

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Telephone: +256-41-337500/337508-11
Fax: +256-31-262207/41-337595/6
E-mail: secretary@ec.or.ug
Ref: **Adm72/01**



Plot 55 Jinja Road
P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda
Website: www.ec.or.ug
Date: **11th December 2018**

**Welcome Remarks by Mr. Sam A. Rwakoojo Secretary/Electoral
Commission at the Launch of the Commission's Strategic Plan and
Roadmap to the 2020/2021 General Elections**

Tuesday 11th December 2018 - Hotel Africana, Kampala

The Guest of Honour, Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda
The Hon. Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
The Hon. Ministers Present
Hon. Members of Parliament
Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners
Political Party leaders/representatives present
Fellow Constitutional Commissions & Statutory Authorities present
Security leaders
Religious leaders
Representatives from the Civil Society Organizations
Electoral Commission family,
The leadership & Members of the media
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to this very important National event when the Electoral Commission is launching her Strategic Plan and Roadmap for the 2020/2021 General Elections.

The Electoral Commission (EC) was established under Article 60 (Constitution, 1995) and mandated (Article 61) to organize, conduct and supervise regular free and fair elections and referenda in Uganda. Article 62 of the Constitution

provides that the Commission shall be independent and shall in the performance of its functions be free from any direction or control of any person or authority. **The Constitution also directs Parliament to ensure that adequate resources and facilities are provided to the Commission to enable it effectively perform its functions (Article 66)**

Since its establishment by the Constitution, the Commission has successfully organized and conducted five general elections (1996, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016) as well as two referenda on political systems (2000 and 2005), and several Parliamentary and Local Government Councils elections and by-elections. As you might all be aware, the Commission recently conducted Administrative Unit elections as well as elections of Women Councils and Committees throughout the Country.

The Commission has been able to organize and conduct all the above electoral activities successfully because of the support and participation of all of you who are our key stakeholders in the electoral process.

In the course of organising and conducting the above electoral activities over the years, the Electoral Commission has come to appreciate the strong relationship between Strategic Planning and improved organizational performance in the conduct of elections. Hence the need for Strategic Plan and Roadmap to be released early enough to allow the political players time to plan and organize.

More importantly though, is to enable Government avail required funds in a phased manner with less strain

You have been invited here today to witness the launch of EC's Strategic Plan and roadmap for electoral activities that will lead to general elections in 2020/2021. The Commission seeks your support and engagement to effectively deliver free, fair and transparent elections.

I wish to thank the Chairperson and members of the Commission, Management, and the entire staff for the timely preparation and release of this Plan and Roadmap.

This Strategic Plan has been adopted as a project to facilitate sound allocation of resources – human, financial and materials to enable Electoral Commission execute its Constitutional mandate efficiently and effectively. The total cost of the General elections including Administrative units (LC 1& 11) and Women Councils and committees scheduled for 2022 is Eight hundred sixty eight billion fourteen million shillings only (868.14bn). This does not include the cost of implementing the plan which includes the Wage Bill, General Finance & Administration and Capital Development and acquisition of other Capital Assets including relocation of Electoral Commission Headquarters.

Please note that since the conclusion of the 2015/2016 General elections, the number of Administrative Units and the voting population has increased as follows;

No.	Administrative Units	2015/2016	Expected in 2020/2021
1.	Districts	112	141
2.	Municipalities	39	80
3.	Sub counties	1,398	2,000
4.	Parishes	7,431	9,500
5.	Villages	57,842	65,200
6.	Polling stations	28,010	35,000
7.	Registered Voters	15,277,198	19,400,000

The other cost drivers in this Plan include the following:

- i. Continuous improvements in the electoral process;
- ii. Comprehensive voter education and stakeholder sensitization;
- iii. Inclusion of the Supreme Court recommendations, and;
- iv. Price changes and exchange rate fluctuation.

The Strategic Plan has a detailed Roadmap for the 2020/2021 General Elections. I urge all stakeholders to keenly follow the major events and the timeframes within which each milestone activity must be accomplished and play your role accordingly.

However, from the experience, the main challenge in implanting the previous plan was **perpetual underfunding of the Recurrent Budget**. Whereas Government has continued to create new Administrative Units and Local Governments, provision of the recurrent budget has not grown proportionally. Each new District created requires 512,977.906/= to be operationalised.

I wish, at this point, to appreciate and thank the Government for the support it has shown in funding previous General elections, by elections and other operational costs including enhancement of staff remunerations. I am confident that Government will be able to support the Commission with funds to address the challenges as indicated in the detailed plan

I wish to assure you that, The Electoral Commission is committed to implementing this plan and Roadmap. EC alone cannot realize these desired goals/results without the full participation and support of every stakeholder. I, therefore, appeal to all stakeholders to work towards achieving unity and cohesion for the democratic development of Uganda, above the individual aspirations. The Electoral Commission looks forward to the collective support of all stakeholders in the electoral service delivery.

With those few words, I now have the pleasure to invite the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission to deliver his keynote address.

I thank you.



Mr. Sam A. Rwakoojo
SECRETARY/ELECTORAL COMMISSION