shall be addressed to the Returning Officers of the respective Electoral Districts and shall be handled in accordance with Article 61(1)(f) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Section 15 of the Electoral Commission Act, Cap 140.

As at the commencement of the Display exercise, the electoral statistics stand as follows:

No.	Description	Status as at 17 th February 2020
1.	Number of Districts in Uganda	135
2.	Number of Counties	257
3.	Number of Constituencies	296
4.	No. of Sub Counties/Towns/Municipal Divisions	2,062
5.	Number of Parishes	10,029
6.	Number of Villages	68,733
7.	Number of Polling Stations	34,344
8.	Number of Registered Voters	17,782,594

C. Submission of Academic Qualifications for Certification

The Commission wishes to remind persons aspiring for nomination as candidates for elective positions which require a minimum formal education of Advanced (A) Level or its equivalent, to prepare for submission of certified copies of educational

qualifications confirming that they obtained a minimum formal education of Advanced (A) Level or its equivalent.

An aspiring candidate whose academic qualifications are equivalent to 'A' Level, or aspiring candidate whose academic qualifications were obtained outside Uganda, shall have to establish such qualification by producing a certificate issued to him or her by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) in consultation with the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB).

Such a certificate shall be obtained and submitted to the Electoral Commission at least two months before nomination day. The period for nomination for various elective positions is indicated in the Roadmap at: www.ec.or.ug.

D. Applications for Accreditation of International and National Election Observers

As already indicated, the Electoral Commission is implementing the Roadmap for the 2020-2021 General Elections, which includes Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Councils Elections.

For purposes of transparency, the Electoral Commission shall accredit international and national observers to observe the various activities that are to be undertaken during the electoral process. The observers will include international and regional bodies and organisations, civil society organisations, institutions and individuals.

The Commission, therefore, invites written expressions of interest from individuals, duly registered national organisations and institutions, who wish to observe the said processes.

Invitations to international and regional bodies and organisations have been channelled through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Please note that political parties and organisations may appoint agents to observe the electoral activities.

Applicants should provide evidence to:

1. Prove that governance is a key aspect of their activities;
2. Demonstrate a track record of credibility;
3. Demonstrate neutrality in the electoral process; and,
4. Show ability to submit timely written observation reports.

Organisations and institutions shall also be required to prove that their registration status with the respective regulatory authorities is up to-date.

The Electoral Commission shall provide all those accredited organisations with written clearance, relevant information and identification tags for the purpose of observing the various activities of the electoral process.

Successful applicants shall be required to do the following:

1. Comply with election observer guidelines and Code of Conduct to be issued by the Electoral Commission;
2. Abide by the Laws of the Republic of Uganda;
3. In the case of organisations and institutions, provide the Electoral Commission with names of the individuals who should be accredited;
4. Meet all their upkeep expenses; and,
5. Submit a report at the end of the election exercise.

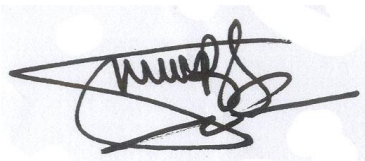
Interested organisations, institutions and individuals should submit their applications to the Office of the Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Plot 55, Jinja Road, Kampala; P.O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda, in time to participate in the activities as indicated in the Roadmap which can be viewed and downloaded at: www.ec.or.ug.

E. Conclusion

A clean Voters' Register is a cornerstone for conducting peaceful, free, fair and credible elections. The Display exercise gives the electorate an opportunity to participate in the cleaning of the National Voters' Register.

The Commission, therefore, calls on all stakeholders in the electoral process to participate in this exercise. Voters are particularly urged to go to their respective polling stations during this period and check for the correctness of voter particulars on the Register.

For God and my Country,



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission