

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Programme for By-election of Hoima and Kaabong District Woman Representative to Parliament and Elections of Lower Local Government Councils, 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 brief you on the electoral programme for by-election of District Woman Representatives to Parliament for Hoima and Kaabong districts and elections in Lower Local Government Councils, as follows:

B. Programme for Parliamentary By-elections and Local Government Elections in Hoima and Kaabong districts

The Electoral Commission has approved the programme for the by-election of District Woman Representatives to Parliament for Hoima and Kaabong districts and elections in Lower Local Government Councils in the respective districts.

This is in accordance with Section 8(5) (a), (b) and (c) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, 2005 (as amended), which provides as follows:

“...where a new district is created, the following provisions shall apply to the elections of the District Woman Representative to Parliament:

- a. The District Woman Representative of the original District affected shall continue to represent the district of her choice;*
- b. Elections shall be held to elect a District Woman Representative for the district not represented;*

The Electoral Commission sent official communication to the District Woman Member of Parliament for the districts of Hoima and Kaabong, requesting them to indicate their choice, that is, whether to remain Woman Representative to Parliament of the mother district, or the new districts of Kikuube and Karenga respectively.

The Commission has since received responses from the affected Members of Parliament indicating their choices of the districts which they wish to represent, namely the new districts of Kikuube and Karenga, respectively, and Parliament formally notified the Commission of the vacancies.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission will organise elections for District Woman Representative to Parliament in the districts of Hoima and Kaabong, where the positions of District Woman Representative to Parliament are now vacant.

The Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for this by-election as follows:

1) Banning of Fundraising Activities in Hoima and Kaabong districts

During this electoral programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in Hoima and Kaabong districts. The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from Friday 16th August 2019, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Hoima and Kaabong districts, and will continue until polling day.

Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

2) Stakeholders Consultative Meetings in Hoima District

The Electoral Commission will hold a consultative meeting with all elected Village (LC1) Chairpersons in Hoima District on Tuesday 13th August 2019. Details of the venue will be communicated in due course.

The purpose of the meeting will be to specifically inform them of their critical role during the update and display exercise to ensure a clean National Voters' Register.

The Electoral Commission will further hold a consultative meeting with Hoima District leadership, representatives of political parties and organisations, representatives of civil society organisations, security officials, religious leaders, opinion leaders, sub county supervisors and members of the press on Wednesday 14th August 2019. Details of the venue will be communicated in due course.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss issues of concern in the electoral process to be attended to by the Commission to ensure a free and fair by-election.

3) Stakeholders Consultative Meetings in Kaabong District

The Electoral Commission will hold a consultative meeting with all elected Village (LC1) Chairpersons in Kaabong District on Thursday 22nd August 2019. Details of the venue will be communicated in due course.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss any issues of concern that should be discussed by the Commission to ensure a free and fair by-election.

The Electoral Commission will further hold a consultative meeting with Kaabong District leadership, representatives of political parties and organisations, representatives of civil society organisations, security officials, religious leaders, opinion leaders, sub county supervisors and members of the press on Friday 23rd August 2019. Details of the venue will be communicated in due course.

The above meetings will help to foster collaboration between the Electoral Commission and stakeholders in the above districts, in order to achieve high participation in the various electoral activities, in accordance with the laws.

4) Update of the National Voters' Register: 12th August – 16th August 2019

The Electoral Commission will conduct an update of the National Voters' Register from 12th - 16th August 2019, at update stations within each parish/ward in Hoima and Kaabong districts.

The update exercise will start at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm, on each of the appointed dates, including weekends.

This exercise will enable Ugandan citizens of 18 years and above, who either reside or originate in parishes/wards within Hoima and Kaabong districts, and who have not had their photographs and bio-data taken before by the Electoral Commission for purposes of registration for elections, to do so.

All registered voters who wish to transfer to new voting locations shall be able to do so during this update exercise.

The Electoral Commission has appointed Friday 16th August 2019 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location in Hoima and Kaabong districts.

5) Display of Voters' Registers and Issuance of Voting Location Slips: 28th August – 6th September 2019

The Electoral Commission has appointed 28th August to 6th September 2019, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in Hoima and Kaabong districts.

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

During the display, voters are urged to turn up in large numbers and check for the correctness of their particulars, and confirm that photographs appear against correct particulars.

Voters are further urged to report to the display officer: the dead, the non-citizens, the under-aged, and those who belong to another Parish/Ward, so that they are removed from the Register.

During this display period, the Commission will also issue temporary Voter Location Slips (VLS) to voters, to enable them conveniently locate their respective polling station on polling day.

Furthermore, during the above period, the Parish Supervisor for the Electoral Commission will organise and conduct a meeting in each village, to verify the respective Village/Cell Voters' Register.

Any objections raised during the village meeting will be compiled and considered by the Parish/Ward Tribunal.

There will be a display of lists of persons recommended for deletion from the Voters' Register for a period of eight (8) days, from 9th – 16th September 2019, at the respective Parish/Ward headquarters in each respective district.

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

The Parish Tribunal may reinstate the person if convinced of the genuineness of the objection.

6) Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns & Polling Day.

The nomination of candidates in the two districts shall be conducted for a period of two days, Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th August 2019, at the respective district headquarters.

The nomination will be followed by a period of five (5) days, that is, from 28th August to 2nd September 2019 during which members of the general public will have access to

the candidates' nomination papers, and will be able to lodge complaints, if any, on suitability of the candidates to contest in the by-elections and elections.

Campaign meetings for candidates for District Woman Representative to Parliament and other Local Government positions shall be held for a period of twenty five (25) days that is, from 30th August to 24th September 2019.

The campaign meetings or public rallies shall be conducted only within the stipulated time, that is, from 7:00am until 6:00pm on each of the campaign days.

All candidates are urged to observe law and order during this exercise and to conduct their campaign meetings in accordance with the harmonized programme. Hate language will not be tolerated at all.

Polling for elections of District Woman Representative to Parliament and other Lower Local Government Councils shall take place on **Thursday, 26th September, 2019** at all polling stations in Hoima and Kaabong districts, and (polling) shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

7) Accreditation of Election Observers

Section 16 (1) (a) of the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organizations and any other duly registered institution to observe electoral activities.

For purposes of transparency, the Electoral Commission shall accredit observers to the various activities which will be undertaken during this electoral process.

Accordingly the Commission invites written expressions of interest from political parties, individuals and duly registered organizations and institutions who wish to observe the said processes.

Interested political parties, individuals, organizations and institutions should submit their applications with two (2) recent passport photos to the Office of the Chairperson, Electoral Commission, Plot 55, Jinja Road, Kampala, P.O. Box 22678 Kampala, or to the respective Office of the District Returning Officer for Hoima and Kaabong, not later than 13th September 2019.

Please note that political parties and independent candidates shall be permitted to deploy not more than five (5) observers per sub-county/municipal division, and two (2) persons at the Results Tally Center.

The Commission shall accredit election observers from 2nd to 19th September, and shall provide all those accredited with identification tags for the purpose of observing the various activities of the electoral process.

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

Any individuals purporting to perform duties of or act as an observer or agent without due accreditation, will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

8) Compliance with the Law

The Electoral Commission urges all political parties, aspiring candidates and stakeholders to acquaint themselves with the relevant laws, in order to appreciate and comply with their respective roles and responsibilities before, during and after the by-election.

C. Conclusion

The Commission urges all stakeholders in Hoima and Kaabong districts to turn up in large numbers and participate in the above electoral programme, and to do so in accordance with the guidelines for each activity. This will ensure a smooth electoral exercise.

I thank you,



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon
Chairperson, Electoral Commission