

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES FOR ELECTIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS FROM VILLAGE TO DISTRICT LEVEL COUNTRY –WIDE, 2020.

1. BACKGROUND

The Electoral Commission (EC), in compliance with the Ministry of Health Safety Guidelines, has developed these Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide the conduct of activities of elections of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) under the COVID 19 environment.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Electoral Commission will conduct activities for the elections of SIGs as per the approved Roadmap, from 26th June, to 6th November, 2020.

The specific activities to be conducted under the Roadmap include; packing of election materials, training of election officials, nomination of candidates, campaigns and polling. Elections of SIGs include; the Youth, Older Persons (OP), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Workers.

3. OBJECTIVE

The SOPs have been developed to enable the Electoral Commission (EC), conduct its operations in compliance with the Ministry of Health Guidelines and ensure safety and health of Stakeholders and the electoral environment.

4. TARGET GROUP

The SOPs shall be observed by all Election Officials, Candidates, Candidates' agents, Voters, Security, and all Stakeholders in the electoral process.

The SOPs shall apply to all electoral activities both at the Commission offices and in the field as follows;

5.1 PACKING OF ELECTION MATERIALS

- Sanitise the work environment (warehouse/Stores, door locks, tables, chairs, vehicles, etc.);
- Wash hands with soap, conduct body temperature checks before accessing the warehouse/stores;

- Wear hand gloves while handling materials/documents;
- Practice and observe social distancing as recommended by the Ministry of Health; and
- Avoid unnecessary movement within the work premises.

5.2 TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICIALS

- Develop training curriculum that facilitates e-learning;
- Where training involves physical presence of trainees, provide ample venue to ensure social distancing;
- All participants to wash hands with soap;
- All venues, furniture and equipment to be sanitized; and
- Use of gloves in handling documents.

5.3 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

5.3.1. The Commission

- Nomination papers and guidelines to be issued at each Sub-county/Town/Municipal Division across the country and uploaded on the EC website for on-line access by Stakeholders;
- Election Officials to wear hand gloves, while handling nomination papers;
- Nomination venues to be sanitized;
- Election officials to wash hands with soap;
- Nomination officials to wear face masks; and
- Nomination venue layout to comply with social distancing.

5.3.2 Aspiring Candidates

- Aspiring Candidates to turn up at the nomination venue accompanied by only proposer and seconder;
- Aspiring Candidates, proposers and seconders to wear face masks;
- No processions allowed during nominations and campaigns; and
- Aspiring Candidates, Proposers and seconders to wash hands with soap.

5.4 CAMPAIGNS

Campaigns to be conducted in a manner prescribed by the Electoral Commission.

5.5 POLLING

5.5.1. The Commission

- Polling by lining up to be done in open air and spacious venues that include; playgrounds, public grounds, public roads, etc.;
- Election officials and Voters to wash hands with soap;
- Election officials and Voters to wear face masks; and
- Counting of voters in the line to be contactless;

5.5.2. The Voters

- Voters to turn up at the polling station wearing face masks;
- Voters to wash hands with soap; and
- Voters to assemble and line up in strict observance of social distancing of at least one metre between persons in the line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mugenyi Simon', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible.

Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission