

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](mailto:secretary@ec.or.ug)



Plot 55 Jinja Road  
P. O. Box 22678 Kampala, Uganda  
Website: [www.ec.or.ug](http://www.ec.or.ug)

Ref: **Adm72/01**

Date: **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017**

**Press Statement**

**Electoral Programme for By-election of Member of Parliament for  
Kamuli Municipality, Kamuli District 2017**

The Deputy Chairperson, Electoral Commission,  
Commissioners  
Secretary/EC  
Members of Management  
And Distinguished members of the press,

**1. Introduction**

On behalf of the Electoral Commission, I warmly welcome you to this press briefing.

Today the Commission will update you on preparations for conducting the by-election for Member of Parliament for Kamuli Municipality, in Kamuli District.

**2. Programme for the By-Election of Directly Elected Member of Parliament for  
Kamuli Municipality, Kamuli District, 2017**

The vacancy of the Member of Parliament for Kamuli Municipality occurred when the Court of Appeal nullified the election of former MP Hon. Rehema Watongola. As required by law the statutory deadline for conducting a Parliamentary by-election is sixty (60) days after notification from Clerk to Parliament on the occurrence of the vacancy.

The Commission received the notice on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017, and therefore, the statutory deadline for holding the by-election is 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Accordingly, the Electoral Commission has approved the electoral programme for by-election of Member of Parliament for Kamuli Municipality, with the following key dates:

**a. Banning of Fundraising Activities in Kamuli Municipality**

During this by-election programme, no fundraising activities shall be allowed in Kamuli Municipality. The purpose of this ban is to allow a leveled-ground for all candidates in the race.

For avoidance of doubt, this ban takes effect from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, which is the cut-off date for registration of voters and transfer of voting location in Kamuli Municipality, and will continue until polling day. Those found to be contravening the law shall be dealt with accordingly.

**b. Stakeholders Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

The Electoral Commission will hold a stakeholders meeting on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Kamuli District Headquarters, to discuss any issues of concern that may affect the conduct of the by-election. This meeting will also help to create good understanding between the Commission and stakeholders in Kamuli Municipality, to achieve high participation in the various activities, in accordance with the laws.

The stakeholders who have been invited to the meeting include the 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.

**c. Update of the Voters' Register**

Kamuli Municipality currently has a total number of 27,301 registered voters and 54 polling stations. An update of the Voters' Register will be conducted from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, at update stations within each of the ten (10) Wards in Kamuli Municipality, starting at 8:00am till 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 wards within Kamuli Municipality, 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 exercise.

The Electoral Commission has appointed 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 as the cut-off date for registration and/or transfer of voting location.

**d. Display of the Voters' Register**

The Electoral Commission has appointed Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, as the period for display of the National Voters' Register in Kamuli Municipality.

The display of the Voters' Register shall begin at 8:00am and end at 6:00pm at all polling stations in the Municipality, 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 Ward, so that they are removed from the Register.

There will be a display of lists of persons recommended for deletion from the Register for a period of six (6) days, from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017, at the respective Ward Headquarters.

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

**e. Nomination of Candidates, Inspection of Nomination Papers, Campaigns & Polling**

The nomination of candidates shall be conducted on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017, at the Office of the Returning Officer in Kamuli Municipality.

The nomination will be followed by a period of six (6) days, that is, from Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 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-election.

Campaign meetings shall be held for a period of fifteen (15) days, that is, from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March until Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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 shall take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at all polling stations in Kamuli Municipality, and (polling) shall start at 7:00am and close at 4:00pm.

**f. Compliance with the Law**

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

### **3. Accreditation of Election Observers**

Section 16 (1) (a) of the Electoral Commission (Amendment) Act, provides for accreditation of representatives of political parties, civil society organisations 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 organisations and institutions who wish to observe the said processes.

Interested political parties, individuals, organisations 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 Office of the District Returning Officer not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

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

The Commission shall accredit election observers from 29<sup>th</sup> March – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 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 from their mother 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.**

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

### **4. Progress of Programme for By-election of Member of Parliament for Aruu North County, Pader District**

The Electoral Commission is implementing the electoral programme for by-election of Member of Parliament for Aruu North County. The Commission has issued guidelines for the various activities to be undertaken during the by-election process, and some key activities have already been undertaken, for example, recruiting and training officials to conduct the update of the National Voters' Register for the constituency.

Today, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, the Commission has commenced with the exercise of updating the National Voters' Register at update stations within each parish in the constituency.

The Commission appreciates the peaceful manner in which the people of Aruu North County have conducted themselves so far, and urges them to continue in this fashion during the electoral process and beyond.

## **5. Condolence Message**

We were deeply saddened by the news of the sudden death of Hon. Annie Logiel, the District Woman Member of Parliament for Moroto.

On behalf of the Electoral Commission, and on my own behalf, I wish to extend heartfelt condolences to the family, all friends, the people of Moroto District, and fellow citizens of Uganda, on the bereavement caused by her death.

At an appropriate time, the Electoral Commission will issue the programme for conducting a by-election to fill the vacancy.

I thank you,

For God and my Country,



Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon  
**Chairperson, Electoral Commission**